Institutions and Policy Making: Congress and the President

The legislative process and policy

- How a bill becomes a law

\[ S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}} \]

Features of Congressional Policy Making

- Party polarization and policy gridlock
- Central role of Committees
- Difficulty in becoming law

Party polarization

Growth in Filibuster

Decline in Swing Seats Tends Bipartisanship

In the last 13 years, the number of swing congressional districts set for party by either party—a solid victory or competitive district—has declined, reducing the number of districts in which the two factions were allocated to work on or against military strategy. For example, in 1994, there were 83 swing districts, representing a third of the House membership. By 2014, the number had fallen to 50.

Presidential Power in policy making

- Strengthening Presidency
- Modern Presidency
- Growth in implied powers
  - National security
  - Executive orders
- Veto/veto threat
- “Going Public”
- Presidential popularity

Policy at the State and Federal Level

- Federalism in the Constitution
- Federal powers
- State powers
- Pendulum of Federalism
- Grants
  - Categorical vs. Block
- Finding a balance