



“Congressional Staff”

Prof. Anthony Madonna
POLS 4620E
Lecture #30
University of Georgia

Staffing: Outline

I. Introduction

- a. Updates
- b. Leg History Tips

II. Staffing

III. Conclusion



Above: Former Rep. Vito Marcantonio (R/S-NY)

Congressional Staff



“Senators [are] a constitutional impediment to the smooth functioning of staff.” – Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)

Modern Congressional Staff

- Investigate & Engage in Oversight
- Write Legislation & Amendments
- Coordinate Between Offices
- Keep Track of Votes & Record
- Write Vote Recommendations for MCs



Staff

Decades ago the public was both critical and misinformed about legislative staff.

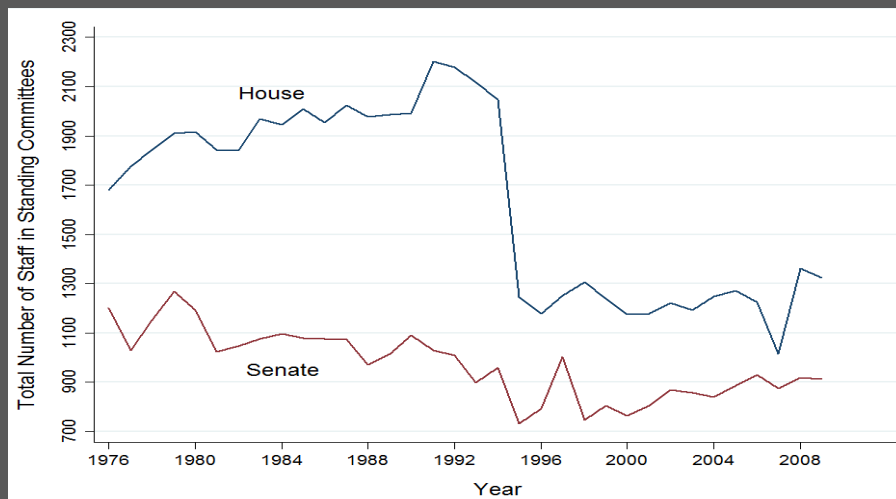
Roughly 75 percent of those surveyed supported cutting the size of congressional personal staff; their estimates of congressional staff levels were approximately half of reality.

After the survey, staff budgets were slashed.

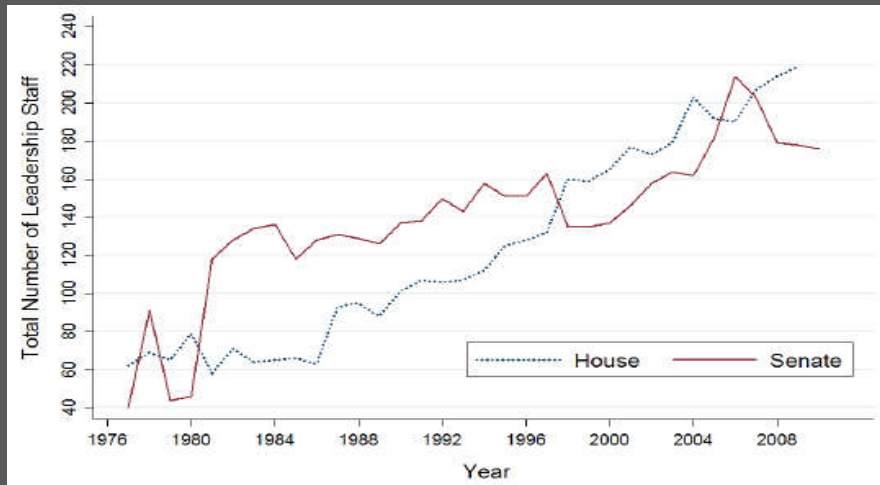
Congress & Cannibalization of Staff

- From the 1979 to 2009, U.S. population increased by just over one-third. Government spending increased from 504 million to 3.5 billion
- Member and committee staffers fell from 16,803 to 15,046
- GAO and CRS employ 20 percent fewer employees
- House salary allowances is lower than 2007, the Senate is as low as 2008 and that the number of staffers a House member is allowed to employ has remained constant for “nearly four decades”
- Members are allocating a greater proportion of staffers in their home district

