

Senate Committees

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

- **One of the first 12 committees in 1816**
- **Responsibility grew in 1906 with the Food and Drug Act, based on the safety of meat**
- **During the 1950's increased to soil conservation**
- **5 Subcommittees**

Subcommittees of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

- **Soil and Conservation and Forestry**
- **Agricultural Credit and Rural Electrification**
- **Agricultural Production, Marketing, and Stabilization of Prices**
- **Agricultural and General Legislation**
- **Tobacco**

Committee on Appropriations

- **Similar to House Committee on Appropriations**
- **One of the most powerful in Congress, “Power of the Purse”**
- **Has the sole responsibility for drafting the legislation that allocates the federal government’s discretionary spending**

Direct spending vs. Discretionary spending

Direct

- **Authorizes legislation and generally doesn't require annual or biennial legislative renewal**

Discretionary

- **Funds allocated have ceilings and spending levels, require purpose of expenditures, conditions, and criteria**

Committee on Armed Services

- **The committee was created in 1946. It was the merger of 2 previous committees.**
- **The major issues facing this committee is the National Defense System, Privatization, and occupation in foreign lands (Iraq/Afghanistan)**

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

- **This committee reports on all matter related to banking and financial institutions.**
- **They control the prices of commodities, rents, deposit insurance, and export controls**
- **This committee also reports on matters related to exports and foreign trade, stabilization of the economy, defense production**

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

- **The committee also works with federal monetary policy (Federal Reserve System, financial aid given to industry, money, credit)**
- **The construction of nursing homes, veterans housing, public and private housing, urban development and mass transit**
- **They also deal with the renegotiation of government contracts**

Budget Committee

- **3 basic duties:**
- **1. Report two concurrent resolutions on the budget each year**
- **2. Make several macro-impact reports of proposed/existing programs**
- **3. Oversee the operations of the Congressional Budget Office**

Budget Committee

- **The most important task of the committee is creating, passing and enforcing the annual congressional budget resolution (broad tax and spend budget blueprint)**
- **Once the President submits his budget resolution, the committee receives estimates based on the proposal**

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

- **This committee has focused on the advancement of transportation, from the railroad, shipping, and the space program.**
- **Subcommittees include: Aviation; Communication; Competition, Foreign Commerce and Infrastructure; Consumer Affairs and Product Safety; Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard; Science, Technology, and Space; and Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine**

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

- **This committee is responsible for oversight of the public lands and all energy and natural resource matters of importance to the US government**
- **This committee focuses on: Coal production, distribution and utilization; energy policy; energy regulation and conservation; energy-related aspects of deepwater ports; energy research and development; extraction of minerals from oceans**

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

- **Hydroelectric power, irrigation, and reclamation; mining education and research; mining, mineral lands, mining claims and mineral conservation; national parks, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and scenic rivers, historical sites, military parks and battlefields; naval petroleum reserves in Alaska; nonmilitary development of nuclear energy; oil and gas production**

Committee on Environment and Public Works

- **Committee is given responsibility for pollution control, rural economic development, and natural disasters relief programs**

Committee on Finance

- **Focuses on Social Security, trade, and tariff legislation**
- **This committee has jurisdiction over tax, trade, Social Security, and Medicare**
- **This is considered one of the Super A committees (Appropriations, Armed Services, and also Foreign Relations)**
- **Senators may only serve on one of these committees at a time**

Committee on Foreign Relations

- **One of the most prestigious committees**
- **This committee focuses on issues like the rebuilding of Iraq/Afghanistan, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, weapons of mass destruction, North Korea, and diplomacy**

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

- **This committee focuses' on health, education, and human resources**
- **Subcommittees include: Aging; Children and Families; Employment, Safety, and Training; and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services**

Committee on Governmental Affairs

- **This committee focuses on finding government inefficiency, waste, and official corruption**
- **It has jurisdiction over congressional organization, federal civil service, intergovernmental relations, District of Columbia, U.S. nuclear policy, and US Postal Service**

Judiciary Committee

- **Committee considers the structure of the judiciary, and confirmation of the presidents nominees to serve on federal courts**
- **They focus on Constitutional amendments, federal judiciary immigration, antitrust laws, and civil liberties.**

Committee on Rules and Administration

- **This committee deals with the conduct of federal elections; reporting requirements of contributions and expenditures by candidates for federal office**
- **National Voter Registration Act**
- **New technology for elections after 2000 Presidential election**

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

- **The mission of the committee was to survey and study all problems of American small business**

Committee on Veteran's Affairs

- **Issues for Veterans include: veteran's benefits and pensions; readjustment to civilian life; military insurance and benefits; veterans hospitals and medical facilities, vocational rehabilitation and education of veterans; national cemeteries**

Committee on Indian Affairs

- **This committee focuses on issues like land management to health care of Native Americans**
- **Senators are only allowed on a certain amount of committees, this committee does not count to their allotment**

Special Committee on Aging

- **This special committee can't propose laws and can study issues, oversee programs, and investigate fraud and waste.**
- **This committee can also examine age discrimination and the pay system of Medicare**

Joint Committee on Printing

- **This is the official government printer. This office deals with the printing and binding.**

Joint Committee on the Library

- **This committee has no legislative authority**
- **This committee focuses on the management of the Library of Congress, United States Botanic Garden, Gifts for the Library of Congress, and placing statues and art within the US Congress**

Joint Economic Committee (JEC)

- **Promote maximum employment, production, and purchasing power**
- **JEC makes a study of the Presidents economic report**

Committees found in the PA Senate

- **Aging and Youth**
- **Agriculture and Rural Affairs**
- **Appropriations**
- **Banking and Insurance**
- **Communications and Technology**
- **Community, Economic and Recreational Development**
- **Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure**
- **Education**
- **Environmental Resources and Energy**
- **Finance**
- **Game and Fisheries**
- **Intergovernmental Operations**
- **Judiciary**
- **Labor and Industry**
- **Law and Justice**
- **Local Government**

Committees found in the PA Senate

- **Public Health and Welfare**
- **Rules and Executive Nominations**
- **State Government**
- **Transportation**
- **Urban Affairs and Housing**
- **Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness**