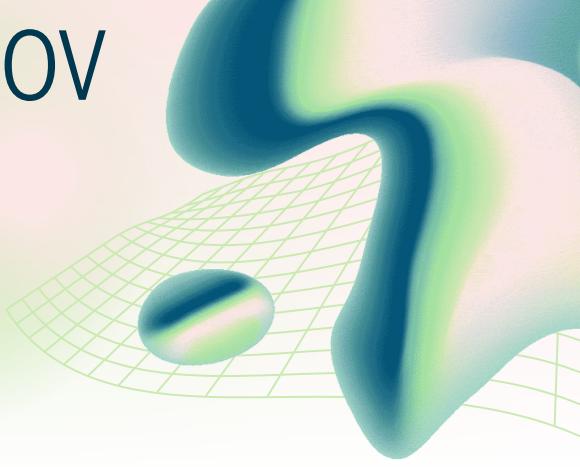


HOW TO USE CONGRESS.GOV FOR RESEARCH

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What is Congress.gov?

Congress.gov is the official website for U.S. federal legislative information. Maintained by the Library of Congress, it's a powerful resource for anyone researching the legislative process, bills, resolutions, committee reports, and more. Learn about using Congress.gov effectively in this guide.

Key Features and Tips

1. Basic Search

- Use the search bar at the top.
- Enter keywords, bill numbers, or member names.
- Filter results using the dropdown menus.

The basic search is your starting point. Be specific with your keywords to narrow down results. You can search for vague terms like 'healthcare' or 'Medicare reform' (if you want to get more specific) to see everything happening in that realm or search for a particular bill like 'Affordable Care Act.' Bill numbers (e.g., H.R. 1) are the most precise way to find specific legislation. The filters (e.g., Congress, Bill Type, Date) can significantly refine your search.

2. Advanced Search

- Click 'Advanced Search' for detailed options.
- Search by bill text, committee, sponsor, etc.
- Use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).

The Advanced Search provides granular control. You can search within the full text of bills, limit by committee of origin, or find bills sponsored by specific members. Boolean operators are invaluable for complex queries. For example, 'climate change AND renewable energy NOT coal' will find bills related to climate change and renewable energy but exclude those mentioning coal.

3. Bill Status and Summary

- Track the progress of a bill.
- Read summaries for concise overviews.
- Access full text and related documents.

Each bill has a status page showing its legislative journey. The summary provides a brief description of the bill's purpose and key provisions. You can also download the full text of the bill in various formats (e.g., PDF, XML). Related documents include committee reports, amendments, and Congressional Record excerpts.

4. Committee Information

- Find committee websites and membership.
- Access committee reports and hearings.
- Identify relevant committees for your research.

Committees play a crucial role in shaping legislation. Congress.gov provides access to committee websites, membership lists, and published reports. Committee hearings offer valuable insights into the issues debated and the perspectives of experts and stakeholders. Understanding which committee are involved in your topic is essential for comprehensive research.

5. Member Profiles

- View member biographies and contact information.
- Find bills sponsored and co-sponsored.
- Track voting records.

Member profiles offer a wealth of information about individual members of Congress. You can view their biographies, committee assignments, sponsored and co-sponsored legislation, and voting records. This is useful for understanding a member's priorities and their position on specific issues.

Happy researching!

Congress.gov is an indispensable tool for anyone tracking or researching U.S. federal legislation. Visit fancycomma.com for more resources to help you make the most of your research skills and apply them to your science policy endeavors.