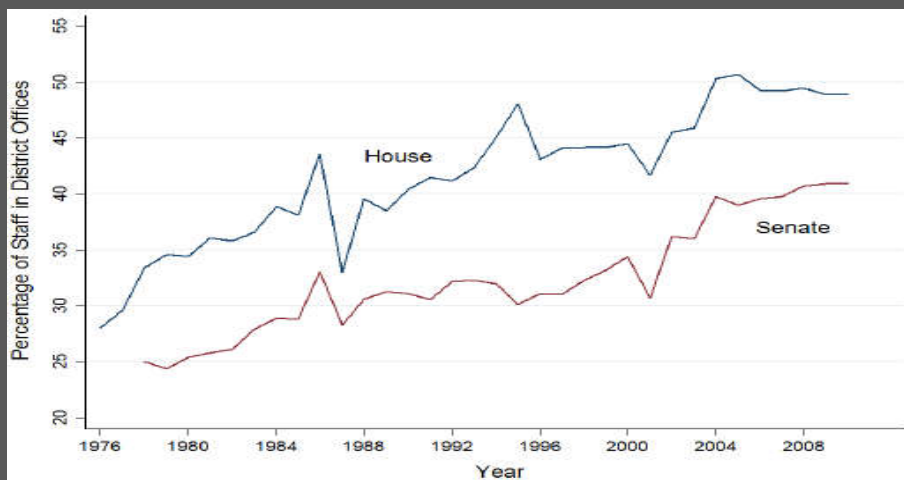
Standing Committee Staff Levels by Chamber, 1976 to 2009



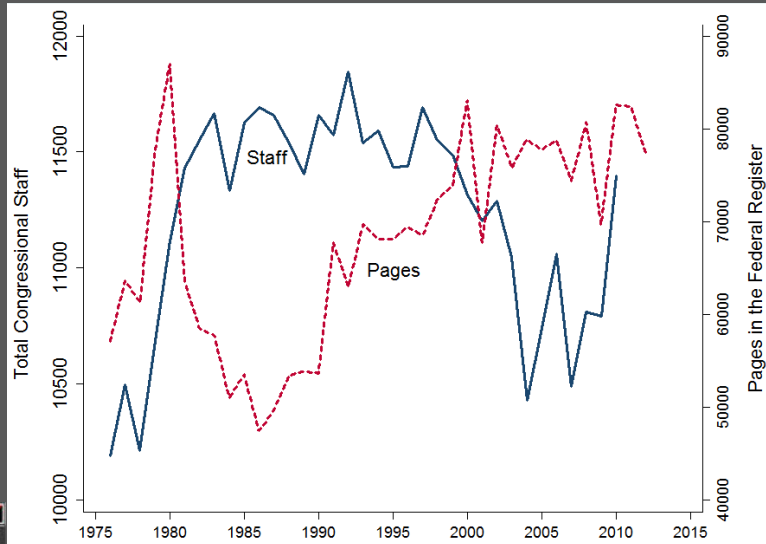
Leadership Staff Levels by Chamber, 1977 to 2009



