



# Senate Committee Party Ratios: 94<sup>th</sup> - 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses

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## Summary

The standing rules of the Senate are silent on the subject of committee party ratios. The apportionment of committee seats results from discussions between majority and minority party leadership. Committee assignments and ratios are among the first decisions made at the beginning of a Congress. The leaders implement any ratio agreement through resolutions electing Senators to committees. In general, it has been the practice of the Senate to apportion committee seats to the majority and minority parties in a manner that corresponds closely to the party strength in the full chamber. Findings from this study indicate that the majority party ratios on committees roughly approximate the majority party strength in the Senate chamber, regardless of which party is in control. This report provides an overview of Senate standing committee sizes and ratios in 18 Congresses, covering the period of the 94<sup>th</sup> through the 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses (1975-2011). Also included are data on select committees with legislative jurisdiction. This report also discusses trends and compares party ratios in selected Congresses.

During the 18 Congresses examined, the sizes of committees have generally increased as have the number of committee assignments a Senator typically receives. Each table includes the standing committees and select committees as established and titled in each Congress. For each Congress, a table presents the party divisions in the Senate and the total number of seats (1) in the chamber, (2) in committees, (3) on each committee, (4) assigned to the majority and minority parties and to Independents and other parties (where present), and (5) majority and minority party seats on each committee. Data are 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 comparison of the Senate majority caucus size in the chamber and in committees is provided in a separate table.

The committee ratios data for the 99<sup>th</sup> through 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses are taken from the official committee lists for each Congress issued by the Secretary of the Senate; the *Congressional Directory* is the source for the 94<sup>th</sup> through 98<sup>th</sup> Congresses. The earliest editions of these primary documents are the sources for the data, although anomalies in some Congresses, such as delays in seating a Senator due to contested elections, necessitated using later versions of the publications. Use of other versions of these publications, and alternate sources or methodologies, may yield different results. For example, using data from other sources or time frames reflecting the number of Senators representing a particular party may change during a Congress, due to the death or resignation of a Senator, or as a consequence of a Senator changing party affiliation, and could lead to alternate findings. Party division numbers reflect party strength as indicated in the Secretary's lists and the *Congressional Directory*. Different versions of the Secretary's list and the *Congressional Directory*, or the use of alternate sources or methodologies, may yield different results.

This report will be updated in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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The standing rules of the Senate are silent on the subject of committee party ratios. Committee assignments and ratios are among the first decisions made at the beginning of a Congress. The majority and minority leaders, through consultation and negotiation, determine the relative apportionment of the committee seats to each party. The leaders implement this agreement through resolutions electing Senators to committees. This report provides an overview and data on Senate standing committee party ratios for 18 Congresses covering the 94<sup>th</sup> through the 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses (1975-2011). In addition to the standing committees, data on permanent select committees with legislative jurisdiction are also included. A comparison of the Senate majority caucus<sup>1</sup> size in the chamber and in committees is provided in a separate table.<sup>2</sup>

## Sources and Method

Assignment data for each Senate committee for the 94<sup>th</sup> through the 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses in these 18 Congresses were taken from the official committee assignment lists issued by the Secretary of the Senate, after assignments were made in each Congress.<sup>3</sup> Data for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress reflect committee ratios established after the Senate reorganization in June 2001 as a result of the switch in party control.<sup>4</sup> The numbers on overall party strength in the Senate for each Congress were taken from the same lists issued by the Secretary of the Senate for the 99<sup>th</sup> through 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses.<sup>5</sup> The Secretary of the Senate began issuing these committee lists in the 99<sup>th</sup> Congress, thus, data for the 94<sup>th</sup> through 98<sup>th</sup> Congresses were taken from the *Congressional Directory*.<sup>6</sup> The data in this report are from the earliest available complete information of each Congress contained in these two primary documents.<sup>7</sup> Vacancies on committees (if so noted in the secretaries' lists or the *Congressional Directory*) are counted in individual and overall committee

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<sup>1</sup> Senate Democrats and Republicans currently refer to their respective party organizations as “conferences.” The term “caucus” has been used interchangeably. For the purposes of this report, the word “caucus” is used to describe each organization.

<sup>2</sup> Committee ratios rarely match exactly the chamber ratio, particularly with regard to small committees.

<sup>3</sup> Data are generally taken from the first official list prepared as a Senate publication, excluding lists marked “interim” or “preliminary” which may be incomplete, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate. There were some anomalies during the period examined in this report. For example, most of the lists were issued in the spring of the first session of each Congress. In the 99<sup>th</sup> Congress, all the Secretary’s lists were marked preliminary for the entire Congress, however, the first and last versions reflect the same full committee data. The dates of the publications are footnoted at the end of each table. As noted, the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is an exception due to the unusual circumstances of the equally divided Senate (see footnote 2). The 94<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses were also exceptions due to contested elections, which resulted in delaying for months the seating of one Senator in each of these Congresses.

