Codebook for CQ Press Congress Collection Data Exports

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A. Overview of Data Export Purposes and Functions

Congress Collection offers several ways for users to export data from its extensive archive. Through these tools, researchers can export a wide variety and significant quantity of data including: member biographical characteristics, roll call votes, member interest group ratings, and voting scores.

Data can be exported at the point-of-use when searching or browsing the database or through the "Download Data" button on the homepage. This link will launch a powerful data export manager that allows users to step through a four-step process to select, refine, limit or combine the data they would like to export. The export manager also allows users to find data sets that they have saved to their Data Cart while browsing the site.

The following sections describe available variables for data export, as well as data purposes, functions, structure and sources.

B. Available Variables

The following variables for member, interest group and vote data are listed as selection options during various stages of the collection process.

Member Variables
Most variables are related to biographical characteristics, described below.

These include:

- Ethnicity
- Military Service
- Occupation
- Party Affiliation
- Religious Affiliation
- State Represented
- Highest Educational Attainment

Note: Interest group data provides an additional set of member variables available for data export.

Variable key for data export: ethnicity of members
All ethnicities claimed by at least one member of any Congress are listed as variables for data export.

Variables for ethnicity include:

- African-American
- Asian-Pacific American
- Hispanic
- Native American
- White

Variable key for data export: military service of members

Researchers wishing to export data on military service may select from the following variables for members' military service:

- Did not serve
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Navy

Variable key for data export: occupations of members
A selection of present and former occupations of members of any Congress is listed as variables for data export.

Variables for occupation include:

- Acting/entertainer
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Business or banking
- Clergy
- Congressional Aide
- Construction/building trades
- Education
- Engineering
- Journalism
- Labor leader
- Law
- Law Enforcement
- Medicine
- Military
- Misc.
- Not set
- Public service/ politics
- Real Estate
- Sports

Occupation variables are selected based on a member's professional career prior to being elected to Congress. The selected variable or variables are meant to broadly characterize a member's professional life, and not take into account every job they have ever had. The database also includes an open text field to provide more specific occupational information.

Variable key for data export: party affiliation of members
Variables for party affiliation consist of all party affiliations identified with any member of any Congress.

Variables for party affiliation include:

ALP	American Labor
C	Conservative
D	Democrat
DL	Democrat-Liberal
I	Independent
P	Progressive
R	Republican

Variable key for data export: religious affiliation of members
All religions which have been professed by at least one member of any Congress are listed as variables for data export.

- African Methodist Episcopalian
- Anglican
- Apostolic Christian
- Assembly of God
- Associated Reform Presbyterian
- Baptist
- Buddhist
- Central Schwenkfelder
- Christian
- Christian Missionary Alliance
- Christian Reformed
- Christian Scientist
- Church of Christ
- Church of God
- Congregationalist
- Disciples of Christ
- Eastern Catholic
- Eastern Orthodox
- Eastern Orthodox Christian
- Episcopalian
- Evangelical
- Evangelical Lutheran
- French Huguenot
- Greek Orthodox
- Independent Bible Church
- Independent Christian
- Jewish
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Mormon
- Muslim
- Nazarene
- Not set
- Not specified
- Pentecostal
- Presbyterian
- Protestant
- Quaker
- Reformed Church
- Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Roman Catholic
- Serbian Orthodox
- Seventh-Day Adventist
- Sikh
- Society of Friends
- Southern Baptist
- Theist
- Unitarian
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist

Variable key for data export: state affiliation of members
Variables include all American states, abbreviated using standard postal codes.

