



House Committee Party Ratios: 98th-111th Congresses

Lorraine H. Tong
Analyst in American National Government

November 4, 2010

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

www.crs.gov

R40478

Summary

The ratio of the majority and minority parties in the House standing committees is the number of members of each party caucus assigned to each committee. Determining committee assignments and ratios are among the first actions taken at the beginning of a Congress. The apportionment of committee seats results from discussions between majority and minority party leadership. Historically, the number of majority seats on most committees have exceeded, in varying degrees, the strength of the majority party in the House chamber, regardless of which party is in power. In instances of close party division in the House chamber, the majority party has acted to ensure that it has a working majority in committees. The exception has been the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, for which House Rules guarantee an equal share of the seats to the two parties.

The standing rules of the House of Representatives are silent regarding committee party ratios. On occasion, party rules have stated a party's position on the matter.

This report provides statistical information on and selected analyses of the House committee party ratios for 14 Congresses, covering the period from the 98th through the 111th Congresses (1983-2011). Committee ratios data for this report are from the earliest available editions of the official committee lists for each Congress issued by the Clerk of the House. Later versions of the Clerk's lists or the use of alternate sources or methodologies may yield different results. Independent Members are listed separately, consistent with the Clerk's committee lists. For each Congress, the total party division numbers reflect party strength after the November elections; however, they do not reflect changes due to deaths or resignations followed by special elections, or changes in party affiliation after the beginning of the Congress. Tables for each Congress include the standing committees and a permanent select committee as established and titled in each Congress. For each Congress, a table presents the party divisions in the House chamber and the total number of seats (1) in the chamber, (2) in committee seats, (3) on each committee, (4) assigned to the majority and minority parties and to Independents (where present), and (5) majority and minority party seats on each committee. Data is also provided for the majority-minority seat margin in the chamber, on each committee, as well as the total seat margin for all standing committees and the select committee. A separate table compares majority party strength in the House chamber with total majority committee seats in the 14 Congresses.

This report also discusses trends and compares party ratios in selected Congresses. Possible reforms to the apportionment of committee seats are also examined. This report will be updated to reflect the House committee party ratios in the 112th Congress.

Contents

Sources and Method.....	1
Comparative Analysis of Ratios in Selected Congresses	2
110 th and 111 th Congresses Comparisons	3
109 th and 110 th Congresses Comparisons	3
103 rd and 104 th Congresses Comparisons	4
98 th and 102 nd Congresses Comparisons	4
Controversy and Possible Reforms	5
Disputes over Committee Ratios	5
Committee Size.....	5
Concluding Observations	6

Tables

Table 1. Comparison of Majority Party Strength in House Chamber and Total Committee Seats 98 th -111 th Congresses (1983-2011).....	7
Table 2. House Committee Party Ratios 111 th Congress (2009-2011)	8
Table 3. House Committee Party Ratios 110 th Congress (2007-2009).....	9
Table 4. House Committee Party Ratios 109 th Congress (2005-2007).....	10
Table 5. House Committee Party Ratios 108 th Congress (2003-2005).....	11
Table 6. House Committee Party Ratios 107 th Congress (2001-2003).....	12
Table 7. House Committee Party Ratios 106 th Congress (1999-2001).....	13
Table 8. House Committee Party Ratios 105 th Congress (1997-1999).....	14
Table 9. House Committee Party Ratios 104 th Congress (1995-1997).....	15
Table 10. House Committee Party Ratios 103 rd Congress (1993-1995).....	16
Table 11. House Committee Party Ratios 102 nd Congress (1991-1993)	17
Table 12. House Committee Party Ratios 101 st Congress (1989-1991).....	18
Table 13. House Committee Party Ratios 100 th Congress (1987-1989).....	19
Table 14. House Committee Party Ratios 99 th Congress (1985-1987).....	20
Table 15. House Committee Party Ratios 98 th Congress (1983-1985).....	21

Contacts

Author Contact Information	22
Acknowledgments	22

The ratio of the majority and minority parties in the House standing committees is the number of members of each party caucus assigned to each committee. Determining committee assignments and ratios are among the first actions taken at the beginning of a Congress. The apportionment of committee seats results from discussions between majority and minority party leaderships. This report provides statistical information on and selected analyses of House committee party ratios for 14 Congresses from the 98th through the 111th Congresses (1983-2011). Tables for each Congress include the standing committees and a permanent select committee as established and titled in each Congress. An additional table provides a comparison of majority party strength in the House chamber and total committee seats.

