

The book was found

Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition



Synopsis

In this second edition to a book that has now achieved canonical status, David R. Mayhew argues that the principal motivation of legislators is reelection and that the pursuit of this goal affects the way they behave and the way that they make public policy. In a new foreword for this edition, R. Douglas Arnold discusses why the book revolutionized the study of Congress and how it has stood the test of time. The book also contains a new preface by the author.

Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 2 edition (November 10, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300105878

ISBN-13: 978-0300105872

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,379 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Legislative Branch #47 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections #84 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Government

Customer Reviews

"Any short list of major analyses of Congress must of necessity include David Mayhew's Congress: The Electoral Connection. It is a pleasure to have this aged-in-the-cask classic reissued, and the foreword by Arnold and preface by Mayhew are a valuable bonus." —Fred Greenstein
"Mayhew's book on Congress seems to be the best thing on the subject. The interpretation, based as it is on an extraordinary range and depth of scholarship, will compel everyone who writes on Congress in the future in serious fashion - including serious-minded journalists - to take it into account. It simply couldn't be ignored." —Robert A. Dahl
"A classic in legislative studies." —Richard F. Fenno, Jr.

David R. Mayhew, Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University, is the author of many books, including *Divided We Govern*, *America's Congress*, and *Electoral Realignments*, all published by Yale University Press.

I was looking for a book about Congress & how elections play a role in their decision making (or lack thereof). This book is about Congress & how elections play a role in their decision making (or lack thereof). I think I may have succeeded.

Book was needed for Poly Sci class on Congress. It was a very good and informative read on how American legislature works. Would recommend as an easy read for anyone taking a class on congress or interested in reading up on how Congress functions.

I would recommend this product to others because it was a very interesting read so far and helps you to learn more

Great

I had to read this book for my political science class and it was very informative on what drives politicians to seek and retain office. However, the language was hard to understand and I was highly bored reading this.

Forget everything you learned in High School civics. David Mayhew utterly demolishes the idea that legislators are engaged in some high-minded pursuit of the "public interest," partisan ideological struggle, or that policies are adopted based on facts or reason. The message of this thoroughly convincing but highly readable tome is that politicians, like the rest of us, pursue their own self interest. That interest is entirely dictated by the determination to get reelected at all costs. Positions are taken, votes are cast, and gestures are made with that first and foremost in mind. What does that mean? It means that well organized groups of voters (the much maligned but rarely understood "special interest groups") dictate policy. Our founding fathers called these groups "factions" and believed that they were the biggest threat to self government. They were right. Organized groups of politically active voters call the shots, and their agendas rarely comport with the public interest. Mayhew simply calls it as he sees it. He draws no conclusions, but they should be self evident to the reader. To understand democratic government, one must understand politics. And to understand politics, one simply must read Mayhew. The book is also relevant beyond the realm of theory. Mayhew casts serious doubt upon the conventional belief that campaign finance reform, term limits, or a host of other proposed reforms will control the power of these factions. I've working

in the public policy world in Washington for over a decade, and everything Mayhew argues comports well with my experience in dealing with elected officials and their staff members. The bitter truth is that neither facts, data, nor reasoned analysis has anything to do with public policy in America. Even if you disagree with Mayhew, you can't have an informed opinion about politics without grappling with the arguments in this book. "Congress: The Electoral Connection" is considered by political scientists to be one of the most important books published within their discipline in the past 30 years. They're right; it is an absolute classic and a must read!

David Mayhew's *Congress: The Electoral Connection* examines the activities of the individuals and the specifics of the institutions of the US House of Representatives, in an effort to determine the primary goals of House members elected to serve America and their constituents in the House. The thinking is that understanding House members' motivations better will allow observers to predict their actions. He's well qualified to address this topic, having taught at Yale on political and legislative institutions since 1968. Mayhew concludes that the main motivation behind what United States Congressmen say and do is not the best interests of the folks back home or even the well-being of their country - they are mainly concerned with their own reelection. In fact, he goes further, dismissing the idea that reelection is one of many motivations of Congressmen, saying that they are "...indeed, in their role [in Washington] as abstractions, interested in nothing else." He goes on in this book to display evidence, in the name of activities of Congresspeople and the policies and institutions of the House of Representatives, that supports his thesis well. Don't be dismissed by the book's brevity and breezy tone. It's packed with insight and supportive data. And, don't think that this 1974 book is irrelevant to today's Congress. The themes and pressures ring true to today's world. The conclusions are disheartening to those of us hoping for more from our elected leaders, but Mayhew's tone isn't cynical, just factual. *Congress: The Electoral Connection* is a foundation on which a library of research has been conducted on US political institutions. Political science students and those interested in how the direction of our country is set should read it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition
Advances in Maxillofacial Imaging: Selected Proceedings of the 11th Congress of the International Association of Dentomaxillofacial Radiology and the ... Congress and (International Congress Series)
Library of Congress Subject Headings: Principles and Application, 4th Edition (Library of Congress Subject Headings: Principles & Application (Pape)
Testifying Before Congress: A Practical Guide to Preparing and Delivering Testimony Before Congress and Congressional Hearings for Agencies, Assoc
The Tradition of

Technology: Landmarks of Western Technology in the Collections of the Library of Congress (Distributed for the Library of Congress) Learning Democracy: Citizen Engagement and Electoral Choice in Nicaragua, 1990-2001 Pachakutik: Indigenous Movements and Electoral Politics in Ecuador (Critical Currents in Latin American Perspective Series) In Defense of Judicial Elections (Controversies in Electoral Democracy and Representation) The Yeast Connection and Women's Health (The Yeast Connection Series) The Yeast Connection Handbook: How Yeasts Can Make You Feel "Sick All Over" and the Steps You Need to Take to Regain Your Health (The Yeast Connection Series) The Yeast Connection Cookbook: A Guide to Good Nutrition, Better Health and Weight Management (The Yeast Connection Series) The Yeast Connection Cookbook: A Guide to Good Nutrition and Better Health The Yeast Connection Too Tired--So Tired! and the Yeast Connection (The Yeast Connection Series) Adrenal Thyroid Connection Cookbook: 50 Natural Treatment Protocol Meals-Break The Connection Between Thyroid And Adrenal Problems(Adrenal Thyroid Revolution) Irritable Bowel Syndrome & the MindBodySpirit Connection: 7 Steps for Living a Healthy Life with a Functional Bowel Disorder, Crohn's Disease, or Colitis (Mind-Body-Spirit Connection Series.) Irritable Bowel Syndrome & the Mind-Body Brain-Gut Connection: 8 Steps for Living a Healthy Life with a Functiona (Mind-Body Connection) Analyzing Congress (Second Edition) (New Institutionalism in American Politics) Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress Fifth Edition Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story of How the Wildest Man in Congress and a Rogue CIA Agent Changed the History of Our Times (ABRIDGED Edition) Congress and Its Members (Sixteenth Edition)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)