

Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian presents...

Secrets of the *Congressional Record*



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Bitter debates, desperate pleas, eloquent eulogies,
whimsical song lyrics...



The Congressional Record has them all.

In this session:

- ✎ What is the *Congressional Record*?
- ✎ Who kept track of Congressional proceedings and debates before the advent of the *CR*?
- ✎ How does the *CR* differ from or complement other Congressional publications?
- ✎ Where is it and how do I use it?

What is the *Congressional Record*?



The basics

- ∞ Official record of the proceedings and debates of the U.S. Congress
- ∞ Began publication in 1873 (43rd Congress)



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *113th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013

No. 169

What's in it? What isn't?

The CR includes...

- ☞ The daily business of Congress
- ☞ Introduction of bills
- ☞ The text of bills as passed by a chamber
- ☞ Roll call votes
- ☞ Commentary on pending legislation and policy issues
- ☞ Recognition of local luminaries and the passing along of letters, remarks, and petitions from constituents

The CR does not include...

- ☞ The text of hearings
- ☞ The text of bills as introduced, reported or enrolled
- ☞ Committee reports or prints, if these documents have already been printed separately

How is it organized?

Why are there multiple editions?

- ∞ Four sections: House, Senate, Extension of Remarks, and Daily Digest
- ∞ Two editions: Daily and Bound (Permanent)

44 USC § 901 - Congressional Record: arrangement, style, contents, and indexes

∞ The Joint Committee on Printing shall control the arrangement and style of the Congressional Record, and while providing that it shall be substantially a verbatim report of proceedings, shall take all needed action for the reduction of unnecessary bulk. It shall provide for the publication of an index of the Congressional Record semimonthly during and at the close of sessions of Congress.

∞ <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/44/901>

It's verbatim...sort of.

cite a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes; (Rept. 113-281). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1846. A bill to amend the Act establishing the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-282). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 3625. A bill to provide for termination liability costs for certain National Aeronautics and Space Administration projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. COBLE (for himself and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 3626. A bill to extend the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 for 10 years; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 3627. A bill to require the Attorney General to report on State law penalties for certain child abusers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 3628. A bill to eliminate certain un-

intelligence (Permanent Select).

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 3625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to enact legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 3626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H R 3627

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 3632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation reallocates the number of federal judgeships and, as such, follows the responsibility that Congress has, under Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 to constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 15: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 32: Mr. COHEN and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 107: Mr. BENTIVOLIO and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 139: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 543: Mr. CRAMER and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 580: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 596: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 721: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. FLEMING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 915: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. JONES, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

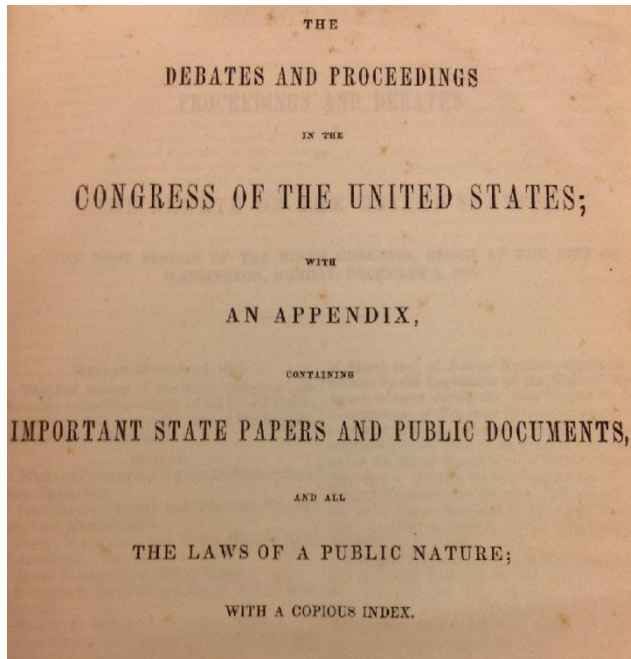
H.R. 917: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 946: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

