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2019 HOUSE
LEGISLATIVE DATA
AND TRANSPARENCY
CONFERENCE

Legislative Transparency

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LDTTC Legislative Data and Transparency Conference

Committee on House Administration

House of Representatives U.S. Congress

Thursday October 17 2019

Transparency : a collaborative sport



United States Legislative
Markup
(USLM)

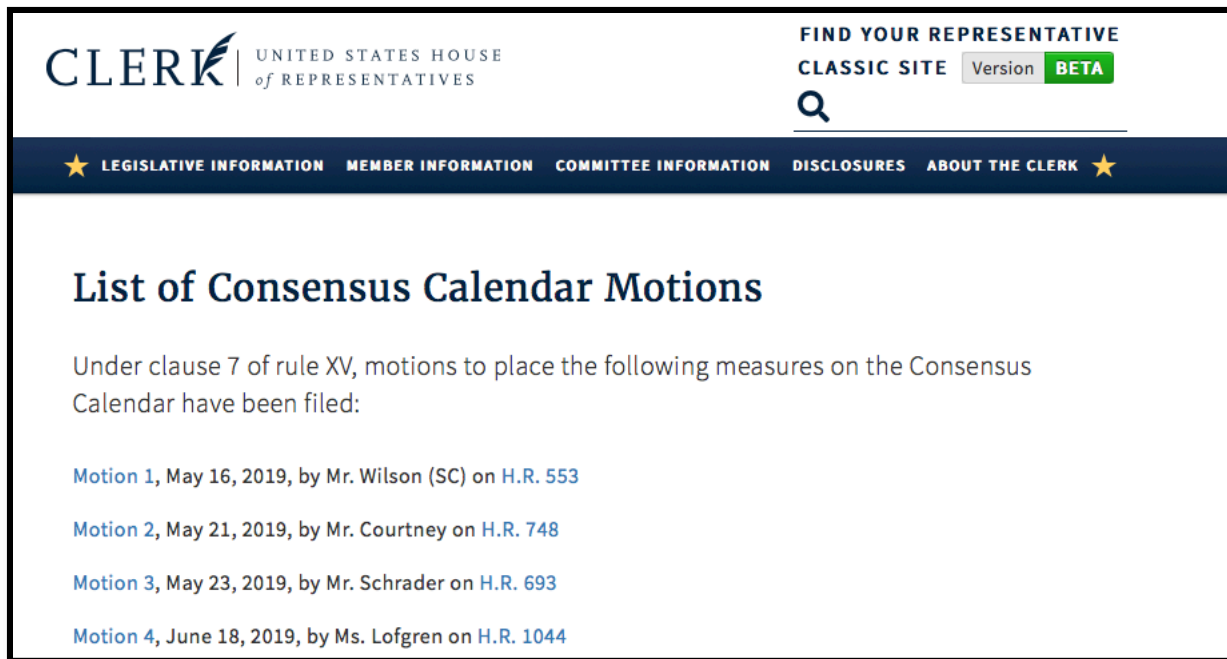


Congressional Transparency 1969



The Haunted House.
Herblock, 1970
Herbert L. Block
collection [Library of Congress](#)

Congressional Transparency 2019



The screenshot shows the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives website. The header includes the Clerk's logo and the text 'UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES'. To the right, there is a search bar with the text 'FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE' and 'CLASSIC SITE' with a 'Version BETA' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: 'LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION', 'MEMBER INFORMATION', 'COMMITTEE INFORMATION', 'DISCLOSURES', and 'ABOUT THE CLERK'. The main content area is titled 'List of Consensus Calendar Motions' and contains the following text: 'Under clause 7 of rule XV, motions to place the following measures on the Consensus Calendar have been filed:'. Below this text are four links: 'Motion 1, May 16, 2019, by Mr. Wilson (SC) on H.R. 553', 'Motion 2, May 21, 2019, by Mr. Courtney on H.R. 748', 'Motion 3, May 23, 2019, by Mr. Schrader on H.R. 693', and 'Motion 4, June 18, 2019, by Ms. Lofgren on H.R. 1044'.

House Rules clause 7 of rule XV

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/6>

. . maintained **at least 290 cosponsors** for a cumulative period of 25 legislative days shall be placed on the Consensus Calendar.

History. . .

1997 2 U.S.C. 181

- “..widest possible exchange of information among legislative branch agencies with the long-range goal of improving information technology planning and evaluation.”

1945 Senate Report 79-1011 page 20

- “Modern mechanical accounting and tabulating machines should be provided for each committee staff.

1787 U.S. Constitution. Article 1 Section 5

- Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy.

