2017 Congressional Capacity Survey

Codebook
Data files: CCS_2017_1.3.dta (CCS_2017_1.3_labels.csv, CCS_2017_1.3_values.csv)
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Publication embargo: the 2017 Congressional Capacity Survey data and codebook are embargoed unless explicitly authorized by the research team.

Block assignment and post-stratification

ccsid unique identifier of all observations

block assignment to policy area block and responded to questions

(1) Budget (n=113)
(2) Health (n=114)
(3) National Security (n=161)
(.) Missing (n=53)

psweights post-stratification weights based on employing *chamber_ls2*, *officetype2*, and *party_ls3*

**Note*: details on post-stratification methods will be provided upon request, and will be made public upon full release of replication data.

psweights_g post-stratification weights based on *chamber_ls2*, *party_ls3*, and *female*

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Some congressional staff have partly funded positions in more than one office for budget reasons. We are interested in knowing in which type of office you think your primary responsibilities are. In what type of office do you PRIMARILY work?

(1) Member's district office (n=8)
(2) Member's Washington office (n= 328)
(3) Committee office (n=147)
(4) Party leadership office (n=17)
(5) Other, please describe (n=15)

Q1_5_text [text if Q1==5]

Q98 Which of the following job titles most accurately captures your current role? (select all that apply)

- (4) Chief of Staff (n=34)
- (5) Legislative Director (n=37)
- (23) Deputy Chief of Staff (n=10)
- (6) Press Secretary (n=12)
- (7) Communications Director (n=17)
- (8) Legislative Counsel (n=30)
- (9) Professional Staff Member (n=49)
- (10) Part-Time Employee (n=2)
- (11) Executive Assistant (n=24)
- (12) Intern (n=2)
- (13) Subcommittee Staff Director (n=24)
- (14) Committee Staff Director (n=8)
- (15) Staff Assistant (n=43)
- (16) Legislative Assistant (n=92)
- (17) Legal Intern (n=0)
- (18) Legislative Correspondent (n=23)
- (19) House Press Secretary (n=1)
- (20) Page (n=0)
- (21) Fellow (n=23)
- (22) Legislative Correspondent, all-inclusive (n=2)
- (24) Other (please specify) (n=81)

Q98_24_text [text if Q98==24]

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: Background and Professional Block

Q16 How many hours per week do you USUALLY work at your job in Congress, including work outside of routine office hours?

(1) Fewer than 30 (n=3)
(2) 30-39 (n=6)
(3) 40-49 (n=124)
(4) 50-59 (n=198)
(5) 60-69 (n=64)
(6) 70 or more (n=28)

Q19 Thinking about YOUR OWN personal opinions – not what you think your boss believes – what do you think about the following? [NR]

q19_1 The protection of consumer interests is best insured by a vigorous competition among sellers rather than by federal government regulation on behalf of consumers.

(1) Strongly agree (n=104)
(2) Somewhat agree (n=111)
(3) Neither agree nor disagree (n=47)
(4) Somewhat disagree (n=119)
(5) Strongly disagree (n=40)

q19_2 There is too much power concentrated in the hands of a few large companies for the good of the country.

(1) Strongly agree (n=109)
(2) Somewhat agree (n=151)
(3) Neither agree nor disagree (n=65)
(4) Somewhat disagree (n=72)
(5) Strongly disagree (n=24)

q19_3 One of the most important roles of government is to help those who cannot help themselves, such as the poor, the disadvantaged, and the unemployed.

(1) Strongly agree (n=178)
(2) Somewhat agree (n=116)
(3) Neither agree nor disagree (n=37)
(4) Somewhat disagree (n=65)
(5) Strongly disagree (n=25)

q19_4 All Americans should have access to quality medical care regardless of ability to pay.

(1) Strongly agree (n=205)
(2) Somewhat agree (n=83)
(3) Neither agree nor disagree (n=46)
(4) Somewhat disagree (n=65)
(5) Strongly disagree (n=22)

q19_5 The differences in income among occupations should be reduced.

