Network Visualization of the 2012 U.S. Congress: Political Association by Legislation

Benjamin Dean
Columbia University
School of Int'l and Public Affairs
240 W. 118th St.
New York, NY 10027
bcd2120@columbia.edu

Jessica Lee
Columbia University
School of Int'l and Public Affairs
240 W. 118th St.
New York, NY 10027
jal2262@columbia.edu

Erica Matsumoto
Columbia University
School of Int'l and Public Affairs
240 W. 118th St.
New York, NY 10027
eem2159@columbia.edu

Rainbow Wong
Columbia University
School of Int'l and Public Affairs
240 W. 118th St.
New York, NY 10027
rnw2112@columbia.edu

ABSTRACT

In this paper, we describe the methodology and outcomes of a network visualization of legislation, legislators and party affiliations in the United States House of Representatives and Senate during 2012. We used data made available through VoxGov and the QMSS Data Visualization portal mSchool, more specifically the Congress 2012 library of JSON files.

Our research finds that, unsurprisingly, the US Senate tends to have less bi-partisan motions than the House of Representatives. The clustering of the network suggests that US House of Representatives members are more inclined to co-sponsor bills both within the party and across party lines. The motions with most bi-partisan support in the House are typically Commemorative Coin Acts, though the US-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 and the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 are marked exceptions. By contrast, the Senate is characterized by several 'islands' of bills sponsored by one Senator. Co-sponsorship of motions does happen within parties, though less than that seen in the House of Representatives, and major cross-party motions are non-existent.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H. INFORMATION SYSTEMS

H.5 INFORMATION INTERFACES AND PRESENTATION

H.5.1. USER INTERFACES

Subject descriptor:

Language Constructs and Features – *Network, Nodes, Edges, Weight, Clustering, Patterns, Design, Theory and Methods, User-centered design.*

General Terms

Congress, House of Representatives, Senate, Legislation, Bills, Legislation, Legislators, Political Party Affiliation, Democrat, Republican, Bi-Partisan, Digital Transparency.

Keywords

Political parties, Democrat, Republican, partisan, politics, bi-partisan, voting, legislation, bills, government, network visualization, transparency, federal, legislative branch, democratic process, public accountability, public service.

1. INTRODUCTION

In an era in which massive data analytics inform campaign strategies and social media accounts of politicians make the evening news, the digital medium has changed the landscape of U.S. politics and electoral campaigns. VoxGov addresses the rise of the digital medium and through it attempts to increase transparency at the federal level. Through its over 9 million digital archives of data files, it adds a daily average of roughly 13,000 files from over 9,500 public digital sources. Collected data ranges from press releases, congressional transcripts and records, the federal register, as well as the voluminous amount of data created by various public social media accounts.

In deciding our research project and scope, our team decided on the datasets made available through VoxGov due to our interest in, as public policy students, the increasingly partisan nature of political discourse, dialogue and decision making today. VoxGov attempts to address the lack of widespread media coverage on public policy issues. It makes information available on elected officials and creates a measure of accountability for these officials through a digital medium. In other words, since news and media outlets cannot cover every policy decision, VoxGov makes public records available for anyone interested.

The digital platform offered on its website offers a medium through which users can analyze the data, see trends and patterns and create visualizations. It is important to note, however, that the data available through VoxGov are in the form of files that require

heavy manipulation and restructuring. The average American with limited technical ability and knowledge of programming languages will find using the data available through VoxGov an immense challenge and largely impractical. This will be further discussed in our methodology section.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

On visual analysis, there were certain design principles we kept in mind. Particularly: "How visual techniques can be used to either emphasize important information or de-emphasize irrelevant details in the display" (Agrawala, et al., 67), and that of using "details on demand" and "single-frame interactivity" (Segel & Heer, 3).

Simplicity of design is also important. As recommended by the International Institute of Statistics: "We must keep symbols to a minimum, so as not to overload the reader's memory. Some ancient authors, by covering their cartograms with hieroglyphics, made them indecipherable" (Wickham, 39).

We also noted that "the more the shade is red, the more the phenomenon studied surpasses average" (Wickham, 40), however, due to the existing color associations (blue for democrats, red for republicans), this was an aspect that we knowingly forewent.

In examining our research question of *how partisan is our policy making*, we agreed that visualizing legislation and the connected legislators through a network visualization would provide a high level answer. Indeed, as we performed literature reviews on political affiliation, we found many data visualizations of party affiliation in network structure form.

On approaching social visualization, we were considering a bubble chart of sorts to illustrate weighted nodes, but as stated in the Sun & Vassileva, such visualizations are fairly limited in what they can readily demonstrate. The interviews the authors conducted in the aforementioned paper revealed that even a bubble chart with an aspect of relative positioning had some shortcomings, among them:

1. Not enough interactivity;
2. The graphical location of the nodes did not have inherent or easily discernible information attached to them;
3. The bubble chart visualization was somewhat misleading since the method of sizing and calibration was inconsistent.