Transparency: Looking in



Rear Window (1954) Alfred Hitchcock. Paramount Pictures

Transparency: Looking out

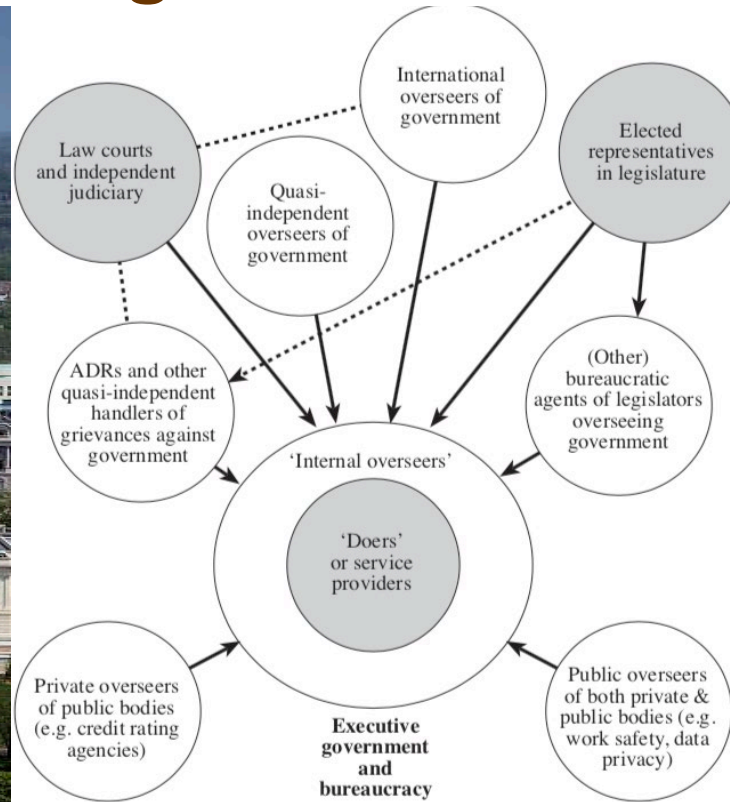
(Hood, 2006) Varieties of Transparency

- inwards / outwards
- upwards / downwards

Cliffwalk Capilano Suspension Bridge Park Vancouver Canada
Photo: Morrison Hershfield.



Workflow: Legislation to Regulation



(Hood, 2004) Oversight p23

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aerial_view,_United_States_Capitol_building_04492v.jpg

KEY

Constituent contact



DATA

Structured Open Data



Carrier 3:39 PM

Whip Watch

Votes in Progress Time Remaining

H.R. 5538: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 00:46

Yea: 147 Nay: 213 NV: 0

D Y: 142 N: 6 R Y: 5 N: 207

Voting data powered by Capitol Bells, Inc.

Calendar Jobs Favorites Settings Info

LATEST UPDATES FROM THE HOUSE FLOOR

FLOOR UPDATE - 13 VOTES - LAST VOTES
Thu, Jul 14, 2016 12:34 PM

FLOOR UPDATE - 13 VOTES - LAST VOTES
Thu, Jul 14, 2016 12:28 PM

FLOOR SCHEDULE UPDATE

Verizon LTE 1:08 PM

Whip Watch

This icon gives you quick notice as to whether or not the House is in session, which often determines how people dress when visiting the Hill.

= House in session

= House is not in session

FLOOR UPDATE - 4 VOTES - LAST VOTES
Thu, Dec 8, 2016 1:38 PM

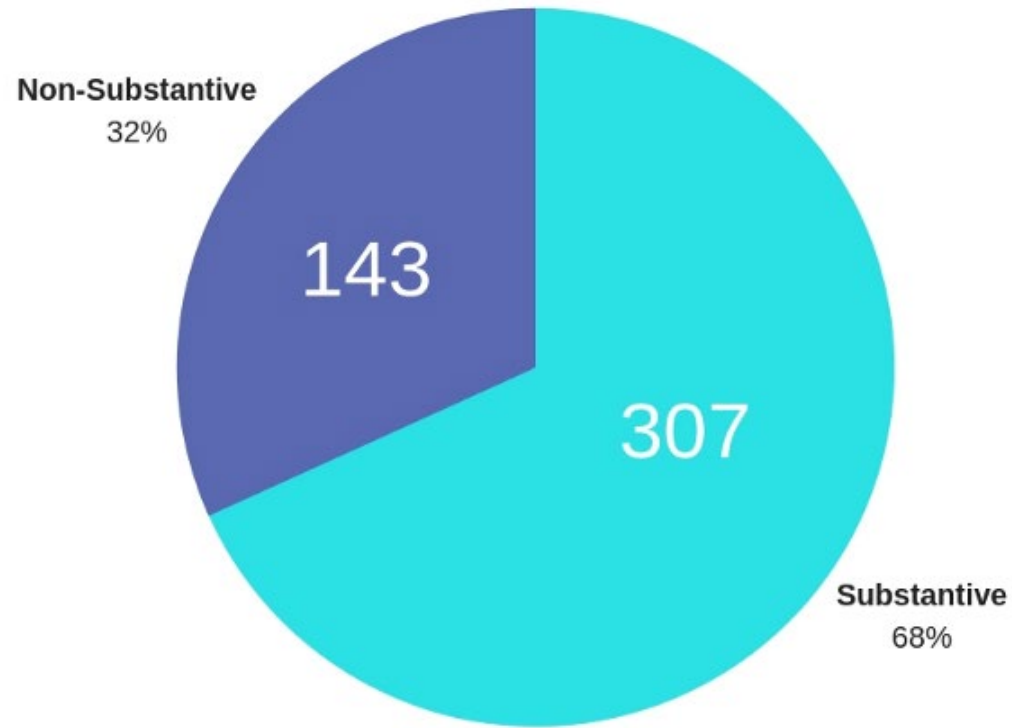
FLOOR SCHEDULE UPDATE
Thu, Dec 8, 2016 12:40 PM

View All

DAILY, WEEKLY, NIGHTLY FLOOR SCHEDULE

Daily Whip
Thu, Dec 8, 2016 8:30 AM

Actionable Data



House Bills with 218 Co-Sponsors 1996-2006

Amelia Strauss & Daniel Schuman (2018) Demand Progress. Data: GovTrack Josh Tauberer
<https://firstbranchforecast.com/2018/10/02/do-218-co-sponsors-make-a-difference-apparently-yes/>

Trustworthy Open Data

govinfo



Congressional Transparency 2029 ?

LEGISLATIVE ANALYTICS

- Incremental Strategy
- Human Feedback
- Intelligent Automation

Legislative Transparency

U.S. Congress #LDTC2019

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National Science
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