



# Key committees in the U.S. Senate and House

The U.S. Congress organizes and conducts its work through a committee structure. Congressional committees oversee particular issue-areas related to policy and legislation. Below are the core congressional committees that work on international policy and legislation.

SENATE	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
<p><b>Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry</b> <a href="http://ag.senate.gov">ag.senate.gov</a></p> <p><b>JURISDICTION:</b> Lawmaking related to agriculture, including issues such as nutrition and feeding programs for the poor, promotion of U.S. food and textiles in international markets, rural development, research into production crops and conservation programs.</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:</b> Overall food aid policy as well as agricultural trade policy regarding non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports.</p>	<p><b>House Agriculture Committee</b> <a href="http://agriculture.house.gov">agriculture.house.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Committee on Appropriations</b> <a href="http://appropriations.senate.gov">appropriations.senate.gov</a></p> <p><b>JURISDICTION:</b> Writes legislation that annually allocates federal funds to government agencies, departments and organizations. Appropriations are limited to the levels set by a budget resolution, drafted by the respective budget committees.</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:</b> U.S. government spending on humanitarian relief and development programs, and international issues, such as our nation's response to emergencies.</p> <p><b>KEY SUBCOMMITTEES:</b> Agriculture—Considers U.S. government spending on food aid. Foreign Operations—Considers U.S. government spending on humanitarian and development assistance.</p>	<p><b>Committee on Appropriations</b> <a href="http://appropriations.house.gov">appropriations.house.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Committee on the Budget</b> <a href="http://budget.senate.gov">budget.senate.gov</a></p> <p><b>JURISDICTION:</b> Oversees the process of drafting a congressional budget resolution that guides Congress as it considers revenue and spending legislation throughout the year. The budget resolution is a concurrent resolution that is binding and agreed to by both chambers.</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:</b> Budget process as it pertains to funding of humanitarian relief and development efforts as well as food aid.</p>	<p><b>Committee on the Budget</b> <a href="http://budget.house.gov">budget.house.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Committee on Finance</b> <a href="http://finance.senate.gov">finance.senate.gov</a></p> <p><b>JURISDICTION:</b> Bonded debt of the United States, customs, revenue sharing, government-sponsored health programs, Social Security, trade agreements, tariffs and import quotas.</p>	<p><b>Ways and Means Committee</b> <a href="http://waysandmeans.house.gov">waysandmeans.house.gov</a></p> <p><b>JURISDICTION:</b> Raising the revenue required to finance the federal government, including individual and corporate income taxes, excise taxes, estate taxes and gift taxes as well as programs that are funded by the U.S. government, such as Social Security and health services.</p>
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:</b> Overall U.S. policy relating to international trade.</p>	
<p><b>Committee on Foreign Relations</b> <a href="http://foreign.senate.gov">foreign.senate.gov</a></p> <p><b>JURISDICTION:</b> Lawmaking as it relates to our foreign policy activities, including evaluation of all treaties with foreign governments, approval of all diplomatic nominations as well as the U.S. Department of State, global assistance programs and other issues.</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:</b> All foreign policy issues, particularly in response to humanitarian emergencies, violent conflicts and development policy.</p>	<p><b>Committee on Foreign Affairs</b> <a href="http://foreignaffairs.house.gov">foreignaffairs.house.gov</a></p>

Join us at [crs.org/leadtheway](http://crs.org/leadtheway)  
and by texting LEAD NOW to 306-44