We therefore proceeded with a network visualization to map the action in Congress during 2012 and to illustrate political affiliation in policy making.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 Research Question & Process

We approached the data with a specific research question in mind: how partisan is our policy making? In answering this question, we looked at whether or not relationships emerged between members of the House and Senate through the legislative actions they took over 2012. Bills or motions can be sponsored by one member, or co-sponsored by several members (both Democrat and Republican alike). We wanted to find out which members of the House or Senate interacted with which and the issues for which these interactions occurred. Given the robust data made available to our team, we decided to focus our data analysis on the relationship between legislation, legislators, and political parties contained in the 'Congress_2012' database.

The team discussed multiple research methodologies and paths of analysis in order to gauge the partisan level of U.S. politics. We ultimately decided to look at specific pieces of legislation that addressed multiple topics and highlight the correlation of specific legislators along with each official's party affiliation.

We thought that by looking at legislation and then legislators connected to it, we would be able to see patterns and networks in a manner that narrowed the immense amount of ensuing connections. Sequentially putting legislation before legislators would allow us to also thematically organize our analysis. For example we can look at topics such as human rights and the treatment of detainees by zooming into the Due Process Guarantee Act which safeguards the constitutional rights and right to due process of law for U.S. citizens who are detained and imprisoned.

By looking at the political parties of legislators bringing forth bills and reforms, we can make some connections and inferences about how political parties implement partisan platforms and ideologies once elected. In addition, we can identify active and leading legislators by seeing potential clusters of legislators.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Preparing the Data: Overview & Process

Our methodology can be structured in four stages:

- JSON data cleaning: using python code.
- Data analysis and conversion to adjacency matrix: using R.
- Social network visualisation: using Gephi.
- Social network analysis: using Gephi.

4.2 Data Cleaning

We began our analysis by initially surveying the content of each JSON file. Each was, not surprisingly, extensive numbering 214 in total. Each JSON file was structured such that every file represented a day, and each line or string of data represented a bill proposed in either the House of Representatives or Senate. Certain days (files) contained only a few proposed bills, while other more active days in the legislative branch packed over 20 proposed pieces of legislation.

Each string was organized into categories of information, including but not limited to the following:

- ID: 8-digit number identifying a specific bill
- Date, Year & Format
- Description: Name of Legislation
- Keywords: Phrases and words describing legislation *(eg: "widespread foreclosure," "mortgage," "real estate," "capital stock")*
- Name: Author

- Organisations: Stakeholders *(eg: SEC, HUD, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation)*
- Organisation Type: Legislation
- Places: Associated locations *(eg: United States, Wall Street)*
- Government: Branch of Congress *(eg: U.S. House of Reps, Senate)*
- Entire Legislation *(text of actual legislation)*
- Name, Gender & Political Party of Representative(s) Introducing Legislation

Due to the string structure of this dataset, this required restructuring the data into a format that allowed us to more easily compare proposed legislation across categories, and not by the date proposed.

To begin our data cleaning, we used *python* code to convert the JSON files to CSV, parse out the information we wanted to focus on then export the structured dataset for analysis. This is one of the aforementioned challenges with the VoxGov dataset with respect to its mission to digitally democratize and make transparent legislative information. Our work in Python took the over 200 JSON files from VoxGov and cleaned and parsed them for specific pieces of data, namely 1) the name, description and ID of the legislation and bill, 2) the name and ID of the legislator proposing it, and 3) her/his political affiliation. This removed significant amounts of information from the JSON files, and restructured it into one single, five column CSV file.

4.3 Data Analysis

This CSV output showed that for the entire year of 2012, there were a total of 55,838 votes from democratic, republican, and independent legislators. We expected to count legislators multiple times as we hypothesized to see the same legislator vote for similar legislations. Indeed, this was true and is illustrated on our network visualization. We continued to examine the data layer-by-layer and discovered the following insights.

The next step required importing the *CSV file into R* and preparing the data in a Gephi-compatible structure. This required so many elements because it restructured the data in such a way that each element became binary, and for each previous "row" of data in JSON, the adjacency matrix says whether the element is true for a particular element in a "n by n" square format. We used the igraph package to firstly restructure the data into an adjacency matrix then make a graph output of the adjacency matrix output. The adjacency matrix was in effect a nodes and edges table, one that could subsequently be exported to Gephi.

4.4 Social Network Visualization

Our third step involved exporting the nodes and edges CSV files into Gephi to begin the social network visualisation. We defined nodes as bills proposed through the US House and Senate and legislators themselves, or the sponsors behind each bill. Edges exist in the event that the legislator was a sponsor for the legal document in 2012.

By virtue of the fact that this is an asymmetrical matrix—there were 8,149 bills to the 549 legislators—this had to be a directed graph. It's clear that legislators are sponsoring multiple bills, and the question remains of who among them are the most active sponsors. But as the subsequent section explains, the visualization itself was not too conducive to capturing these more individual nuances.