(1) Strongly agree (n=47)
(2) Somewhat agree (n=97)
(3) Neither agree nor disagree (n=75)
(4) Somewhat disagree (n=86)
(5) Strongly disagree (n=116)

ideo_centered a classic test theory (CTT) scale of q19_1 (reversed), q19_2, q19_3, q19_4, and q19_5, ranging from liberal -1.0 to conservative = +1.0 (mean=-0.17; SD=0.52; average inter-item covariance = 0.93; Chronbach's alpha = 0.86)

intern Thinking back to how you got your start working in Congress, was your first position an internship (either paid or unpaid)?

(1) Unpaid internship in district office (n=34)
(2) Unpaid internship in Washington, DC office (n=144)
(3) Unpaid internship with campaign (n=13)
(4) Paid internship in district office (n=2)
(5) Paid internship in Washington, DC office (n=5)
(6) Paid internship with campaign (n=6)
(7) Fellow (n=42)
(8) None of the above (n=264)

intern_dc recoded intern for location

(0) Not DC (n=47)
(1) Washington, DC (n=144)

intern_pay recoded intern for whether it was paid or not (Fellows coded as paid)

(0) No (n=191)
(1) Yes (n=94; excluding “Fellow” n=52)

Q28 Thinking back on your entire adult life, what kinds of jobs have you had other than working in Congress since you turned 18? (select all that apply)

(1) Technical professional (physician, accountant, engineer, etc.)
(2) Journalist
(3) Business owner or executive
(4) Business employee
(5) Campaign manager, employee, or volunteer
(6) Campaign or public relations consultant
(7) Lobbyist or government relations professional
(8) Farm owner or manager
(9) Military
(10) Law enforcement
(11) Lawyer
(12) Politician
(13) State government employee
(14) Federal executive branch employee
(16) Issue advocacy organization employee or executive
(17) Non-profit service group employee or executive
(18) Service-based professional (teacher, nurse, librarian, social worker, clergy, etc.)
(19) Service sector worker (waited tables, retail, etc.)
(20) Manual labor (construction, warehouse etc.)
(21) Other _____

q28_1 split Q28 Job 1
q28_2 split Q28 Job 2

q28_3 split Q28 Job 3
q28_4 split Q28 Job 4
q28_5 split Q28 Job 5
q28_6 split Q28 Job 6
q28_7 split Q28 Job 7
q28_8 split Q28 Job 8
q28_21_text [text if Q28==21]

Q29 Thinking about your future career path, **how long do you envision working** in some position INSIDE Congress?

(1) Within the next 12 months (n=45)
(2) 1-2 years (n=105)
(3) 3-5 years (n=138)
(4) 6-10 years (n=84)
(5) More than 10 years (n=50)

nextstep1 What would be the ideal next step in your career?

(1) Stay in government (including Congress, the executive branch, state government...) (n=184)
(2) Move into the private sector or attend school (including consulting, the parties, attend graduate school, businesses, political organizations, advocacy groups...) (n=168)
(3) Likely retired (n=28)
(4) Don't know (n=169)

Display This Question:

If What would be the ideal next step in your career? = Stay in government (including Congress, the executive branch, state government...)

nextstep_pub What would be the ideal next step in your career?

(1) Stay in Congress, same office (n=57)
(2) Stay in Congress, different office (n=60)
(3) Move to the White House (n=19)
(4) Move to federal agency (n=33)
(5) Move to state government (n=5)
(6) Other (please specify): (n=9) _____

nextstep_pub_5_text [text if nextstep_pub ==6]

Display This Question:

If What would be the ideal next step in your career? = Move into the private sector or attend school (including consulting, the parties, attend graduate school, businesses, political organizations, advocacy groups...)

nextstep_priv What would be the ideal next step in your career?

(1) Election campaign (n=2)
(2) Campaign consulting (n=1)
(3) political party organization (DNC, RNC, RNCC...) (n=3)
(4) Independent political organization (PAC, Super PAC, 501c4...) (n=1)
(5) Corporation or trade association (n=34)
(6) Labor union (n=1)
(7) Issue advocacy group (n=14)
(8) Multi-client lobbying or consulting firm (n=33)
(9) Law firm to practice law (n=12)
(10) Financial sector (banking, commercial finance) (n=7)
(11) Start your own business (n=11)
(12) Research/think tank/university (n=17)
(13) Attend graduate school (n=25)
(14) Other (please specify): (n=6) _____

nextstep_priv_10_text [text if nextstep_priv ==14]