The standing rules of the House of Representatives are silent regarding committee party ratios. On occasion, party rules have stated a party's position on the matter.¹

An analysis of some trends, party ratios in selected Congresses, and possible reforms to the apportionment of committee seats is provided.

Sources and Method

The sources for the data covered in this report are the official lists of standing committees and a select committee published by the Clerk of the House early in each Congress. The Clerk's lists used in this study are the earliest available editions. At the end of each table are the sources and their issuance dates. Assignment data for each committee from the 98th through the 111th Congresses are provided. The data reflect the full number of seats assigned to each party, even in instances when some assignments made by a party left seats vacant. Independent Members are listed separately, consistent with the Clerk's committee lists. Data on overall party strength in the House are taken from historical tables in the *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, for the 98th through 110th Congresses.² The data for the 111th Congress is from the Clerk of the House website.³ For each Congress, the total party division numbers reflect party strength after the November elections; however, they do not reflect changes due to deaths or resignations followed by special elections, or changes in party affiliation after the beginning of the Congress.⁴

The Delegates representing American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico,⁵ are included in the figures for total number of committee seats. Under House Rule III, the Delegates and Resident Commissioner have the same powers and privileges in committees on

¹ For example, *Rules of the Democratic Caucus for the One Hundred Tenth Congress*, adopted November 16, 2006, included Rule 12: The Democratic Leadership shall work to ensure that committee ratios are at least as representative of the number of Democrats in the House and that each panel include the greatest number of Democrats possible. Identical language for Rule 12 is contained in *Rules of the Democratic Caucus*, Adopted temporarily for the 111th Congress on November 18, 2008.

² S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: 2007), p. 553.

³ The Clerk of the House website is available at <http://clerk.house.gov>.

⁴ Reported numbers reflect initial figures in the Clerk's committee lists cited at the end of each table, and will only be updated to reflect corrected clerical anomalies.

⁵ Delegates and the Resident Commissioner represent the constituencies of territories and possessions owned or administered by the United States but not admitted to statehood. In accordance with P.L. 110-229, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan became the first delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands on January 6, 2009.

which they serve as do Members of the House. They have the right to vote in committees on which they serve, accrue seniority, and be appointed to select and conference committees. They are not included in the figures for total House Members because they do not have the right to vote in the full House except in the Committee of the Whole.⁶ Total House data and percentages are based on 435 Members.

Tables for each Congress reflect the standing and a permanent select committee as established and titled in each Congress. For each Congress, a table presents the party divisions in the House chamber and the total number of seats (1) in the chamber, (2) in committees seats, (3) on each committee, (4) assigned to the majority and minority parties and to Independents (where present), and (5) majority and minority party seats on each committee. Data is also provided for the majority-minority seat margin in the chamber, on each committee, as well as the total seat margin for all standing committees and the select committee. A separate table compares majority party strength in the House chamber with total majority committee seats. For consistency, vacancies on committees are counted in individual and overall committee totals.⁷

Comparative Analysis of Ratios in Selected Congresses

In the 14 Congresses covered in this report, the 98th Congress witnessed the widest majority-minority seat margin at 103 seats in the House chamber, with 269 seats for the majority (Democrat) and 166 seats for the minority (Republican). The Congress with the next widest majority-minority seat margin was the 102nd Congress, which had a majority-minority seat margin of 100 with 267 majority (Democrat) seats, 167 minority (Republican) seats.

The 107th Congress had the narrowest majority-minority seat margin with nine seats. The party division in this Congress was 221 seats for the majority (Republican) to 212 (Democrat). There were also 2 Independents. Of the 859 total committee seats in this Congress, there were 469 committee seats for the majority (Republican), 387 seats for the minority (Democrat), and 3 seats for 2 Independents.

The total number of committee seats was the lowest (779 seats) in the 98th Congress when the majority (Democrat) held 500 committee seats compared to the minority's 279 seats. The highest number of committee seats totaled 889 in the 103rd Congress with a majority-minority division in the chamber at 258 (Democrat) to 176 (Republican), and 1 Independent. The majority (Democrat) held 544 committee seats to the 343 minority (Republican) seats with a seat margin of 201, and the Independent held 2 committee seats.