4.5 Social Network Analysis

Once the network data was imported into Gephi, we could apply a Yifan Hu algorithm to remodel the data (following the settings in the box below). Analysis followed to determine the weights, betweenness, centrality and modality of the network. The network was comprised of 8698 nodes linked by 55508 edges. Nodes and edges that represented House or Senate Republicans were coloured red, Democrats coloured blue and independents coloured yellow. All bills and motions in either house were given a neutral grey colour. The size of the nodes was manually weighted, based on their observed weight following the analysis. For nodes with a weighting between around 378-200, the largest weighting was given (size 50). For node weighted between 199-100 a medium weighting was given (size 25). Any node with a weighting less than 99 was left small (size 10).

Yifan Hu clustering algorithm settings

Quadtree max level: 10

Theta: 1.2

Optimal distance: 100

Relative strength: 0.2

Initial step size: 20

Step ratio: 0.95

Adaptive cooling on

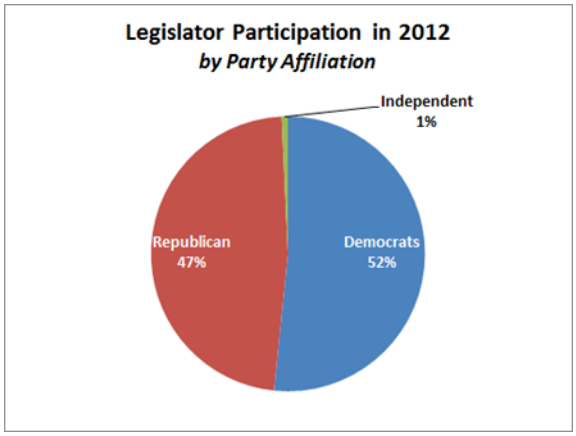
Convergence threshold 1.0E-4

5. RESULTS: Data Analysis

Our research question and process to achieve our data visualization informed and highlighted the following pieces of analysis.

5.1 Data Analysis: Legislator Participation

In 2012, an election year, it becomes apparent by looking at the number of bills proposed and the party affiliations of participating legislators (since legislators have the option to abstain from voting), that Democrats were slightly more active than the Republicans in voting on legislation. But by in large, both parties were evenly represented in 2012 legislation, while the Independent legislators remain as small stakeholders.

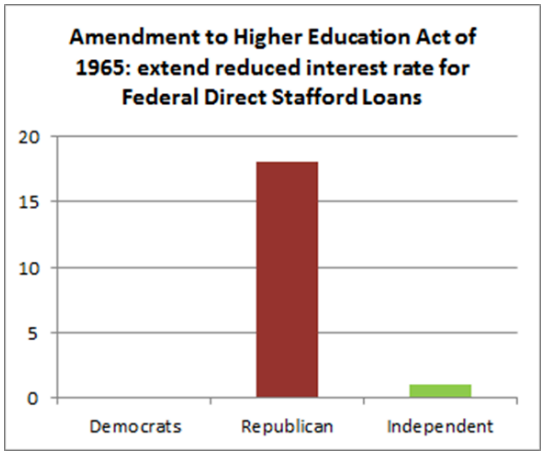


5.2 Data Analysis: Legislation Participation

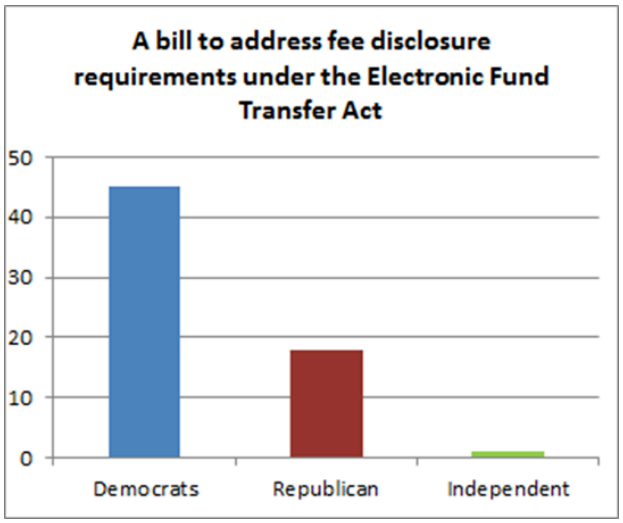
The top seven legislations that received 350+ votes, across parties, were mainly legislations about commemorative coins and recognizing individuals for good sportsmanship. These topics were generally noncontroversial, thus, both republicans and democrats were represented almost evenly. The two legislations that were more controversial were the House of Representatives bill to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability and Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012. Both of these tops were heightened during 2012. While naturally homeland security merits great legislative attention, the democrats seemed to be more involved. The sensitive topic of human rights and the use of nuclear weapons certainly grabbed democrats' attention to vote for the appropriate actions. (Please see Appendix for appropriate graph.)

