Congressional Quarterly Almanac Data Codebook

Policy Agendas Project 2015

Contact Information

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Overview of the Data Set

This dataset contains information from all articles in the main chapters of *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*. CQ includes articles about bills that became law, many that did not become law, and some items not explicitly legislative in nature. A case is an article or—in rare instances—a portion of an article. CQ Almanac articles typically cover one legislative initiative.

Articles discussing omnibus legislation are assigned a topic code based on the main issue discussed; however, component parts of omnibus bills are often the focus of separate articles and assigned their own topic codes. In rare cases, a CQ article that contains information about several distinct items is divided so that each record contains information about one legislative initiative. Due to variations in CQ volume size and story length, we advise using proportions rather than absolute counts when comparing policy topics across time.

Content Coding

We have coded each entry by policy content, along with other variables of interest. We employed the standard Policy Agendas Project topic scheme in our policy content coding, and each entry was assigned one and only one content code. This allows researchers to trace activity on a particular topic across the period. The full description of our content categories may be found in the major topics codebook at http://www.comparativeagendas.net/us.

Variable Names and Descriptions

ID

Unique identification number for each record.

Year

The year covered in the CQ Almanac.

Source

This column records the volume CQ Almanac where the entry is found.

Congress

The number of the Congress.

Section Number (CQ Section Code)

CQ Chapter Identifier, e.g. appropriations or foreign policy.

Page Number

In some of the early years, CQ did not have discrete policy chapters. In those cases, since no section code is available, a page number is given.

House Bill Number 1

The bill focused upon in the particular article (up to four House bills.)

House Bill Number 2

House Bill Number 3

House Bill Number 4

Senate Bill Number 1

The bill focused upon in the particular article (up to two Senate bills.)

Senate Bill Number 2

House Report, Senate Report.

The number of the report(s) from the House and Senate committee markup(s).

Public Law Number

The number of the public law in the *United States Code* if the legislation became law.

House Committee 1

The House committee mentioned as involved with the legislation (up to three committees). For a complete list of committees and subcommittees, see the committee codebook.

House Committee 2

House Committee 3

House Subcommittee 1

The House subcommittee mentioned as involved with the legislation (up to three).

House Subcommittee 2

House Subcommittee 3

Senate Committee 1

The Senate committee mentioned as involved with the legislation (up to two).

Senate Committee 2

Senate Subcommittee 1

The Senate subcommittee mentioned as involved with the legislation (up to two).

Senate Subcommittee 2

Conference Report

The number of the report from the House-Senate conference committee.

Pass House

1 if legislation passed the House; 0 otherwise

Pass Senate

1 if legislation passed the Senate; 0 otherwise

President Signed

1 if legislation signed by the president; 0 otherwise.

President Vetoed

1 if vetoed by the president; 0 otherwise

Attached to Omnibus

1 if legislation mentioned is attached to an omnibus bill; 0 otherwise.

ArticleSize

The length in column lines of the article (130 per page [or 65 for each of two columns]). Approximately the first ten years of the time series has three columns and a different typeface. The average number of words per column line in these early years is one-half as much as later years. Thus the number of column lines counted per article in the early years is halved. Therefore the size variable in our database is consistent over time. In some years, the column lines are counted manually.

Note: ArticleSize for recent CQ additions lags behind our data updates due to delays in the availability of print source material.

Omnibus Bill

1 if legislation mentioned is an omnibus measure; 0 otherwise.

Other Bills

The component measures listed if legislation described is an omnibus bill.

Description

A concise description of the article or piece of legislation focused upon.

Pap_MajorTopic

This column records the Policy Agendas Project's major topic code that corresponds to the information found in the Description column. The codes and examples for this column are found in the Major Topics Codebook on the US page of the Comparative Agendas website.

Pap_SubTopicCode

This column denotes the Policy Agendas Project's subtopic code that corresponds to the information found in the Description column. The codes and examples for this column are found in the Major Topics Codebook on the US page of the Comparative Agendas website.

MajorTopic

This column records the Comparative Agendas Project's major topic code that corresponds to the existing Policy Agendas Project topic code. Please visit the Comparative Agendas Project website (www.comparativeagendas.net) for more information.

SubTopicCode

This column records the Comparative Agendas Project's subtopic topic code that corresponds to the existing Policy Agendas Project topic code. Please visit the Comparative Agendas Project website (www.comparativeagendas.net) for more information.