playing with votes

BUILDING THE POST'S CONGRESSIONAL VOTES DB

The Motivation

The CQ Influence

Data availability

Programming ability

The Tools

Python

PostgreSQL

Apache

Django

Play Time, Part I

THE U.S. CONGRESS
Votes Database

110th Congress / Senate / Members who missed votes

MISSED VOTES BY PARTY

5.8% Democratic (49 members)	4.4% Republican (51 members)	2.1% Independent (2 members)	5.0% All Members (102 members)

MISSED VOTES BY MEMBER

68.5%

Sen. **Tim Johnson** (D-SD)

Representing: South Dakota
Votes: 311 votes missed (68.5 percent of 454 total votes)
Note: Johnson suffered a brain hemorrhage on Dec. 13, 2006, and has not returned to the Senate.

56.6%

Sen. **John McCain** (R-AZ)

Representing: Arizona
Votes: 257 votes missed (56.6 percent of 454 total votes)

38.5%

Sen. **Joseph Biden** (D-DE)

Representing: Delaware
Votes: 175 votes missed (38.5 percent of 454 total votes)

Play Time, Part II

THE U.S. CONGRESS
Votes Database

110th Congress / Senate / Members voting with their parties

These scores represent the percentage of votes on which a lawmaker agrees with the position taken by a majority of his or her party members. The scores do not include missed votes. All lawmakers who served during this congress are included.

PARTY VOTING AVERAGES

87.6% Democratic (49 members)	81.0% Republican (51 members)	88.4% Independent (2 members)	84.4% All Members (102 members)

PARTY VOTING BY MEMBER

100%

Sen. **Roger Wicker** (R-MS)
Representing: Mississippi
Voted with Republican Party: 100 percent of 10 votes.

97.8%

Sen. **Dick Durbin** (D-IL)
Representing: Illinois
Voted with Democratic Party: 97.8 percent of 449 votes.

97.3%

Sen. **Patty Murray** (D-WA)
Representing: Washington
Voted with Democratic Party: 97.3 percent of 449 votes.

Play Time, Part III

Votes Database

Journal approval votes

Members of the House have the right to ask for a vote on the Speaker's approval of the House Journal, an official log of activities that is separate from the Congressional Record. Journal approval votes often are used to force lawmakers to come to the House floor, where leadership can check for absentees, or as a delaying tactic. The failure of a Journal approval vote is extremely rare, although a number of lawmakers from the minority party often vote against the Journal's approval.

Date	Congress	Result	Voting Yes	Voting No
11/14/07	110th Congress	Passed	221	181
11/9/07	110th Congress	Passed	221	175
11/1/07	110th Congress	Passed	227	187
10/31/07	110th Congress	Passed	222	190
10/18/07	110th Congress	Passed	219	187
9/19/07	110th Congress	Passed	228	192
9/18/07	110th Congress	Passed	217	183
9/6/07	110th Congress	Passed	214	176
8/4/07	110th Congress	Passed	205	187
8/3/07	110th Congress	Passed	216	199
8/2/07	110th Congress	Passed	232	186
8/1/07	110th Congress	Passed	214	189
7/31/07	110th Congress	Passed	214	210