C-SPAN 2017 End-of-Year Congressional Statistics

(December 28, 2017) – C-SPAN, the political network of record, today released its End of the Year Congressional Statistics for 2017 and the first session of the 115th Congress.

Every end-of-year, C-SPAN compiles statistics for the just-concluded congressional session, via the C-SPAN Congressional Chronicle website - https://www.c-span.org/congress/. The video-rich site, provides Congressional reporting tools and information like video, text searching, floor action, hearings/briefings, and other congressional video resources.

C-SPAN End of the Year Congressional Statistics

- Only 97 measures were enacted into public law, a lower number than the 115 passed two years ago.
- The first year of a new president’s term is a major period for nominations consideration by the Senate. President Trump has submitted fewer nominations and also had fewer approved than previous first term presidents. Trump has had 58% of his nominees confirmed (Bush 1989: 84%; Clinton 1993: 67%; Bush 2001, 76%; Obama 2009, 69%)
- The number of hours that the House and Senate were in session continues to decline.
- The House was in session more days, but similar number of hours as two years ago.
- The number of roll call votes is very similar to two years ago, but down from years back.
- The Senate was in about the same number of hours as two years ago. The number of days increased reflecting the number of pro forma sessions.
- The number of Senate roll call votes remained about the same as two years ago.
- Other than nominations, the workload numbers are similar to previous several years, but much lower than ten years ago.
Additional data available via the C-SPAN Congressional Chronicle includes, who speaks the most/least in Congress. The Top Five Congressional Speechmakers in 2017, based on the number of days each gave floor remarks this year, were:

2. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX): 115 days
3. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX): 100 days
4. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL): 81 days
5. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH): 74 days

Analysis of the 2017 data was spear-headed by Dr. Robert Browning, Executive Director of the C-SPAN Archives. Dr. Browning is also a professor of Political Science and Communication at Purdue University.

About C-SPAN: Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three commercial-free public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington D.C., at 90.1 FM and available as an App; and C-SPAN.org, a video-rich website offering live coverage of government events and access to the vast archive of C-SPAN programming.

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