Percent of Staff Deployed to Home District by Chamber, 1976 to 2010



Staff & Government Regulation Activity, 1976 to 2010



Staff



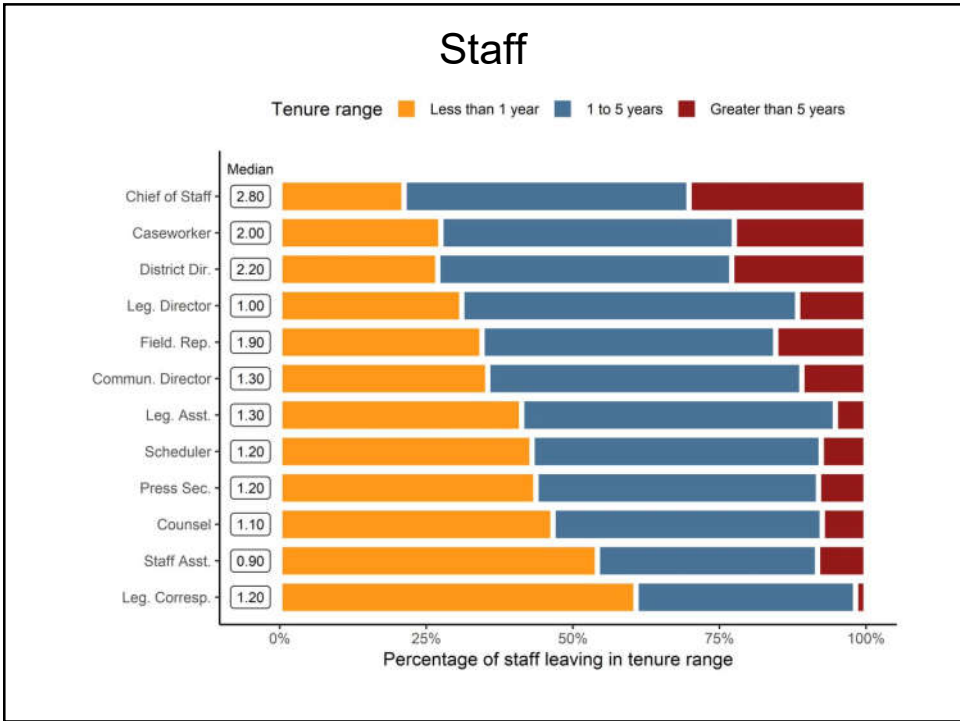
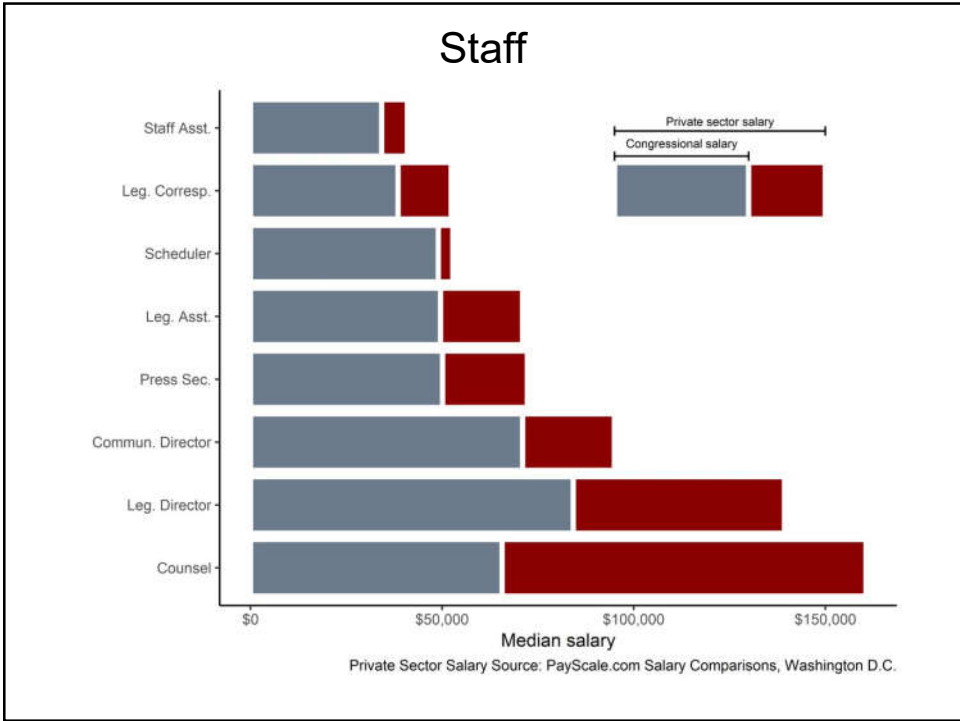
Casey Burgat
@CaseyBurgat