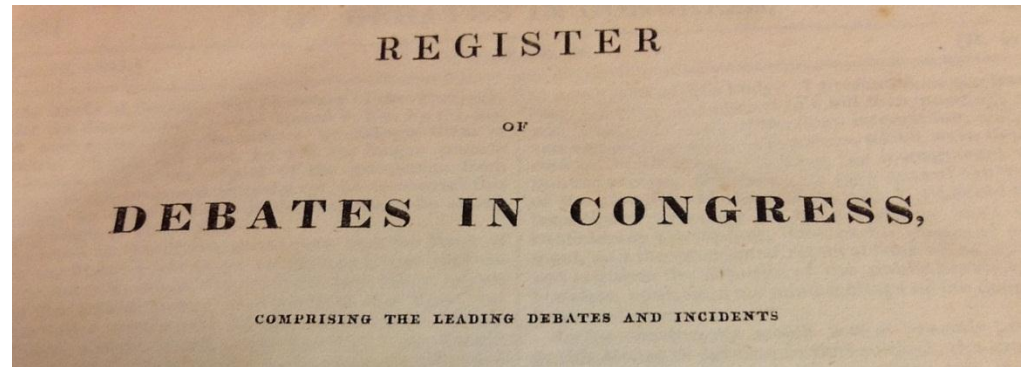
Before the *Congressional Record*...



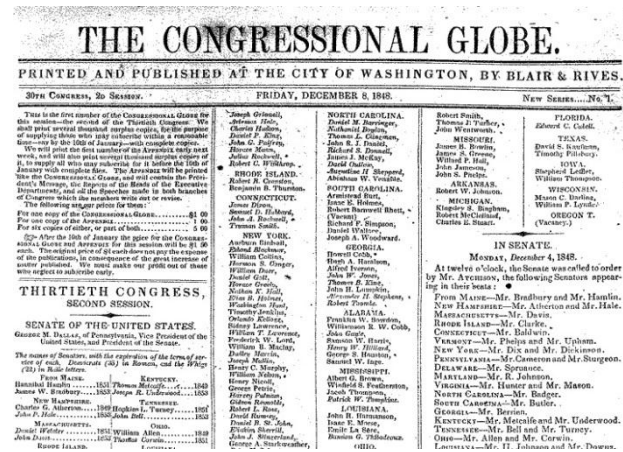
Three predecessors



Annals of Congress
(The Debates and Proceedings
in the Congress of the United States)



Register of Debates



Congressional Globe

Annals of Congress

- ☞ 1st Congress through 18th Congress, 1st Session (1789-1824)
- ☞ Compiled between 1834 and 1856, primarily from newspaper accounts
- ☞ Not verbatim


Register of Debates

- ☞ 18th Congress, 2nd Session through 25th Congress, 1st Session (1824-1837)
- ☞ Published contemporaneously with the proceedings
- ☞ Not verbatim, but a summary of the “leading debates and incidents”

Congressional Globe

- ☞ 23rd Congress through 42nd Congress (1833-1873)
- ☞ Became the “semiofficial publication” of the Senate in 1846; elevated to similar status by the House in 1850
- ☞ Became almost verbatim with the 32nd Congress (1851)

American Memory


 AMERICAN MEMORY

A Century of Lawmaking For a New Nation

U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates
1774-1875

Search All Titles

<i>Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention</i>	<i>Journals of Congress</i>
<i>Journals of the Continental Congress</i>	House Journal
<i>Letters of Delegates to Congress</i>	Senate Journal
<i>Elliot's Debates</i>	Senate Executive Journal
<i>Farrand's Records</i>	Maclay's Journal
<i>Statutes and Documents</i>	<i>Debates of Congress</i>
<i>Bills and Resolutions</i>	Annals of Congress
<i>Statutes at Large</i>	Register of Debates
<i>American State Papers</i>	Congressional Globe
<i>U.S. Serial Set</i>	Congressional Record



