

# The Congressional Data Task Force

Public Meeting

Tuesday December 9, 2025

# Welcome

**Kirsten Gullickson**

Office of the Clerk  
U.S. House of Representatives

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For more information:  
[USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/](https://USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/)

# The Congressional Data Task Force

The Task Force is a partnership of representatives from various Legislative Branch Agencies including the—

- House of Representatives,
- Senate,
- Library of Congress,
- Government Publishing Office,
- Government Accounting Office

that work in a cooperative manner to coordinate and accomplish openness and transparency goals.

# The Congressional Data Task Force

- The Bulk Data Task Force\* was created in 2012 to focus on increased dissemination of congressional information via bulk data
- *current work goes beyond bulk data*
- ❑ meets internally with Legislative Branch organizations to coordinate projects and other transparency and modernization initiatives
- ❑ meets with civil society organizations

*\*The name changed to the Congressional Data Task Force on June 21, 2022*

# The Congressional Data Task Force

## **Cross-organizational efforts and working groups** *(ad-hoc, formal, and informal)*

- Legislative Branch XML Technical Working Group
- Congressional Video Preservation and Access Technical Working Group
- Legislative Branch Data Interchange Working Group
- Working Group on a Legislative Branch-wide Online Staff Directory
- Working Group on Digitization Of Congressional Documents

# Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Background
2. Reports from CDTF Working Groups and Legislative Branch organizations
3. Report(s) from academics, advocacy groups and/or civil society organizations
4. Announcements/Closing

*Meeting ends at 4:00 pm EST*

*Q&A will be held throughout the meeting*

# Housekeeping Items



*The meeting will be recorded and posted online at <https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>*



*Use the Q&A feature to ask questions. The panelists will respond during the meeting.*



*Use the “raise hand” feature during the Q&A portion so we can unmute your mic.*



*Make sure the name displayed is you. Using the chat, please share a little about yourself. Suggestions: your name, where you work, and expectations for this meeting.*