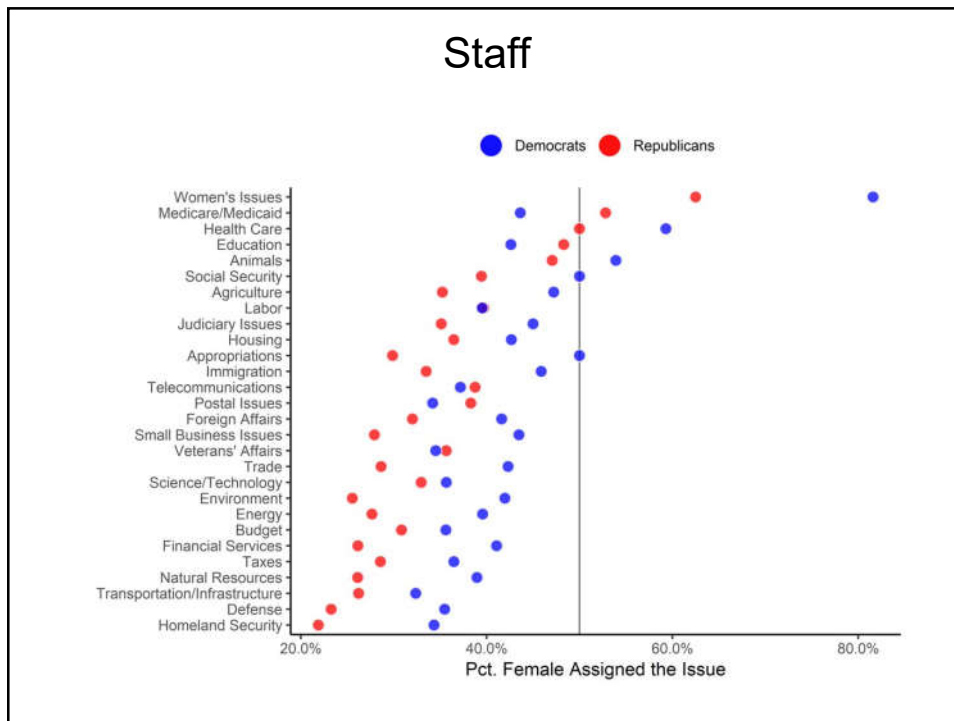
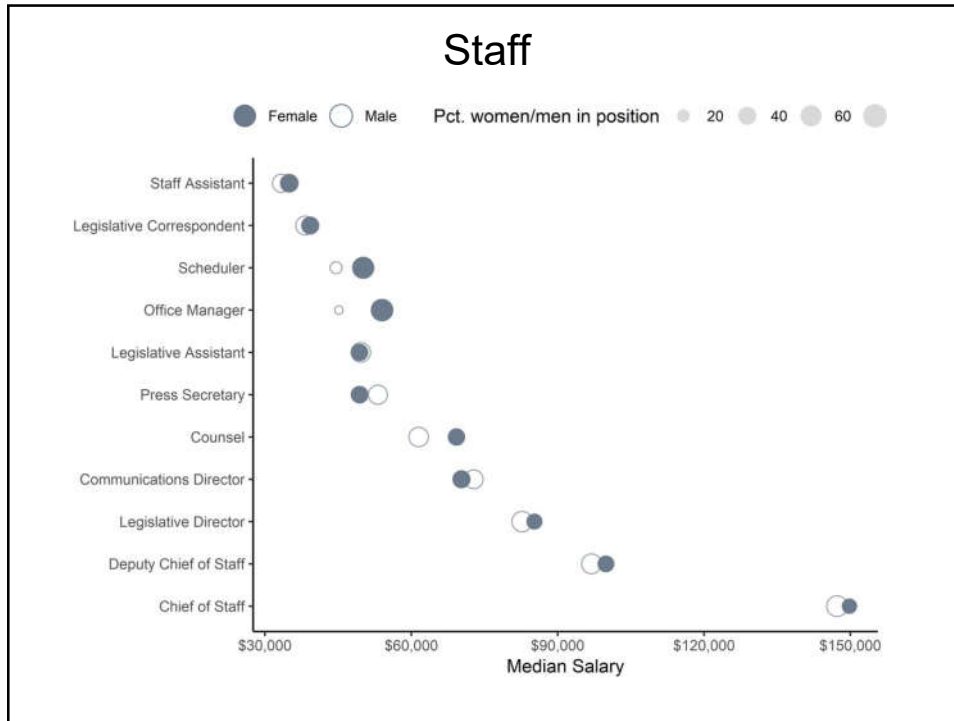
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