<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Annals of Congress

Debates and Proceedings, 1789-1824

Includes links to indexes by Congress

Browse [Volumes](#) or

Jump to a Congress:

1st 1789-91	4th 1795-97	7th 1801-03	10th 1807-09	13th 1813-15	16th 1819-21
2nd 1791-93	5th 1797-99	8th 1803-05	11th 1809-11	14th 1815-17	17th 1821-23
3rd 1793-95	6th 1799-1801	9th 1805-07	12th 1811-13	15th 1817-19	18th 1823-25

Search [A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation](#)

Note: If you already have a specific page reference you could:

- Go to the [Search Page](#).
- Type ONLY ONE page number in the large box.
- Use the drop-down boxes to select from "Any Title" *Annals of Congress*; from "Any Congress" the session of Congress to which your reference pertains. (If you know the session and/or chamber you may complete the other two boxes.)
- Click Search.

If the page does not appear and you're sure that it exists, repeat the above steps using either the page number before or after the one you need; then use the "PREV IMAGE" or "NEXT IMAGE" links.

[\(TOP\)](#)

Annals of Congress - Browse by Volume

[Volume 1](#): March 4, 1789 to February 10, 1790

[Volume 22](#): December 3, 1810 to March 3, 1811

[Volume 2](#): February 10, 1790 to March 4, 1791

[Volume 23](#): November 4, 1811 to March 9, 1812

[Volume 3](#): October 24, 1791 to March 4, 1793

[Volume 24](#): March 9, 1812 to July 6, 1812*

Case of Ninian Edwards (House of Representatives)
Case of Ninian Edwards--Claim of Beaumarchais, &c (House of Representatives)
Case of R. W. Meade (House of Representatives)
Case of Randall and Whitney (House of Representatives)
Case of Randall and Whitney--Indian Trading Houses, &c (House of Representatives)
Case of Reuben Colburn (Senate)
Case of Richard W. Meade (House of Representatives)
Case of Richard W. Meade (Senate)
Case of Silas Clark (House of Representatives)
Case of the Leander (House of Representatives)
Case of the Ship Allegany (House of Representatives)
Case of Woodrop Sims (House of Representatives)
Cash Duties on Imports (House of Representatives)
Catawba and Wateree Rivers--Naval Establishment (House of Representatives)
Causes and Character of the War
Census (House of Representatives)
Census Bill (House of Representatives)
Census of the Territory of Louisiana
Census of the Union (House of Representatives)
Census of the United States (House of Representatives)
Census--Post Office Establishment--Moses Young (House of Representatives)
Certificates of Public Debt (House of Representatives)
The Cession of Louisiana
Cession of Louisiana to France (House of Representatives)
Chairmen of Committees (House of Representatives)
Challenges, Duels, &c (House of Representatives)
Challenging a Member (House of Representatives)
Chaplain--The Mint--Address to the President (House of Representatives)
Charges against Judge Tait (House of Representatives)

[PREV PAGE](#)[NEXT PAGE](#)[NEW SEARCH](#)

[A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875](#)

[SORT](#) the top * items by **date** in order.

*Sort is limited to 500 items.

Items **1** through **9** of **9**

1	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 11th Congress, 1st Session, Pages 153 through 154, Third Census--American Seamen
2	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 11th Congress, 2nd Session, Pages 1535 through 1536, Census--Post Office Establishment--Moses Young
3	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 16th Congress, 1st Session, Pages 879 through 880, Fourth Census
4	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 16th Congress, 1st Session, Pages 921 through 922, The Fourth Census
5	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 1st Congress, 2nd Session, Pages 1145 through 1146, Census of the Union
6	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 1st Congress, 2nd Session, Pages 1165 through 1166, Census Bill
7	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 5th Congress, 3rd Session, Pages 2491 through 2492, Census
8	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 6th Congress, 1st Session, Pages 211 through 220, Census of the United States
9	Annals of Congress, House of Representatives, 6th Congress, 1st Session, Pages 223 through 226, Census of the United States

[PREV PAGE](#)[NEXT PAGE](#)[NEW SEARCH](#)

Which brings us to today's
Congressional Record.



