

Washington State Legislative History Chart Book:

A Selected Graphical and Tabular History of
The Washington State Legislature

2016 Update

A Selected Graphical and Tabular History of Washington State Legislature

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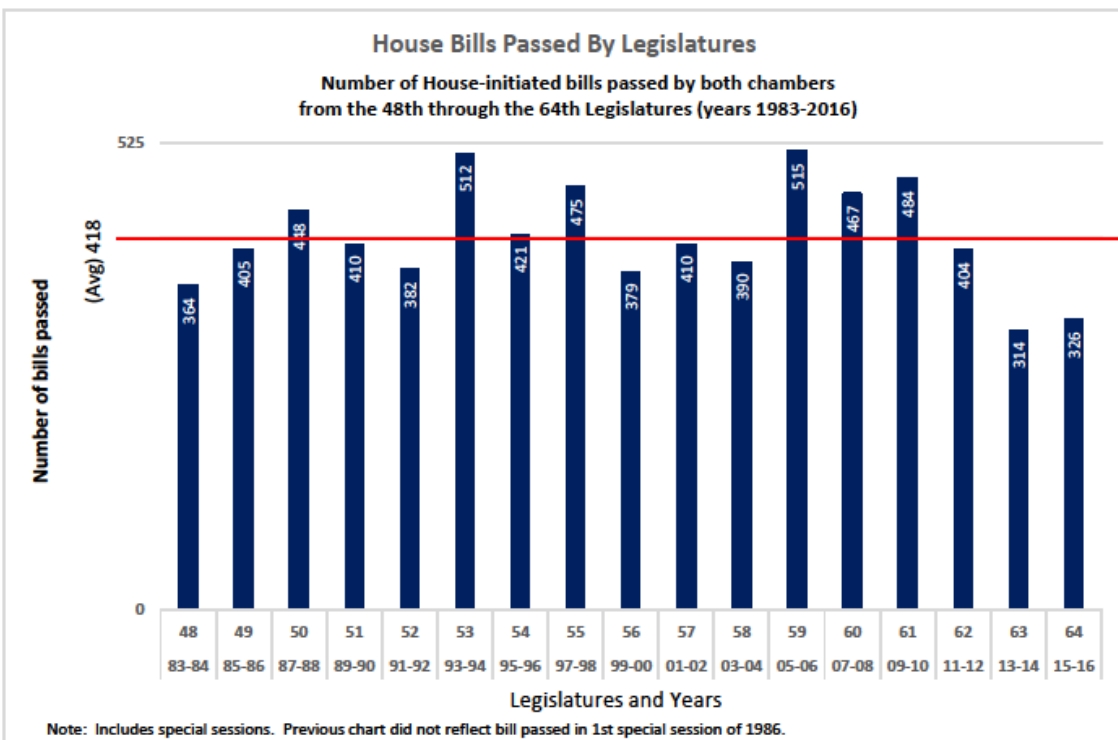
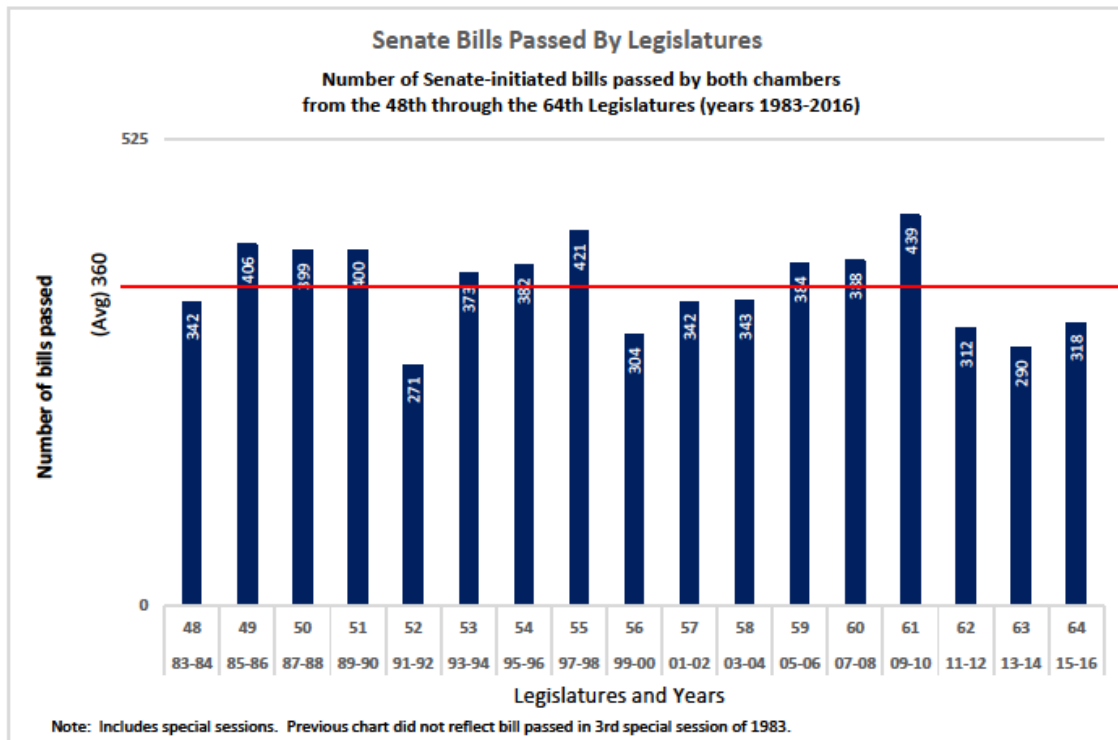
Page 22: Table summary of legislative