End of Block: Background and Professional Block

Start of Block: Activity issues block

Q44 Please indicate how frequently you work on each of the following issues for your boss in a typical week when Congress is in session: [For each q44_*]

(0) Never
(1) Occasionally
(2) Daily

q44_1	Macroeconomics (*mean* = 0.67; SD= 0.75)
q44_2	Civil Rights & Civil Liberties (*mean* = 0.56; SD= 0.67)
q44_3	Health (*mean* = 0.76; SD= 0.81)
q44_4	Agriculture (*mean* = 0.49; SD= 0.68)
q44_5	Labor (*mean* = 0.59; SD= 0.68)
q44_6	Education (*mean* = 0.52; SD= 0.69)
q44_7	Environment (*mean* = 0.65; SD= 0.74)
q44_8	Energy (*mean* = 0.67; SD= 0.73)
q44_9	Immigration (*mean* = 0.61; SD= 0.71)
q44_10	Transportation & Infrastructure (*mean* = 0.70; SD= 0.75)
q44_12	Law, Crime & Judiciary (*mean* = 0.60; SD= 0.71)
q44_13	Social Welfare (*mean* = 0.58; SD= 0.71)
q44_14	Housing (*mean* = 0.45; SD= 0.64)
q44_15	Domestic Commerce & Banking (*mean* = 0.50; SD= 0.67)
q44_16	Defense (*mean* = 0.74; SD= 0.76)
q44_17	Space, Science & Technology (*mean* = 0.67; SD= 0.71)
q44_18	Foreign Trade (*mean* = 0.62; SD= 0.70)
q44_19	International Affairs (*mean* = 0.76; SD= 0.74)
q44_20	Government Operations (*mean* = 0.96; SD= 0.74)
q44_21	Public Lands (*mean* = 0.51; SD= 0.72)
q44_23	Culture (*mean* = 0.38; SD= 0.59)
q44_24	Budget & Appropriations (*mean* = 1.07; SD= 0.72)

End of Block: Activity and issues block

Start of Substantive Policy Area Knowledge (see variable block)

Q46 Please answer the following questions about the **budget and appropriations** process as accurately as you can, even if they are about issues you do not work on in Congress. [N/R]

Q49 About what percent of the federal budget is allocated through the annual appropriations process?

(1) Three quarters (n=6)
(2) One half (n=8)
(3) A third (n=65)
(4) One quarter (n=32)

q49_correct Correctly responded (3) in Q49

(0) No (n=48)
(1) Yes (n=65)

Q50 How many regular appropriations bills is Congress supposed to adopt on an annual basis in order to fund federal discretionary spending?

(1) 7 (n=2)
(2) 12 (n=101)
(3) 14 (n=6)
(4) 9 (n=2)

q50_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q50

(0) No (n=12)
(1) Yes (n=101)

Q51 Funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is primarily provided through which of the following regular appropriations bills?

(1) Energy and Water Development (n=64)
(2) Defense (n=10)
(2) Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies (n=26)
(4) Interior, Environment and Related Agencies (n=11)

q51_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q51

(0) No (n=49)
(1) Yes (n=64)

Q52 Debt subject to statutory limits includes:

(1) Publicly held debt and Treasury securities held in trust funds (n=47)
(2) Publicly held debt and gross debt, minus interest (n=27)
(3) Gross debt only (n=6)
(4) Publicly held debt only (n=4)

q52_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q52

(0) No (n=66)

(1) Yes (n=47)

Q54 Which of the following statements about “mandatory funding” in the federal budget is **NOT** true?

(1) Mandatory funding is spent automatically according to law without the need for an appropriations bill (n=8)

(2) Medicare and Social Security are examples of programs with mandatory funding (n=13)

(3) Mandatory spending includes payments on the federal debt (n=11)

(4) Mandatory spending makes up a smaller share of the budget than discretionary spending. (n=79)

q54_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q54

(0) No (n=34)

(1) Yes (n=79)

know_bud_st percent of Budget and Appropriations Knowledge questions answered correctly if block==1 (mean=0.63; SD=0.25)

Q68 Please answer the following questions about the **health policy** as accurately as you can, even if they are about issues you do not work on in Congress.