*Meeting will start at ~2:02 pm and end at 4:00 pm EST*

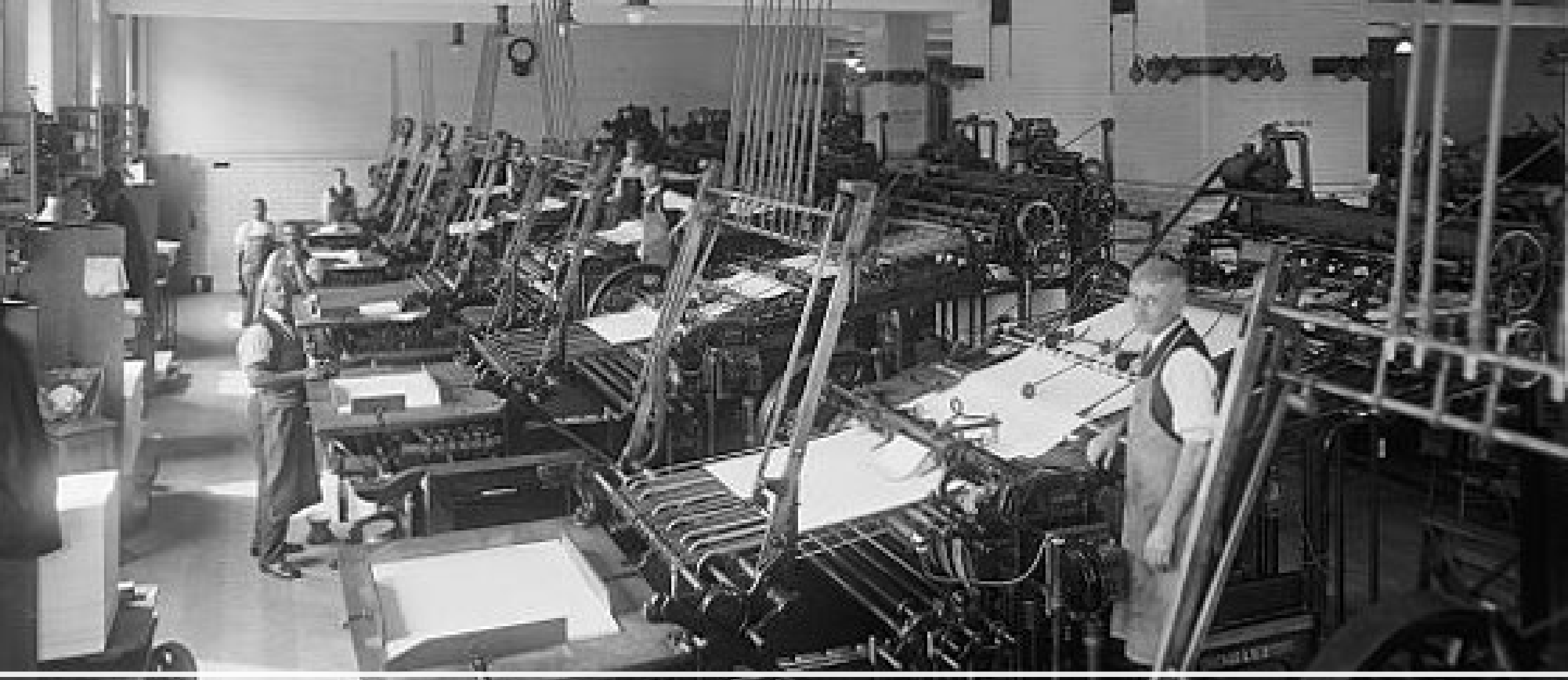


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**PREPARE**



**MANAGE**





**DISTRIBUTE**



**ARCHIVE/PRESERVE**

CONSTITUTION  
JEFFERSON'S MANUAL  
AND  
RULES OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE UNITED STATES  
SEVENTY-SECOND CONGRESS

By  
LEWIS DESCHLER  
PARLIAMENTARIAN



**Bound by Rules, Traditions, and Practices**

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1931

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. R. 3712

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

### A BILL

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. JAMES M. & THOMAS W.L. ASHLEY CUSTOMS  
BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURT-  
HOUSE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the “James M. & Thomas

2

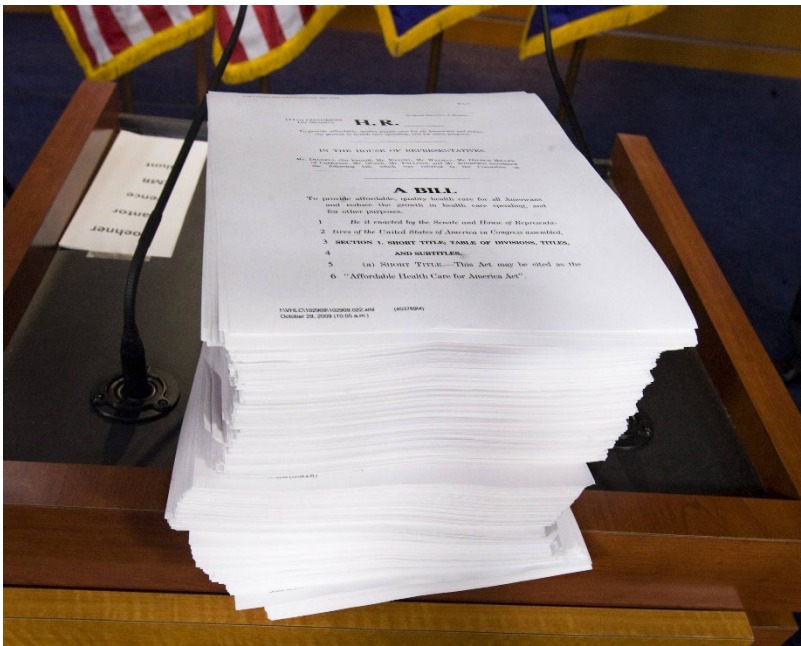
W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

○

The paper  
version is the  
official document  
of record.