sessions, and a brief narrative for the next four charts

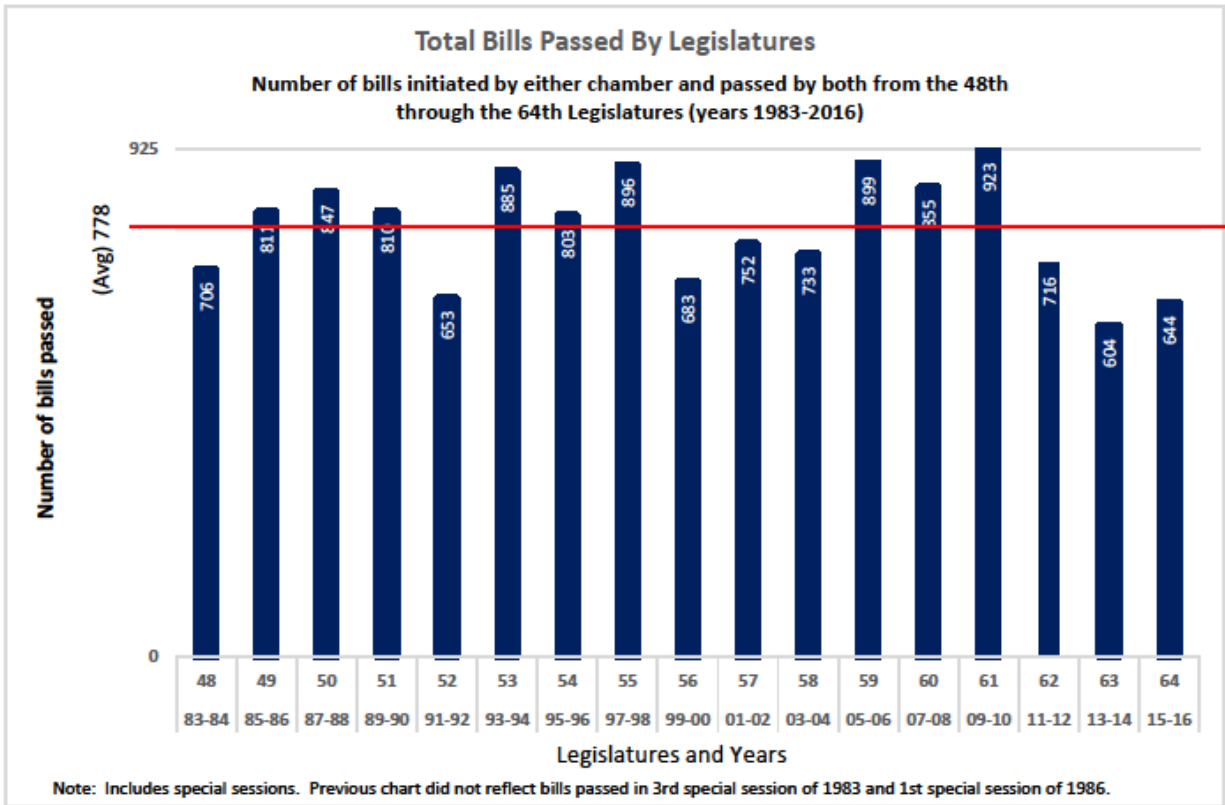
Page 23-26: Political division since 1889 by chamber and year

