



Congressional Votes Coverage By Trusted Media Helps Readers Debunk Propaganda, Protects Democracy

Attack ads made in America now have foreign company in distorting the records of incumbent lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

As U.S. intelligence and law-enforcement officials warned last November, overseas actors “and Russia in particular” are “spreading false information about political processes and candidates,” and are “disseminating propaganda on social media” in efforts to sow chaos and weaken democratic institutions.

There is no better antidote to propaganda about Congress — whether it comes from K Street or the Kremlin— than the regular reporting of individual House and Senate voting records to constituents in search of facts. As the 116th Congress unfolds, civically engaged citizens deserve— and should expect— access in their newspaper or digital news service to:

- Weekly or daily nonpartisan, journalistic accounts of local lawmakers’ votes on issues that directly affect everyday lives, the country’s security and the stability of democratic institutions;
- Reporting that reduces the millions of words spoken by federal lawmakers each week to legislative summaries readers can quickly grasp and potentially act upon;
- Pre-Election Day profiles that detail incumbents’ votes on the most newsworthy domestic and foreign-affairs issues;
- Watchdog coverage of the extent to which representatives and senators deliver on campaign promises;
- A trusted journalistic platform for debunking lies and misinformation about incumbents’ legislative records.

The Washington Post
Community News

FOR THE RECORD

Here’s how area members of Congress voted on major issues last week, as reported by Voterama in Congress.

HOUSE

Disclosing payments to foreign governments
For: 235 / Against: 187

The House voted to nullify a Securities and Exchange Commission rule under which publicly traded companies must disclose their payments to foreign governments for access to oil, natural gas, coal and other mineral resources. Part of the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, the rule is opposed by energy firms such as ExxonMobil and business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on grounds that it puts U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage. But supporters said it would provide essential information about these companies to investors while spotlighting possible corruption by foreign leaders. Nullification of the rule would occur under terms of the Congressional Review Act.

A yes vote was to send the measure (HJ Res 41) to the Senate, where it was passed and sent to President Trump for his expected signature.

VIRGINIA	Y	N	NV
Beyer (D)			✓
Brat (R)	✓		
Comstock (R)	✓		
Connolly (D)		✓	
Garrett (R)	✓		
Wittman (R)	✓		

Repeal of workplace rule for contractors
For: 236 / Against: 187

The House voted to nullify a federal regulation aimed at keeping federal contractors in compliance with workplace laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, Americans With Disabilities Act, Civil Rights Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Age Discrimination in Employment Act. Under the rule, when companies bid for contracts worth at least \$500,000, they must report any actual or alleged violations of 14 major workplace laws in the previous three years to government procurement officials, who would factor this information into decisions on whether to award contracts. A federal court ruling has temporarily kept the rule from taking effect.

The rule is designed to ensure that

employees of federal contractors are not deprived of overtime pay, exposed to undue physical and health dangers, subjected to hiring or paycheck discrimination, or denied other workplace protections guaranteed by law. But critics say that because the rule treats non-adjudicated claims against employers the same as it does proven wrongdoing, it denies “blacklisted” contractors their due-process rights.

A yes vote was to send HJ Res 37 to the Senate, where it was adopted and sent to President Trump for his expected signature.

VIRGINIA	Y	N	NV
Beyer (D)			✓
Brat (R)	✓		
Comstock (R)	✓		
Connolly (D)		✓	
Garrett (R)	✓		
Wittman (R)	✓		

SENATE

Tillerson confirmed as secretary of state
For: 56 / Against: 43

The Senate confirmed Rex W. Tillerson, 64, as the 69th U.S. secretary of state. Tillerson was employed by ExxonMobil for 41 years, serving as chief executive from 2006 to 2016. Supporters said Tillerson’s international business experience will serve him well in the top U.S. diplomatic post. Critics questioned whether he would stand up to Vladimir Putin, given his close personal and business ties to the Russian president.

A yes vote was to confirm Tillerson as secretary of state.

VIRGINIA	Y	N	NV
Kaine (D)			✓
Warner (D)	✓		

Elaine Chao, secretary of transportation
For: 93 / Against: 6

The Senate confirmed Elaine L. Chao as the 18th U.S. secretary of transportation. Chao, 63, served in previous Republican administrations as secretary of labor, Peace Corps director and chair of the Federal Maritime Commission.

A yes vote was to confirm Chao as transportation secretary.

VIRGINIA	Y	N	NV
Kaine (D)	✓		
Warner (D)	✓		