<sup>4</sup> At the beginning of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senate was divided equally between Republicans and Democrats. As a result, Democrats chaired all committees for the first 17 days of the session, and Republicans assumed the committee chairmanships following the inauguration of Vice President Richard Cheney. An historic power sharing agreement, S.Res. 8, was presented by party leaders and agreed to on January 5, 2001. In June 2001, after one Republican announced his intention to become an Independent, and switch party caucuses, the Republicans were reduced to 49 seats and the Democrats, with 50 seats, gained control of the Senate. A provision of S.Res. 120, agreed to on June 29, 2001, gave the majority a one seat advantage on each Senate committee (except for the Ethics Committee). The resolution further provided that no Senator would lose a committee seat by virtue of the resolution. For more details, see CRS Report RL30881, *Senate Organization in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress: Agreements Reached in a Closely Divided Senate*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

<sup>5</sup> Party division data cited in the Secretary’s committees list may differ with party data immediately following the November elections.

<sup>6</sup> The *Congressional Directory* is published by the U.S. Congress, in partnership with the Government Printing Office, at the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing (Title 44, Section 721 of the U.S. Code).

<sup>7</sup> Anomalies and caveats are noted as appropriate in this report or in table footnotes.

totals for consistency. Use of other versions of these publications, and the use of alternate sources or methodologies, may yield different results. For example, data from other sources or time frames reflecting the number of Senators representing a particular party may change during a Congress, due to the death or resignation of a Senator, or as a consequence of a Senator changing party affiliation, and could lead to alternate findings.

A table representing each of the 18 Congresses includes the standing committees and select committees as established and titled in each Congress. Each table reflects the party divisions in the Senate and the total number of seats (1) in the chamber, (2) in committees, (3) on each committee, (4) assigned to the majority and minority parties and to Independents and other party affiliations (where present)<sup>8</sup>, and (5) majority and minority party seats on each committee. Data are 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 select committees. A comparison of the Senate majority caucus seats in the chamber with total committee seats is provided in **Table 1**.

The following statistical information and selected analyses are based on the tables to illustrate trends over time and to highlight variations from traditional practices.

## Comparative Analysis of Ratios

In general, it has been the practice of the Senate to apportion committee seats to the majority and minority parties in a manner that corresponds closely to the party strength in the full chamber. The data for the 94<sup>th</sup> through the 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses bear this out, with slight majority over-representation in certain instances (with the exception of the Select Committee on Ethics, on which equal party strength is required, and the Select Committee on Intelligence, which by Senate standing order has a one-seat majority advantage) regardless of which party has majority status.

Across the 18 Congresses, the widest majority-minority party divisions in the chamber existed in the 94<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Congresses. In both Congresses, the majority (Democrats) had 62 caucus members compared to the 38 members in the minority (Republicans).

The Congresses with the three narrowest party divisions in the Senate were the 107<sup>th</sup>, 108<sup>th</sup>, and 110<sup>th</sup> Congresses. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, an Independent played a pivotal role by caucusing with the majority (Democrats) party which resulted in 51 caucus seats for the majority (Democrats) and 49 for the minority (Republicans).<sup>9</sup> In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, one Independent and one Independent-Democrat both caucused with the Democrats and consequently shifted the balance of power in favor of the Democrats, who gained majority control in the chamber with 51 caucus members.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> A Conservative-Republican, Senator James L. Buckley (who caucused with the Republicans), was elected to the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, formerly a Democrat, was reelected in 2006 as an Independent and is identified as an Independent-Democrat in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

<sup>9</sup> Data referenced for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress in this report were compiled after the June 2001 party switch. See footnote 4 for details.

<sup>10</sup> In the period examined, members of other party affiliations were elected to the 94<sup>th</sup> through 97<sup>th</sup> Congresses, and the 107<sup>th</sup> through 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Independents have caucused with Democrats, an Independent-Democrat caucused with the Democrats, and a Conservative-Republican caucused with Republicans in the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The majority (Democrat) had a substantial chamber numerical advantage in three consecutive Congresses: the 94<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, and 96<sup>th</sup> Congresses. The 94<sup>th</sup> Congress witnessed a majority-minority caucus member margin of 24 in favor of the majority (Democrats), who had 62 caucus members. In the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress, the majority (Democrats) also had 62 caucus members and a caucus margin of 24 seats. In the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, the majority (Democrats) had 59 caucus members with a chamber margin of 18 seats.

During the first session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, there were notable changes in the majority and minority party margins, including the party affiliation switch of one Senator from Republican to Democrat<sup>11</sup> and the seating of a Democrat<sup>12</sup> several months after a contested election was ruled in his favor by a state supreme court. These changes resulted in the majority (Democrats) holding an advantage with 60 caucus seats (58 Democrats and one Independent-Democrat, and one Independent caucusing with the majority) compared to the minority's 40 seats. The minority gained another seat with the election of a Republican<sup>13</sup> in a special election in the second session, thereby increasing the minority to 41 seats resulting in the majority (Democrats) change to 59 caucus members.