Adding a digital layer to a centuries-old paper process

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88TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7152

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1964

Ordered printed as passed the House

## AN ACT

To enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That this Act may be cited as "The Civil Rights Act of

**Online means more  
than just the  
electronic  
representation of  
the paper document**

# The Solution

## Structured Data

Formats: XML, JSON, HTML...

*GPO Developer Hub at [GovInfo.gov/developers](http://GovInfo.gov/developers)*

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The three characteristics that documents share:

- **Presentation:** how the content looks
- **Structure:** how the content is organized
- **Semantics:** what does it mean



*Roadmap for Publishing Legislative Documents in USLM XML Format<sup>1</sup>*

Completed	U.S. Code
Completed	Enrolled bills, public laws, and the Statutes at Large
Completed	HOLC/SOLC statute compilations
Completed	Remaining bill/resolution versions (Introduced, reported, engrossed, all amendments, et. al.)
Initial Deliverables Completed	Committee Reports (legislative and conference)
D	House portions of the <i>Congressional Record</i> , including the <i>Daily Digest</i>
E	Hearing Records
F	House Calendar
G	<i>Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
H	<i>House Journal</i>

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about this roadmap, please see page four of the initial report at <https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/resources/reports/Clerk-Initial-Standardized-Formats.pdf>.

# The Solution: XML USLM schema

## Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

[About the Hub](#)[Leadership Support](#)[Data Standardization](#)[Reports](#)[Events](#)[Resources](#)