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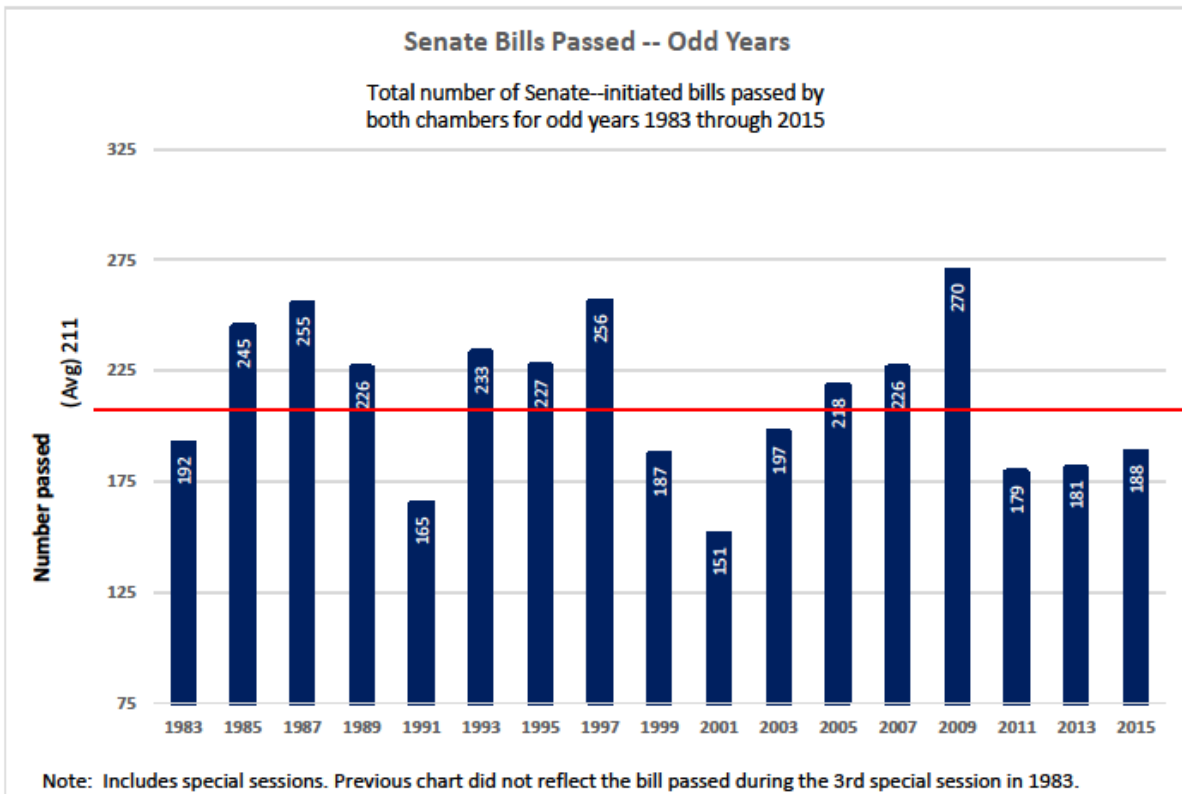
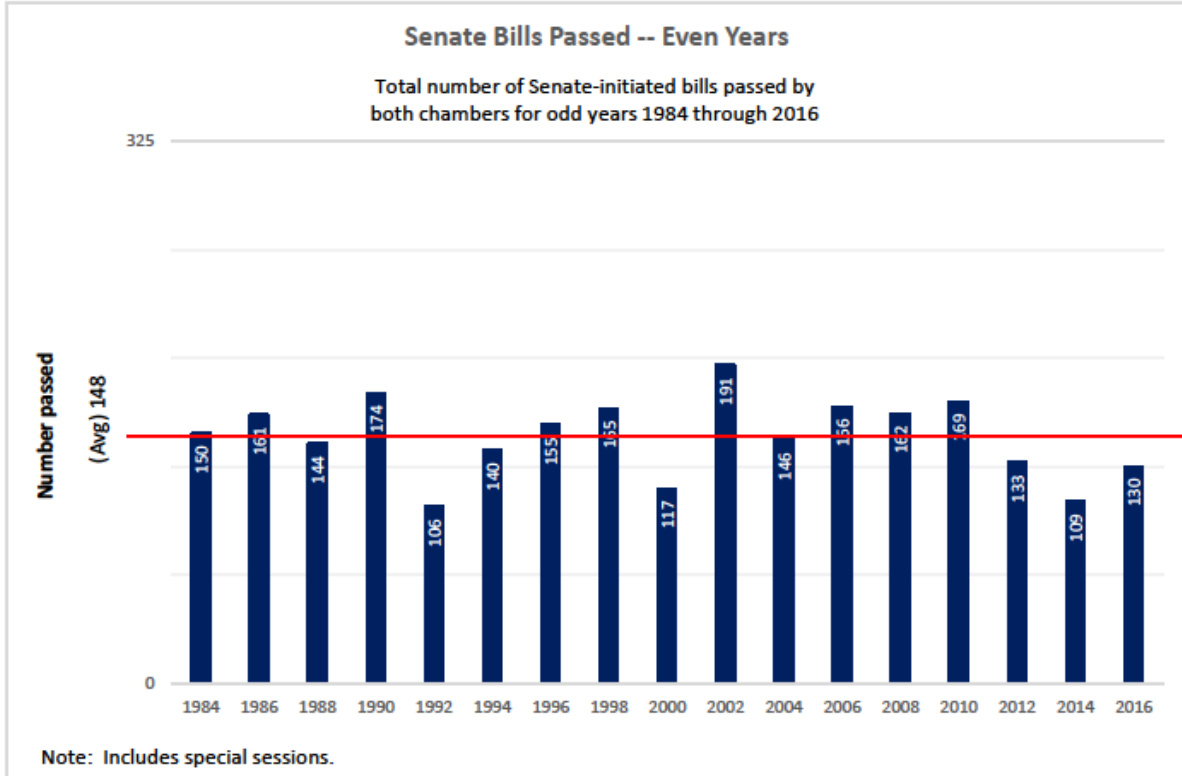
The following gives a selected graphical history of Washington State Legislature.