Variables for states include:

Alabama	AL
Alaska	AK
Arizona	AZ
Arkansas	AR
California	CA
Colorado	CO
Connecticut	CT
Delaware	DE
District of Columbia	DC
Florida	FL
Georgia	GA
Hawaii	HI
Idaho	ID
Illinois	IL
Indiana	IN
Iowa	IA
Kansas	KS
Kentucky	KY
Louisiana	LA
Maine	ME
Maryland	MD
Massachusetts	MA
Michigan	MI
Minnesota	MN
Mississippi	MS
Missouri	MO
Montana	MT
Nebraska	NE
Nevada	NV
New Hampshire	NH
New Jersey	NJ
New Mexico	NM
New York	NY
North Carolina	NC
North Dakota	ND
Ohio	OH
Oklahoma	OK
Oregon	OR
Pennsylvania	PA
Rhode Island	RI
South Carolina	SC
South Dakota	SD
Tennessee	TN
Texas	TX
Utah	UT
Vermont	VT
Virginia	VA
Washington	WA

West Virginia	WV
Wisconsin	WI
Wyoming	WY

Highest Educational Attainment

Based on degree attainment and other educational information, the following designations were made. Individuals who studied for, but did not attain a degree will be classified based on whatever lower degree (if any) they attained. In some cases, the information available on a particular individual was insufficient to make a designation. In those cases a classification of "Unknown" is listed.

- High School Graduate
- Associate's Degree (AA, AS)
- Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS)
- Master's Degree (MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
- Professional Degree (MD, DDS, DVM, JD, LLB)
- Doctorate Degree (PhD, EdD, or other academic doctorate)
- Unknown

Interest Group Variables

Interest group variables add utility to the current search potential of the Congress Collection. With the data export function, users can export and compare interest group ratings for up to ten members simultaneously.

Variable key for data export: interest group name abbreviations and years available

ADA	Americans for Democratic Action	1947-present
ACU	American Conservative Union	1971-present
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union	1979-present
ASC	American Security Council	1969-1994
CCUS	Chamber of Commerce of the United States	1965-present
CFA	Consumer Federation of America	1971-2000
COPE	Committee on Political Education of the AFL-CIO	1955-present
LCV	League of Conservation Voters	1971-present
NEA	National Education Association	1983-2004 (the NEA continues to rate members, but with an alphabetical scale not included here)
NTU	National Taxpayers Union	Ratings for both houses began in 1973 although Senate ratings began earlier in 1969.

Variable key for data export: CQ Voting Score abbreviations and years available

CCO	Conservative Coalition Opposition	1959-1998
CCS	Conservative Coalition Support	1959-1998
PUO	Party Unity Opposition	1955-present
PUS	Party Unity Support	1947-present
PSO	Presidential Support Opposition	1954-present
PSS	Presidential Support	1953-present

VP	Voting Participation	1947-present

Displaying Member Variables in Data Exports
The following headers will indicate corresponding variables in member data export files.

Last = Member's last name
First = Member's first name
Middle = Member's middle name
Suffix = Member's suffix
Nickname = Member's nickname Born = Member's date of birth
Death = Member's date of death
Sex = Member's sex
Position = Member's position: Representative, Senator, Vice President or President
Party = Member's party affiliation
State = Member's state affiliation
District = Member's district affiliation
Start = Beginning of member's term/period of service
End = End of member's term/period of service
Educational Attainment = Member's highest completed level of education
Religion = Member's religious affiliation
Race = Member's race
Job type1 = Member's primary previous occupation, sometimes listed as "public service."
Job type2 = Any other occupation.
Job type3 = Any other occupation.
Job type4 = Any other occupation.
Mil1 = Member's military service status, which is "Did not Serve," or, if they did serve, applicable military branch.
Mil2 = Member's military service status (usually used if service varied).
Mil3 = Member's military service status.

Vote Variables
These variables facilitate comparisons of member, party and state delegation voting behavior. Variables related to vote returns, member votes, party votes and state delegation votes will be described in turn. Additionally, this section compiles all variables used to export vote data for a given Congress, bill or topic.

Variable key for data export: exporting vote results and type

Y	Yea
N	Nay
?	Did not vote
#	Paired for
+	Announced for
-	Announced against
X	Paired against
P	Voted "present"
C	Voted "present" to avoid possible conflict of interest
NP	Voted "not present"
I	Ineligible to vote at the time

Variable key for data export: exporting votes for a specific member

tVoteTitles.TitleDisplay	Title
tVoteTitles.VoteDate	Date of vote
tVoteTitles.BillNum	Bill Number
tVoteTypes.VoteType	Result: yea or nay vote cast
tMembers.Lastname/tMembers.MembersID	Member names
tVoteTitles.CQKeyVote	Vote title: Key Vote
tVoteTitles.Procedural	Vote title: Procedural vote
tCongressTopics.subject	Topic of legislation
tVoteTitles.DocumentID	Vote description/ID

