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# CONCLUSION



## **YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR PSYCHOLOGY!**

Why should you become more politically aware and more politically involved? Because decisions made each and every day by Congress have an impact on psychology and on the way in which psychologists do their work. Remember that your elected officials routinely make decisions about Federal health and education programs.

The legislators making these decisions are, with precious few exceptions, not experienced in those areas. These men and women must, therefore, rely upon the expressed views of their constituents, the information of the experts, and their own opinions to make important decisions. As a psychologist, and as a citizen, you have a right – and a responsibility – to inform those decisions.

# GLOSSARY

## A

**Act** - A bill or measure passed into law. Also used to describe a comprehensive piece of proposed legislation with multiple components.

**Adjournment** - To end a legislative day. Recess does not end a legislative day.

**Adjournment sine die** - To adjourn without setting a time to meet again. It denotes the end of a congressional session.

**Amendment** - A proposal to change, or an actual change to, a given piece of legislation.

**Apportionment** - Allocation of legislative seats by law. The 435 seats in the House of Representatives are apportioned to states based on their population.

**Appropriation** - The process by which Congress provides budget authority, usually through the enactment of 13 separate appropriations bills.

**Authorization** - Authorizes a program, specifying its general purpose and, broadly, how that purpose is to be achieved, and sets a funding ceiling for the program.

## B

**Bill** - Formally introduced legislation. Most legislative proposals are in the form of bills and are designated as H.R. (House of Representatives) or S. (Senate), depending on the House in which they originate, and are numbered consecutively in the order in which they are introduced during each Congress. Public bills deal with general questions and become Public Laws, or Acts, if approved by Congress and signed by the President. Private bills deal with individual matters such as claims against the Federal Government, immigration and naturalization cases, land titles, et cetera, and become private laws if approved and signed.

**H.R.** House Bill

**S.** Senate Bill

**Bloc** - Representatives or senators who are members of a group with common interests.

**Budget** - An annual proposal that outlines anticipated Federal revenue and designates program expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Budget Authority** - Permission, provided by law, for federal agencies to spend or otherwise obligate money.

**Budget Outlays** - Money that is actually spent in a given fiscal year, as opposed to money that is appropriated for that year.

## C

**Calendar** - A list of bills or resolution to be considered by a committee in the House or the Senate.

**Caucus** - The meeting of members of a legislative body usually to decide policy or select members to fill positions. It is also used to refer to the group itself.

**Chairperson** - Member of the majority party who presides over the work of a committee or subcommittee.

**Cloture** - The only procedure by which the Senate can vote to place a time limit on consideration of a bill or other matter, and thereby overcome a filibuster. Under the cloture rule (Rule XXII), the Senate may limit consideration of a pending matter to 30 additional hours, but only by vote of three-fifths of the full Senate, normally 60 votes.

**Committee of the Whole** - Business is expedited in the 435-member House of Representatives when it resolves itself to the “committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.” Rules are relaxed, and a quorum is easier to obtain. A minimum of 100 members must comprise the committee.

**Committee** - Specialize in specific areas of legislation. Almost every bill introduced in either house is referred to a committee for study and recommendation. The committee may approve, revise, kill or ignore any measure referred to it. It is nearly impossible for a bill to reach the House or Senate floor without first winning committee approval.

**Concurrent Resolutions** - A concurrent resolution is a legislative proposal that requires the approval of both houses but does not require the signature of the President and does not have the force of law. Concurrent resolutions generally are used to make or amend rules that apply to both houses. They are also used to express the sentiments of both of the houses. For example, a concurrent resolution is used to set the time of Congress’ adjournment. It may also be used by Congress to convey congratulations to another country on the anniversary of its independence.

**Conferees** - Members of a conference committee, which is composed of representatives and senators named to work out differences between same-subject bills passed by both chambers.

**Conference Committee** - Committee made up of conferees who must work out a compromise between same-subject bills passed by both chambers before the bill becomes a law

**Congressional Research Service** - Congressional support agency that provides political analysis and information at the request of individual members of Congress.

**Continuing Resolution** - Legislation providing continued funding for a federal department or pro-

gram, usually at the level of the previous fiscal year. It is used when Congress has failed to pass a necessary appropriations bill for a new fiscal year.