December 2, 2013

OBAMACARE IS WRONG SOLUTION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, discussions about health care often turn into discussions about jobs and the economy. The two are undeniably linked. ObamaCare—its unfunded mandates, broken policy incentives, and tax penalty structure—is exacerbating the cri-

THE DISTURBING AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I think there has been a lot of things going on in the world in the last few weeks and a lot here domestically, things that have not been going well on the administration's agenda. Those have been well documented and are not the reason that I rise tonight.

The purpose for my rising tonight is an issue that seems to want to distract from issues at home, and that is a very disturbing development with Iran and the administration's agreement that has been announced.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this Thanksgiving as our family gathered joyfully for dinner, we thought not only of our happiness, but of the many families that can be torn apart by our broken immigration system. We gave thought to those who were gathered at that very moment here on The National Mall going without food, fasting for justice. And they have been doing that now for weeks.

There are so many
Congressional publications!



A Bill

∞ S. 4582, introduced on May 26, 1930

How is it reported?

Senate Journal – S.Jnl. 71-2

∞ By Mr. GILLETT:

A bill (S. 4582) to amend section 305 (a) of the tariff act of 1922, as amended, and sections 211, 245, and 312 of the Criminal Code, as amended; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Congressional Record – May 26, 1930

∞ By Mr. GILLETT:

A bill (S. 4582) to amend section 305 (a) of the tariff act of 1922, as amended, and sections 211, 245, and 312 of the Criminal Code, as amended; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

But then...

Senate Journal – S.Jnl. 71-3

☞ Memorials remonstrating against the enactment of Senate bill 4582, relative to birth control, were presented as follows:

- By Mr. Robinson of Indiana:
Memorials of Irvington Catholic Woman's Study Club...

Congressional Record – February 14, 1931

☞ BIRTH CONTROL

- Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Mr. President, I have received letters from Mrs. R. Babcock, secretary of the Irvington Catholic Woman's Study Club, 5012 University Avenue...

Okay, so where is it?



Lots of options...

CONGRESS.GOV^{BETA}

FDsys



[View In iTunes](#)

+ This app is designed for both iPhone and iPad



The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS

ProQuest | Congressional Publications

...and lots of caveats.

ProQuest | Congressional Publications



Extensive coverage, easy to search, but not free

INTERNET ARCHIVE



HATHI
TRUST
Digital Library

Easy to search, free, but scattered coverage



Free, coverage back to 1994, but not the most user-friendly search functionality

Let's search!



Scout

The screenshot shows the Scout website interface. At the top left is the Scout logo. A search bar contains the text 'obamacare' with a magnifying glass icon to its right. Below the search bar are radio buttons for 'Simple phrase' (selected) and 'Advanced', with a note: 'e.g. crowdfunding, intellectual property, 5 USC 552'. A 'CREATE ALERT' button is visible on the right. The left sidebar has a 'FILTER SEARCH RESULTS' section with a list of categories: 'Everything' (selected), 'Bills in Congress', 'Court Opinions', 'Federal Regulations', 'State Bills', 'Oversight Reports', and 'Speeches in Congress' (highlighted with a black box). Below this is a 'SOURCES' section with a note: 'Data comes from a variety of sources. Select a category or search result for more information.' The main content area shows search results for 'OBAMACARE'. The first result is titled 'Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023.' with a date of 'Oct 16, 2013'. The text of the result includes 'H.Con.Res. 25 — Engrossed Amendment in Senate by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) ...definitions. Sec. 415. Exercise of rulemaking powers. Sec. 416. Congressional budget office estimates. TITLE V--OTHER MATTERS Sec. 501. To require transparent reporting on the ongoing costs to taxpayers of Obamacare. Sec. 502. To require fuller reporting on possible costs to taxpayers of Obamacare. Sec. 503. To require fuller reporting on possible costs to taxpayers of any budget submitted by the President. Sec. 504. Sense of Senate on underutilized facilities of the National Aeronautics and Spac...'. The second result is titled 'American Health Care Reform Act of 2013' with a date of 'Sep 18, 2013'. The text includes 'H.R. 3121 — Introduced in House by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS. (a) Short Title.--This Act may be cited as the "American Health Care Reform Act of 2013". (b) Table of Contents.--The table of contents of this Act is as follows: Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents. TITLE I--REPEAL OF OBAMACARE Sec. 101. Repeal of PPACA and health care-related provisions in the Health'.