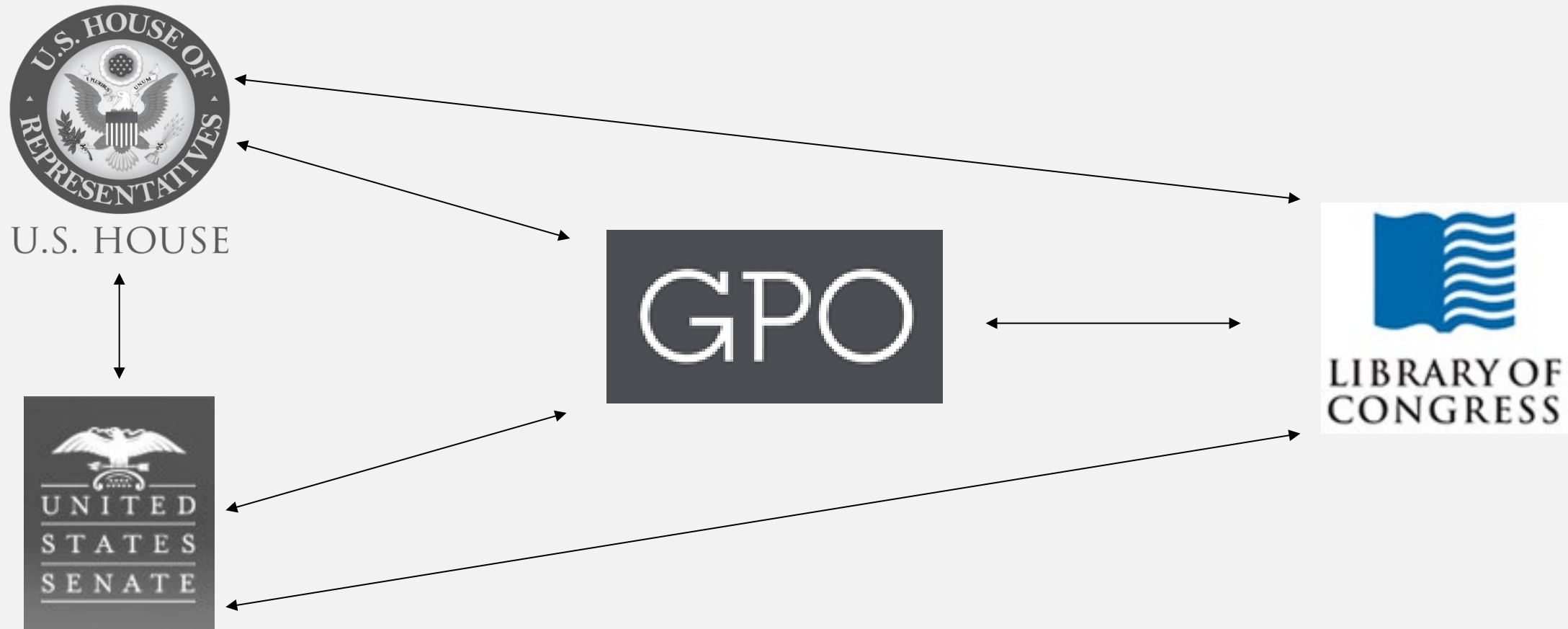
### Reports

#### Standardized Formats for Legislative Documents, USLM

- **Initial Report** - Required by Section 501 of House Resolution 756 of the 116th Congress - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 1 - October 15, 2020 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 2 - January 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 3 - April 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 4 - July 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 5 - October 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 6 - January 15, 2022 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 7 - April 15, 2022 - [PDF](#)

[//usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports/](https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports/)

# Basic Data Exchange



More comprehensive workflows can be found on the Innovation Hub:  
<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/resources/>

APIs for LoC.gov

JSON/YAML for LoC.gov

Sitemaps

Microservices

Additional APIs and Data Services

**Congress.gov API**

NLS BARD API

Chronicling America API

PPOC - JSON HTTP API

Linked Data Service

Search/Retrieval via URL

## Congress.gov API

The Congress.gov Application Programming Interface (API) provides a method for Congress and the public to view, retrieve, and re-use machine-readable data from collections available on Congress.gov.

The Congress.gov Application Programming Interface (API) - [https://api.data.gov/congress/v3?api\\_key=](https://api.data.gov/congress/v3?api_key=) - provides a method for Congress and the public to view, retrieve, and reuse machine-readable data from collections available on Congress.gov. Within the Congress.gov API, responses are returned in XML or JSON formats. Documentation of the Congress.gov API is available at [api.congress.gov](https://api.congress.gov).

An API key is required for access. Sign up for a key on the [Data.gov signup page](#).

The current version of the API is version 3 (v3). Maintained by Congress.gov staff, issues should be reported in the [api.congress.gov GitHub repository](#).

<https://www.loc.gov/apis/additional-apis/congress-dot-gov-api/>

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION DRAFTING STUDY (DEC 2025)

- Developed **AI-based microservices** to:
  - **Retrieve accurate legal references**
  - **Strengthen semantic connections** across legal texts...and more
- European Commission: Directorate-General for Digital Services, Palmirana, M., Corazza, M., Longo, G. and Sapienza, S., Hybrid AI to enhance legal drafting with LEOS – Summary technical report, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2799/1298773>

# Next on the Agenda

Report from

– The Government Publishing Office



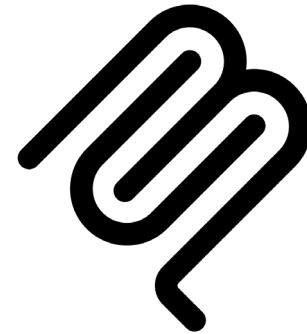
# GOVINFO MCP SERVER

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2025-12-09 | MARK CAUDILL

# WHAT IS MCP?

“MCP (Model Context Protocol) is an open-source standard for connecting AI applications to external systems.”