5.3 Data Analysis: Individual Legislation

Individual legislations that did not gain large amounts of attention were the extension of Higher Education Act of 1965 to Federal Direct Stafford Loans and a bill to address fee disclosure requirements. It was rather surprising that student loans legislation received attention from the democrats because maximizing citizen welfare has been one of the democrats' motto. Instead, republicans were dominant participants of this legislation. There may be more to this story than what we can gather through our set of data. If we are able to see each legislator's votes, we would know if this legislation was purposefully poorly advertised for democrats' participation.



In contrast, the legislation that requires corporations to disclose billed fees to consumers attracted overwhelming democratic legislators. This result makes sense to us because everyone, including the republicans and the independent, have shown commitment and desire to improve the banking and financial system after the 2008 financial crisis.



5.4 Results: Network Visualization

The goals of our visualization was to find out who were the most active sponsors over the year of 2012. We also wanted to find out if there were any unexpected linkages or discernible emergent patterns between political parties and legislative behaviors.

Patterns became very clear and clusters emerged naturally in the the visualization. An overview of the visualization (the image still; see: attached PDF), which is colored by political affiliation (blue for democrats, red for republicans (for obvious reasons), yellow-green for independents, and gray for actual pieces of legislation) demonstrates this readily.

House vs Senate split

Interestingly, although the data were not parsed out in a way that shows whether a person was part of the House or Senate, a natural axis emerged between the nodes representing members of the House of Representatives and the Senate (see Appendix 1). The two communities separate due to the fact that they are not able to co-sponsor bills or legislations across the two bodies, forcing them to naturally gravitate to one another.

Democrat vs Republican

In both the House and the Senate, clear divisions exist between the Republicans (in red) and Democrats (in blue). Note that the blue and the red axis in either body is not perfectly horizontal (see Appendix 2). This could reflect a heavier weight of Republicans on the House side or a greater amount of bi-partisan motions on the House side.

Co-sponsorship and bi-partisan motions

On the outskirts of the House and Senate sides of the visualisations, clear clusters of policies/legislation can be

observed. These are policies put in action by one person, without co-sponsorship. The visualisation allows us to trace back which person was responsible for these motions (see Appendix 3). These 'islands' of policies are more pronounced on the Senate side than the House side.

Network analysis statistics

Average degree:6.382 (range: 1-378)

Average weighted degree: 6.42

Network diameter: 1

Graph density: 0.001

Modularity: 0.508 (11 communities)

Average path length: 1

6. RESULTS

6.1 Bills & Legislators

The outskirts of the visualization on either side represented events where the bill was only sponsored by one legislator. There was an abundance of single-sponsored bills on the outskirts, most of which were proposals to suspend the duty or tariff on some chemical compound, presumably involved in the production or processing of some raw material. This was common to either party. Centrality for bills indicated at increased participation. As we grow closer towards the center, we start seeing more high-profile legislations, though this wasn't always the case. The vertical properties of the bill also indicated at whether there were more or less democrats and/or republicans sponsoring the bill. Though it must be said that co-sponsored bills across party lines were not very common.

These uncommon legislations were generally along that natural barrier between blue and red in the visualization, and were usually not sponsored by very many. Centrality for bipartisan bills was due more to the weight of the involved party member's other sponsorship actions, rather than degree of sponsorship to the actual bill. For instance, H.Res 719 (Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement with Tunisia) had one democrat and one republican sponsoring it, and it is positioned to the midpoint, on the left side, also midpoint. Another example of single co-sponsorship along party lines (one democrat, one republican) was HR 5913 (DHS Accountability Act), but it is positioned far more to the center.

It would appear that the senate is more divided, but recent history tells us patently that this isn't the case, which is a certain limit of design. The lesser the interactions, the more isolated single bills appear to be; hence we see a larger visual spread in the Senate than when we do in the House.

On other patterns that emerged through the visualization, there were many co-sponsored bills though they weren't necessarily bipartisan, if at all. Co-sponsored bills were, generally speaking, either highly political (such as the Due Process and Military Detention Amendment Act, which is very "blue"), or utterly benign. To illustrate, a few (rather humorous) legislations that came up:

- SENATE RESOLUTION 332--CONGRATULATING THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2013 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION TITLE
- Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2012

One very partisan example was the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Education and Outreach Campaign Repeal Act of 2012," which sought to de-authorize the campaign to educate people on Obamacare. It was very "red," as was to be expected.

6.2 Bi-Partisan Bills & Legislators

Confirming our initial review, the most bipartisan bills (those that saw the largest participation across party lines), were:

- Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act
- Recognition of Jack Nicklaus' for his golfing
- Preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear abilities
- US-Israel enhanced security cooperation
- And the commemorative coin act

7. CONCLUSION

The strongest elements of our visualization are its visual impact of the political clustering, its ability to illustrate the natural divisions and patterns in legislation, and the sheer scope of what goes on in policymaking on a national level.