During the period covered by the report, the total number of committee seats has increased incrementally from 779 seats in the 98th Congress to a high of 889 seats in the 103rd Congress. In

⁶ Under House rules (H.Res. 5) adopted in the 103rd Congress, Delegates and the Resident Commissioner had the same powers and privileges as Members when the House was sitting in Committee of the Whole. However, House rules (H.Res. 6) adopted in the 104th Congress rescinded this right. In the 110th Congress, this power was reinstated (H.Res. 78); Rule III, clause 3(a).

⁷ It should be noted that these are not the only sources and methodologies available and that the use of alternate sources and methodologies will yield different data and findings. For example, data in publications issued later in a Congress may yield different results.

the 104th Congress, the new majority (Republican) reduced total committee seats by 103 from the previous Congress to a total of 786 seats. The incremental increases since the initial reduction in the 104th Congress included the creation of the Homeland Security Committee which became a standing committee in the 109th Congress.⁸

Historically, majority seats on most committees have exceeded, in varying degrees, the strength of the majority party in the House chamber. The exception has been the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, for which House Rules guarantee an equal share of the seats to the two parties. In instances of close party divisions in the House chamber, the majority party has acted to ensure that it has a working majority in committees. This trend is reflected in the Congresses covered during which party control changed from the 103rd to the 104th Congresses, and again from the 109th to the 110th Congresses. The data indicate that regardless of which party is in the majority, the majority party's representation in committee exceeds its party strength in the chamber (see **Table 1**).

110th and 111th Congresses Comparisons

In the 110th Congress, the majority (Democrats) held 233 seats compared to the 202 seats for the minority (Republicans) in the House of Representatives. The majority-minority seat margin in the chamber was 31. Of the total 878 standing and the permanent select committee seats, the majority held 487 seats compared to 391 seats for the minority.). Three committees with the widest seat margins were Appropriations (8); and Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means (each 7).

The majority (Democrats) maintained its status in the 111th Congress and increased its numbers to 257 seats in the House chamber with the minority (Republican) holding 178 seats with a majority-minority seat margin of 79. Total committee seats decreased from 878 to 869, with 525 total seats for the majority (Democrat) and 342 seats for the minority (Republican).⁹ The majority-minority committee seat margin was 183. Excluding the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the majority-minority seat margin ranged from 4 to 15. The 4 committees with the highest majority seat advantage were Transportation and Infrastructure (15), Appropriations (14); and Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services (each 13).

A comparison of the 110th and 111th Congresses indicate that the majority-minority seat margin increased from 31 to 79 in the House chamber while the overall total of committee seats decreased by 9.

109th and 110th Congresses Comparisons

In the 109th Congress, the majority (Republican) held 232 seats compared to the minority's (Democrat) 202 seats (and 1 Independent) in the House chamber. The majority-minority seat margin in the chamber was 30. Of the total 878 committee seats, the majority (Democrat) held 487 seats compared to 389 seats for the minority (Republican); and 1 Independent held 2 seats.

⁸ In 2002, the Committee on Homeland Security was created in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 as a Select, non-permanent committee to provide oversight over the development of the Department of Homeland Security. At the beginning of the 109th Congress, the Committee was made permanent and was designated a standing committee.

⁹ Two seats held by a delegate, an Independent, are included in the 868 total committee seats.

Excluding the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the majority-minority committee seat margins ranged from three to eight seats. The committees with the widest seat margins were Appropriations (8); Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means (each 7).

In the 110th Congress when the majority changed, the party division strength in the chamber flipped almost exactly from the 109th Congress. The new majority (Democrat) held 233 seats compared to 202 seats held by the minority (Republican), resulting in a majority-minority seat margin of 31. Total committee seats remained at 487 for the majority 391 seats for a total of 878 committee seats. Excluding the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the majority-minority seat margin ranged from two to eight seats. As in the previous Congress, the 3 committees with the widest seat margins were Appropriations (8); Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means (each 7).

103rd and 104th Congresses Comparisons

In the 103rd Congress, the majority (Democrat) held 258 seats compared to 176 seats for the minority (Republican) and 1 Independent in the House chamber with a majority-minority seat margin of 82. Of the total 889 committee seats, the majority (Democrat) had 544 committee seats, the minority (Republican) had 343 seats, and 1 Independent had 2 seats. The majority-minority total committee seat margin was 201.

In the 104th Congress, the majority party in the House changed for the first time in 40 years and the new majority (Republican) had 230 seats compared to 204 seats for the minority (Democrat), and 1 Independent in the House chamber. The majority-minority seat margin narrowed from 82 seats in the previous Congress to 26 seats. Of the total 786 committee seats, the majority (Republican) held 435 seats, the minority (Democrat) held 348 seats, and 1 Independent held 3 seats. The majority-minority committee seat margin was 87. Total committee seats decreased by 103 from the 103rd Congress to the 104th Congress.

98th and 102nd Congresses Comparisons

The 98th Congress had a party division of 269 majority (Democrat) seats and 166 minority (Republican) seats in the House chamber, with a 103 majority-minority seat margin. Total committee seat margin was 221 with widest majority-minority committee seat margin on Appropriations (15); and Interior and Insular Affairs, and Public Works and Transportation (each 14). Excluding the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, majority-minority committee seat margins ranged from 4 to 15.

The 102nd Congress witnessed the next widest majority-minority seat margin. The House composition of 267 majority (Democrat) seats and 167 minority (Republican) seats (with 1 Independent) gave the majority a seat advantage of 100 in the chamber, 3 less seats than the 103 seats in the 98th Congress. There were a total of 870 committee seats in the 102nd Congress, with the widest majority-minority committee seat margins on Appropriations, and Public Works and Transportation (each 15).

Controversy and Possible Reforms

Disputes over Committee Ratios

Party ratios on committees have been controversial regardless of which party has controlled the House of Representatives. Consideration of House rules packages at the outset of each Congress has evoked contentious debate on these ratios. Supporters of the majority party have often considered ratios affording it a “working majority” on committees as a vital element in securing its prerogative to advance its legislative agenda. Especially when its margin of control in the House is narrow, and especially on certain key committees, the majority party may consider the maintenance of a disproportionate majority as crucial to the advancement of its program. These considerations would likely lead the majority to continue to insist on maintaining representation in committees that exceeds the majority party’s ratio in the full chamber.

Others argue that under-representation of the minority party on committees is inappropriate, particularly because the potential for influencing legislation is often greatest at the committee stage. They contend that under-representation of the minority at this stage not only tends to diminish the legislative role of its members, but also thereby deprives the electorate of the representation it sought in electing those Members.

In addition, dissatisfaction among minority party Members arising from disproportionate committee ratios could have an adverse impact on comity and bipartisanship. These effects may make the legislative process more difficult. Supporters of this view urge that, especially under contemporary conditions of close partisan divisions in the House, it may be in the interest of the institution to reduce internal tensions over committee ratios.

Since assignments and ratios are among the first organizing actions that are taken at the beginning of a Congress, such determinations could set the tone for the duration of the Congress.

Committee Size

Changes in national and legislative priorities may have an impact on the sizes and ratios of certain committees that have jurisdiction over particular issues. Committee sizes may also increase or decrease depending on the interests of individual Members and the party leaders.

If there is agreement to increase minority representation on committees, the parties first must consider how to accommodate the increased proportion of minority seats—that is, whether it is desirable to increase the overall size of the committees or whether it is feasible to maintain the sizes of committees. If the sizes are maintained, reducing majority seats on the committee would require some committee Members to give up their seats.

The alternative would be to create additional seats for minority party members, which would increase overall committee sizes. Some believe that committees are already too large, and that increasing the sizes of certain committees could make them unwieldy and less efficient. Time for questioning at larger committee hearings may affect time allotted to Members with less seniority.

Concluding Observations

As the data indicate, regardless of which party is the majority, the majority party's committee ratios have exceeded its strength in the House chamber. In the absence of a House rule or an established formula to apportion committee party ratios, the data and practices of both parties when in the majority suggest that the subject will likely continue as a controversial issue for debate.