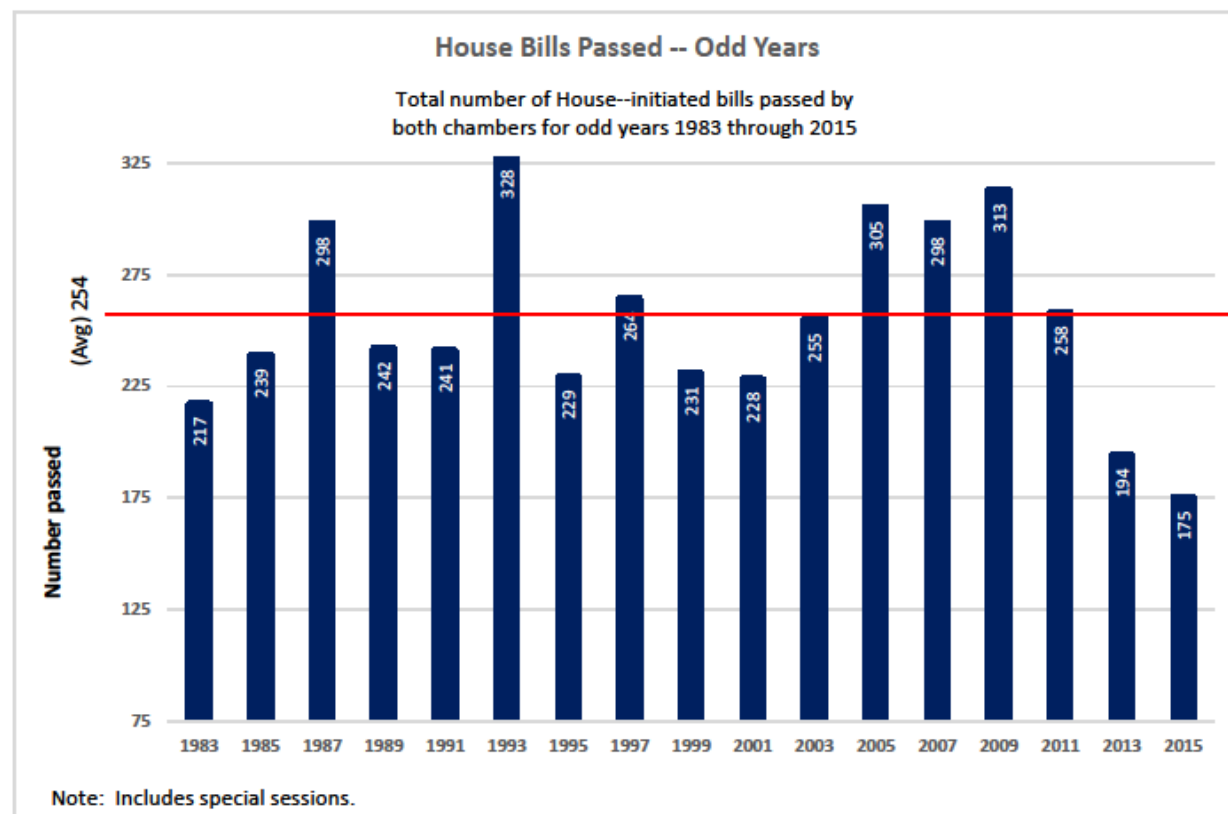
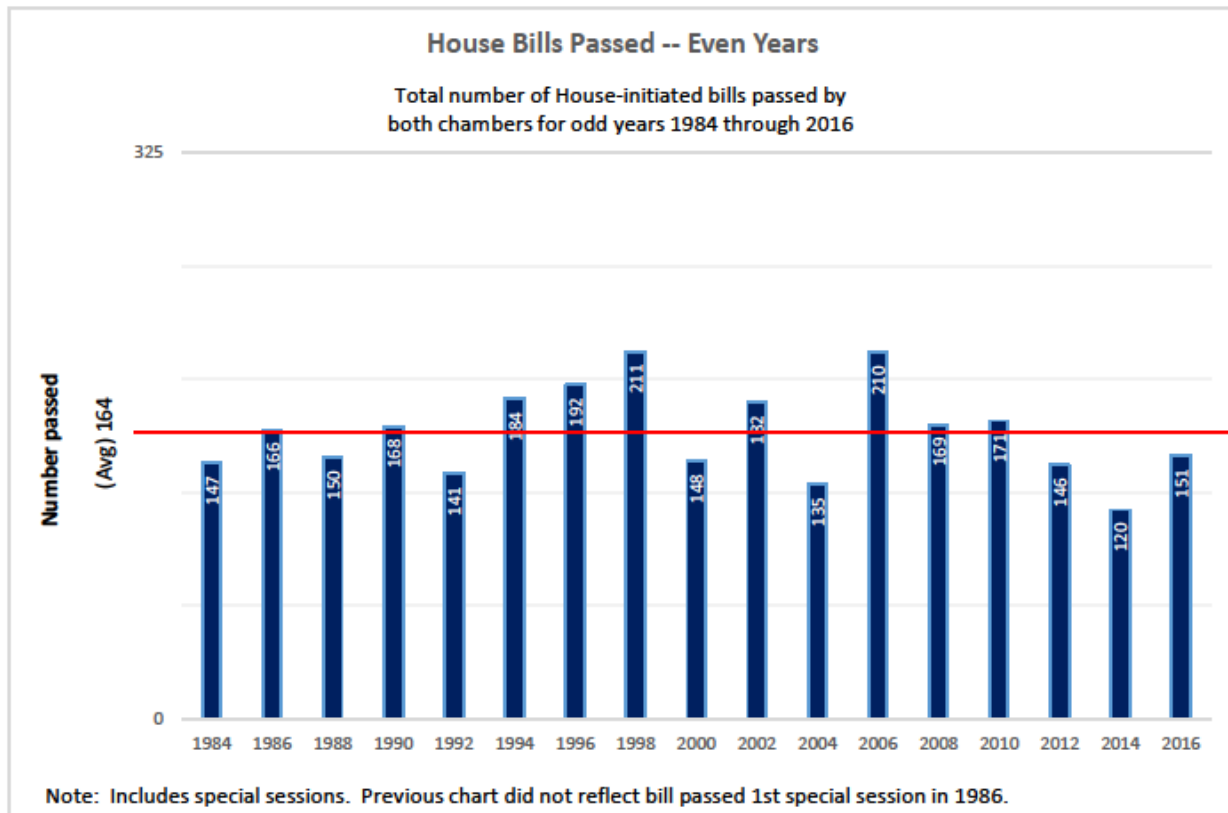
First is an overview