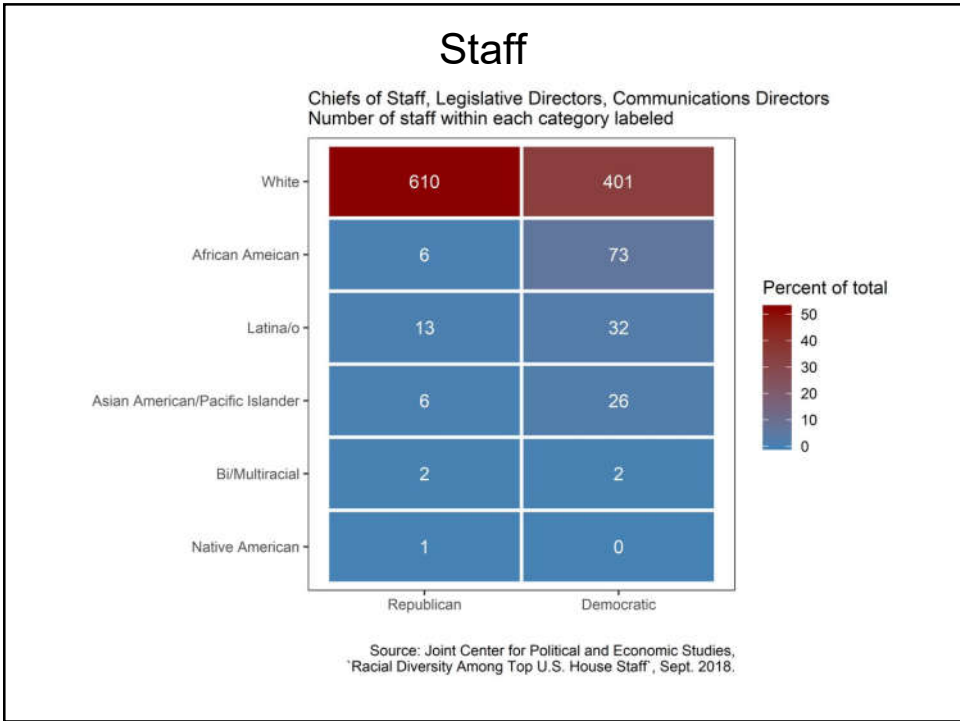
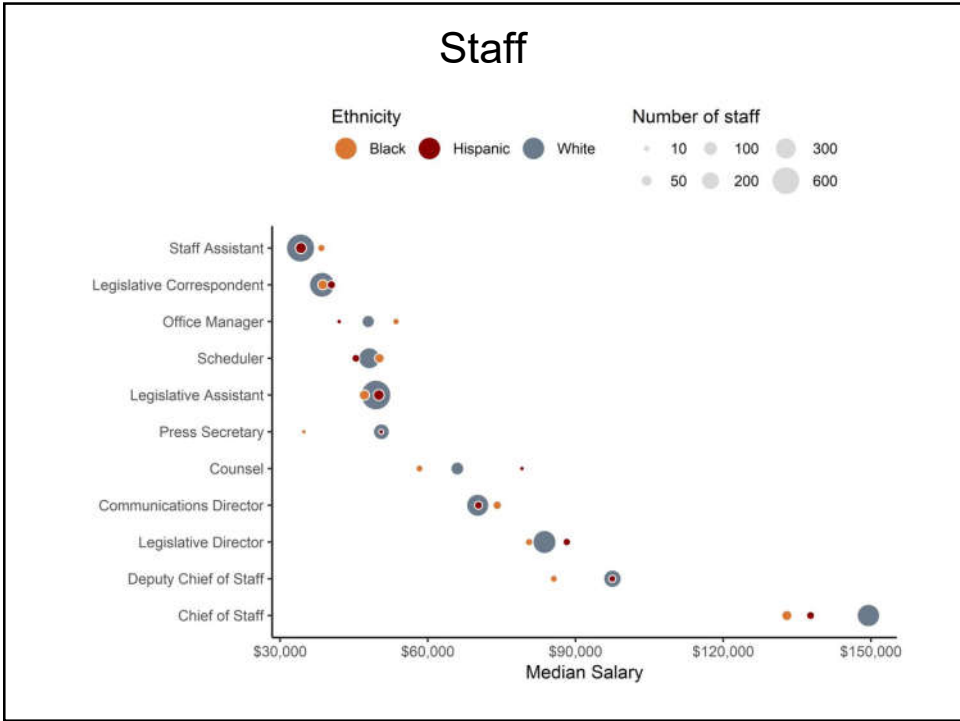
Get your caffeine buzz ready!