Table 1. Comparison of Majority Party Strength in House Chamber and Total Committee Seats 98th-111th Congresses (1983-2011)

Congress	Majority Party	Majority % of House Chamber	Majority % Total Committee Seats	% Difference of Majority Between House Chamber and Total Committees Seats
111 th	Democrat	59.1%	60.4%	1.3%
110 th	Democrat	53.6%	55.5%	1.9%
109 th	Republican	53.3%	55.5%	2.2%
108 th	Republican	52.6%	54.6%	2.0%
107 th	Republican	50.8%	54.6%	3.8%
106 th	Republican	51.3%	54.9%	3.6%
105 th	Republican	52.0%	55.4%	3.4%
104 th	Republican	52.9%	55.3%	2.4%
103 rd	Democrat	59.3%	61.2%	1.9%
102 nd	Democrat	61.4%	62.1%	0.7%
101 st	Democrat	59.8%	61.2%	1.4%
100 th	Democrat	59.3%	61.0%	1.7%
99 th	Democrat	58.2%	60.4%	2.2%
98 th	Democrat	61.8%	64.2%	2.4%

Source: Data are from the official committee lists issued by the Clerk of the House. The Clerk's lists used are the earliest available editions. Percentages are rounded. Data for the House chamber are based on a total of 435 Members.

Note: The use of alternate sources and methodologies may yield different data.

Table 2. House Committee Party Ratios 111th Congress (2009-2011)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	257	178		79
Total Committee Seats	869	525	342	2	183
Committee					
Agriculture	46	28	18		10
Appropriations	60	37	23		14
Armed Services	62	37	25		12
Budget	39	24	15		9
Education and Labor	49	29	19	1	10
Energy and Commerce	59	36	23		13
Financial Services	71	42	29		13
Homeland Security	34	21	13		8
House Administration	9	6	3		3
Foreign Affairs	47	28	19		9
Judiciary	40	24	16		8
Natural Resources	49	28	20	1	8
Oversight and Government Reform	41	25	16		9
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science and Technology	44	27	17		10
Small Business	29	17	12		5
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	75	45	30		15
Veterans' Affairs	29	18	11		7
Ways and Means	41	26	15		11
Permanent Select on Intelligence	22	13	9		4

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees of the House of Representatives of the United States with an Alphabetical List of the Members and their Committee Assignments, One Hundred Eleventh Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House of Representatives, February 11, 2009, (Washington: GPO, 2009). Data for total House Member numbers are from <http://clerk.house.gov>.

Note: If Independent Members caucus with the majority or the minority party, they are not so noted in the Clerk's lists. One delegate, an Independent, is not included in the data for Total House Members.

Table 3. House Committee Party Ratios | 110th Congress (2007-2009)

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Total House Members	435	233	202	31
Total Committee Seats	878	487	391	96
Committee				
Agriculture	46	25	21	4
Appropriations	66	37	29	8
Armed Services	62	34	28	6
Budget	39	22	17	5
Education and Labor	49	27	22	5
Energy and Commerce	57	31	26	5
Financial Services	70	37	33	4
Homeland Security	34	19	15	4
House Administration	9	6	3	3
Foreign Affairs	50	27	23	4
Judiciary	40	23	17	6
Natural Resources	49	27	22	5
Oversight and Government Reform	41	23	18	5
Rules	13	9	4	5
Science and Technology	44	24	20	4
Small Business	33	18	15	3
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5	0
Transportation and Infrastructure	75	41	34	7
Veterans' Affairs	29	16	13	3
Ways and Means	41	24	17	7
Permanent Select on Intelligence	21	12	9	3

Source: *List of Standing Committees Together with an Alphabetical List of the Members and their Committee Assignments of the House of Representatives of the United States, the One Hundred Tenth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House of Representatives, March 6, 2007, (Washington: GPO, 2007). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 4. House Committee Party Ratios 109th Congress (2005-2007)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	232	202	1	30
Total Committee Seats	878	487	389	2	98
Committee					
Agriculture	46	25	21		4
Appropriations	66	37	29		8
Armed Services	62	34	28		6
Budget	39	22	17		5
Education and the Workforce	49	27	22		5
Energy and Commerce	57	31	26		5
Financial Services	70	37	32	1	5
Government Reform	41	23	17	1	6
Homeland Security	34	19	15		4
House Administration	9	6	3		3
International Relations	50	27	23		4
Judiciary	40	23	17		6
Resources	49	27	22		5
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science	44	24	20		4
Small Business	33	18	15		3
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	75	41	34		7
Veterans' Affairs	29	16	13		3
Ways and Means	41	24	17		7
Permanent Select on Intelligence	21	12	9		3

