

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

A **congressional committee** is a legislative sub-organization in the United States Congress that handles a specific duty (rather than the general duties of Congress). Committee membership enables members to develop specialized knowledge of the matters under their jurisdiction. As "little legislatures," committees monitor on-going governmental operations, identify issues suitable for legislative review, gather and evaluate information, and recommend courses of action to their parent body.

Congress divides its legislative, oversight, and internal administrative tasks among approximately 200 committees and subcommittees. Within assigned areas, these functional subunits gather information; compare and evaluate legislative alternatives; identify policy problems and propose solutions; select, determine, and report measures for full chamber consideration; monitor executive branch performance (oversight); and investigate allegations of wrongdoing.

| House of Representatives | Senate | Joint |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture ▪ Appropriations ▪ Armed Services ▪ Budget ▪ Education and Labor ▪ Energy and Commerce ▪ Financial Services ▪ Foreign Affairs ▪ Homeland Security ▪ House Administration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aging (Special) ▪ Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry ▪ Appropriations ▪ Armed Services ▪ Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs ▪ Budget ▪ Commerce, Science and Transportation ▪ Energy and Natural Resources ▪ Ethics (Select) ▪ Environment and Public Works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>(Conference)</i> ▪ Economic ▪ Library (established 1806) ▪ Printing ▪ Taxation |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Intelligence (Permanent Select)▪ Judiciary▪ Natural Resources▪ Oversight and Government Reform▪ Rules▪ Science and Technology▪ Small Business▪ Standards of Official Conduct▪ Transportation and Infrastructure▪ Veterans' Affairs▪ Ways and Means▪ <i>(Whole)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Finance▪ Foreign Relations▪ Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions▪ Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs▪ Indian Affairs▪ Intelligence (Select)▪ Judiciary▪ Rules and Administration▪ Small Business and Entrepreneurship▪ Veterans' Affairs | |
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