



## Ideological Composition of House Committees (116th Congress)

*Last updated December 1, 2020*

Seats on the 23 House committees in the 116th Congress<sup>1</sup> are divided between Democrats and Republicans according to House rules, which party is in the majority, and the size of that majority. However, allocating seats proportionately to each party does not account for ideological diversity within each party. Some committees are stacked with the House's most progressive and conservative members. Others are filled with mostly centrists.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus Center has analyzed how members of major ideological caucuses in the House are distributed across committees in the 116th Congress. While members of ideological causes have differences among themselves, the caucuses provide a decent approximation of members' ideology relative to other members of their party.

### Major Ideological Caucuses (from left to right)

**Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC)**: The CPC consists of 94 members, 39% of House Democrats, and stands "for progressive policies that prioritize working Americans over corporate interests, fight economic and social inequality, and advance civil liberties."

**New Democrat Coalition (NDC)**: The NDC consists of 103 members, 43% of House Democrats, and identifies as "forward-thinking Democrats who are committed to pro-economic growth, pro-innovation, and fiscally responsible policies."

**Blue Dog Coalition (BDC)**: The BDC consists of 26 members, 11% of the House Democrats, and describes itself as "dedicated to pursuing fiscally-responsible policies, ensuring a strong national defense, and transcending party lines to get things done for the American people."

**Problem Solvers Caucus**: The Problem Solvers Caucus is a bipartisan group consisting of 47 members, 25 Democrats and 22 Republicans, and accounts for 10% of House Democrats and 11% of House Republicans. It describes itself as "committed to finding common ground on many of the key issues facing the nation."

**Tuesday Group**: The Tuesday Group consists of 14 members, 7% of House Republicans, and is described as a center-right coalition.

**Republican Study Committee (RSC)**: The RSC consists of 147 members, 74% of House Republicans, and pushes for a "principled legislative agenda that will limit government, strengthen our national defense, boost America's economy, preserve traditional values and balance our budget."

**Freedom Caucus**: The Freedom Caucus consists of 36 members, 18% of House Republicans, and advocates "for more conservative spending and policy ideals in the House."

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<sup>1</sup> This explainer looks at 23 House committees, including 21 permanent committees and two select committees. Select committees are not guaranteed to continue in the 117th Congress.

## Top 5 and Bottom 5 Committees for Each Ideological Caucus

Percentages below are the share that an ideological caucus's members represent within all members of that political party on a committee (as of November 30, 2020). Individual members can be members of multiple ideological caucuses. In addition, some members choose not to affiliate with any ideological caucuses.

### DEMOCRATS

#### Congressional Progressive Caucus

##### *Committees with Most Democrats in CPC*

1. Judiciary	74%
2. Budget	68%
3. Natural Resources	62%
4. Oversight & Reform	54%
5. House Administration	50% (tie)
Modernization (Select)	50% (tie)

##### *Committees with Fewest Democrats in CPC*

1. Intelligence (Perm. Select)	15%
2. Veterans' Affairs	19%
3. Ethics	20%
4. Agriculture	23%
5. Homeland Security	24%

#### New Democrat Coalition

##### *Committees with Most Democrats in NDC*

1. Intelligence (Perm. Select)	77%
2. Agriculture	65% (tie)
Armed Services	65% (tie)
4. Veterans' Affairs	63%
5. Foreign Affairs	62%

##### *Committees with Fewest Democrats in NDC*

1. Oversight & Reform	29%
2. Judiciary	30%
3. Natural Resources	31%
4. Budget	32%
5. House Administration	33% (tie)
Climate Crisis (Select)	33% (tie)
Modernization (Select)	33% (tie)

### REPUBLICANS

#### Freedom Caucus

##### *Committees with Most Republicans in Freedom Caucus*

1. Judiciary	63%
2. Oversight & Reform	50%
3. Science, Space, & Tech.	47%
4. Climate Crisis (Select)	33%
5. Homeland Security	29%

##### *Committees with Fewest Republicans in Freedom Caucus*

1. Ethics	0% (tie)
2. House Administration	0% (tie)
3. Ways & Means	0% (tie)
4. Intelligence (Perm. Select)	0% (tie)
5. Modernization (Select)	0% (tie)

#### Republican Study Committee

##### *Committees with Most Republicans in RSC*

1. Rules	100%
2. Small Business	90%
3. Budget	86% (tie)
Education & Labor	86% (tie)
5. Financial Services	85%
Armed Services	85% (tie)

##### *Committees with Fewest Republicans in RSC*

1. Appropriations	48%
2. Intelligence (Perm. Select)	50% (tie)
Climate Crisis (Select)	50% (tie)
4. Foreign Affairs	52%
5. Transportation & Infrastruct.	53%

## DEMOCRATS

### Blue Dog Coalition

#### *Committees with Most Democrats in BDC*

1. Agriculture	31%
2. Veterans' Affairs	25%
3. Science, Space, & Tech.	24%
4. Armed Services	19%
5. Homeland Security	18%

#### *Committees with Fewest Democrats in BDC*

1. Education and Labor	0% (tie)
Ethics	0% (tie)
House Administration	0% (tie)
Rules	0% (tie)
Intelligence (Perm. Select)	0% (tie)
Climate Crisis (Select)	0% (tie)
Modernization (Select)	0% (tie)

### Problem Solvers Caucus (Democrats)

#### *Committees with Most Democrats in Problem Solvers Caucus*

1. Veterans' Affairs	31%
2. Agriculture	23%
3. Ethics	20%
4. Armed Services	19% (tie)
Foreign Affairs	19% (tie)

#### *Committees with Fewest Democrats in Problem Solvers Caucus*

1. Appropriations	0% (tie)
House Administration	0% (tie)
Judiciary	0% (tie)
Oversight and Reform	0% (tie)
Rules	0% (tie)
Intelligence (Perm. Select)	0% (tie)
Climate Crisis (Select)	0% (tie)
Modernization (Select)	0% (tie)

## REPUBLICANS

### Tuesday Group

#### *Committees with Most Republicans in Tuesday Group*

1. Modernization (Select)	40%
2. Intelligence (Perm. Select)	38%
3. House Administration	33%
4. Energy & Commerce	21%
5. Education & Labor	10% (tie)
Foreign Affairs	10% (tie)

#### *Committees with Fewest Republicans in Tuesday Group*

1. Budget	0% (tie)
Ethics	0% (tie)
Financial Services	0% (tie)
Judiciary	0% (tie)
Natural Resources	0% (tie)
Oversight & Reform	0% (tie)
Rules	0% (tie)
Science, Space, & Tech.	0% (tie)
Small Business	0% (tie)
Veterans' Affairs	0% (tie)
Climate Crisis (Select)	0% (tie)

### Problem Solvers Caucus (Republicans)

#### *Committees with Most Republicans in Problem Solvers Caucus*

1. Transportation & Infrastruct.	23%
2. Veterans' Affairs	18%
3. Appropriations	17%
4. Agriculture	14% (tie)
Budget	14% (tie)
Education & Labor	14% (tie)

#### *Committees with Fewest Republicans in Problem Solvers Caucus*

1. Ethics	0% (tie)
House Administration	0% (tie)
Judiciary	0% (tie)
Oversight & Reform	0% (tie)
Rules	0% (tie)
Climate Crisis (Select)	0% (tie)
Modernization (Select)	0% (tie)