Science, the United States Congress and Institutional Arrangements: The Election Classes of 1974 and 1994 Influencing Policy

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## Karen M. McCurdy

 Department of Political Science Georgia Southern University Statesboro, GA 30460kmccurdy@georgiasouthern.edu
 First Term Members


Policy innovation is facilitated by
large cohorts of first term members, $>20 \%$ of the majority


Partisan Contror of
$\square$ Republican
$\square$ Repubican

Congress
Party of the President Republican $\square$ Republican $\square$
Democrat $\square$


CLASS OF 1994 ONTRACT WITH AMERICA"

Policy Preference Cohorts
Science Consensus 1946-1961


1960-1981 1981-2011

Policy preferences at first election influence policy behavior throughout congressional careers, particularly in
committee or party leadership positions
Growth in Taxpayer Pledge


Emergence of a New Policy Cohort "No New Taxes"
"Reduce the Size of Government"


## Abstract

Members of the United States House of Representatives first elected in the same year have a demographic
influence in the seniority system for more than twenty years, particularly at the commitee leadership level. influence in the seniority system for more than twenty years, particularly at the com mittee leadership level.
Policy outcomes in a wide range of contemporary science and technology topics can be understod Policy outcomes in a wide range of contemporary scierce and technology topicis can be understoon com--
paring the large class of Democrats elected in 1974 (20.9 percent of seats) to the large class of Republiparing the arge class of Democrats elected in 1974
cans in the 1994 elections (19.8 percent of seats).
The 1974 class was able to extend policy consensus for twenty years beyond their initial election. With majorities of $56-67$ percent over two decades, the class of 1974 reformed Congress to devolve power and
produced legislation limiting the power of executive and campaign finance contributions, further reinforcproduced legisation limiting the power of executive and campaign finance contributions, further reinforc-
ing their influence in policy making. The 1994 class has as yet been unable to sustain unified government ing their influence in policy making. The 1994 class has as yet been unable to sustain unified government
beyond two consentutive congresses ( 4 years) and the magnitude of thir majorite in divided government
 maintained due to osciilating majoitites, and hitte egisitive innovation has occurred. Instead, the class
199a has depended on licking tactics and high stakes budgetary brinkmanship to further their policy
goals of shrinking the size of government. goals of shrinking the size of government.
The policy consensus of scientific management in place from 1876 to 1980 , and possibly extended by the
class of 1974 through 2000 has been challenged by the class of 1994 which desires a smaller federal govclass of 1977 through 2000 has been challenged by the class of 1994 whic desirises a smaller federal gov-
errment. During the strugule between these co-existing congressional factions, science and technology ermment. During the struggle between these co-existing congressional factions, science and tectnology
eesearch and development have been transformed to high stakes election issues instead of low visibility bureaucratic decision-making.
Change in political outlook and approach to public problems does not happen with a single election. The partisan realignments that can easily be identified looking back to the 1788 elections through 1934 are not
as clear in the late 20 th and early 2 2st centuries. Control of institutional arrangements are much more
 and separated powers. Poitit
control of domestic policy.