Variable key for data export: member alignment and comparing roll call votes

tVoteType.VoteType	Type of vote: yea, nay, etc.
TotalAll	Total of all floor votes
AllVoteT	All floor votes - number of times members voted together
AllVoteD	All floor votes - number of times members voted differently
TotalKey	Total CQ Key Votes
KeyVoteT	CQ Key Votes - number of times members voted together
KeyVoteD	CQ Key Votes - number of times members voted differently

Variable key for data export: member vote for a specific roll call

tMembers.Lastname	Member's last name
tMembers.Firstname	Member's first name
tMembers.Middlename	Member's middle name
tMembers.Suffix	Member's suffix
tMembers.Nickname	Member's nickname
TotalAll	Total of all floor votes
AllVoteW	All floor votes - number of times a member voted with party
AllVoteO	All floor votes - number of times a member voted in opposition to party
TotalKey	Total CQ Key Votes
KeyVoteW	CQ Key Votes - number of times a member voted with party
KeyVoteO	CQ Key Votes - number of times a member voted in opposition to party

Variable key for data export: state delegation votes and alignment

TotalAll	Total of all floor votes
AllVoteS	All floor votes – number of times members voted the same
AllVoteT	All floor votes – number of times there was a tie vote
AllVote1	All floor votes – number of times only 1 member voted
AllVoteY	All floor votes – number of times majority of members voted yea
AllVoteN	All floor votes – number of times majority of members voted

	nay
TotalKey	Total CQ key votes
KeyVoteS	All key votes – for all Key Votes, number of times members voted the same
KeyVoteT	All key votes – for all Key Votes, number of times there was a tie vote
KeyVote1	All key votes – for all Key Votes, number of times only 1 member voted
KeyVoteY	All key votes – for all Key Votes, number of times majority of members voted yea
KeyVoteN	All key votes – for all Key Votes, number of times majority of members voted nay

Variable key for data export: vote data on a specific bill, Congress or topic

tVoteTitles.TitleDisplay	Title
tVoteTitles.VoteDate	Date of vote
tVoteTitles.BillNum	Bill number
tCongressTopics.subject	Topic of bill
tCongressTopics.subject	Topic of bill
tVoteTitles.CongressID	Vote Titles
TotalYea	All yea votes
TotalNay	All nay votes
TotalOth	All other votes
DemYea	All Democratic yea votes
DemNay	All Democratic nay votes
DemOth	All other Democratic votes
RepYea	All Republican yea votes
RepNay	All Republican nay votes
RepOth	All other Republican votes
IndYea	All independent yea votes
IndNay	All independent nay votes
IndOth	All other independent votes
tVoteTitles.DocumentID VoteDesc	Vote description/ID

Data Cart Variables
After the initial selection page for Data Cart, researchers are presented with two organizing search features: vote selection by Congress, which will return all key votes from a given Congress, or vote selection from votes stored in Data Cart.

Search variables for vote selection by Congress:
All **Key Votes** from the following Congresses are available (*all* floor votes are available starting with the 91st Congress). Key Vote designations are made at the end of each year.

- 79th Congress (1945-1947)
- 80th Congress (1947-1949)
- 81st Congress (1949-1951)
- 82nd Congress (1951-1953)

- 83rd Congress (1953-1955)
- 84th Congress (1955-1957)
- 85th Congress (1957-1959)
- 86th Congress (1959-1961)
- 87th Congress (1961-1963)
- 89th Congress (1963-1965)
- 90th Congress (1965-1967)
- 91st Congress (1967-1969)
- 92nd Congress (1969-1971)
- 93rd Congress (1971-1973)
- 94th Congress (1973-1975)
- 95th Congress (1975-1977)
- 96th Congress (1977-1979)
- 97th Congress (1979-1981)
- 98th Congress (1981-1983)
- 99th Congress (1983-1985)
- 100th Congress (1985-1987)
- 101st Congress (1987-1989)
- 102nd Congress (1989-1991)
- 103rd Congress (1991-1993)
- 104th Congress (1993-1995)
- 105th Congress (1995-1997)
- 106th Congress (1997-1999)
- 107th Congress (1999-2001)
- 108th Congress (2001-2003)
- 109th Congress (2003-2005)
- 110th Congress (2005-2007)
- 111th Congress (2009-2011)
- 112th Congress (2011-2013)
- 113th Congress (2013-2015)
- 114th Congress (2015-2017)