# GOVINFO

SUPPORTING  
HUMANS, MACHINES,  
AND EVERYTHING IN-  
BETWEEN



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## GOAL OF THIS INITIAL PREVIEW

- Introduce basic capabilities to allow external LLM users to test access and provide feedback
- Initial deployment of search along with package and granule details tools

# EXAMPLE

Please fetch documents on GovInfo related to "ice cream." Provide the results in a table including access IDs, publish dates, a link to the details page, and a short sentence describing the document.



qwen/qwen3-1.7b

 `searchGovInfo({"userQuery":"ice cream","pageSize":"10","sortFiel..` mcp/mcp-govinfo >

Here is a table of documents on GovInfo related to "ice cream":

Title	Access ID	Publish Date	Details Link	Description
Remembering Alan K. Simpson (Executive Session)	CREC-2025-03-14-pt1-PgS1755-2	2025-03-14	<a href="#">Details</a>	The event was a ice cream social at Cody City Park with family, friends, and neighbors.
Hope on the Horizon: Reintroducing Small Business	CHRG-110545-50523	2025-02-05	<a href="#">Details</a>	The ranking member introduced \$10 million

## EXAMPLE

Does GovInfo package description of CREC-2025-03-14 list a ZIP URL?

qwen/qwen3-1.7b

🔗 `describePackageOrGranule({"accessId":"CREC-2025-03-14"}...)`

mcp/mcp-govinfo

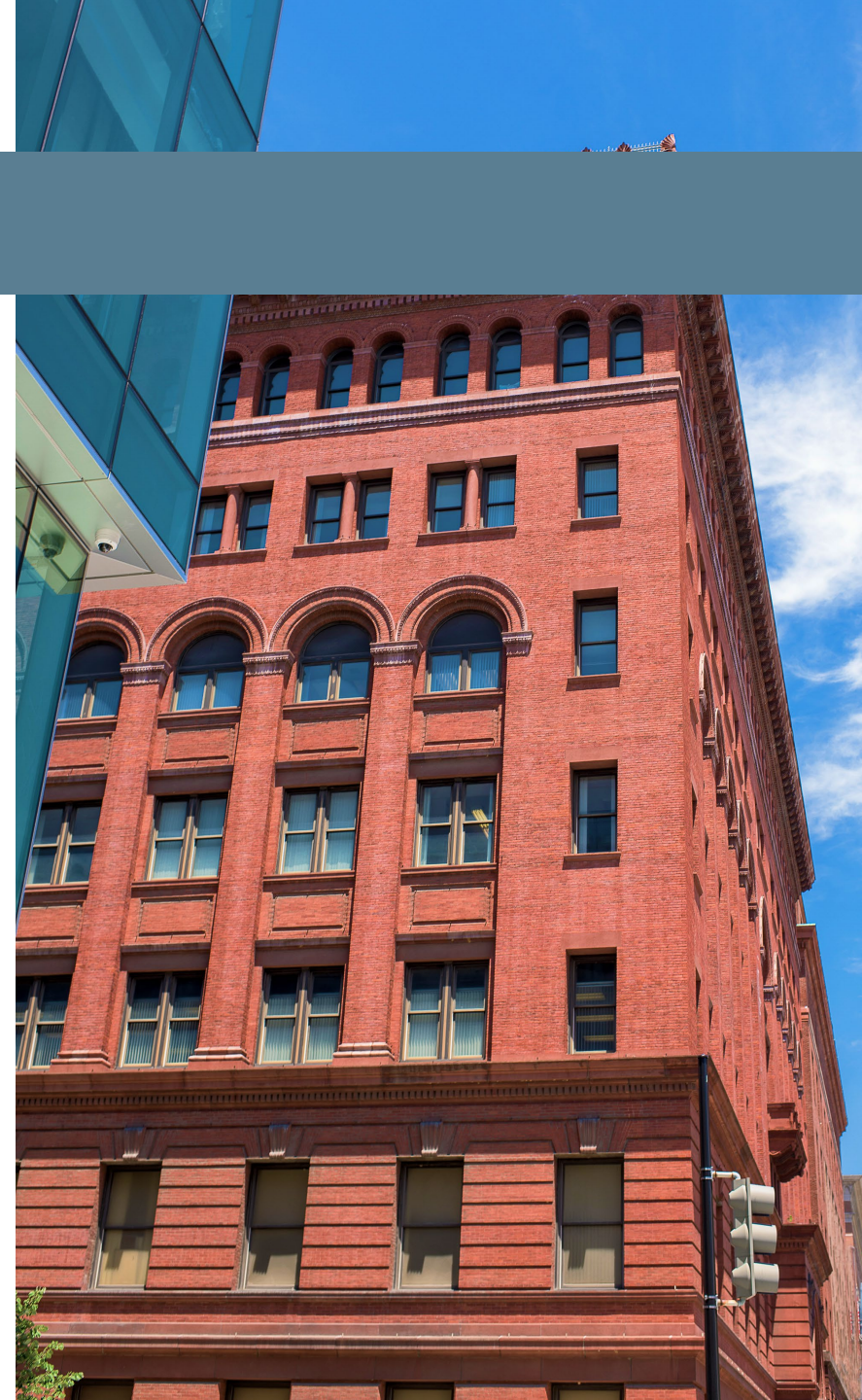
>

Yes, the package description of CREC-2025-03-14 includes a ZIP URL: <https://www.qa.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CREC-2025-03-14.zip>.

