

The book was found

Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition



Synopsis

In this second edition to a book that has now achieved canonical status, David R. Mayhew argues that the principal motivation of legislators is reelection and that the pursuit of this goal affects the way they behave and the way that they make public policy. In a new foreword for this edition, R. Douglas Arnold discusses why the book revolutionized the study of Congress and how it has stood the test of time. The book also contains a new preface by the author.

Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 2 edition (November 10, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300105878

ISBN-13: 978-0300105872

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #149,932 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Legislative Branch #223 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections #278 in Â Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Government

Customer Reviews

Forget everything you learned in High School civics. David Mayhew utterly demolishes the idea that legislators are engaged in some high-minded pursuit of the "public interest," partisan ideological struggle, or that policies are adopted based on facts or reason. The Ur message of this thoroughly convincing but highly readable tome is that politicians, like the rest of us, pursue their own self interest. That interest is entirely dictated by the determination to get reelected at all costs. Positions are taken, votes are cast, and gestures are made with that first and foremost in mind. What does that mean? It means that well organized groups of voters (the much maligned but rarely understood "special interest groups") dictate policy. Our founding fathers called these groups "factions" and believed that they were the biggest threat to self government. They were right. Organized groups of politically active voters call the shots, and their agendas rarely comport with the public interest. Mayhew simply calls it as he sees it. He draws no conclusions, but they should be self evident to the reader. To understand democratic government, one must understand politics. And to

understand politics, one simply must read Mayhew. The book is also relevant beyond the realm of theory. Mayhew casts serious doubt upon the conventional belief that campaign finance reform, term limits, or a host of other proposed reforms will control the power of these factions. I've working in the public policy world in Washington for over a decade, and everything Mayhew argues comports well with my experience in dealing with elected officials and their staff members.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition Testifying Before Congress: A Practical Guide to Preparing and Delivering Testimony Before Congress and Congressional Hearings for Agencies, Assoc Theta Clear Congress (Congress Lectures) London Congress on Nuclear Radiation, Control and Health (Congress Lectures) Clearing Congress (Congress Lectures) Irritable Bowel Syndrome & the Mind-Body Brain-Gut Connection: 8 Steps for Living a Healthy Life with a Functiona (Mind-Body Connection) Irritable Bowel Syndrome & the MindBodySpirit Connection: 7 Steps for Living a Healthy Life with a Functional Bowel Disorder, Crohn's Disease, or Colitis (Mind-Body-Spirit Connection Series.) La democracia cristiana en AmÃ©rica Latina. Conflictos y competencia electoral (Seccion de Obras de Politica y Derecho) (Spanish Edition) ConstituciÃ³n PolÃtica de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos: Actualizada con las Ãltimas reformas en materia PolÃtico - Electoral, Transparencia, EnergÃa, Telecomunicaciones y Educativa (Spanish Edition) The Lavender Vote: Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals in American Electoral Politics Race, Reform, and Regulation of the Electoral Process: Recurring Puzzles in American Democracy (Cambridge Studies in Election Law and Democracy) The Electoral College: How It Works in Contemporary Presidential Elections Learning Democracy: Citizen Engagement and Electoral Choice in Nicaragua, 1990-2001 Congress Reconsidered, 10th Edition Acts of Congress 1789: Includes the Constitution and the Bill of Rights Internet Governance and the Domain Name System: Issues for Congress Geology of Fossil Fuels --- Coal: Proceedings of the 30th International Geological Congress, Volume 18 Part B The Treatment of Endometriosis-And Other Disorders and Infections (World Congress on Fertility and Sterility Proceeding) Asthma - A Link Between Environment, Immunology, and the Airways: Proceedings of the XVIth World Congress of Asthma, Buenos Aires, October 17-20, 1999 Designing Judicial Review: Interest Groups, Congress, and Communications Policy

[Dmca](#)