

The slide features a decorative arrangement of six light purple circles. Three circles are positioned in a horizontal row at the top, and three are in a horizontal row at the bottom. The text is overlaid on these circles.

# **Introduction to the American Political Process**

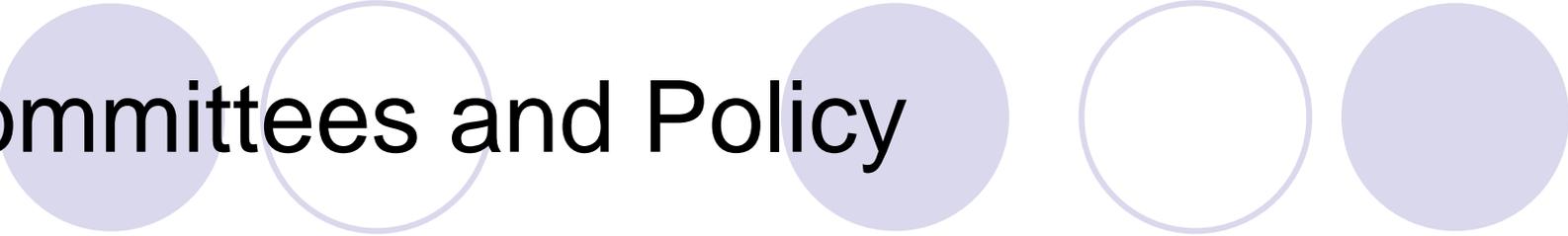
**Legislative Behavior: The  
Committee Model Part II**

# Congressional Committees

- Woodrow Wilson: “Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in committee-rooms is Congress at work.”
- Why Committees?
  - Institutional Reasons
  - Personal Reasons
    - The Trinity of Congressional goals: reelection, power, public policy

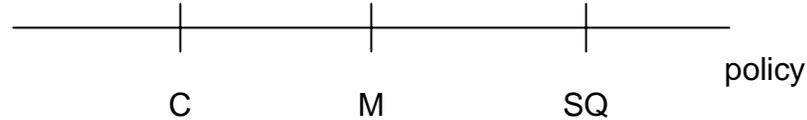
# Congressional Committees: Effects

- Assignment to committees
  - Committee on Committees
  - Role for self-selection
- The possibility of bias
  - Preference outliers
  - Advantages and disadvantages

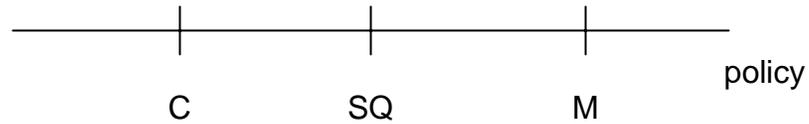


# Committees and Policy

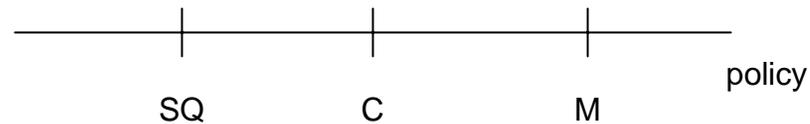
- Relationship between Committees and the Floor Median
- Importance of Rules



- Under closed rule: committee would not kill bill (i.e., no gatekeeping power used), but committee will move legislation closer to their ideal point.
- Under open rule: result is median.

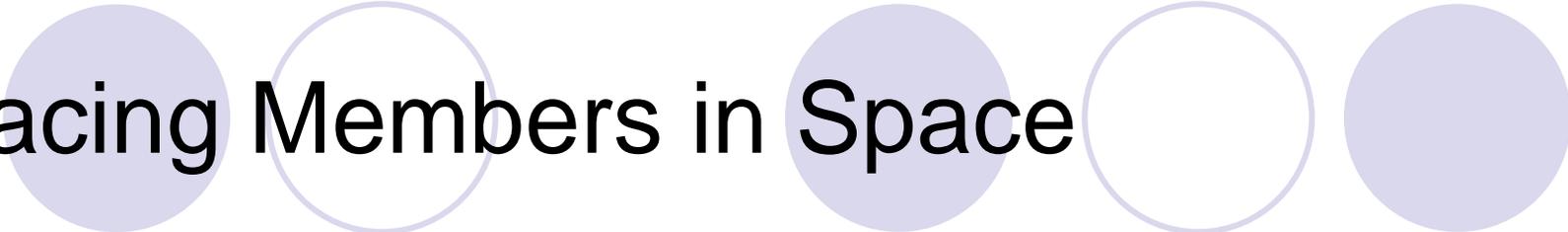


- Under closed rule: result is status quo; committee kills bill.
- Under open rule: result is status quo; committee kills bill.



- Under closed rule: committee gets what it wants
- Under open rule: result is median or SQ', whichever is closer to C.
- Evidence that moderate committee are more successful

# Placing Members in Space



- How do we know where MOC and Senators Stand?
  - NOMINATE scores
  - ADA score

# NOMINATE

cong	cd statenm	party name	dwnom1
107	1 ALABAMA	200 CALLAHAN	0.41
107	2 ALABAMA	200 EVERETT	0.52
107	3 ALABAMA	200 RILEY	0.523
107	4 ALABAMA	200 ADERHOLT	0.486
107	5 ALABAMA	100 CRAMER	-0.083
107	6 ALABAMA	200 BACHUS	0.373
107	7 ALABAMA	100 HILLIARD	-0.573
107	1 MASSACH	100 OLVER	-0.71
107	2 MASSACH	100 NEAL RICHA	-0.459
107	3 MASSACH	100 MCGOVERN	-0.579
107	4 MASSACH	100 FRANK BARN	-0.583
107	5 MASSACH	100 MEEHAN	-0.483
107	6 MASSACH	100 TIERNEY	-0.565
107	7 MASSACH	100 MARKEY	-0.575
107	8 MASSACH	100 CAPUANO M	-0.673
107	9 MASSACH	100 MOAKLEY	-0.426
107	9 MASSACH	100 LYNCH	-0.412
107	10 MASSACH	100 DELAHUNT	-0.553

# ADA Scores

Vote Number

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ADA Position

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