# WHAT'S NEXT

In the coming weeks:

- Public documentation in GitHub
- Launch public preview
- Collect public feedback via GitHub



# U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

[WWW.GPO.GOV](http://WWW.GPO.GOV)

[facebook.com/USGPO](https://facebook.com/USGPO) | [twitter.com/USGPO](https://twitter.com/USGPO) | [instagram.com/USGPO](https://instagram.com/USGPO)

GPO



# Q&A/Discussion



*Use the “raise hand” feature so we can unmute your mic.*



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*Make sure the name displayed is you.*

## Next on the Agenda

Reports from the September Hackathon  
**-including work completed on the data maps.**



- The FY25 Leg Branch Appropriations Bill formally tasked CDTF with creating a “**Legislative Branch Data Map**”
  1. We inventoried the existing lists of Leg Branch data sources
  2. We combined and updated them
  3. We shared them publicly at the Hackathon and incorporated more feedback
  4. We've built a prototype to share publicly, including feedback

## Welcome innovators!

The Innovation Hub seeks to highlight Legislative branch activities that use technology to cultivate collaboration, foster data standardization, and increase transparency.

*Innovate. Communicate. Legislate.*

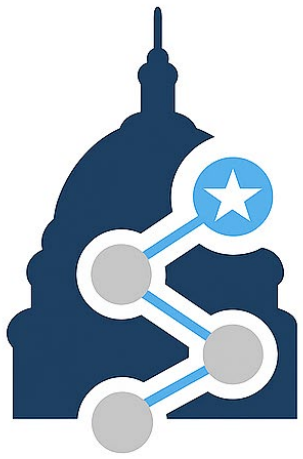
[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events

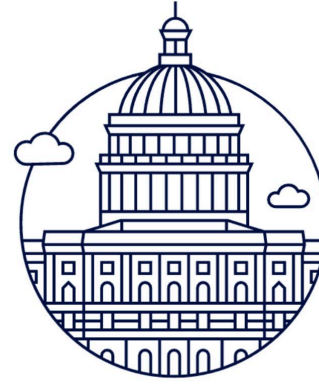
*No upcoming events. Check back soon!*


[View DCAT JSON](#)
[Download CSV](#)
[Submit Feedback](#)