This helps us answer our initial research question of the partisan nature of policy making because it allows us to see what kinds of legislations are reaching across party lines (not very many). It also gives us a visual look at the natural barriers between red and blue: we're not seeing very much crossover or bleedthrough. To look at it is very striking. There really is not much negotiating happening in Capitol Hill beyond political party affiliation.

This links our initial research question, and makes a logical explanation of the visual solutions because we're frankly not seeing very much bipartisan participation in policymaking.

While the visual analysis was generally useful for looking at wholescale policymaking trends across party lines, finer nuances and trends were lost, mostly due to the sheer scale of the dataset. Something we would have liked to have done was a hive plot visualization to allow for a better glance at the relationships between politicians through a weighted co-occurrence matrix. But due to time constraints, we were unfortunately unable to carry out a successful hive plot.

The web interactive is actually a bit too cumbersome—the Gephi file is, simply put, too large for practical purposes—in its current state to readily illustrate the pathways that would ordinarily be immediately available for viewing. This is something that can be simply addressed with further work.

If one looks the actual number of Democrats compared to Republicans in the 2012 congressional composition, there is a majority of Democrats. However, looking at the visualisation gives the opposite impression. This could be because Republicans are more active in response to the majority Democrats in the Senate and being that Obama occupies the White House. Another explanation could be that the Republicans were more active in repealing certain key pieces of Democrat legislation, which would result in more co-sponsorship across Republican lines.

For further research, we would also suggest taking a leaf from Robert Hanneman's Introduction to Social Network Methods[1]. Hanneman uses network structure to illustrate agency actors within neighborhoods, which is consistent with our question of relationship between legislators and political affiliation. Further, Hanneman characterized each agency actors' gender using a binary. To translate that method to our research question, our binary characteristic is the legislators' political affiliation. Since we also had data information of the legislators' gender, we were also curious to include another dimension of characteristics to the network visualization. We hypothesized that some policies, such as childcare would attract more female legislators' attention while military decisions may involve more male legislators. Hanneman used colors and shapes to convey information about the type of agency actors. We found this visualization method consistent to what we envisioned.

Another type of network visualization that we considered was the Hierarchical Edge Bundling presented by Danny Holten in Hierarchical Edge Bundling: Visualization of Adjacency Relations in Hierarchical Data[2]. With the many layers of information we wanted to present: policy description, and legislators' origin state, party affiliation, and gender, we considered presenting in the below structure[3] where for the policy descriptions would be listed in the most outer band, the second level inner band would split into all of the states that were represented by legislator, and the third level inner band would split in two for gender.

[1] Robert Hanneman and Mark Riddle, "Introduction to Social Network Methods," Riverside California, University of California, Riverside, 2005.

[2] Danny Holten, "Hierarchical Edge Bundling: Visualization of Adjacency Relations in Hierarchical Data," IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, Vol.12, No.5, September/October 2006.

[3] Danny Holten, "Hierarchical Edge Bundling: Visualization of Adjacency Relations in Hierarchical Data," IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, Vol.12, No.5, September/October 2006.

8. REFERENCES

[1] Agrawala, Maneesh, Wilmot Li, and Floraine Berthouzoz. "Design Principles for Visual Communication." Communications of the ACM 54, 4 (April 2011): 60–69.

[2] Lee, Gary and Anirudh Venkatesh. "Visualizing Word Distribution Within the KJV Bible." Stanford, last accessed 28 April 2014: http://stanford.edu/~garylee/bibly.