## **110<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses**

In the closely divided 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, one Independent-Democrat and one Independent caucused with the majority (Democrats) resulting in adding two seats to the majority's 49 seats. This resulted in the majority (Democrat) holding 51 caucus seats in the chamber, and an 18 majority-minority caucus member margin in total committee seats.

The majority-minority caucus member margin widened in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. As noted above, the majority (Democrats) held 58 seats compared to 40 for the minority (Republicans) with one Independent-Democrat and one Independent who caucused with the majority (Democrats) bringing the majority (Democrats) to 60 caucus members. The majority-minority caucus margin in the chamber was 20, with a caucus margin of 63 in total committee seats. The total number of committee seats increased by 7 seats to 379 seats (from 372 seats in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress).

## **Committee Sizes**

During the period examined, there were 22 standing and select committees with legislative jurisdiction in the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress, 20 in the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress, and 19 in the 96<sup>th</sup> through the 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses.

The size of committees in the Congresses covered by this report ranged from 6 (Ethics) to 30 (Appropriations). In all 18 Congresses, the Appropriations Committee had the distinction of being the largest committee. In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Appropriations Committee had a total of 30 seats: 18 majority (Democrats) and 12 minority (Republican) seats.

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<sup>11</sup> Senator Arlen Specter changed party affiliation from Republican to Democrat on April 30, 2009.

<sup>12</sup> Senator Al Franken was elected in the November 2008 election but the election was contested. Following a June 30, 2009, Minnesota State Supreme Court decision, he was sworn into office on July 7, 2009.

<sup>13</sup> Senator Scott Brown was elected in a special election on January 19, 2010, and was sworn into office on February 4, 2010.

The data indicate that the sizes of Senate committees have generally increased since the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress with a corresponding increase in the number of committee assignments a Senator typically receives. Total committee seats in the 18 Congresses ranged from 291 in the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress to 379 in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress—an increase of 88 seats, or 30.2%. Senate Rule XXV, paragraph 4, generally limits the number of standing committee assignments an individual Senator may have to three.<sup>14</sup> However, Senators currently serve, on average, on four standing committees each. The growth in assignments reflects the interests of Senators in serving on more committees, the need for party leaders to seek waivers of assignment limits to assure working control for the majority on critical committees, and the need to accommodate Senators competing for committee seats.<sup>15</sup>

## Committee Caucus Seat Margins

In both the 94<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Congresses, the majority (Democrats) had the widest caucus member margin in the chamber during these 18 Congresses at 24 caucus margin seats. However, the majority-minority caucus margin within committees varied. In the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress, the majority-minority caucus margins in the committees ranged from one to seven seats (excluding Ethics), with about a third of the 20 standing and select committees having a three or four seat margin; only one committee (Appropriations) had a majority-minority party margin of seven. It would appear that having gained a clear advantage of such a large majority, the party in control did not perceive the need to secure a wide margin on every committee, although the total committee caucus member margin was 72 in the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress and 65 in the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the majority-minority caucus member margin in the chamber was two (49 Democrats, 49 Republicans, with one Independent-Democrat and one Independent caucusing with the Democrats). The caucus member margin in total committee seats was 18. In each committee (except Ethics) there was a majority-minority caucus member margin of one seat. The same one-seat margin is also evident in each committee (except Ethics) in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress in which there were 50 majority Senators (Democrats), 49 (Republicans), and one Independent who caucused with the majority.<sup>16</sup>

In both the 105<sup>th</sup> and 106<sup>th</sup> Congresses, in which there were 55 majority (Republicans) seats and 45 minority (Democrats) seats, there was a two-seat margin in all committees (except Ethics and Intelligence). In the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress with the same party division: 55 majority (Democrats) seats and 45 minority (Republicans) seats, the seat margins in committees ranged from one to three seats (except Ethics), which was close to a two-seat average.

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<sup>14</sup> The standing rules of the Senate are available at <http://rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=RulesOfSenateHome>. See CRS Report 98-183, *Senate Committees: Categories and Rules for Committee Assignments*, by Judy Schneider, for more information on the application of this rule and related processes for assignments. For further information on committee structure and reforms in the Senate and CRS Report RL32112, *Reorganization of the Senate: Modern Reform Efforts*, by Judy Schneider et al..

<sup>15</sup> Roger H. Davidson, Walter J. Oleszek, and Frances E. Lee, “Committees: Workshops of Congress,” in *Congress and Its Members*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed. (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010), pp. 204-205.

<sup>16</sup> Data referenced for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress in this report were compiled after the June 2001 party switch. See footnote 4 for details.

In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, majority party changed from Democrat to Republican from the previous Congress. The caucus margin in both Congresses was 51-49, with a one-seat margin on each committee (except Ethics).

## **Prospects for the Future**

An examination of committee party ratios in the Senate over the 18 Congresses suggests a pattern: the majority party ratios on committees roughly approximate majority party strength in the Senate chamber, regardless of which party is in control.