Title	Description	Format	Update Freq...	Publisher	Notes	Tags
▼ Official Legislative Branch (92 items)						
▼ Main Websites (15 items)						
<a href="#">House.gov</a>	House homepage. Best for: Members, legislation, events.	HTML	Daily	House	Maintained by CAO	General Portal
<a href="#">Senate.gov</a>	Senate homepage. Best for: Members, legislation, events.	HTML	Daily	Senate		General Portal
<a href="#">Congress.gov</a>	Bill tracker. Best for: Legislative activity.	XML JSON USLM	Continuous	LOC	Maintained by LOC	Legislation Tracking
<a href="#">House Live Video</a>	Streaming video. Best for: House floor & events.	VIDEO	Continuous	House		Media Video
<a href="#">Clerk.House.gov</a>	House Clerk. Best for: Members, Member photos, votes, floor, disclosures.	HTML	Irregular	Daily	House	Primary House data feeds
<a href="#">LOC.gov</a>	Library of Congress. Best for: Research & collections.	HTML	Daily	LOC	Includes CRS & Law Lib...	General Portal
<a href="#">CRS.gov</a>	CRS portal. Best for: Policy analysis.	PDF	Irregular	CRS	No public access	Research Policy
<a href="#">Law Library of Congress</a>	Law Library of Congress. Best for: Policy analysis.	HTML	Irregular	Law Library	Public access	Research Policy
<a href="#">Copyright Office</a>	U.S. Copyright Office Best for: Copyright policy.	HTML	Irregular	Copyright Office	Public access	Policy
<a href="#">GPO.gov</a>	GPO portal. Best for: Publications & services.	PDF XML	Daily	GPO	Entry to govinfo.gov	General Portal
<a href="#">GovInfo.gov</a>	Primary docs. Best for: Bills, laws, reports.	XML TXT USLM	Daily	GPO	Bulk & API access availa...	Legislation Docs
<a href="#">CBO.gov</a>	CBO portal. Best for: Cost estimates & reports.	PDF XLSX	Irregular	CBO		Legislation Fiscal Analysis
<a href="#">GAO.gov</a>	GAO portal. Best for: Audits & evaluations.	PDF XLSX	Irregular	GAO		Oversight GAO



CONGRESSIONAL  
DATA **TASK FORCE**



CONGRESSIONAL DATA  
**COALITION**  
CONGRESS SHOULD BE LIKE AN OPEN BOOK

- We plan to publicly release in early 2026
- We hope to get regular contributions from users

# Next on the Agenda

Reports from civil society organizations and others

– **Congressional Data Coalition**

- **Daniel Schuman**
- **Chris Nehls**



# Apply Now!

## **'Data Skills for Congress' Professional Certificate**

Looking to increase your data visualization skills and learn how to find and analyze publicly-available data? Apply now for Data Skills for Congress, a FREE online training program designed specifically to meet the needs of congressional staff. Offered by the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley in partnership with USAFacts.

**Learn more: <https://bit.ly/43zvZOS>**



**No prior knowledge or experience in data analysis, data policy, or AI is required!** Anyone working in Congress, member or professional staff, is welcome to apply. Course offers:

- 15 hours of live online classes with networking and Q&A with experts.
- Data training in support of legislation, oversight, and casework.
- Discussion of emerging technologies, including AI tools, and how to incorporate into congressional work.
- Reviewing current US open data policy and identifying policy challenges.

Choose the schedule that works best for you:

- **Option 1 - Spring:** Fridays at 12 pm ET/9 am PT, February 20 - May 1, excluding April 3
- **Option 2 - Summer:** Tuesdays & Thursdays at 12 pm ET/9 am PT, July 28 - August 27

Berkeley  
Public Policy  
The Goldman School







# House caucus membership data, 117th-119th Cong.

Chris Nehls - American Governance Institute

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**Project goal:** Better understand interaction of major ideological/affinity caucuses in the House.

Our new dataset transforms caucus rosters published on websites into structured data, enhanced with bioguide IDs. *Use cases:* how many members on caucuses? How does membership change over time? How are caucuses represented on committees?