Variables for vote selection from Data Cart:
All votes currently stored in the Congress Collection are available for data export. Following vote selection, researchers will be prompted to choose search delimiters to refine their exports of member, vote, and interest group ratings data. The default is set to export all fields, but researchers will have the option of omitting unnecessary options at this stage of the export process.

Variables for Member Biographical Data include:

- Religion
- Race
- Occupation
- Military Service
- Date born
- Date died

- Sex
- Party
- State
- District

Variables for Vote Data include:

- Chamber
- Congress
- Vote Date
- Bill Number
- Key Vote
- Procedural
- Vote Description Link

CQ Key Votes
Key Votes are selected at the end of each year by CQ Roll Call editors for the House and Senate. The editors judge the importance of a specific vote on whether or not it was a matter of major controversy, a matter of presidential or political power, or a matter of potentially great impact on the nation and the lives of Americans.

Variables for Interest Group Ratings include:

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- American Conservative Union (ACU)
- Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
- American Security Council (ASC)
- Chamber of Commerce of the United States (CCUS)
- Consumer Federation of America (CFA)
- Committee on Political Education of the AFL-CIO (COPE)
- League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- National Taxpayers Union (NTU)

Variables for Voting Scores include:
- Conservative Coalition Opposition (CCO)
- Conservative Coalition Support (CCS)
- Party Unity Opposition (PUO)
- Party Unity Support (PUS)
- Presidential Support Opposition (PSO)
- Presidential Support (PSS)
- Voting Participation (VP)

Interpreting Data Cart export results:
First worksheet variables: Member data

Title	Title of the bill or vote
Result	Member vote: yea or nay
MemberID	Indicates ID number for given member, regardless of position held at time of vote
PostnID	Indicates member position held at time of vote
Last	Member's last name

First	Member's first name
Chamber	House or Senate
Congress	Congress number (109th, 110th, etc.)
VoteDate	Date of vote
BillNum	Bill number
KeyVote	Key Vote Status
Procedrl	Procedural
VoteDesc	Link to vote description

Second worksheet variables: Vote data

Title	Title of the bill or vote
Result	Member vote: yea or nay
MemberID	Indicates ID number for given member, regardless of position held at time of vote
PostnID	Indicates member position held at time of vote
Last	Member's last name
First	Member's first name
Chamber	House or Senate
Congress	Congress number (109th, 110th, etc.)
VoteDate	Date of vote
BillNum	Bill number
KeyVote	Key Vote Status
Procedrl	Procedural
VoteDesc	Link to vote description

Third worksheet variables: Member ratings

MemberID	Indicates ID number for given member, regardless of position held at time of vote
PostnID	Indicates member position held at time of vote
Last	Member's last name
First	Member's first name
Year	Year of rating
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
ACU	American Conservative Union
ADA	Americans for Democratic Action
ASC	American Security Council
CCUS	Chamber of Commerce of the United States
CFA	Consumer Federation of America

COPE	Committee on Political Education of the AFL-CIO
LCV	League of Conservation Voters
NEA	National Education Association
NTU	National Taxpayers' Union

C. Structure of Data

Congress Data Download enables researchers to export data using one of two primary organizing variables: members or votes. Standard Congress Collection search capability has been enhanced to allow researchers to search for information regarding up to ten members. All data is exported according to an "airplane ticket" format which allows users to design their searches based on a series of prompts and option selections in four distinct stages to meet their specific data export objectives.

Note: An advanced data export tool, Data Cart, allows scholars to further customize and combine the data they are seeking to export.

