

POLS 353: Selecting and researching your constituency

You must select from a state that is within one letter of the first letter of your last name. For example, Wilkerson can choose from V,W, or X (Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming...

1. What constituency (House district or state) do you intend to represent?

Describe this constituency, starting with the Republican presidential candidate's vote share in the last election, and including information about economic and social issues that should impact the behavior of its representative in Congress.

What issues would you expect the representative to focus on given what you now know about the constituency?

US Census – State QuickFacts - <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/00>

US Census – Congressional District Finder - <http://www.census.gov/mycd/#>

2. Who currently represents the constituency?

What party does she represent? Age? How long has s/he served in Congress? What did s/he do before coming to Congress? What positions does s/he hold in Congress?

What issues would you expect the representative to focus on given what you now know about his or her prior experience and legislative positions?

Biographical directory - <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

Representative websites <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

Senator websites

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC

3. Legislative activity

How many bills and amendments has this representative sponsored in the current Congress? How does this compare to other lawmakers? What proportion are major versus minor bills/resolutions. How many of her bills have made it beyond committee referral to date?

How well do the bills and amendments correspond to what you predicted above? Explain with examples.

Legislation sponsor/cosponsor summaries -

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/ViewList.php?n=Member&c=114>