Q69 What's the core Medicaid Federal matching rate for your state? (Not the ACA expansion)

(1) 50% (n=33)
(2) 51%-60% (n=25)
(3) 61%-70% (n=33)
(4) Higher than 70% (n=16)
**Note: valid answers only for staff in personal offices*

q69_correct Correctly responded conditioned on boss's home state in Q69

(0) No (n=70)
(1) Yes (n=37)

Q70 Which of the following provisions are not original provisions included in the Affordable Care Act?

(1) Allows young adults to stay on parents' insurance plans until age 26 (n=2)
(2) Gives states option expanding existing Medicaid program (n=29)
(3) Requires employers with 5 or more employees to pay a fine if they don't offer health insurance (n=79)
(4) Prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions (n=2)

q70_correct Correctly responded (3) in Q70

(0) No (n=33)
(1) Yes (n=79)

Q71 Programs such as Community Health Centers, the National Health Service Corps, and the Children's Health Insurance Program are:

(1) Service provision networks (n=14)
(2) Health safety net programs (n=78)
(3) Physician fee reimbursement schedules (n=4)
(4) Patient-centered care programs (n=15)

q71_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q71

(0) No (n=33)
(1) Yes (n=78)

Q72 In 2015, total spending on health care in the US is _____, with roughly _____ spent on hospital care

(1) $3.2 billion; 60% (n=3)
(2) $3.2 billion; 30% (n=5)
(3) $3.2 trillion; 60% (n=50)
(4) $3.2 trillion; 30% (n=52)

q72_correct Correctly responded (4) in Q72

(0) No (n=58)
(1) Yes (n=52)

know_health_st percent of Health knowledge questions answered correctly if block==2

(mean=0.54; SD=0.27)

Q58 Please answer the following questions about the **national security** as accurately as you can, even if they are about issues you do not work on in Congress.

Q59 Which country is the newest member of NATO?

(1) Macedonia (n=15)
(2) Montenegro (n=134)
(3) Bulgaria (n=10)
(4) Israel (n=1)

q59_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q59

(0) No (n=26)
(1) Yes (n=134)

Q60 Is it legal for a private citizen to purchase plane tickets and accommodations for a family vacation in Cuba?

(1) Yes (n=79)
(2) No (n=81)

q60_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q60

(0) No (n=79)
(1) Yes (n=81)

Q61 The War Powers Act includes a provision requiring the Executive Branch to terminate hostilities 60 days after notifying Congress that it is engaged in them, unless Congress acts to approve it. Has this provision ever been triggered?

(1) No, it was declared unconstitutional. (n=4)
(2) No, presidents have just ignored it. (n=103)
(3) Yes, in the 1975 Mayaguez incident. (n=16)
(4) Yes, in the 1999 Kosovo conflict. (n=36)

q61_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q61

(0) No (n=56)
(1) Yes (n=103)

Q62 What percent of the federal budget goes to foreign aid?

(1) 12% (n=1)
(2) 5% (n=6)
(3) 1% (n=78)
(4) 0.5% (n=75)

q62_correct Correctly responded (3) in Q62

(0) No (n=82)
(1) Yes (n=78)

Q63 Who in Congress has final jurisdiction over cybersecurity?

(1) The Intelligence Committees (n=28)

(2) The Homeland Security Committees (n=63)

(3) The cybersecurity caucuses (n=0)

(4) No one (n=70)

q63_correct Correctly responded (4) in Q63

(0) No (n=91)

(1) Yes (n=70)

know_natsec_st percent of National Security questions answered correctly if block==3 (mean=0.58; SD=0.22)

know_sub_st percent of substantive policy area knowledge questions (mean=0.55; SD=0.24)

Start of Block: House Procedure Block

Q83 Please answer the following questions about the legislative process as accurately as you can. [N/R]

Q34 Which of the following is accurate in reference to the Committee of the Whole in the House?

(1) Amendments are generally debated for five minutes (n=74)

(2) A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum (n=54)

(3) The previous question is always in order (n=32)

(4) Calling for a recorded vote requires the support of a majority of the chamber (n=39)

q34_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q34

(0) No (n=125)

(1) Yes (n=74)

Q73 How many signatures are required for a successful discharge petition?