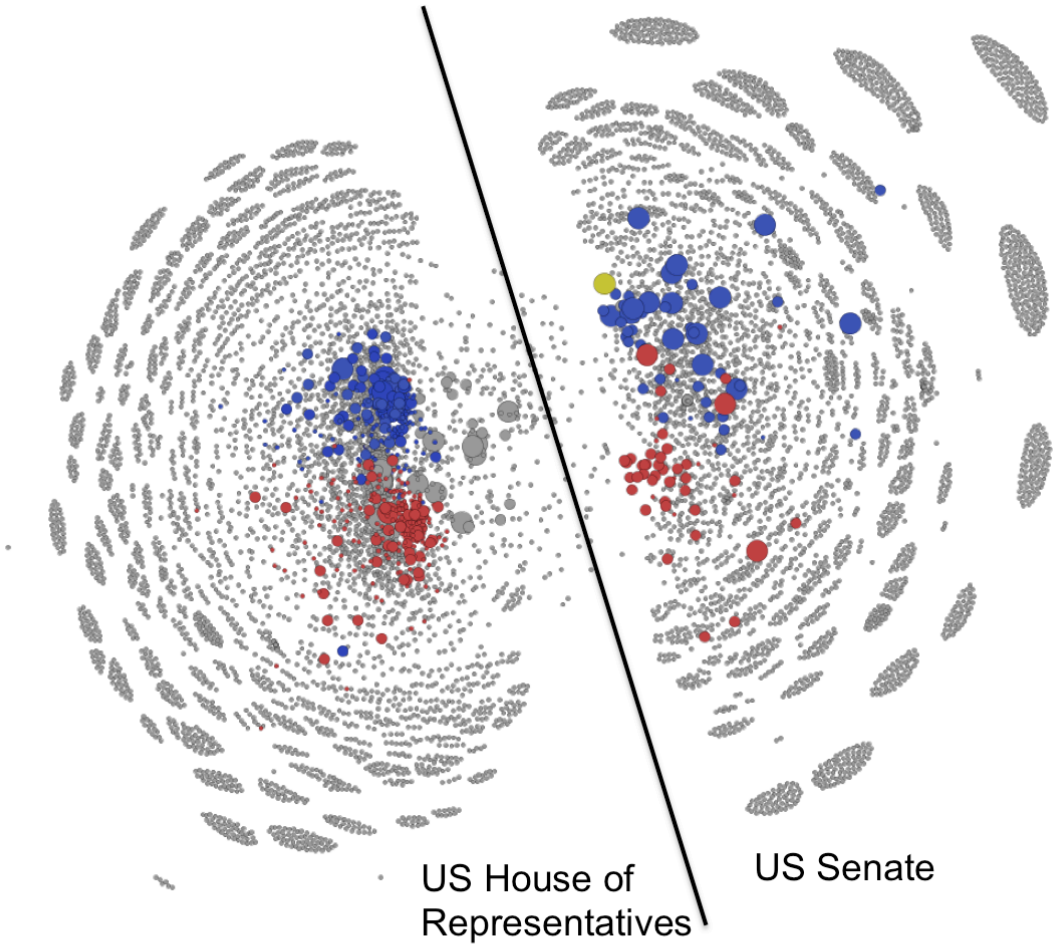
[3] Segel, Edward, and Jeffrey Heer. "Narrative Visualization: Telling Stories with Data." Stanford University, 24 October 2010.

[4] Sun, Lingling, and Julita Vassileva. "Social Visualization Encouraging Participation in Online Communities." Computer Science Department, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, 2006.

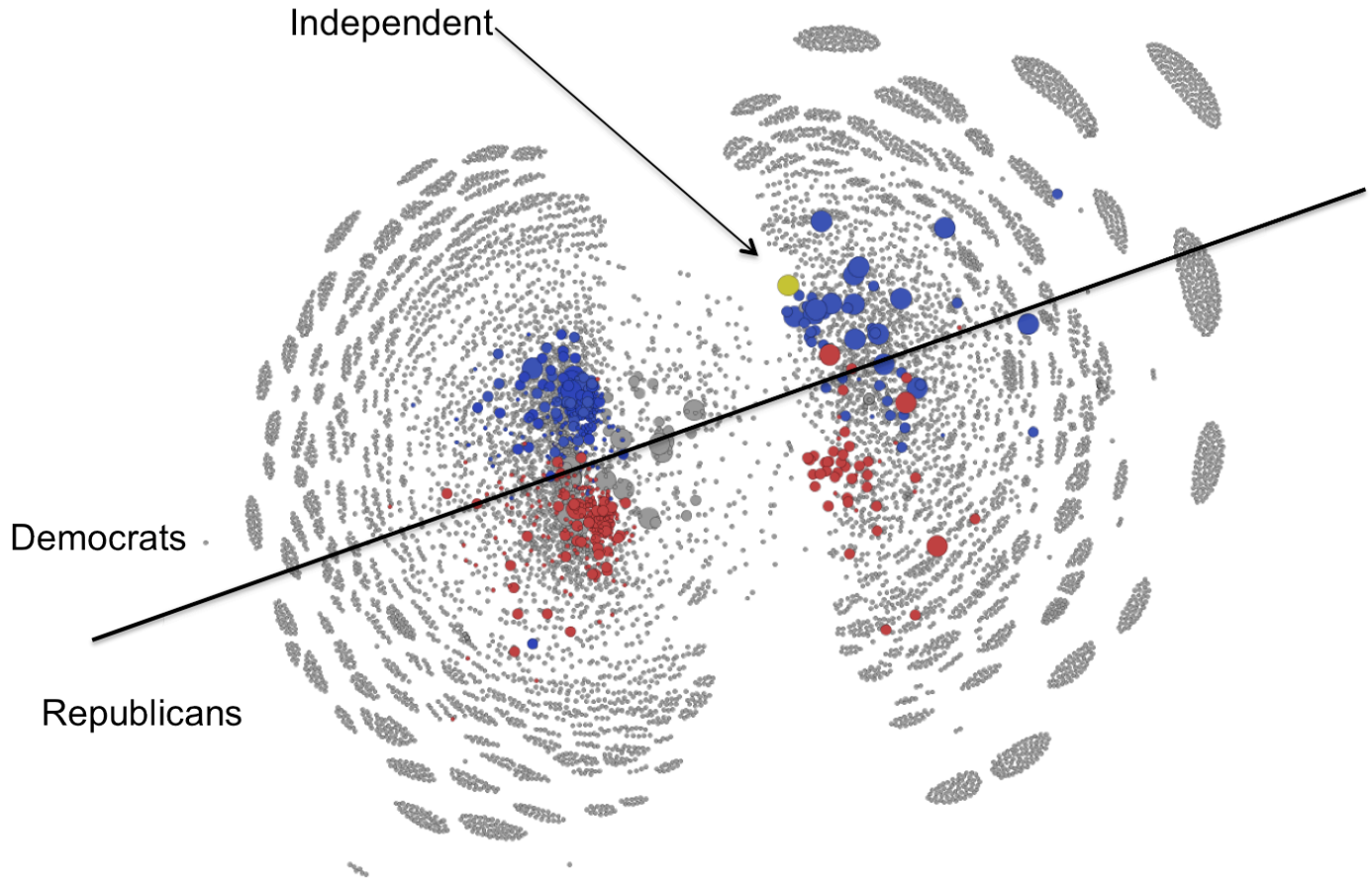
[5] Wickham, Hadley. "Graphical criticism: some historical notes." Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics 22, 1 (2013): 38–44.

