

2012 Engineering Deans Council Public Policy Colloquium

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Overview

- The current political and economic climate
- A snapshot of the 112th Congress
- Key messages for Capitol Hill visits

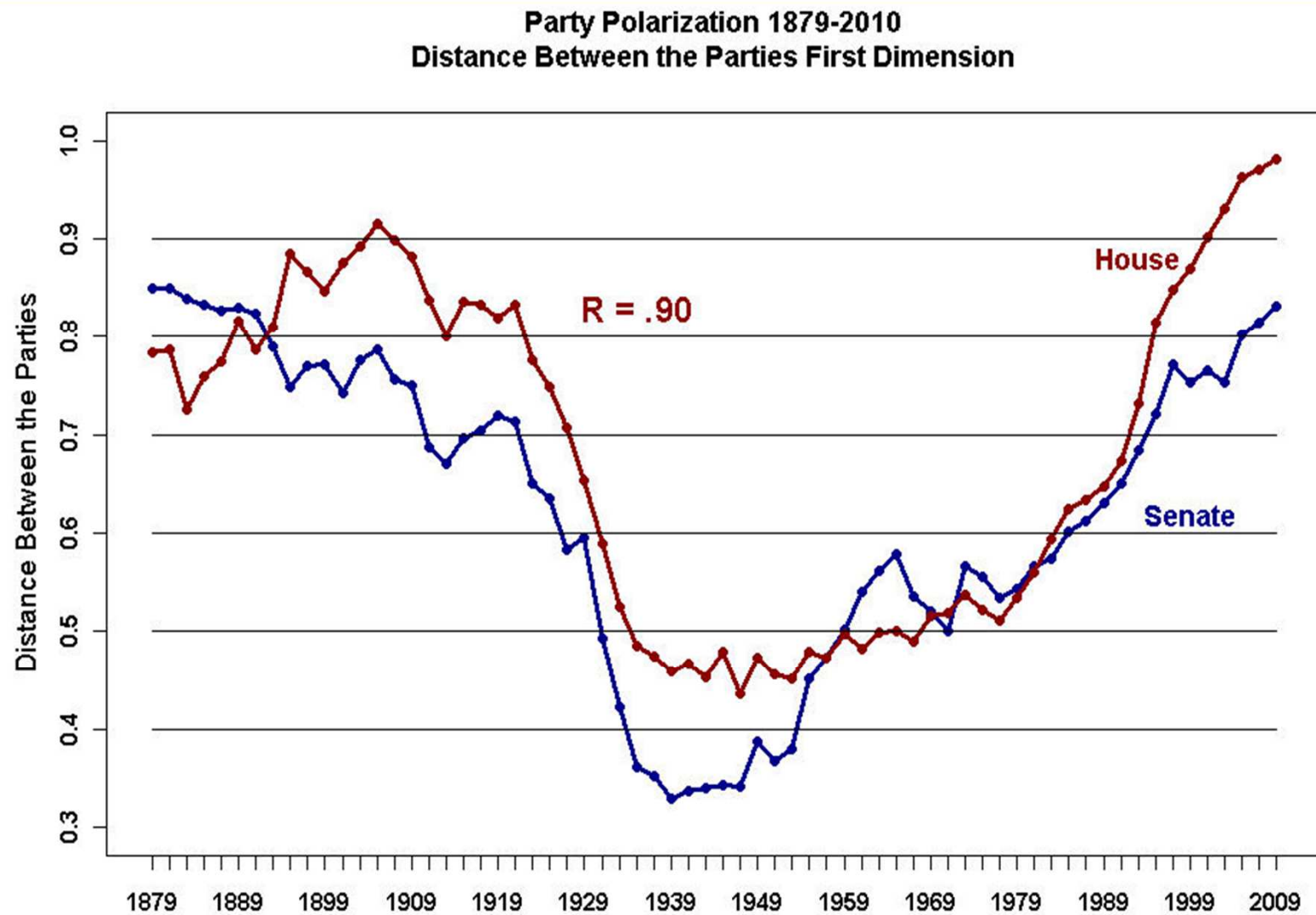
The Typical Legislative Process



The Legislative Process in a Presidential Election Year!