(1) A majority of all members chosen and sworn (n=26)

(2) A majority of the chamber (218) (n=168)

(3) A majority of the majority party (n=8)

(4) A majority of the minority party (n=1)

q73_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q73

(0) No (n=35)

(1) Yes (n=168)

Q81 What are 302(a) allocations?

(1) The amounts set by the House and Senate Budget Committees for their respective Appropriations Committees at the start of the budget process (n=141)

(2) The amounts given to each committee in the House and Senate to spend on staff (n=21)

(3) The number of seats in the House given to each state following the decennial census (n=2)

(4) The amounts set by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for their respective subcommittees as part of the budget process (n=36)

q81_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q81

(0) No (n=59)

(1) Yes (n=141)

Q82 What does it mean to invoke "martial law" in the House?

(1) There is no required layover period between the filing of a bill and debating it (n=143)

(2) The leadership may adjourn the chamber at any point (n=17)

(3) Only the Speaker of the House may preside over the chamber (n=13)

(4) No amendments on the floor are permitted (n=25)

q82_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q82

(0) No (n=55)

(1) Yes (n=143)

know_house_st percent of correct answers to Q34, Q73, Q81, and Q82 (*mean* =0.65; SD=0.26)

End of Block: House Procedure Block

Start of Block: Senate Procedure Block

Q84 Please answer the following questions about the legislative process as accurately as you can.

Q38 What does Senate Rule XIV do?

(1) Allows bills to bypass committee consideration in the Senate (n=102)

(2) Allows for unlimited debate on the Senate floor (n=4)

(3) Sets requirements for committee hearings (n=3)

(4) Restricts amendment opportunities on the floor of the Senate (n=15)

q38_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q38

(0) No (n=22)

(1) Yes (n=102)

Q37 Why does the majority leader often vote against cloture?

(1) He does not want to end debate on the underlying measure (n=16)

(2) He wants to limit the ability of minority party senators to offer amendments (n=17)

(3) He wants to make it easier to hold another cloture vote on the same bill in the future (n=87)

(4) He wants to send the bill back to committee for further consideration (n=4)

q37_correct Correctly responded (3) in Q37

(0) No (n=37)

(1) Yes (n=87)

Q36 What is one procedural advantage of using amendments between the houses to resolve differences between the House and Senate?

(1) A House amendment is privileged for consideration in the Senate (n=43)

(2) A House amendment cannot be filibustered in the Senate (n=15)

(3) There are no limits on the number of times a particular bill may go back and forth between the chambers (n=50)

(4) Amendment exchanges cannot introduce new content into the bill (n=11)

q36_correct Correctly responded (1) in Q36

(0) No (n=76)

(1) Yes (n=43)

Q35 When does a cloture motion ripen?

(1) The same day of session it is filed (n=4)

(2) The second day of session after it is filed (n=84)

(3) The third of day of session after it is filed (n=34)

(4) The fourth day of session after it is filed (n=4)

q35_correct Correctly responded (2) in Q35

(0) No (n=42)

(1) Yes (n=84)

know_senate_st percent of correct answers to Q38, Q37, Q36, and Q35 (*mean* =0.62; SD=.026)

End of Block: Senate Procedure Block

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know_cong_st percent of parliamentary procedure questions answered correctly (mean=0.64; SD=0.26)

Start of Block: New Budget Allocation Block

fundalloc Imagine that your office budget were to double tomorrow. If it were up to you, how would prioritize spending these new resources. (Please rank the following options with 1 as the top priority.) [For each fundalloc_*]

(1) Seventh Priority
(2) Sixth priority
(3) Fifth priority
(4) Fourth priority
(5) Third priority
(6) Second priority
(7) First priority

fundalloc_4 Increasing pay for existing staff (*mean* =6.22; SD=1.21)
fundalloc_5 Hiring more legislative/policy staff (*mean* =5.41; SD=1.37)
fundalloc_6 Hiring more staff to handle constituent demands (*mean* =3.73; SD=1.83)
fundalloc_7 Increasing fringe benefits (e.g. healthcare, retirement) (*mean* =3.28; SD=1.58)
fundalloc_8 Hiring more communications staff (*mean* =3.40; SD=1.51)
fundalloc_9 Hiring more oversight staff (*mean* =3.34; SD=1.89)
fundalloc_10 Additional office space (*mean* =2.62; SD=1.72)