## D

**Discretionary Spending** - Spending for programs that Congress finances as it chooses through annual appropriations. About a third of all federal spending falls into this category.

## E

**Extension of Remarks** - Material inserted by a representative or senator in the Congressional Record. It is not spoken on the floor.

## F

**Filibuster** - Informal term for any attempt to block or delay Senate action on a bill or other matter by debating it at length, by offering numerous procedural motions, or by any other delaying or obstructive actions.

**Fiscal Year** - The financial operating year of the federal government, beginning October 1st and ending September 30th of the next calendar year.

## G

**Government Accountability Office (GAO)** - Congressional support agency that reviews and evaluates the management of Federal programs and activities, primarily at the request of individual members of Congress.

## H

**Hard Earmark** - Congressional funding directed specifically to an entity in a designated geographical area, as cited in an appropriation conference report. Agencies have no discretion with hard earmarks.

**Hearing** - A meeting or session of a committee of Congress, usually open to the public, to obtain information and opinions on proposed legislation, conduct an investigation, or oversee a program.

**Hopper** - Box in which proposed bills are placed.

## J

**Joint Committee** - A committee consisting of Members of both the House and Senate.

**Joint Resolution** - Joint resolutions, which are essentially the same as bills, usually focus on a single item or issue. They are designated as either 'HJ Res' (when originating in the House) or 'SJ Res' (when originating in the Senate).

## L

**Legislative Assistant (LA)** - The professional staff member in charge of a particular issue or issue area.

**Line-Item Veto** - The power of the executive to disapprove of particular items of a bill without having to disapprove of the entire bill.

## M

**Majority Leader** - Leader of the majority party in either the House or the Senate.

**Mandatory Spending** - Spending mostly on entitlement programs, whose eligibility requirements are written into law.

**Mark-up** - The review and possible revision of a piece of legislation by committee members.

**Minority Leader** - Member of the minority party in either the House or the Senate.

## P

**Pocket Veto** - When the President withholds approval of a bill after Congress has adjourned, thereby killing the bill without a formal veto.

**Point of Order** - An objection by a representative or senator that a rule is being violated.

**President of the Senate** - The Vice President of the United States officially presides over the Senate. Except during times of very important debate, a President pro tempore is elected.

**Previous Question** - By a motion to "move the previous question," a representative seeks to end debate and bring an issue to a vote. Senators do not have this debate-limiting device.

**Private Bill** - Bills that provide for special treatment for an individual or business entity. Such bills are

subject to presidential veto.

**Privilege** - A privileged question is a motion that is considered before the motions. A “question of privilege” relates to the personal privilege of a representative or senator.

## Q

**Quorum** - The number of Senators or Representatives who must be present in their respective chambers before business can be conducted.

## R

**Ranking Member** - Members of the minority party on a committee who rank first in seniority after the chairman.

**Ranking Minority Member** - The minority party member with the most seniority on a committee.

**Reauthorize(ation)** - Sanctions anew, usually with changes, a previously approved program.

**Recess** - Marks a temporary end to the business of the Congress, and sets a time for the next meeting.

**Reconciliation** - The process by which tax laws and spending programs are changed, or reconciled, to reach outlays (money spent) and revenue (money taken in) targets set in the annual budget resolution.

**Reports** - A report is a document that presents a committee’s explanation of its action regarding legislation that has been referred to it. Each House and Senate report is assigned a number that includes the number of the Congress during which it is published (e.g., “H.Rpt. 105-830” refers to a report created in the House during the 105th Congress). Conference reports are numbered and designated in the same way as regular House and Senate reports. Most reports favor a bill’s passage, although a bill can be reported without recommendation. When a committee report is not unanimous, the dissenting committee members may file a statement of their views (minority views) in a minority report. A reported version of a bill references the applicable report number.

Note: Reports may be found in the [Congressional Reports database on GPO Access](#).

**Rescission** - The cancellation of previously appropriated budget authority—a common way to save money that already has been appropriated.