9. APPENDIX (see over)

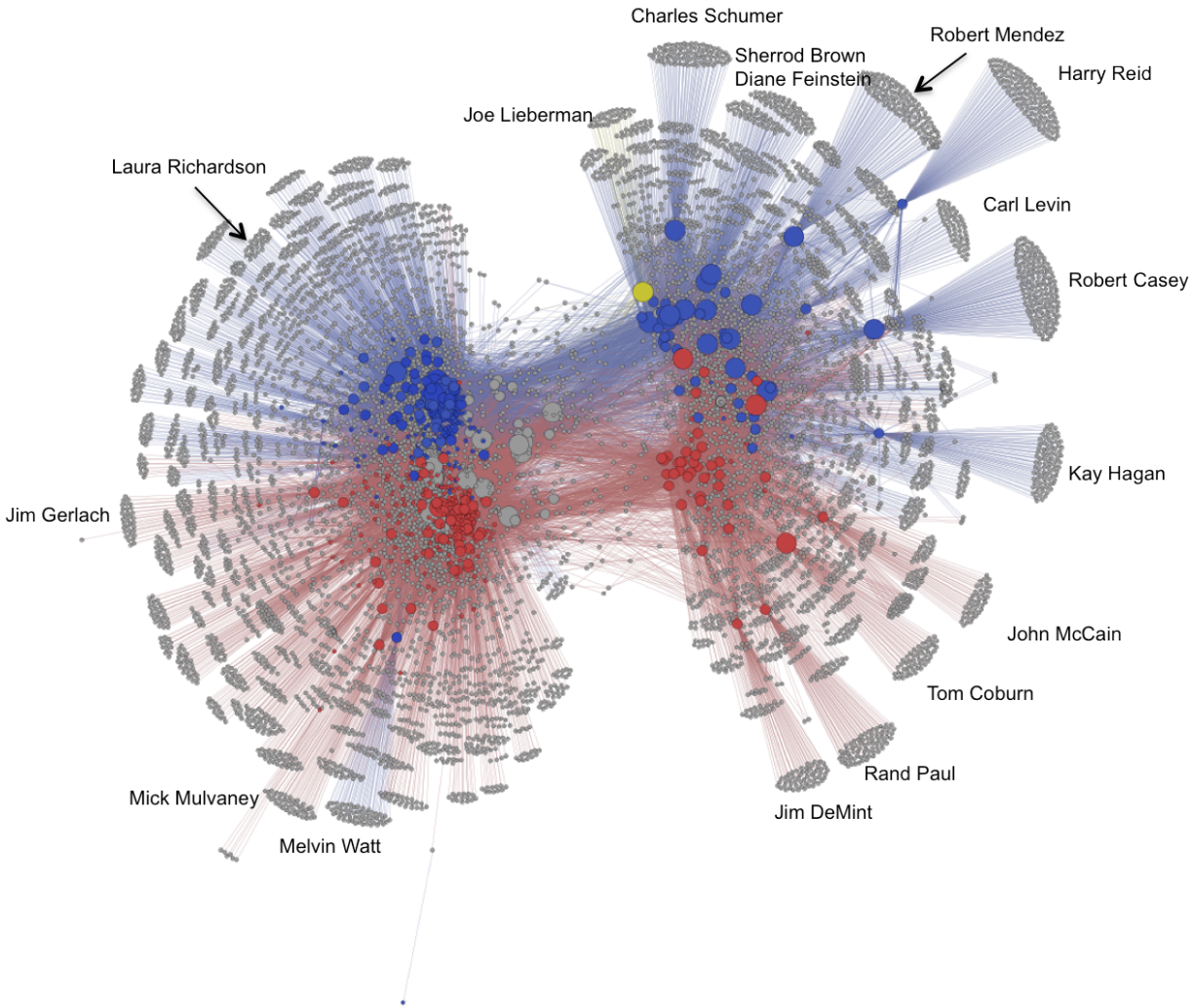
Appendix 1: House/Senate split



Appendix 2: Democrat/Republican split



Appendix 3: Influential members with significant single-sponsored bill activity



Appendix 4. Most Influential Democrats, Independents and Republicans

Id	Label	Out-Degree	Degree	Weighted Degree	Weighted Out-Degree	Hub	Modularity Class	Strongly-Connected ID
Democrats								
8251	Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. - (D -PA)	327	327	328	328	0.001821494	5	8308
8513	Sen. Begich, Mark - (D -AK)	290	290	293	293	0.001821494	5	8359
8209	Rep. Rangel, Charles B. - (D - NY)	289	289	291	291	0.001821494	9	8212
8250	Sen. Blumenthal, Richard - (D -CT)	282	282	286	286	0.001821494	5	8262
8632	Sen. Menendez, Robert - (D - NJ)	280	280	283	283	0.001821494	5	8241
8631	Sen. Brown, Sherrod - (D -OH)	277	277	279	279	0.001821494	5	8303
8249	Sen. Schumer, Charles E. - (D - NY)	263	263	268	268	0.001821494	5	8271
8297	Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes - (D - DC)	240	240	240	240	0.001821494	9	8159
8225	(Fmr.) Rep. Richardson, Laura - (D - CA)	233	233	234	234	0.001821494	9	8215
8586	Sen. Klobuchar, Amy - (D -MN)	230	230	231	231	0.001821494	5	8302
Independents								
8525	(Fmr.) Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. - (I - CT)	221	221	223	223	0.001821494	5	8243
8580	Sen. Sanders, Bernard - (I - VT)	189	189	193	193	0.001821494	5	8331
Republicans								
8619	Sen. Coburn, Tom - (R -OK)	224	224	225	225	0.001821494	5	8594
8284	Rep. Jones, Walter B. - (R - NC)	210	210	217	217	0.001821494	4	8490
8671	Sen. Collins, Susan M. - (R -ME)	214	214	214	214	0.001821494	5	8569
8664	Sen. Murkowski, Lisa - (R - AK)	207	207	209	209	0.001821494	5	8660
8519	Sen. McCain, John - (R -AZ)	197	197	198	198	0.001821494	5	8456
8515	(Fmr.) Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. - (R - ME)	197	197	197	197	0.001821494	5	8529
8603	Sen. Rubio, Marco - (R -FL)	184	184	186	186	0.001821494	5	8585
8597	(Fmr.) Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey - (R -TX)	173	173	174	174	0.001821494	5	8581
8670	(Fmr.) Sen. Brown, Scott - (R -MA)	173	173	174	174	0.001821494	5	8662
8511	Sen. Inhofe, James M. - (R - OK)	171	171	173	173	0.001821494	5	8551

Most important policies/legislations of 2012