Source: *Standing Committees of the House of Representatives of the United States, One Hundred Ninth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House of Representatives, March 16, 2005, (Washington: GPO, 2005). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 5. House Committee Party Ratios 108th Congress (2003-2005)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	229	204	1	25
Total Committee Seats	862	471	389	2	82
Committee					
Agriculture	51	27	24		3
Appropriations	65	36	29		7
Armed Services	62	33	29		4
Budget	43	24	19		5
Education and the Workforce	49	27	22		5
Energy and Commerce	57	31	26		5
Financial Services	70	37	32	1	5
Government Reform	44	24	19	1	5
House Administration	9	6	3		3
International Relations	49	26	23		3
Judiciary	37	21	16		5
Resources	52	28	24		4
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science	47	25	22		3
Small Business	37	19	18		1
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	75	41	34		7
Veterans' Affairs	31	17	14		3
Ways and Means	41	24	17		7
Permanent Select on Intelligence	20	11	9		2

Source: *Standing Committees of the House of Representatives of the United States, One Hundred Eighth Congress*, Compiled by Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Corrected to March 5, 2003, (Washington: GPO, 2003). Data on the Select Committee on Homeland Security are excluded because the panel was temporary in the 107th and 108th Congresses. Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory*, 110th Congress, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 6. House Committee Party Ratios 107th Congress (2001-2003)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	221	212	2	9
Total Committee Seats	859	469	387	3	82
Committee					
Agriculture	51	27	24		3
Appropriations	65	35	29	1	6
Armed Services	60	32	28		4
Budget	43	24	19		5
Education and the Workforce	49	27	22		5
Energy and Commerce	57	31	26		5
Financial Services	70	37	32	1	5
Government Reform	44	24	19	1	5
House Administration	9	6	3		3
International Relations	49	26	23		3
Judiciary	37	21	16		5
Resources	52	28	24		4
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science	47	25	22		3
Small Business	36	19	17		2
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	75	41	34		7
Veterans' Affairs	31	17	14		3
Ways and Means	41	24	17		7
Permanent Select on Intelligence	20	11	9		2

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress with An Alphabetical List of the Members and Their Committee Assignments, One Hundred Seventh Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House of Representatives, June 28, 2001, (Washington: GPO, 2001). Data on the Select Committee on Homeland Security are excluded because the panel was temporary in the 107th Congress. Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 7. House Committee Party Ratios 106th Congress (1999-2001)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	223	211	1	12
Total Committee Seats	835	458	375	2	83
Committee					
Agriculture	51	27	24		3
Appropriations	61	34	27		7
Armed Services	60	32	28		4
Banking and Financial Services	60	32	27	1	5
Budget	43	24	19		5
Commerce	53	29	24		5
Education and the Workforce	49	27	22		5
Government Reform	44	24	19	1	5
House Administration	9	6	3		3
International Relations	49	26	23		3
Judiciary	37	21	16		5
Resources	52	28	24		4
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science	47	25	22		3
Small Business	36	19	17		2
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	75	41	34		7
Veterans' Affairs	31	17	14		3
Ways and Means	39	23	16		7
Permanent Select on Intelligence	16	9	7		2

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress with An Alphabetical List of the Members and Their Committee Assignments, One Hundred Sixth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House of Representatives, March 4, 1999, (Washington: GPO, 1999). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 8. House Committee Party Ratios 105th Congress (1997-1999)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	226	207	2	19
Total Committee Seats	816	452	362	2	90
Committee					
Agriculture	50	27	23		4
Appropriations	60	34	26		8
Banking and Financial Services	58	31	26	1	5
Budget	43	24	19		5
Commerce	51	28	23		5
Education and the Workforce	45	25	20		5
Government Reform and Oversight	44	24	19	1	5
House Oversight	9	6	3		3
International Relations	48	26	22		5
Judiciary	35	20	15		5
National Security	57	31	26		5
Resources	50	27	23		4
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science	46	25	21		4
Small Business	35	19	16		3
Standards of Official Conduct	14	7	7		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	73	40	33		7
Veterans' Affairs	30	17	13		4
Ways and Means	39	23	16		7
Permanent Select on Intelligence	16	9	7		2