**Resolution** - A formal statement of a decision or opinion by the House, Senate, or both.

**Revenues** - Taxes, customs duties, some user fees and most other receipts paid to the federal government.

**Rider** - A provision added to a bill so it may “ride” to approval on the strength of the bill. Generally , riders are placed on appropriations bills.

**Roll Call Vote** - A vote in which each Senator votes “yea” or “nay” as his or her name is called by the Clerk, so that the names of Senators voting on each side are recorded. Under the Constitution, a roll call vote must be held if demanded by one-fifth of a **quorum** of Senators present, a minimum of 11.

## S

**Secretary of the Senate** - The chief administrative officer of the Senate.

**Sergeant at Arms** - Legislative officer who maintains order and controls access to the chamber at the direction of the presiding officer.

**Session of Congress** - Refers to the 2-year cycle of activities of the legislative branch. For Example, the 106<sup>th</sup> “Congress” began January 6, 1999, and included a 1999 and a 2000 “session.” Proposed legislation introduced during a 2-year Congress may be taken up at any time during that period, but once Congress has ended, pending measures are no longer viable and must be introduced anew in the next Congress in order to be considered.

**Soft Earmark** - Congressional funding directed to be spent on a particular activity (this may or may not include a geographic designation) in which a certain entity or entities are part of a narrow class of competition and would naturally be the recipients of the funding. Agencies have discretion in implementing.

**Speaker of the House** - The presiding officer in the House of Representatives. The Speaker is elected by the majority party in the House.

**Special, Select or ad hoc Committees** - These committees are created for a specific investigation or oversight function and are more apt to die and have functions routed to a standing committee.

**Subcommittee** - Subunit of a committee established for the purpose of dividing the committee’s workload. Recommendations of a subcommittee must be approved by the full committee before being reported.

**Suspend the Rules** - A motion in the House intended to bring a bill to a vote quickly.

## T

**Table a Bill** - A motion to remove a bill from consideration.

**Teller Vote** - A House vote whereby members’ votes are counted “for” or “against” as they file past

tellers in the front of the chamber. A count is taken, but there is not official record of how each representative voted.

## U

**Unanimous Consent** - A timesaving procedure for non-controversial measure whereby measures are adopted without a vote. A member simply says, "I ask unanimous consent" for and states his/her proposal.

**Union Calendar** - The calendar on which money bills are placed in order of date reported from committees.

## V

**Veto** - Disapproval of a bill or resolution by the President.

**Voice Vote** - Members answer "yes" or "no" in unison. The presiding officer decides the result, how a member voted is not recorded.