Who's talking about Obamacare?

FILTER SEARCH RESULTS

- Everything
- Bills in Congress
- Court Opinions
- Federal Regulations
- State Bills
- Oversight Reports
- Speeches in Congress**

State
-- All States --

Party
-- All Parties --

Chamber
-- Both Chambers --

Speaker
-- Anyone --

SOURCES

Speeches from the Congressional Record are provided by [Capitol Words](#), a Sunlight Foundation project that analyzes word usage in Congress.

The Congressional Record is published by [GPO](#) once each morning and covers 1996 to the present.

OBAMACARE

in Speeches in Congress

[CREATE ALERT](#)

Create an alert to receive notifications of more results like these.

Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) Dec 9, 2013

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2013--MOTION TO PROCEED

"...as rocky, to say the least, when it came out. Congress had to make crucial improvements to other landmark programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, when they were first enacted as well. These big legislative deals can have some wrinkles in them. It does not mean Social Security is bad. It does not mean Medicare is bad. It means they are hard to get started. It is just the same for *ObamaCare*. But now, I repeat, many of the major problems with the health care site have been fixed, hundreds ..."

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) Dec 9, 2013

EXECUTIVE SESSION

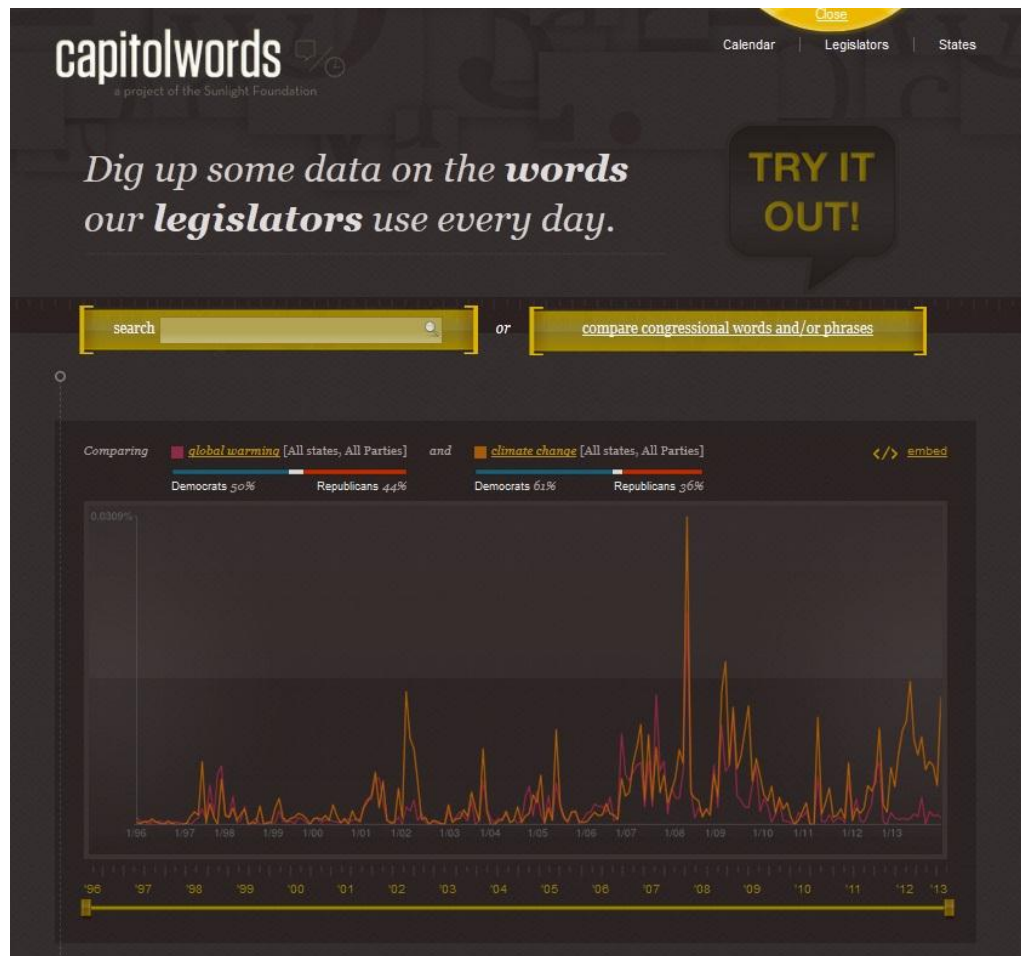
"...e administration can ignore the will of the American people and continue to pursue a job-killing agenda. It doesn't matter that the American people do not want their government to pass cap-and-trade fee increases. The administration will simply force it upon the American people anyway through the Environmental Protection Agency. It doesn't matter that the employer mandate penalty under *ObamaCare* does not apply to the 34 States that have not created insurance exchanges. The administration forced..."

