

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Types of Committees

There are four major types of congressional committees:

1. **Standing committees:** The most common type of committee, standing committees deal with issues of permanent legislative concern. Standing committees also handle the vast majority of legislation. Most standing committees have subcommittees covering more specific areas of an issue.
2. **Joint committees:** Joint committees consist of members of both houses, usually created to deal with a specific issue
3. **Conference committees:** A very common kind of joint committee with members from both the House and the Senate. For a bill to become law, both houses must approve identical versions. When different versions are passed, the leaders create a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the two bills. Conference committees issue a single bill for both houses to vote on.
4. **Select committees:** Select committees are created for a limited period and for a specific purpose.

EXAMPLES OF CONGRESSIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES

House	Senate
Agriculture Appropriations Armed Services Budget Education Rules Veterans' Affairs Ways and Means	Agriculture Armed Services Banking Budget Commerce Foreign Relations Judiciary Rules

How are Committees set up and organized?

Party leaders determine which members serve on each committee. The majority party always has a majority of members on each committee. The majority party names the chair of each committee based mostly on seniority, power, and loyalty.