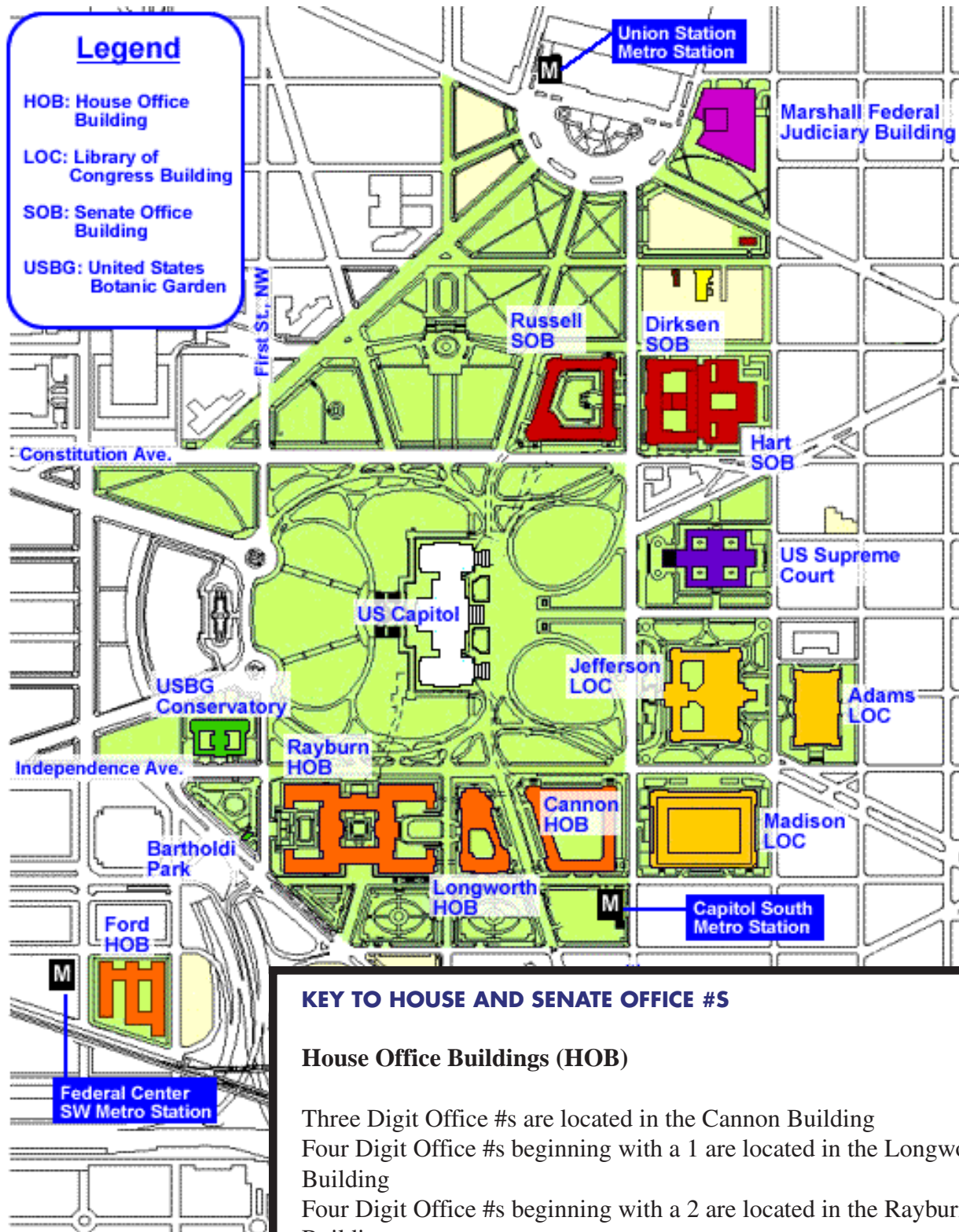
## W

**Whip** - A legislator who is chosen to be the assistant to the leader of the party in either the House and Senate.

## Y

**Yield** - The request "Will the gentleman/gentlewoman yield?" is an expression used to seek permission from a member already speaking on the floor in order for another member to be recognized.

# U.S. CAPITOL COMPLEX MAP



## PLACES TO EAT AND SHOP ON CAPITOL HILL

### PLACES TO EAT IN THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

**Cannon Carry-Out** - Open 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Located in the Cannon House Office Building Room B-114

**Longworth Cafeteria** - Open 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
Restricted to Congressional Staff Only 11:45-1:15  
Located in the Longworth House Office Building Room B-233

**Longworth Carry-Out** – Open 7:30 AM to 4PM  
Located in the Longworth House Office Building Room B-222

**Rayburn Cafeteria** - Open 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
Restricted to Congressional Staff Only 11:45-1:15  
Located in the Rayburn House Office Building Room B-357

**Rayburn Carry-Out** - Open 8 AM to 4 PM  
Located in the Rayburn House Office Building Room B-327

**Rayburn Pizza Plus** - Open 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Located in the Rayburn House Office Building Second Floor



### PLACES TO EAT IN THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

**Dirksen Servery and Dining Room** - Open 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
Restricted to Congressional Staff Only 11:45-1:15  
Located in the Basement of the Dirksen Senate Office Building

**Dirksen Buffet** – Open 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
Located in the Basement of the Dirksen Senate Office Building

**Russell Coffee Shop** – Open 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Located in the Russell Senate Office Building Room SR-B65



### HOUSE AND SENATE GIFT SHOPS

**The House of Representatives Gift Shop** – Open 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Located in the Longworth House Office Building Room B-217

**The Senate Gift Shop** – Open 9 AM – 5 PM  
Located in the Dirksen Building in Room SD-B01

**The US Capitol Historical Society Gift Shop** – Open 9 AM – 4:30 PM  
Located in the Crypt of the Capitol