End of Block: New Budget Allocation Block

Start of Block: Bipartisanship Block

bipart_comm When working to advance legislation, how often do you communicate with: [N/R]

bipart_comm_1 Communication with staffers from your own party
- (0) Never (n=6)
- (1) Rarely (n=1)
- (2) Sometimes (n=14)
- (3) Often (n=97)
- (4) Always (n=209)

bipart_comm_2 Communication with staffers from the opposing party
- (0) Never (n=10)
- (1) Rarely (n=44)
- (2) Sometimes (n=91)
- (3) Often (n=125)
- (4) Always (n=57)

bipart_comm_topic When working to advance legislation, which of the following do you focus on the most when communicating with: [N/R]

bipart_comm_topic_1 Topic of communication with staffers from your own party
- (0) Policy content (n=207)
- (1) Likely voting coalition for the bill (n=90)
- (2) Conveying policy positions to groups outside Congress (n=15)

bipart_comm_topic_2 Topic of communication with staffers from the opposing party
- (0) Policy content (n=201)
- (1) Likely voting coalition for the bill (n=93)
- (2) Conveying policy positions to groups outside Congress (n=18)

End of Block: Bipartisanship Block

Start of Block: Party ID

Q21 Generally speaking, do you usually think of YOURSELF as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else? **Note:** your response here may differ from your boss's party.

(1) Republican (n=141)
(2) Democrat (n=139)
(3) Independent (n=39)
(4) Other (n = 7)
(5) No preference (n=3)

q21_4_text [text if Q21== 4]

Display This Question:

If Generally speaking, do you usually think of YOURSELF as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = Republican

Q23 Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

(1) Strong (n=96)
(2) Not very strong (n=44)

Display This Question:

If Generally speaking, do you usually think of YOURSELF as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = Democrat

Q25 Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

(1) Strong (n=120)
(2) Not very strong (n=19)

Display This Question:

If Generally speaking, do you usually think of YOURSELF as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = Independent

Or Generally speaking, do you usually think of YOURSELF as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = Other

Or Generally speaking, do you usually think of YOURSELF as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = No preference

[n= 39 + 7 + 3 = 49]

Q27 Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?

(1) Republican (n=22)
(2) Democratic (n=25)

partyid 7-point party identification derived from Q21, Q23, Q25, and Q27

(0) Strong Democrat (n=120)
(1) Democrat (n=19)
(2) Lean Democrat (n=25)
(3) Independent / Independent (n=3)

(4) Lean Republican (n=22)
(5) Republican (n=44)
(6) Strong Republican (n=96)

End of Block: Party ID

Start of Block: Activities

Q4 Please indicate how frequently you engage in each of the following tasks on behalf of the member(s) of Congress you report to in a typical week. [For each q4_*]

(0) Never
(1) Occasionally
(2) A great deal

q4_1 Setting overall policy and/or messaging priorities (mean=1.24; SD=0.83)
q4_2 Formulating office budgets (mean=0.29; SD=0.60)
q4_3 Hiring staff (mean=0.56; SD=0.65)
q4_4 Mentoring staff to advance their careers (mean=1.23; SD=0.72)
q4_5 Supervising professional legislative staff (mean=0.88; SD=0.88)
q4_6 Supervising professional communications staff (mean=0.56; SD=0.73)
q4_7 Supervising professional constituent service, legislative correspondence, or office support staff (mean=0.89; SD=0.84)

Q5 Please indicate how frequently you engage in each of the following tasks on behalf of the member(s) of Congress you report to in a typical week. [For each q5_*]

(0) Never
(1) Occasionally
(2) A great deal

q5_1 Raising money for party and leadership committees (mean=0.12; SD=0.38)
q5_2 Raising money for your boss's own re-election (mean=0.18; SD=0.51)
q5_3 Maintaining relationships with business donors (mean=0.37; SD=0.61)
q5_7 Maintaining relationships with issue or cause-specific donors or donor networks (mean=0.47; SD=0.69)
q5_4 Maintaining relationships with individual donors (mean=0.29; SD=0.54)
q5_5 Working with party leadership offices to develop election strategy (mean=0.23; SD=0.48)
q5_6 Working with informal partisan member organizations (e.g. Freedom Caucus, Blue Dogs, etc.) to develop election strategy (mean=0.37; SD=0.65)