I just submitted written testimony to the Leg. Branch Appropriations Subcommittee (@AppropsDems) on congressional staffing.

Follow me on the picture book version. You'll love to hate it.

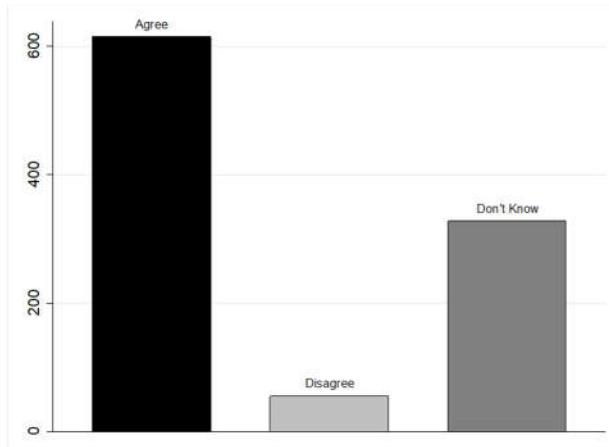






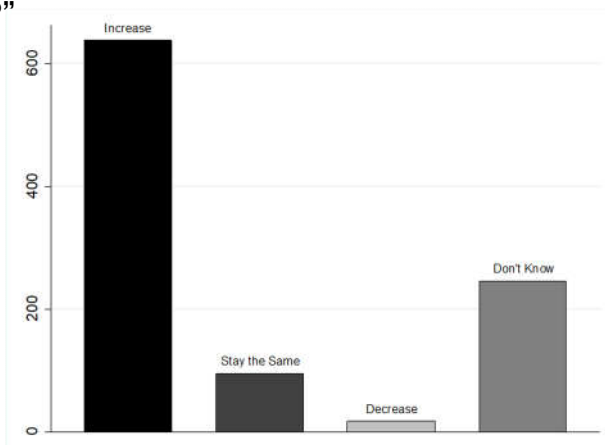
Staff

Answers to question “Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There are too many staffers or assistants in Congress?”



Staff

Answers to question “Over the last twenty years, do you think the size of congressional staff has Increased, Decreased, or stayed about the same?”



Questions, Concerns, Angry Rants?

