**Congress Activity**

**Go to :** [**http://www.govtrack.us/**](http://www.govtrack.us/) **and click on “members of Congress”- Find your respective members of congress (either current or in a state / area you used to live in). Pick a senator to research and a representative to research. We will use this information to determine how the member of Congress is “qualified” to help us and what type of laws they may or may not support.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Illinois** | **Senator** | **Representative** |
| **Name** |  |  |
| **Political Party** |  |  |
| **Age** |  |  |
| **Years of Service (total #)** |  |  |
| **Two Committees (Membership)** |  |  |
| **Two Bill Sponsorships (what the bill wanted or involved)** |  |  |
| **Voting Record (% of Missed Votes)** |  |  |
| **Click the “open secrets” link directly below the name of the Congressman / woman** | **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX** | **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX** |
| **Top Three Contributors** |  |  |
| **Top Three Industries** |  |  |
| **Amount of money raised** |  |  |

**Compare / Contrast Representative and Senator Activity**

1. When looking at service who seems to be more qualified for their job? You should search other jobs that your respective person had (other than just their congressional experience). Take into account their experience both in and out of Congress.
2. Who has a better history on missed votes? (ex-who missed a lower percentage)?
3. Which person voted more on the “winning” side when looking at their most recent votes in Congress? You have to look at the vote count total.
4. Who has more committee memberships? Why would this be important for you to know?
5. Which candidate raised more money for their election?
6. How does the money they took for campaigning affect their votes and / or affect their states?
7. Search the contributors they took money from in their campaign. Do these groups value the “common person” / middle class voter? Why or why not?
8. Which industries would worry you when looking at where a candidate took money from? Search each of the ones you have not heard of.
9. Who sponsored more bills? Do any of these bills have a chance of passing (or did they)?
10. What criteria is most important to you when choosing a Congressman / woman? Why?