

# Congressional Roll Call Voting Data Codebook

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Policy Agendas Project  
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## ***Contact Information***

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## ***Citation:***

Lewis, Jeffrey B., Keith Poole, Howard Rosenthal, Adam Boche, Aaron Rudkin, and Luke Sonnet (2022). Voteview: Congressional Roll-Call Votes Database. <https://voteview.com/>

## Overview of the Dataset

This dataset includes Congressional roll call votes categorized according to the Policy Agendas Project topic system. Vote descriptors from 1946 through 1990 were tabulated from *United States Congressional Roll Call Voting Records: 1789-1990* codebooks, which are available through ICPSR’s data archive. Additional years were obtained by request from Keith Poole, University of Georgia. As of September 2022, all votes are first obtained by downloading the “congressional votes” dataset from [voteview.com](http://voteview.com). We then code all of the roll calls in [voteview](http://voteview.com)’s data by policy area in accordance with the PAP coding scheme. Further, our data contain six additional variables detailed below.

## 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 on the US page of the Comparative Agendas Project website ([www.comparativeagendas.net](http://www.comparativeagendas.net)).

## Variable Names and Descriptions

Voteview variables are all discussed in detail at [voteview.com](http://voteview.com)’s website: [https://voteview.com/articles/data\\_help\\_rollcalls](https://voteview.com/articles/data_help_rollcalls)

Additional PAP variables are described below:

### *id*

This column records the unique identifier for each observation. It has no substantive application.

### *Pap\_description*

This column records the description of the vote. We include this alongside the “*dtl\_desc*” from [voteview](http://voteview.com) because many votes—primarily those regarding amendments—do not contain a description. The description is copied verbatim from [congress.gov](http://congress.gov).

### *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 Policy Agendas Project 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 Policy Agendas Project 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](http://www.comparativeagendas.net)) for more information.

***SubTopicCode***

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