## Details:

- Includes 10 caucuses: the “Five Families,” 4 Democratic, Problem Solvers.
- *Based on what caucuses self-publish*, not House data. Includes source URLs.
  - For caucuses that don’t publish rosters, we used Ballotpedia, Wikipedia, media reporting - cross-checked with caucus content like press releases.
- *Data is a snapshot in time*
  - 119th rosters pulled from caucus websites. Used Wayback Machine to access 118th and 117th versions.
    - Member data has vacancies.

# Q&A/Discussion



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*Make sure the name displayed is you.*

# Next on the Agenda

## Reports from

- The House
  - The CAO's Office, House Digital Services
  - The Clerk's office, Legislative Computer Systems
- The Senate
  - The Secretary's Office

# Updates on current project and products

- Comparative Print Suite
- Lobbying Disclosure
- Committee Portal
- Legislative Drafting Study

# Q&A/Discussion



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Report from  
– The Library of Congress

# Congress.gov API Updates

Andrew Reiter

# Congress.gov API Swagger.yaml standardization

The Congress.gov API Swagger.yaml file was modified to allow for better text formatting in the configuration files, a better user experience, and standardizes our API files to match specifications on [editor.swagger.io](https://editor.swagger.io).

**What is a YAML file?** YAML is a human-readable data serialization language that is used for writing configuration files. Depending on whom you ask, YAML stands for “yet another markup language” or “YAML ain't markup language.” YAML is for data, not documents.



## More on the swagger.yaml file

Starting December 22, 2025, Congress.gov API users will be able to see both examples of API requests in XML and JSON format. Previously, we only supported JSON examples on [api.congress.gov](https://api.congress.gov).

# Swagger.yaml improvements

Code	Description	Links
200	<div>Successful operation</div> <div>Media type</div> <div><div>application/json</div><div>application/json</div><div>application/xml</div></div> <div><pre>{   "congress": 119,   "identifier": 1191202517,   "legislationNumber": "30",   "legislationType": "HR",   "legislationUrl": "https://congress.gov/bill/119/house-bill/30",   "result": "Passed",   "rollCallNumber": 17,   "sessionNumber": 1,   "sourceDataURL": "https://clerk.house.gov/evs/2025/roll017.xml",   "startDate": "2025-01-16T11:00:00-05:00",   "updateDate": "2025-04-18T08:44:47-04:00",   "url": "https://api.congress.gov/v3/house-vote/119/1/17",   "voteType": "Yea-and-Nay" }</pre></div>	No links
400	Invalid status value	No links

## Swagger.yaml continued

When users click “try it out” on [api.congress.gov](https://api.congress.gov), they will be prompted to enter parameters for the API call. The example request generated will then use these parameters so users can see examples based on their interests and/or needs. Previously, we generated static examples that did not depend on user parameters.

# New Endpoints – Coming December 22, 2025

Users will be able to filter committee data by congress:

- `/committee/{congress}/{chamber}/{committeeCode}`
- `/committee/{congress}/{chamber}/{committeeCode}/bills`
- `/committee/{congress}/{chamber}/{committeeCode}/reports`
- `/committee/{congress}/{chamber}/{committeeCode}/nominations`

# Q&A/Discussion



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*Make sure the name displayed is you.*

# AGENDA

- **Announcements**
- **Closing**

# Future Events

**Congressional Data Task Force meetings**

***2026 dates will be released later – most likely January.***



# Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>

# Employment Opportunities

## usajobs.gov

- House: <https://www.house.gov/employment/positions-with-other-house-organizations>
- Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/visiting/employment.htm>
- GPO: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/?a=LP00>
- LOC: <https://loc.gov/careers/>

# Thank you

**Kirsten Gullickson**

Office of the Clerk  
U.S. House of Representatives

[Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov)

For more information:  
[USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/](https://USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/)



# Thank you for attending!

Congressional Data Task Force – Public Meeting