Each party has experienced changes in political fortunes; each understands that the majority of today could become the minority tomorrow. Including the unusual circumstances of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, majority control of the Senate switched more than six times since the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The absence of any standing rules, or any apparent initiatives to establish formal rules for committee ratios, may indicate that the Senate might continue its long-standing practice of relying on negotiations between majority and minority party leaders. Barring any drastic departure from past practice, determination of majority-minority committee ratios would likely continue to be based on the Senate principles of custom, consultation, and comity.



**Table I. Comparison of Senate Majority Caucus Members in Chamber and Committees: 94<sup>th</sup> - 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses**

Congress	Majority Party	Senate Chamber Majority Caucus Members	Total Majority (Caucus) Committee Seats
111 <sup>th</sup> (2009-2011)	Democrat	60.0%	58.3%
110 <sup>th</sup> (2007-2009)	Democrat	51.0%	52.4%
109 <sup>th</sup> (2005-2007)	Republican	55.0%	55.0%
108 <sup>th</sup> (2003-2005)	Republican	51.0%	52.4%
107 <sup>th</sup> (2001-2003)	Democrat	51.0%	52.4%
106 <sup>th</sup> (1999-2001)	Republican	55.0%	55.2%
105 <sup>th</sup> (1997-1999)	Republican	55.0%	55.2%
104 <sup>th</sup> (1995-1997)	Republican	53.0%	54.4%
103 <sup>rd</sup> (1993-1995)	Democrat	56.0%	55.8%
102 <sup>nd</sup> (1991-1993)	Democrat	57.0%	56.6%
101 <sup>st</sup> (1989-1991)	Democrat	55.0%	55.0%
100 <sup>th</sup> (1987-1989)	Democrat	54.0%	54.8%
99 <sup>th</sup> (1985-1987)	Republican	53.0%	53.8%
98 <sup>th</sup> (1983-1985)	Republican	54.0%	54.7%
97 <sup>th</sup> (1981-1983)	Republican	53.0%	54.2%
96 <sup>th</sup> (1979-1981)	Democrat	59.0%	58.6%
95 <sup>th</sup> (1977-1979)	Democrat	62.0%	61.2%
94 <sup>th</sup> (1975-1977)	Democrat	62.0%	61.8%

**Source:** Figures for this table are from data contained in Table 2 through Table 19; sources for each table are cited. Data in this table include Independents who caucused with the majority party. The last column presents the percentage of total committee seats of the majority caucus compared to the seats held by members of the majority caucus in the chamber.

**Table 2. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 111<sup>th</sup> Congress (2009-2011)**

	Distribution of Seats					Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	Indp- Dem	Indp	
Senate Party Strength	100	58	40	1	1	20
Total Committee Seats	379	213	158	3	5	63
<b>Committees</b>						
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	21	12	9			3
Appropriations	30	18	12			6
Armed Services	26	14	11	1		4
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	23	13	10			3
Budget	23	12	10		1	3
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	25	14	11			3
Energy and Natural Resources	23	12	10		1	3
Environment and Public Works	19	11	7		1	5
Finance	23	13	10			3
Foreign Relations	19	11	8			3
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	23	12	10		1	3
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	17	9	7	1		3
Indian Affairs	15	9	6			3
Judiciary	19	12	7			5
Rules and Administration	19	11	8			3
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	19	10	8	1		3
Veterans' Affairs	15	9	5		1	5
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3			0
Select Committee on Intelligence	14	8	6			2

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the Senate, by Kathleen Alvarez Tritak, Legislative Clerk, October 19, 2009 (Washington: GPO, 2009), S. Pub. 111-13. (An earlier version dated June 3, 2009 (S. Pub. 111-9) listed 99 Senators while results of the Minnesota November 2008 election was not yet resolved.)

**Notes:** Data in this table reflect the results of a contested election. After the June 30, 2009, Minnesota State Supreme Court ruling, Senator Al Franken was sworn into office on July 7, 2009. Senator Arlen Specter changed his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat on April 30, 2009.

Senator Scott Brown was elected to the Senate in the January 19, 2010, special election, and was sworn into office on February 4, 2010. After that election, the party division changed to 57 (Democrats) and 41 (Republicans).

Senators who caucused with the majority (Democrats): Senator Joseph Lieberman, an Independent-Democrat, and Senator Bernard Sanders, an Independent. Margins are calculated by adding these Senators' seats to the majority seats.

**Table 3. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2007-2009)**

	Distribution of Seats					Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	Indp- Dem	Indp	
Senate Party Strength	100	49	49	1	1	2
Total Committee Seats	372	186	177	4	5	18
<b>Committees</b>						
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	21	11	10			1
Appropriations	29	15	14			1
Armed Services	25	12	12	1		1
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	21	11	10			1
Budget	23	11	11		1	1
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	23	12	11			1
Energy and Natural Resources	23	11	11		1	1
Environment and Public Works	19	8	9	1	1	1
Finance	21	11	10			1
Foreign Relations	21	11	10			1
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	21	10	10		1	1
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	17	8	8	1		1
Indian Affairs	15	8	7			1
Judiciary	19	10	9			1
Rules and Administration	19	10	9			1
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	19	9	9	1		1
Veterans' Affairs	15	7	7		1	1
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3			0
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7			1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Tenth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the Senate, by David J. Tinsley, Legislative Clerk, April 2, 2007 (Washington: GPO, 2007), S. Pub. 110-5.