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, One Hundred Fifth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Robin H. Carle, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Aug. 4, 1997, (Washington: GPO, 1997). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 9. House Committee Party Ratios 104th Congress (1995-1997)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	230	204	1	26
Total Committee Seats	786	435	348	3	87
Committee					
Agriculture	49	27	22		5
Appropriations	56	32	24		8
Banking and Financial Services	50	27	22	1	5
Budget	42	24	18		6
Commerce	46	25	21		4
Economic and Educational Opportunities	43	24	19		5
Government Reform and Oversight	50	27	22	1	5
House Oversight	12	7	5		2
International Relations	43	23	19	1	4
Judiciary	35	20	15		5
National Security	55	30	25		5
Resources	45	25	20		5
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science	50	27	23		4
Small Business	41	22	19		3
Standards of Official Conduct	10	5	5		0
Transportation and Infrastructure	61	33	28		5
Veterans' Affairs	33	18	15		3
Ways and Means	36	21	15		6
Permanent Select on Intelligence	16	9	7		2

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, One Hundred Fourth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Robin H. Carle, Clerk of the House of Representatives, March 22, 1995, (Washington: GPO, 1995). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 10. House Committee Party Ratios 103rd Congress (1993-1995)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	258	176	1	82
Total Committee Seats	889	544	343	2	201
Committee					
Agriculture	45	27	18		9
Appropriations	60	37	23		14
Armed Services	56	34	22		12
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	51	30	20	1	10
Budget	43	26	17		9
District of Columbia	12	8	4		4
Education and Labor	42	27	15		12
Energy and Commerce	44	27	17		10
Foreign Affairs	45	27	18		9
Government Operations	42	25	16	1	9
House Administration	19	12	7		5
Judiciary	35	21	14		7
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	46	28	18		10
Natural Resources	43	28	15		13
Post Office and Civil Service	24	15	9		6
Public Works and Transportation	63	39	24		15
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science, Space and Technology	55	33	22		11
Small Business	45	27	18		9
Standards of Official Conduct	14	7	7		0
Veterans' Affairs	35	21	14		7
Ways and Means	38	24	14		10
Permanent Select on Intelligence	19	12	7		5

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, One Hundred Third Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Donald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Feb. 25, 1993, (Washington: GPO, 1993). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table II. House Committee Party Ratios 102nd Congress (1991-1993)

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	Indp.	
Total House Members	435	267	167	1	100
Total Committee Seats	870	540	328	2	212
Committee					
Agriculture	45	27	18		9
Appropriations	59	37	22		15
Armed Services	55	33	22		11
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	52	31	20	1	11
Budget	37	23	14		9
District of Columbia	12	8	4		4
Education and Labor	39	25	14		11
Energy and Commerce	43	27	16		11
Foreign Affairs	46	28	18		10
Government Operations	41	25	15	1	10
House Administration	24	15	9		6
Interior and Insular Affairs	46	29	17		12
Judiciary	34	21	13		8
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	46	29	17		12
Post Office and Civil Service	23	15	8		7
Public Works and Transportation	57	36	21		15
Rules	13	9	4		5
Science, Space and Technology	51	32	19		13
Small Business	44	27	17		10
Standards of Official Conduct	14	7	7		0
Veterans' Affairs	34	21	13		8
Ways and Means	36	23	13		10
Permanent Select on Intelligence	19	12	7		5

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, One Hundred Second Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Donald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, March 25, 1991, (Washington: GPO, 1991). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 12. House Committee Party Ratios 101st Congress (1989-1991)

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Total House Members	435	260	175	85
Total Committee Seats	842	515	327	188
Committee				
Agriculture	45	27	18	9
Appropriations	57	35	22	13
Armed Services	54	32	22	10
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	51	31	20	11
Budget	35	21	14	7
District of Columbia	12	8	4	4
Education and Labor	35	22	13	9
Energy and Commerce	43	26	17	9
Foreign Affairs	47	28	19	9
Government Operations	39	24	15	9
House Administration	21	13	8	5
Interior and Insular Affairs	41	26	15	11
Judiciary	35	21	14	7
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	45	27	18	9
Post Office and Civil Service	24	15	9	6
Public Works and Transportation	51	31	20	11
Rules	13	9	4	5
Science, Space and Technology	49	30	19	11
Small Business	44	27	17	10
Standards of Official Conduct	12	6	6	0
Veterans' Affairs	34	21	13	8
Ways and Means	36	23	13	10
Permanent Select on Intelligence	19	12	7	5