Q6 Please indicate how frequently you engage in each of the following tasks on behalf of the member(s) of Congress you report to in a typical week. [For each q6_*]

(0) Never
(1) Occasionally
(2) A great deal

q6_1 Building support for a policy issue or bill that your boss cares about (mean=1.32; SD=0.73)
q6_2 Discussing policy issues with other staffers at committees (mean=1.46; SD=0.71)
q6_3 Discussing policy issues with staffers at personal offices (mean=1.48; SD=0.66)
q6_4 Independently researching about policy issues currently under debate (mean=1.67; SD=0.58)
q6_5 Preparing vote recommendations on amendments and bills (mean=1.27; SD=0.80)
q6_6 Drafting or working with counsel to develop legislative language (mean=1.19; SD=0.76)
q6_7 Attending or preparing for committee hearings or markups (mean=1.36; SD=0.73)
q6_8 Preparing floor speeches or similar official policy communications (mean=1.21; SD=0.72)
q6_9 Conducting official oversight or investigations (mean=0.78; SD=0.81)
q6_10 Communicating with executive branch personnel (mean=1.13; SD=0.67)
q6_20 Meeting with corporate/industry lobbyists (mean=1.30; SD=0.74)
q6_21 Meeting with business leaders from your state or district (mean=1.17; SD=0.74)
q6_23 Meeting with private-sector employees from your state or district (mean=1.12; SD=0.75)
q6_22 Meeting with grassroots groups from your state or district (mean=1.17; SD=0.75)

Q7 Please indicate how frequently you engage in each of the following tasks on behalf of the member(s) of Congress you report to in a typical week. [For each q6_*]

(0) Never
(1) Occasionally
(2) A great deal

q7_1 Constituent casework (mean=0.37; SD=0.59)
q7_2 Drafting constituent response communications (mean=0.81; SD=0.74)
q7_3 Writing press releases or similar public relations copy (mean=0.77; SD=0.70)
q7_6 Communicating with the press (mean=0.53; SD=0.68)
q7_7 Managing constituent mail turnaround (mean=0.66; SD=0.81)
q7_8 Working with party leadership offices to develop electoral messaging (mean=0.21; SD=0.47)

End of Block: Activities

Start of Block: Optional Demographics

q100_1 split Q100 Ethnicity 1

(10) White (n=276)
(11) Black or African-American (n=12)
(12) American Indian or Alaska Native (n=0)
(13) Asian (n=10)
(14) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (n=1)
(5) Middle Eastern or North African (n=0)
(6) Other (please specify) (n=4)

q100_2 split Q100 Ethnicity 2

(10) White (n=0)
(11) Black or African-American (n=0)
(12) American Indian or Alaska Native (n=4)
(13) Asian (n=4)
(14) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (n=0)
(5) Middle Eastern or North African (n=2)
(6) Other (please specify) (n=0)

q100_6_text [text if Q100==6]

Q101 Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?

(1) Yes (n=18)
(2) No (n=294)

white dummy variable 1 = self-identified white, non-hispanic in q100_1, q100_2, and q101; 0 = otherwise (mean=0.88; SD=0.32)

Q102 What is your age (in years)? (mean=35.34; SD=11.04)

age_cat recoded q102 into 10 bins ranging from “under 25” to “65 and over” (mean=3.66; SD=2.24)

End of Block: Optional Demographics

Observations merged with LegiStorm Sampling Frame for following variables:

chamber offices categorized by LegiStorm database

(1) Congressional Delegation (n=1)
(2) House (n=335)
(3) Joint Commission or Task Force (n=1)
(4) Joint Committee (n=4)
(5) Senate (n=208)

chamber_ls2 recoded and manually verified

(0) House (n=337)
(1) Senate (n=212)