**Note:** Independent Members caucused with the majority (Democrats): Senator Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut was reelected in 2006 as an Independent, and became an Independent-Democrat. Senator Bernard Sanders of Vermont was elected as an Independent.

**Table 4. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-2007)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin	
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)		Indp
Senate Party Strength	100	55	44	1	10
Total Committee Seats	353	194	155	4	35
<b>Committees</b>					
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	20	11	9		2
Appropriations	28	15	13		2
Armed Services	24	13	11		2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	20	11	9		2
Budget	22	12	10		2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	22	12	10		2
Energy and Natural Resources	22	12	10		2
Environment and Public Works	18	10	7	1	2
Finance	20	11	8	1	2
Foreign Relations	18	10	8		2
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	20	11	8	1	2
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	16	9	7		2
Indian Affairs	14	8	6		2
Judiciary	18	10	8		2
Rules and Administration	18	10	8		2
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	18	10	8		2
Veterans' Affairs	14	8	5	1	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3		0
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7		1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Ninth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, by David J. Tinsley, Legislative Clerk, April 25, 2005 (Washington: GPO, 2005), S. Pub. 109-10.

**Note:** Senator James M. Jeffords, an Independent, caucused with the minority (Democrats).

**Table 5. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (2003-2005 )**

	Distribution of Seats				Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	Indp	
Senate Party Strength	100	51	48	1	2
Total Committee Seats	372	195	173	4	18
<b>Committees</b>					
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	21	11	10		1
Appropriations	29	15	14		1
Armed Services	25	13	12		1
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	21	11	10		1
Budget	23	12	11		1
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	23	12	11		1
Energy and Natural Resources	23	12	11		1
Environment and Public Works	19	10	8	1	1
Finance	21	11	9	1	1
Foreign Relations	19	10	9		1
Governmental Affairs	17	9	8		1
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	21	11	9	1	1
Indian Affairs	15	8	7		1
Judiciary	19	10	9		1
Rules and Administration	19	10	9		1
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	19	10	9		1
Veterans' Affairs	15	8	6	1	1
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3		0
Select Committee on Intelligence	17	9	8		1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Eighth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, by David J. Tinsley, Legislative Clerk, March 31, 2003 (Washington: GPO, 2003), S. Pub. 108-5.

**Note:** Senator James M. Jeffords, an Independent, caucused with the minority (Democrats).

**Table 6. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 107<sup>th</sup> Congress (2001-2003)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin	
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)		Indp
Senate Party Strength	100	50	49	1	2
Total Committee Seats	372	191	177	4	18
<b>Committees</b>					
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	21	11	10		1
Appropriations	29	15	14		1
Armed Services	25	13	12		1
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	21	11	10		1
Budget	23	12	11		1
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	23	12	11		1
Energy and Natural Resources	23	12	11		1
Environment and Public Works	19	9	9	1	1
Finance	21	10	10	1	1
Foreign Relations	19	10	9		1
Governmental Affairs	17	9	8		1
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	21	10	10	1	1
Indian Affairs	15	8	7		1
Judiciary	19	10	9		1
Rules and Administration	19	10	9		1
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	19	10	9		1
Veterans' Affairs	15	7	7	1	1
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3		0
Select Committee on Intelligence	17	9	8		1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Seventh Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Jeri Thomson, Secretary of the Senate, by David J. Tinsley, Legislative Clerk, November 29, 2001 (Washington: GPO, 2001), S. Pub. 107-21.

**Notes:** This table reflects data compiled after the June 2001 party control switch. At the beginning of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senate was divided equally between Republicans and Democrats. As a result, Democrats chaired all committees for the first 17 days of the session, and Republicans assumed the committee chairmanships following the inauguration of Vice President Richard Cheney, whose ability to break tie votes made it possible for Republicans to organize the Senate. S.Res. 8, an historic power sharing agreement was presented by party leaders and agreed to on January 5, 2001. As a result of one Republican announcing his intention to become an Independent and switch party caucuses in May 2001, the Republicans were reduced to 49 seats and the Democrats, with 50 seats, gained control of the Senate in June 2001. A provision of S.Res. 120, agreed to on June 29, 2001, gave the majority a one seat advantage on every committee of the Senate (except for the Ethics). The resolution further provided that no Senator would lose a committee seat by virtue of the resolution.

Senator James M. Jeffords changed party affiliation from Republican to Independent and caucused with Democrats effective June 6, 2001.

