

U.S. House of Representatives

2017-2022

Every two years, voters choose all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives; each is called a Congressperson. Control of the House is up again this year and may hinge on a few Congressional seats. The party with the most seats selects all committee chairs and decides which bills to consider—and which investigations to conduct. This guide summarizes some key votes over the past six years to show how the two parties have handled that control and voted on important issues.

DEMOCRATS VOTED TO...

THE ISSUES

REPUBLICANS VOTED TO...

ABORTION

Keep abortion legal

- [Override and prevent](#) state [abortion bans nationwide](#) (after Supreme Court [decision overturning Roe v. Wade](#)).
- [Oppose](#) making it [a federal crime](#) to perform an abortion after 20 weeks (before Supreme Court abortion decision).

Ban or mostly ban abortion

- [Let](#) states [ban abortion as they choose](#) (after Supreme Court abortion decision).
- [Make](#) it [a federal crime](#) to perform an abortion after 20 weeks (before the Supreme Court abortion decision).

ECONOMY AND TAXES

Raise corporate and top-bracket taxes and raise federal investment in social programs and the economy

- [Oppose](#) 2017 \$1.5 trillion [tax cut bill](#).
- [Support](#) new [U.S. infrastructure investment in](#) roads, bridges, and broadband.
- [Support](#) Biden's initial [Build Back Better \(BBB\)](#) bill, including universal preschool, lower prescription drug costs, a child tax credit, and free community college.

Lower corporate and top-bracket taxes and limit federal investment in social programs and the economy

- [Pass](#) \$1.5 trillion 2017 [tax cuts](#), which [lowered the corporate and top-bracket tax rates](#) and raised the standard deduction.
- [Oppose](#) the [infrastructure bill](#) (13 Republicans supported).
- Oppose the [Build Back Better \(BBB\)](#) bill and the [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#).

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Tighten environmental regulations, limit greenhouse gas emissions, subsidize renewable energy

- [Commit](#) to [Paris Agreement](#) greenhouse gas reductions.
- Support the [BBB](#) bill and [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#), including renewable energy subsidies: [\\$550 billion in BBB](#) and [\\$369 billion in IRA](#).

Loosen environmental regulations, reject greenhouse gas limits oppose subsidizing renewable energy

- [Oppose](#) committing to [Paris Agreement](#) greenhouse gas reductions.
- Oppose the [BBB](#) and [IRA](#), including renewable energy subsidies in both [BBB](#) and [IRA](#).

GUN RULES

Tighten gun rules

- [Oppose](#) mandating that [one state's concealed-carry permit apply in other states](#) allowing concealed carry.
- [Expand background checks](#) for firearms sales.

Loosen gun rules

- [Support](#) mandating that [one state's concealed-carry permit apply in other states](#) that also allow concealed carry.
- [Oppose expanding background checks](#) for firearms sales.

HEALTH CARE

Support Obamacare and expand Medicaid

- [Oppose repealing or cutting](#) the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Oppose proposed cuts to [Medicaid expansion](#). Keep [\\$900 billion of related taxes](#) on insurers and higher-income taxpayers.
- [Support](#) IRA, which let Medicare [negotiate prescription drug prices](#), and [BBB](#), which [limited drug prices, subsidized insurance premiums, and expanded Medicaid eligibility](#).

Repeal Obamacare and oppose expanding Medicaid

- [Repeal or cut key parts of Obamacare](#). Cut [Medicaid expansion](#). [End \\$900 billion of related taxes](#) on higher-income taxpayers and insurers.
- [Oppose](#) IRA, which let Medicare [negotiate prescription drug prices](#). Oppose [BBB](#), including [Medicaid expansion](#), insurance premium subsidies, and limits on drug prices.

DEMOCRATS VOTED TO...

THE ISSUES

REPUBLICANS VOTED TO...

IMMIGRATION

Support permanent legal status for DACA recipients

- [Give](#) qualifying immigrants (DACA recipients) who were brought to the U.S. as minors a [path to permanent resident status](#).
- [Oppose a bill tightening immigration laws](#) in return for DACA legal status.

Support renewable legal status for DACA recipients—if linked to tightened immigration laws

- [Oppose](#) the stand-alone DACA [legal status bill](#).
- [Give](#) DACA recipients renewable legal status while tightening immigration laws by [sharply reducing legal immigration, mandating worker verification, and committing \\$23.4 billion to a border wall](#).

LABOR RIGHTS

Make it easier to join unions

- [Make it easier](#) for [workers to organize and join unions](#).

Make it harder for workers to join unions

- [Oppose making it easier](#) to [organize and join unions](#).

LGBTQ RIGHTS

Expand LGBTQ rights

- [Expand protections against discrimination](#) based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Limit LGBTQ rights

- [Oppose expanding LGBTQ anti-discrimination protections](#).

MARIJUANA

Decriminalize marijuana

- [Decriminalize marijuana at the federal level](#), removing it from the federal controlled-substance list.

Keep the federal ban on marijuana

- [Oppose decriminalizing marijuana](#), and keep it on the federal controlled-substance list.

MINIMUM WAGE

Support \$15/hour minimum wage

- [Raise](#) federal [minimum wage](#) from \$7.25 to \$15/hour over 7 years.

Oppose \$15/hour minimum wage

- [Oppose](#) raising federal [minimum wage from current \\$7.25/hour](#).

POLICING/CRIME

Support increased oversight of police use of force, and oppose expanding the death penalty

- [Increase police oversight](#), banning chokeholds and making it easier to sue for police misconduct.
- [Oppose](#) expanding [aggravating factors for federal death penalty](#) to include killing a law enforcement officer, firefighter or other first responder.

Oppose increased oversight of police use of force, and support expanding the death penalty

- [Oppose increasing police oversight](#), banning chokeholds, and making it easier to sue for police misconduct.
- [Expand aggravating factors for federal death penalty](#) to include killing a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or other first responder.

VOTING RULES

Limit state restrictions on voting

- [Override state laws by requiring](#) same-day voter registration, establishing Election Day as a legal public holiday, requiring a minimum number of early voting days, and letting people vote absentee by mail for any reason.

Leave it to the states to decide on voting rules

- [Oppose overriding state laws and imposing federal standards on](#) same-day voter registration, Election Day holidays, required early voting days, and universal absentee voting.

LEARN MORE

We've focused here on party-line votes, or votes with only a few crossovers, to highlight the issues where each party has voted together. But some votes are bipartisan, and each Congressperson decides how to vote on every issue. Please see [Congress.gov](#) for a list of Congressional votes, [guides.vote](#) for our U.S. Senate and governor guides, and [Vote411.org](#) for races we don't cover.

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