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, One Hundred First Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Donald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Jan. 23, 1989, (Washington: GPO, 1989). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 13. House Committee Party Ratios 100th Congress (1987-1989)

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Total House Members	435	258	177	81
Total Committee Seats	824	503	321	182
Committee				
Agriculture	43	26	17	9
Appropriations	57	35	22	13
Armed Services	52	31	21	10
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	51	31	20	11
Budget	35	21	14	7
District of Columbia	12	8	4	4
Education and Labor	34	21	13	8
Energy and Commerce	42	25	17	8
Foreign Affairs	45	27	18	9
Government Operations	41	24	17	7
House Administration	19	12	7	5
Interior and Insular Affairs	41	26	15	11
Judiciary	35	21	14	7
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	42	25	17	8
Post Office and Civil Service	22	14	8	6
Public Works and Transportation	52	32	20	12
Rules	13	9	4	5
Science, Space and Technology	45	27	18	9
Small Business	44	27	17	10
Standards of Official Conduct	12	6	6	0
Veterans' Affairs	34	21	13	8
Ways and Means	36	23	13	10
Permanent Select on Intelligence	17	11	6	5

Source: *Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, One Hundredth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Donald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Corrected to Feb. 19, 1987, (Washington: GPO, 1987). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 14. House Committee Party Ratios 99th Congress (1985-1987)

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Total House Members	435	253	182	71
Total Committee Seats	797	481	316	165
Committee				
Agriculture	43	26	17	9
Appropriations	57	35	22	13
Armed Services	47	27	20	7
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	49	30	19	11
Budget	33	20	13	7
District of Columbia	12	8	4	4
Education and Labor	32	19	13	6
Energy and Commerce	42	25	17	8
Foreign Affairs	42	25	17	8
Government Operations	39	23	16	7
House Administration	19	12	7	5
Interior and Insular Affairs	41	25	16	9
Judiciary	35	21	14	7
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	42	25	17	8
Post Office and Civil Service	22	14	8	6
Public Works and Transportation	48	29	19	10
Rules	13	9	4	5
Science and Technology	41	24	17	7
Small Business	42	25	17	8
Standards of Official Conduct	12	6	6	0
Veterans' Affairs	34	20	14	6
Ways and Means	36	23	13	10
Permanent Select on Intelligence	16	10	6	4

Source: *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, Ninety-Ninth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Benjamin J. Guthrie, Clerk of the House of Representatives, April 25, 1985, (Washington: GPO, 1985). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Table 15. House Committee Party Ratios 98th Congress (1983-1985)

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Total House Members	435	269	166	103
Total Committee Seats	779	500	279	221
Committee				
Agriculture	41	26	15	11
Appropriations	57	36	21	15
Armed Services	45	29	16	13
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	47	30	17	13
Budget	31	20	11	9
District of Columbia	12	8	4	4
Education and Labor	32	21	11	10
Energy and Commerce	42	27	15	12
Foreign Affairs	37	24	13	11
Government Operations	39	25	14	11
House Administration	19	12	7	5
Interior and Insular Affairs	42	28	14	14
Judiciary	31	20	11	9
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	40	26	14	12
Post Office and Civil Service	25	16	9	7
Public Works and Transportation	50	32	18	14
Rules	13	9	4	5
Science and Technology	41	26	15	11
Small Business	41	26	15	11
Standards of Official Conduct	12	6	6	0
Veterans' Affairs	33	21	12	9
Ways and Means	35	23	12	11
Permanent Select on Intelligence	14	9	5	4

Source: Source for data is *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives of the United States Together with Joint Committees of the Congress, Ninety-Eighth Congress*, Prepared under the direction of Benjamin J. Guthrie, Clerk of the House of Representatives, May 2, 1983, (Washington: GPO, 1983). Data for total House Member numbers are from S. Pub. 110-13, *2007-2008 Official Congressional Directory, 110th Congress*, (Washington: GPO, 2007), p. 553.

Author Contact Information

Lorraine H. Tong
Analyst in American National Government
ltong@crs.loc.gov, 7-5846

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Julius C. Jefferson Jr. for his assistance.