**Table 7. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 106<sup>th</sup> Congress (1999-2001)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	
Senate Party Strength	100	55	45	10
Total Committee Seats	339	187	152	35
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	10	8	2
Appropriations	28	15	13	2
Armed Services	20	11	9	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	20	11	9	2
Budget	22	12	10	2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	20	11	9	2
Energy and Natural Resources	20	11	9	2
Environment and Public Works	18	10	8	2
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	18	10	8	2
Governmental Affairs	16	9	7	2
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	18	10	8	2
Indian Affairs	14	8	6	2
Judiciary	18	10	8	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	18	10	8	2
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Intelligence	17	9	8	1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Sixth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Gary Sisco, Secretary of the Senate by David J. Tinsley, Legislative Clerk, March 29, 1999 (Washington: GPO, 1999), S. Pub. 106-3.

**Table 8. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 105<sup>th</sup> Congress (1997-1999)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	
Senate Party Strength	100	55	45	10
Total Committee Seats	337	186	151	35
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	10	8	2
Appropriations	28	15	13	2
Armed Services	18	10	8	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	18	10	8	2
Budget	22	12	10	2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	20	11	9	2
Energy and Natural Resources	20	11	9	2
Environment and Public Works	18	10	8	2
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	18	10	8	2
Governmental Affairs	16	9	7	2
Labor and Human Resources	18	10	8	2
Indian Affairs	14	8	6	2
Judiciary	18	10	8	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	18	10	8	2
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Intelligence	19	10	9	1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Fifth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Gary Sisco, Secretary of the Senate, by R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk, February 14, 1997 (Washington: GPO, 1997), S. Pub. 105-6. (An interim list was published dated Jan. 9, 1997, S. Pub. 3.)



**Table 9. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995-1997)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	
Senate Party Strength	100	53	47	6
Total Committee Seats	331	180	151	29
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	17	9	8	1
Appropriations	28	15	13	2
Armed Services	21	11	10	1
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	16	9	7	2
Budget	22	12	10	2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	19	10	9	1
Energy and Natural Resources	18	10	8	2
Environment and Public Works	16	9	7	2
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	18	10	8	2
Governmental Affairs	15	8	7	1
Labor and Human Resources	16	9	7	2
Indian Affairs	17	9	8	1
Judiciary	18	10	8	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	19	10	9	1
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Intelligence	17	9	8	1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred Fourth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Sheila P. Burke, Secretary of the Senate, by R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk, February 27, 1995 (Washington: GPO, 1995), S. Pub. 104-6. (An incomplete interim list was published on January 25, 1995, S. Pub. 104-3.)

**Note:** Data reflect Senator Richard Shelby's party affiliation change from Democrat to Republican, a few days after the 1994 election, on November 9, 1994. Data do not reflect Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's party affiliation change from Democrat to Republican on March 3, 1995, because it occurred after the February 27, 1995, publication was issued.

**Table 10. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993-1995)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Senate Party Strength	100	56	44	12
Total Committee Seats	346	193	153	40
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	10	8	2
Appropriations	29	16	13	3
Armed Services	22	12	10	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	19	11	8	3
Budget	21	12	9	3
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	20	11	9	2
Energy and Natural Resources	20	11	9	2
Environment and Public Works	17	10	7	3
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	20	11	9	2
Governmental Affairs	14	8	6	2
Labor and Human Resources	17	10	7	3
Indian Affairs	18	10	8	2
Judiciary	18	10	8	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	22	12	10	2
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Intelligence	17	9	8	1

**Source:** *The Senate of the United States Committees and Subcommittees Assignments for the One Hundred Third Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Walter J. Stewart, Secretary of the Senate, by R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk, Nov. 22, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1993), S. Pub. 103-10. Prior to this list, there were three interim committee lists: S. Pub. 103-1 (February 19, 1993), S. Pub. 103-3 (March 24, 1992), and S. Pub. 103-7 (July 20, 1993).

**Note:** In 1984, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs became a permanent committee (S.Res. 127). Later, in 1993, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs was redesignated as the Committee on Indian Affairs (S.Res. 71).

**Table 11. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 102<sup>nd</sup> Congress (1991-1993)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Senate Party Strength	100	57	43	14
Total Committee Seats	332	188	144	44
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	10	8	2
Appropriations	29	16	13	3
Armed Services	20	11	9	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	21	12	9	3
Budget	21	12	9	3
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	20	11	9	2
Energy and Natural Resources	20	11	9	2
Environment and Public Works	17	10	7	3
Finance	19	11	8	3
Foreign Relations	19	11	8	3
Governmental Affairs	13	8	5	3
Labor and Human Resources	17	10	7	3
Judiciary	14	8	6	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	19	11	8	3
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	16	9	7	2
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7	1

**Source:** *List of Standing Committees and Subcommittees and Select and Special Committees and Committee Assignments and list of Senators by State of the Senate of the United States Together with Certain Joint Committees of the Congress for the One Hundred Second Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Walter J. Stewart, Secretary of the Senate, by Barry J. Wolk, Director of Senate Printing Services, Sept. 23, 1991 (Washington: GPO, 1991), S. Pub. 102-9. Two interim lists issued: S. Pub. 102-3 (March 25, 1991) and S. Pub. 102-7 (June 21, 1991).