*_Note_: joint commission, committee, or administrative staff manually re-coded according to their email server, e.g. __@mail.house.gov or __@__.senate.gov. Joint Committee on Taxation recoded as House staffers because all offices are physically located in the Ford House Office Building. US-China Economic and Security Review Commission recoded as Senate staffers because all offices are physically located in 444. N. Capitol St., NW.

party_ls1 Party of employing office

(1) Democrat (n=260)
(2) Non-designated (n=8)
(3) Nonpartisan (n=12)
(4) Republican (n=268)

party_ls2 recoded and manually verified 2-party

(0) Democrat (n=261)
(1) Republican (n=288)

*_Note_: Non-designated and non-partisan committee and other office type staff that could not be directly linked to a partisan member employer were re-coded (1) to reflect majority party status.

party_ls3 recoded party of employing office to include unassigned from central administrative offices

(0) Democrat (n=261)
(1) Other (n=2)
(2) Republican (n=286)

*_Note_: cases re-coded (1) to capture non-zero counts for post-stratification weights

officetype recoded and manually verified from memberofcongressoffice

(1) Other (n=14)
(2) Personal (n=378)
(3) Committee (n=143)
(4) Party (n=15)

officetype2 recoded to collapse “Other” administrative offices with “Party” offices

(1) Personal (n=378)
(2) Committee (n=143)
(3) Party (n=28)

*_Note_: cases re-coded (3) to capture non-zero counts for post-stratification weights

female recoded prefix

(0) Male (n=344)
(1) Female (n=205)

Observations merged with LegiStorm Biographical/Payroll Data for following variables:

salary_cat recoded salary by $10,000 increments to hide identity

num_titles count of job titles in a congressional office through entire career (mean = 3.11; SD = 2.12)

num_employers sum num_members + num_offices (mean = 2.26; SD = 4.99)

Note: inclusive for shared employees in personal, committee, party leadership, and institutional offices (i.e., some observations have multiple employers simultaneously)

tenure total number of calendar years employed in any congressional office (mean = 6.19; SD = 5.24)

gap gap in tenure? indicates left work in Congress at one point, and returned at a later point.

(0) No (n=372)
(1) Yes (n=69)

ls_race race and ethnicity determined by LegiStorm (see https://www.legistorm.com/congress_by_numbers.html)

(1) Caucasian (n=303)
(2) Black (n=16)
(4) Hispanic (n=12)
(5) Asian-American/Pacific Islander (n=12)
(8) Biracial (n=1)
(9) American-Indian/Alaska Native (n=1)
(43) Arab/Persian (n=4)
(44) Not clear (n=1)
(.) Missing (n=93)

ls_educ

(1) Bachelors (n=172)
(2) JD (n=56)
(3) Masters (n=104)
(4) PhD (n=11)
(.) Missing (n=98)

title_cat manually coded job title category based on current position as reported in third quarter of 2017

(1) Legislative (n=256)
    Common job titles: legislative director, legislative assistant, legislative correspondent, legislative counsel, policy advisor/director
(2) Political management (n=52)
    Common job titles: chief of staff, staff director
(3) Communications (n=31)

Common job titles: communications director, press secretary, speechwriter

(4) Office management (n=81)

Common job titles: staff assistant, scheduler, systems administrator

(5) Constituency service (n=1)

Common job titles: caseworker, constituent service representative, strategic outreach director

(6) Institutional (n=11)

Common job titles: parliamentarian, clerk, printer, general counsel

(-9) Other/DK (n=9)

Common job titles: special assistant, aide, staff

combo job title includes multiple roles that cut across more than one category in title_cat

(0) No (n=409)

(1) Yes (n=32)

*_Note_: title_cat arbitrarily coded for first job mentioned in combination job title

Common job titles: scheduler/legislative assistant, deputy chief of staff/legislative director, deputy chief of staff/communications director

seniority job title implies degree of autonomy, responsibility, and/or supervisory role

(0) Junior (n=83)

Common job titles: staff assistant, legislative correspondent,

(1) Mid-level (n=255)

Common job titles: legislative assistant, professional staff member, press secretary, counsel, fellow

(2) Senior (n=94)

Common job titles: chief of staff, staff director, communications director, legislative director

(-9) Other/DK (n=9)

Common job titles: special assistant, aide, staff