Id	Label	In-Degree	Degree	Weighted Degree	Weighted In-Degree	Authority	Modularity Class	PageRank	Strongly-Connected ID	Eigenvector Centrality
3705	United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012	378	378	378	378	0.005953784	4	5.17E-04	3704	1
189	National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act	369	369	369	369	0.005812401	4	5.12E-04	188	0.976190476
6084	Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act	365	365	365	365	0.005749564	9	4.73E-04	6083	0.965608466
6435	Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012	365	365	365	365	0.005749564	4	5.39E-04	6434	0.965608466
1773	To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf.	342	342	342	342	0.005388252	9	5.05E-04	1772	0.904761905
4261	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.	332	332	332	332	0.005231161	4	5.00E-04	4260	0.878306878
6693	Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012	320	320	320	320	0.00504265	9	4.64E-04	6692	0.846560847
3811	Pro Football Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act	309	309	309	309	0.004869849	4	4.64E-04	3810	0.817460317
5845	Lena Horne Recognition Act	309	309	309	309	0.004869849	9	5.24E-04	5844	0.817460317
7854	March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act of 2012	306	306	306	306	0.004822722	4	4.54E-04	7853	0.80952381
1670	United States Marshals Service 225th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act	302	302	302	302	0.004759885	4	4.61E-04	1669	0.798941799
6016	Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act	302	302	302	302	0.004759885	9	4.45E-04	6015	0.798941799
7682	Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act	299	299	299	299	0.004712758	4	4.58E-04	7681	0.791005291
266	Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act	287	287	287	287	0.004524247	9	4.27E-04	265	0.759259259
1187	District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act	253	253	253	253	0.003990135	4	4.03E-04	1186	0.669312169
4917	Health Care Cost Reduction Act of 2012	241	241	241	241	0.003801624	4	4.93E-04	4916	0.637566138
1243	Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011	235	235	235	235	0.003707369	4	3.87E-04	1242	0.621693122
7237	Access to Professional Health Insurance Advisors Act of 2011	222	222	222	222	0.00350315	4	3.75E-04	7236	0.587301587