**Table 12. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989-1991)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	
Senate Party Strength	100	55	45	10
Total Committee Seats	327	180	147	33
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	19	10	9	1
Appropriations	29	16	13	3
Armed Services	20	11	9	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	21	12	9	3
Budget	23	13	10	3
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	20	11	9	2
Energy and Natural Resources	19	10	9	1
Environment and Public Works	16	9	7	2
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	19	10	9	1
Governmental Affairs	14	8	6	2
Labor and Human Resources	16	9	7	2
Judiciary	14	8	6	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	19	10	9	1
Veterans' Affairs	11	6	5	1
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	10	6	4	2
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7	1

**Source:** *List of Standing Committees and Subcommittees and Subcommittees and Select and Special Committees and Committee Assignments and List of Senators by State of the Senate of the United States Together with Certain Joint Committees of the One Hundred First Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Walter J. Stewart, Secretary of the Senate, by Barry J. Volk, Director of Senate Printing Services, May 19, 1989 (Washington: GPO, 1989), S. Pub. 101-1. (An interim list was issued, S. Pub. 101-1 (March 15, 1989).)

**Table 13. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 100<sup>th</sup> Congress (1987-1989)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority(D)	Minority (R)	
Senate Party Strength	100	54	46	8
Total Committee Seats	325	178	147	31
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	19	10	9	1
Appropriations	29	16	13	3
Armed Services	20	11	9	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	20	11	9	2
Budget	24	13	11	2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	20	11	9	2
Energy and Natural Resources	19	10	9	1
Environment and Public Works	16	9	7	2
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	19	10	9	1
Governmental Affairs	14	8	6	2
Labor and Human Resources	16	9	7	2
Judiciary	14	8	6	2
Rules and Administration	16	9	7	2
Small Business	19	10	9	1
Veterans' Affairs	11	6	5	1
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Special Committee on Indian Affairs	8	5	3	2
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7	1

**Source:** *List of Standing Committees and Subcommittees and Subcommittees and Select and Special Committees and Committee Assignments and List of Senators by State of the Senate of the United States Together with Certain Joint Committees of the One Hundredth Congress*, Prepared Under the Direction of Walter J. Stewart, Secretary of the Senate, by Barry J. Wolk, Director of Senate Printing Services, July 1, 1987 (Washington: GPO, 1987), S. Pub. 100-1.

**Table 14. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 99<sup>th</sup> Congress (1985-1987)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	
Senate Party Strength	100	53	47	6
Total Committee Seats	312	168	144	24
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	17	9	8	1
Appropriations	29	15	14	1
Armed Services	19	10	9	1
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	15	8	7	1
Budget	22	12	10	2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	17	9	8	1
Energy and Natural Resources	18	10	8	2
Environment and Public Works	15	8	7	1
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	17	9	8	1
Governmental Affairs	13	7	6	1
Labor and Human Resources	16	9	7	2
Judiciary	18	10	8	2
Rules and Administration	15	8	7	1
Small Business	19	10	9	1
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	9	5	4	1
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7	1

**Source:** *List of Standing Committees and Select and Special Committees and Committee Assignments and List of Senators by State of the Senate of the United States Together with Certain Joint Committees of the Congress for the Ninety-Ninth Congress (Preliminary)*, Prepared Under the Direction of Jo-Anne L. Coe, Secretary of the Senate by Barry J. Volk, Director of Senate Printing Services, April 1, 1985, (Washington: GPO, 1985), S. Pub. 99-2. (All the Secretary of the Senate committee lists in this Congress were marked preliminary. Later preliminary versions were S. Pub. 99-6 (May 1, 1985), S. Pub. 99-9 (October 1, 1985), and S. Pub. 99-15 (August 1, 1986).

**Table 15. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 98<sup>th</sup> Congress (1983-1985)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)	
Senate Party Strength	100	54	46	8
Total Committee Seats	320	175	145	30
<b>Committees</b>				
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	10	8	2
Appropriations	29	15	14	1
Armed Services	18	10	8	2
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	18	10	8	2
Budget	22	12	10	2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	17	9	8	1
Energy and Natural Resources	20	11	9	2
Environment and Public Works	16	9	7	2
Finance	20	11	9	2
Foreign Relations	17	9	8	1
Governmental Affairs	18	10	8	2
Judiciary	18	10	8	2
Labor and Human Resources	18	10	8	2
Rules and Administration	12	7	5	2
Small Business	19	10	9	1
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5	2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3	0
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	7	4	3	1
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7	1

**Source:** *Congressional Directory*, 98<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1983). Data are based on closing date for compiling Directory material March 31, 1983.

**Note:** In 1984, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs was made a permanent committee of the Senate (S. Res. 127).