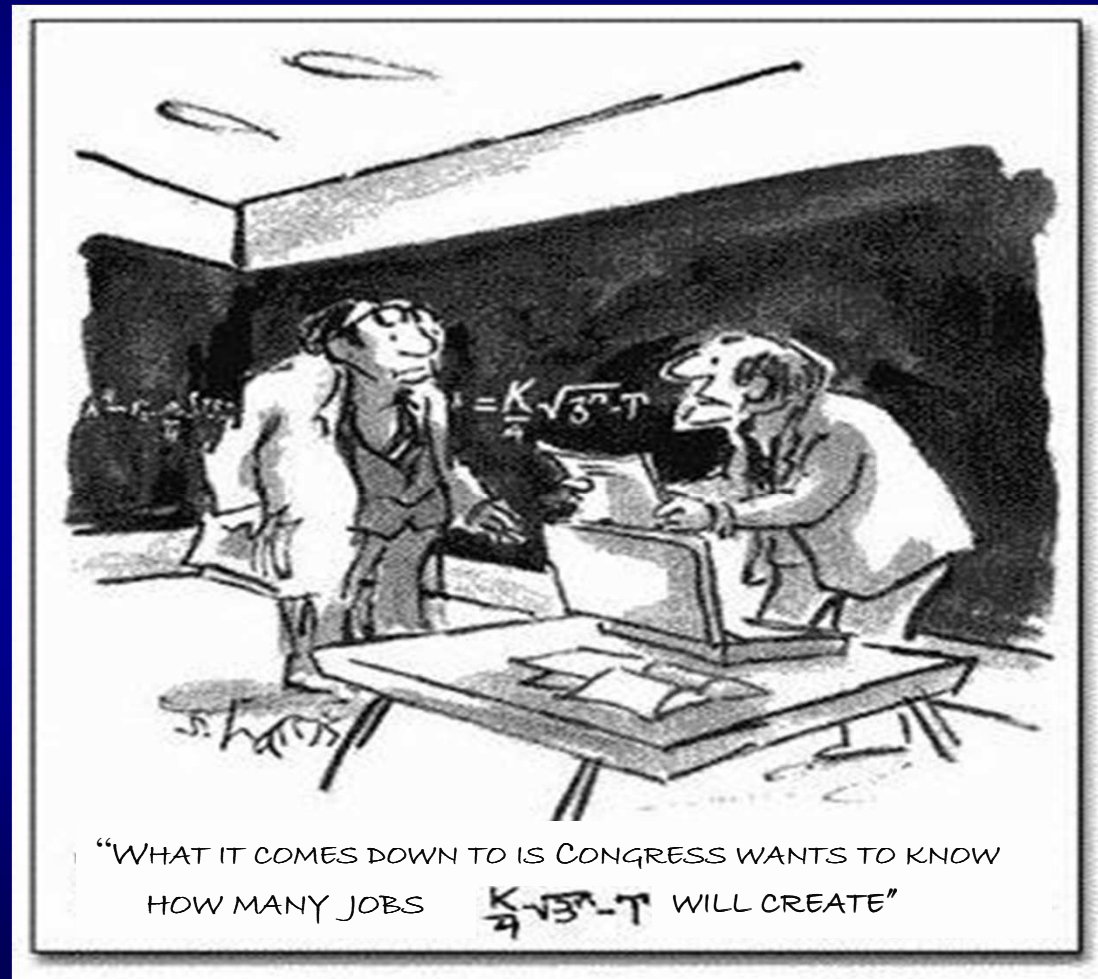


Party Polarization: 1879 - 2010



Source: McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal, *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*, MIT Press, June 2006. See: http://voteview.com/polarized_america.htm#POLITICALPOLARIZATION.

Economic Climate and its Impact upon Congressional Expectations



*By Cartoonist Sidney Harris
American Scientist*

Why Your Hill Meetings Are So Important

- Less than 5 percent have backgrounds in science and engineering.
- According to CRS, there is only one physicist, one chemist, and one microbiologist among the 535 of the members of 112th Congress. All of these individuals reside in the House.
- Only 18 members of the 112th Congress have PhDs, while 27 members have no educational degree beyond a high school diploma.
- 6 have engineering degrees and 24 have medical degrees.
- 222 members of Congress have law degrees.

Key Messages for Hill Visits

- Stable and sustained funding for key federal science and engineering agencies is critical (e.g. NSF, DOD, DOE, NASA, NIH, NIST, etc.)
- Research and education are inextricably linked
- Role of science and engineering in job creation
- Importance of STEM education
- Need to support the entire innovation ecosystem
- Hot topics: energy and manufacturing
- What to say about Sequestration?
- CAUTION: America COMPETES Act is not necessarily an effective selling point with House Republicans