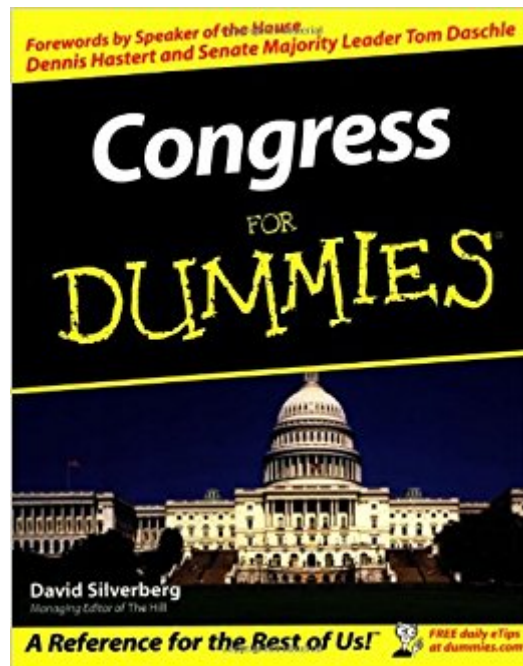


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# Congress For Dummies



## Synopsis

Congress For Dummies helps you sort out what Congress does on a daily basis and what it all means to you, the citizen. It shows you how to get organized, make your voice heard, and influence legislation that might affect you. Full of helpful resources such as contact information for House and Senate offices, and smart, straightforward explanations of the legislative process, this book is everything you need to understand Congress and get involved in your government. Whether you just want to know how government works, or you want to get involved to change your country, this simple guide covers all the ins and outs of Congress. Itâ€™s a nonpartisan look at Congress that includes forewords by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle. Inside youâ€™ll find easy explanations and helpful tips on how to:

- Get involved in the democratic process
- Influence legislation thatâ€™s important to you
- Understand Congress and the media
- Contact your senators and representatives
- Check out Congress in action, in person
- Deal with congressional staff

Expert author David Silverberg â€” Managing Editor and a columnist at the Washington weekly *The Hill* â€” takes the mystery out of getting something done in Congress, introducing you to the players and explaining everything from legislation and lobbying to caucuses and coalitions. Written with the citizen advocate in mind, this helpful guide gives regular people the tools and knowledge they need to achieve their aims. Inside, youâ€™ll discover:

- How the three branches of government work together
- How to register your opinion with your elected officials
- How the legislative process works â€” from idea to law
- How debates, conferences, and vetoes work
- How budgeting and appropriations work
- How to get the most effect from your political contributions
- How the lobbying process works
- How to advocate for legislation
- How to deal with congressional staffers
- How to make use of congressional services

Getting something done in the messy confusion of democracy and bureaucracy is no easy task. Full of the kind of information and knowledge that Washington insiders take for granted, *Congress For Dummies* levels the playing field so that regular people â€” just like you â€” can make a difference, too.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Provides tips on dealing with congressional staff Take charge of your cause and make government work for you! Need a passport on short notice? Want to get a bill passed? Looking to contact your representative? This fun, friendly guide takes the mystery out of getting something done in Congress, introducing you to the players and explaining the processes; everything from legislation and lobbying to caucuses and coalitions. The Dummies Way Explanations in plain English "Get in, get out" information Icons and other navigational aids Tear-out cheat sheet Top ten lists A dash of humor and fun

David Silverberg is Managing Editor and a columnist at The Hill, a weekly newspaper that covers Congress.

After reading this book, I immediately understood why our congress is now totally non-functional. It's all the subcommittees. The Senate got rid of most of theirs, but the House of Representatives uses them to bury unwanted legislation. To my way of thinking, EVERY representative should have a chance to vote of EVERY bill. But because of this malfunctioning structure, it has opened up congressional manipulation to plutocrats, and that is not very good for you or me. I recommend everyone read the book, so you can constructively and accurately rip your elected official's collective butts.

If you want to understand how Congress works, how our laws are made, how to communicate and influence your congressmen, and how to get their attention; then this is the book for you. Like all the 'dummies' books, it's well-organized, easy to read and, of course, even a dummy can understand it! Whether you are a radical, a grassroots advocate, or just a regular citizen, this is a must-read for every American who gives a dang what's going on in Washington and who might want to get something done. Whether you voted for your congressmen or not, they have a job to do. That job is

to represent us. This book tells you how to get through to them, whether it's for a problem that needs a bill (to make a law), to influence their vote on a bill, or even to get help if you're having trouble with a government agency.

Written very well, in "layman" language for folks like myself that forgot all those civics classes from years ago! Very informative and covers what I need. I've been learning a lot and you will too.

Quick delivery. Book provided good insight

The book makes complex subject as easy to understand as possible. Will also serve well as reference for all things congressional.

Great read for personnel working as a new Legislative Assistant or Personal/Professional Staff Member! Very Helpful

Good resource.

Was looking for a book to explain as best I could to my Australian friends how the American Congress works. Was much too wordy.

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