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) Dec 9, 2013

CHANGING SENATE RULES

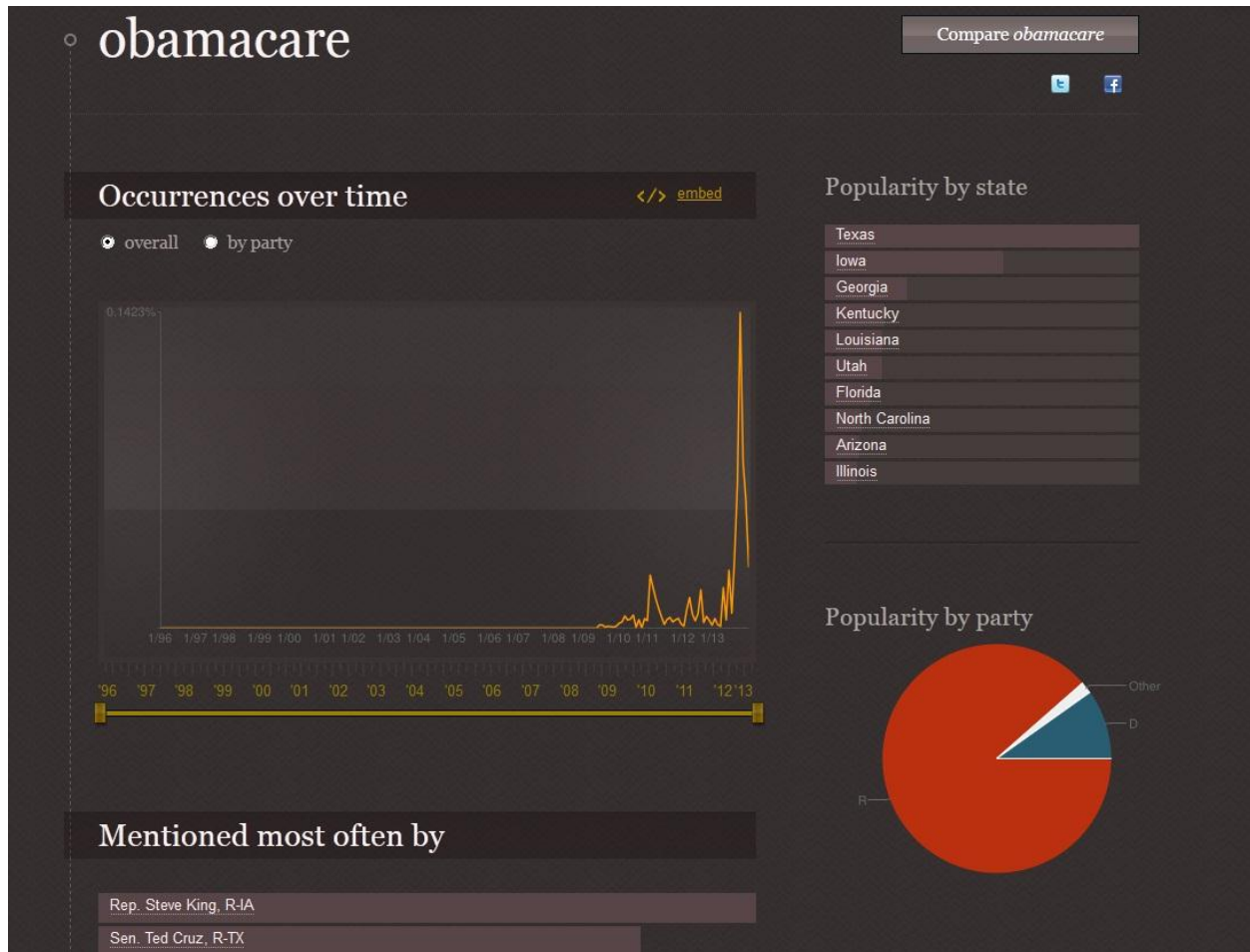
"...ting. This was the most dangerous restructuring of Senate rules since Thomas Jefferson wrote the rules because it creates a perpetual opportunity for what Alexis de Tocqueville called, when he traveled our country in the 1830s, one of the greatest threats to our democracy, and that is the tyranny of the majority. This stunning rules change by the Senate majority can best be described as *ObamaCare 2*. One of the things that Americans really didn't like about the new health care law, *ObamaCare*, was..."

Capitol Words



<http://capitolwords.org>

Who calls it “Obamacare”?



Online access points

- ☞ GPO/FDSys — [daily edition, 1994-present](#); [bound edition, 1999-2001](#)
- ☞ Congress.gov — [daily edition, 1995-present](#)
- ☞ THOMAS — [daily edition, 1989-present](#)
- ☞ Scattered volumes from Hathi Trust, Google Books, and the Internet Archive
- ☞ ProQuest Congressional (subscription)— daily, 1985-present; bound (including predecessors), 1789-1999
- ☞ Hein Online (subscription)— daily, 1980-present; bound (including predecessors), 1789-2010
- ☞ [iPad/iPhone app](#)
- ☞ Sunlight Foundation: [Scout](#) and [Capitol Words](#)

Suggestions for further reading

- ∞ United States Senate: [Reporters of Debate and the Congressional Record](#)
- ∞ Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC: [An Overview of the Congressional Record and Its Predecessor Publications: A Research Guide](#)
- ∞ Marc Anderson, Andrea Sevetson, and Diane Smith: [What is the Congressional Record?](#)
- ∞ Elizabeth Gregory McPherson, "Reporting the Debates of Congress." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 28 (1942): 141-8.

Thank you!

Questions or comments?

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Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- ☞ **Session evaluation:** <http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval13>
- ☞ February 2014: Keeping up with Congress
- ☞ March 2014: Doing legislative histories
- ☞ Federal Register! Social Programs! BLS! And more!

- ☞ Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section. Join us!
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