Data export stages are as follows:

- Select member or vote data. If using the Advanced Data Cart, users may also choose to export member and vote data simultaneously.
- Select data set: Choose method of organizing member/vote data, such as by biographical characteristics.
- Refine data set: Choose search delimiters, such as specific biographical characteristics.
- Export data set: Send your data set to your designated email address, or disk, which offers the option of opening the file immediately. Data exports may be formatted as spreadsheet or text files.

These prompts execute the following common data export commands:

- Member biographical characteristics
- Floor Vote information for a particular bill, topic or congress
- Comparison of interest group ratings for one or more members
- Comparison of members' biographical characteristics, interest group ratings and voting behavior
- Individual member vote records
- State delegation voting behavior
- Party alignment in specific votes and congresses

Structure of Data in Data Cart Exports:
The Data Cart employs a four-stage process to export expansive data files which combine member, vote, and interest group information. Data Cart is designed to return more information than a simple data export, and results will be geared towards researchers seeking less targeted, more comprehensive results.

Characteristics Unique to Data Cart:
Data Cart variables will show all returns for a given category. For example, selecting "military service" will show military service status for all members in a data export, regardless of whether or not they served. If you prefer a more targeted approach, such as one which only profiles members who have not served, a simple data export is a more appropriate research tool than the advanced Data Cart function.

In addition to providing expansive data on member biographical characteristics, voting behavior, and interest group ratings, all members can be identified at any point in their careers by a distinctive Member ID assigned to them alone. Their positions, such as Representative for District 4 or Iowa Senator, may change depending on the vote or congress being exported. Member positions will be identified using a Position ID.

Data Cart data export stages are as follows:

- Select the "members and votes" Data Cart tool on the initial data export page.
- Select method of organizing member and vote data: export Key Votes from a specific Congress, or export votes from your Data Cart.
- Once votes have been chosen, select search delimiting variables for member biographical data, vote data, and interest group ratings according to research preferences. The default is set to export all fields, but users may omit unnecessary fields at this stage of the export process.
- On the final page, indicate your agreement to CQ Data Cart data export conditions, and select "Export Data" to receive your results in a downloadable Excel file.

These prompts execute the following Data Cart export commands:

- Member biographical data
- Vote data
- Interest group ratings

Note: These returns will display separately in the Excel file downloaded to your computer.

D. Sources for Data

Member Data:
Interest group ratings, selected member demographic data, and vote data for individual members, parties and delegations are derived from the *Directory of Congressional Voting Scores and Interest Group Ratings, 4th Edition* by J. Michael Sharp, who also sends CQ Press periodic updates with votes from each Congress. CQ Voting Scores have been published in a number of sources, including the Sharp volume, but also in *CQ Almanac*.

American Political Leaders, 1789-2005 and *Guide to Congress, 6th Edition* are used to confirm members' sex, race, position held and religious affiliation as well as dates of birth and death. CQ Press uses multiple sources to confirm this information, including obituaries and excerpts from major newspapers, as sources do not always agree on precise dates.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1996 is another reliable source for confirming these dates and other biographical characteristics, as well as lists of congressional rosters and state delegations. This directory will also list any external biographies covering a given member if applicable. Updated content from the *Biographical Directory* is available from the Library of Congress at http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp.

The *Politics in America* series from CQ-Roll Call (formerly Congressional Quarterly) provides truncated biographies on all members covered since its inception, with information on the following member variables: birth, religion, military service, previous occupation, position, party alignment, member alignment, and specific votes, It also supplies data on state delegations and committees. *Congressional Staff Directory* offers some member data as well, rounding out the demographic data provided by Sharp.

For members of each new Congress, biographical details are collected from *CQ Weekly*.

Vote Data:
Among the primary sources used in building the *Congress Collection* database were the *Congress and the Nation* volumes, which supply legislative information and background.

CQ Press' *Congressional Roll Call* series is used to compile roll call votes and corresponding vote descriptions. Additional legislative information is taken from *Guide to Congress*, *Politics in America* and the Library of Congress' THOMAS collection.

Currently, floor vote data and descriptions are published either in *CQ Weekly* or otherwise provided electronically by CQ-Roll Call, and subsequently databased for Congress Collection.