

Research Guides



ELECTIONS: RESEARCHING CANDIDATES & ISSUES

GENERAL

Definitions of Common Voting and Election Terms

From USA.gov, administered by a division of the U.S. General Services Administration's Technology Transformation Service. www.usa.gov/voting-and-election-definitions

Project Vote Smart*

Vote Smart's mission is to provide "free, factual, unbiased information on candidates and elected officials..." Provides legislative demographic data such as funding, positions, speeches and voting records. www.votesmart.org

FACT CHECKING

Annenberg Political Fact Check

FactCheck.org is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that monitors the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases. www.factcheck.org

PolitiFact

A fact-checking website created by the *Tampa Bay Times* in 2007. In 2018, PolitiFact was acquired by the Poynter Institute, a nonprofit school for journalists. www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter

FUNDING

Open Secrets

Nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit, the Center for Responsive Politics is a research group that tracks political funding and its effect on elections and public policy. www.opensecrets.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

ACLU Florida Legislative Scorecard

The score reflects the number of identified civil liberties bills where the legislator voted consistent with ACLU positions. The bills in the scorecard reflect the ACLU's priority legislative areas: criminal justice reform, free speech (First Amendment) immigration, LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights. <https://aclufloridavoter.com/legislative-scorecard>

American Conservative Union

The ACU presents an Annual Rating of Congress for the years 2011 – 2018. <http://acuratings.conservative.org/>

League of Women Voters of Florida

The non-partisan League does not endorse political candidates or parties but does take positions on policy issues including voting rights, natural resources, education, immigration and gun safety. <https://www.lwvfl.org/issues/>

National Environmental Scorecard

The League of Conservation Voters tallies U.S. House of Representatives and Senate votes on certain issues. <http://scorecard.lcv.org/>

VOTING RECORDS

C-Span*

Shows the outcome of all recorded votes on the U.S Senate and House floors. www.c-span.org/congress/votes/

Florida House of Representatives

Look up what your representative has sponsored and voted on. <https://bit.ly/2OeRDCC>

Florida Senate

Look up specific bills to learn how your senator voted. www.flsenate.gov/

Govtrack*

Shows the outcome of all recorded votes on the U.S. Senate and House floors. It does not include votes in committee. www.govtrack.us/congress/votes

Head to Head: Compare Voting Records*

Compare the voting records of any two members of the U.S. Congress. Run by ProPublica, an independent newsroom led by some of the nation's most distinguished editors. <https://bit.ly/2A3Bzeh>

Missed Votes

Govtrack creates a report card on each U.S. Congress member, including how many absences they have had in a given year. www.govtrack.us/congress/members

U.S. House of Representatives Roll Call

Roll call vote results are compiled by the House Tally Clerks under the direction of the Clerk of the House. <http://clerk.house.gov/legislative/legvotes.aspx>

U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes

Roll call vote results are compiled through the Senate Legislative Information System by the Senate Bill Clerk under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate. <https://bit.ly/2kIRScB>

**Recommended by congress.gov.*

For more information, please see an Adult Services Librarian.