**Table 16. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 97<sup>th</sup> Congress (1981-1983)**

	Distribution of Seats			Indp	Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (R)	Minority (D)		
Senate Party Strength	100	53	46	1	6
Total Committee Seats	310	168	140	2	26
<b>Committees</b>					
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	17	9	8		1
Appropriations	29	15	14		1
Armed Services	17	9	7	1	1
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	15	8	7		1
Budget	22	12	10		2
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	17	9	8		1
Energy and Natural Resources	20	11	9		2
Environment and Public Works	16	9	7		2
Finance	20	11	8	1	2
Foreign Relations	17	9	8		1
Governmental Affairs	17	9	8		1
Judiciary	18	10	8		2
Labor and Human Resources	16	9	7		2
Rules and Administration	12	7	5		2
Small Business	17	9	8		1
Veterans' Affairs	12	7	5		2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3		0
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	7	4	3		1
Select Committee on Intelligence	15	8	7		1

**Source:** *Congressional Directory*, 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1981). Data are based on closing date for compiling Directory material April 1, 1981

**Notes:** Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., an Independent, caucused with the minority (Democrats).

In 1981, the Select Committee on Small Business became the Committee on Small Business, a standing committee.



**Table 17. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 96<sup>th</sup> Congress (1979-1981)**

	Distribution of Seats			Indp	Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)		
Senate Party Strength	100	58	41	1	18
Total Committee Seats	292	169	121	2	50
<b>Committees</b>					
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	10	8		2
Appropriations	28	17	11		6
Armed Services	17	9	7	1	3
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	15	9	6		3
Budget	20	12	8		4
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	17	10	7		3
Energy and Natural Resources	18	11	7		4
Environment and Public Works	14	8	6		2
Finance	20	11	8	1	4
Foreign Relations	15	9	6		3
Governmental Affairs	17	9	8		1
Judiciary	17	10	7		3
Labor and Human Resources	15	9	6		3
Rules and Administration	10	6	4		2
Veterans' Affairs	10	6	4		2
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3		0
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	5	3	2		1
Select Committee on Intelligence	13	7	6		1
Select Committee on Small Business	17	10	7		3

**Source:** *Congressional Directory*, 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1979). Data are based on closing date for compiling Directory material March 23, 1979.

**Note:** Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., an Independent, caucused with the majority (Democrats).

**Table 18. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 95<sup>th</sup> Congress (1977-1979)**

	Distribution of Seats			Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin	
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)		Indp
Senate Party Strength	100	61	38	1	24
Total Committee Seats	291	176	113	2	65
<b>Committees</b>					
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	18	11	7		4
Appropriations	25	16	9		7
Armed Services	18	10	7	1	4
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	15	9	6		3
Budget	16	10	6		4
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	18	11	7		4
Energy and Natural Resources	18	11	7		4
Environment and Public Works	15	9	6		3
Finance	18	10	7	1	4
Foreign Relations	16	10	6		4
Governmental Affairs	17	10	7		3
Human Resources	15	9	6		3
Judiciary	17	11	6		5
Rules and Administration	9	6	3		3
Veterans' Affairs	9	6	3		3
Select Committee on Indian Affairs	5	3	2		1
Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs	8	5	3		2
Select Committee on Small Business	9	6	3		3
Select Committee on Ethics	6	3	3		0
Select Committee on Intelligence	19	10	9		1

**Source:** *Congressional Directory*, 95<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1977). Data are based on closing date for compiling Directory material March 25, 1977.

**Note:** Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., an Independent, caucused with the majority (Democrats).

**Table 19. Senate Committee Party Ratios: 94<sup>th</sup> Congress (1975-1977)**

	Distribution of Seats					Majority-Minority (Caucus) Seat Margin
	Total	Majority (D)	Minority (R)	Consrv- Rep	Indp	
Senate Party Strength	100	61	37	1	1	24
Total Committee Seats	304	186	113	3	2	72
<b>Committees</b>						
Aeronautical and Space Sciences	10	6	4			2
Agriculture and Forestry	14	9	5			4
Appropriations	26	16	10			6
Armed Services	16	9	6		1	4
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	13	8	5			3
Budget	16	10	5	1		4
Commerce	20	13	6	1		6
District of Columbia	7	4	3			1
Finance	18	10	7		1	4
Foreign Relations	16	10	6			4
Governmental Operations	14	9	5			4
Interior and Insular Affairs	14	9	5			4
Judiciary	15	9	6			3
Labor and Public Welfare	16	10	6			4
Post Office and Civil Service	9	6	3			3
Public Works	14	9	4	1		4
Rules and Administration	9	6	3			3
Veterans' Affairs	9	6	3			3
Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs	14	8	6			2
Select Committee on Small Business	17	10	7			3
Select Committee on Standards and Conduct	6	3	3			0
Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities	11	6	5			1

**Source:** *Congressional Directory*, 94<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1975). Data are based on closing date for compiling Directory material by December 19, 1975. New Hampshire Senate 1974 election results were contested. On August 8, 1975, the Senate declared the seat vacant. On the same day, former Senator Norris H. Cotton (Republican) was appointed to fill the seat until a special election was held. After winning a special election on September 16, 1975, Senator John Durkin (Democrat) was sworn into office on September 18, 1975. Data in this table reflect committee ratios of a total of 100 Senators following Senator Durkin's election.

**Note:** Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., an Independent, caucused with the majority (Democrats). Senator James L. Buckley, a Conservative-Republican, caucused with the minority (Republicans).

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