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Voting Behavior in the U.S. House of Representatives
What factors influence how elected officials vote?
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Abstract
What is the relationship between demographic characteristics (age, number of terms or tenure in office, marital status, urban/rural residence, previous military service, education, etc.) and other factors, such as related economic activities of the state from which the representative comes, immigrant populations in their state, etc., of elected U.S. Congressional representatives and the voting decision a representative makes? With sampling from California, Wisconsin, and Texas, we will assess why their members of the House of Representatives voted as they did on S. 1252: Global Food Security Act of 2016.

Hypothesis
Those who voted against the Global Food Security Act of 2016 will be conservative and represent well-to-do constituents.

Results
Among the 53 congressmen and women who voted against the bill, all were republican – even though the majority of the voters in favor were republican. Thus, these 53 voted against their party. One congressman from California, six from Texas, and two from Wisconsin were included in the opposing group – all were white males with varying years of experience but averaging around 60 years of age. They all represented low unemployment, high graduation rate constituents whom had a median household income between $45,000.00 and $75,000.00.

Analysis
The graphs are representative of the data collected from each member of congress and their voting behavior.

Age and number of years in office: 8 out of 9 members either the age of 60 or above. The graph also shows that the majority of congress members have been in office for 20 years or more.

Unemployment, High School Grad Rate, College Grad Rate: The graph shows that between 0.1 to 0.2% of the population are unemployed. 1% to 1.2% of the population are high school graduates. 0.9 to 1.4% of the population are college graduates. percent of constituents who are white: 64% to 94% of the congress members are white

Percent Republican: California 26%, Texas 69%, Wisconsin 63%

Conclusion
Research shows that representatives from California, Texas and Wisconsin where conservative members who were over the age of sixty. Who represent the higher class of their communities. This refers back to the literature that suggests that the ways in which and the communities people are brought up in have an impact on the ways in which they vote.

Selected Bibliography