showing bill history beginning with the 48th Legislature.

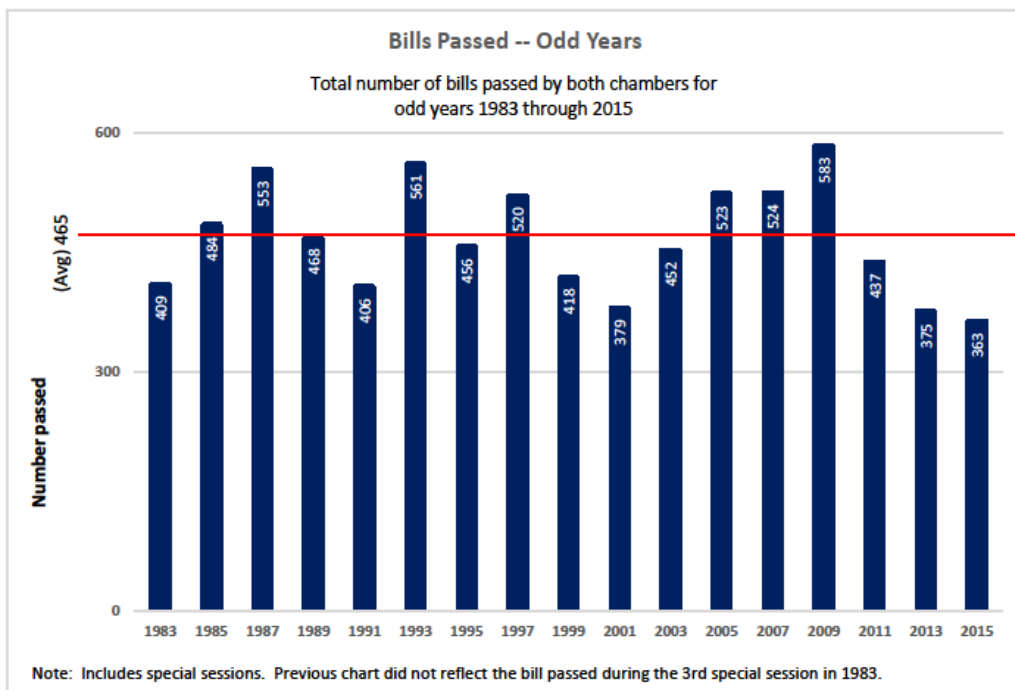
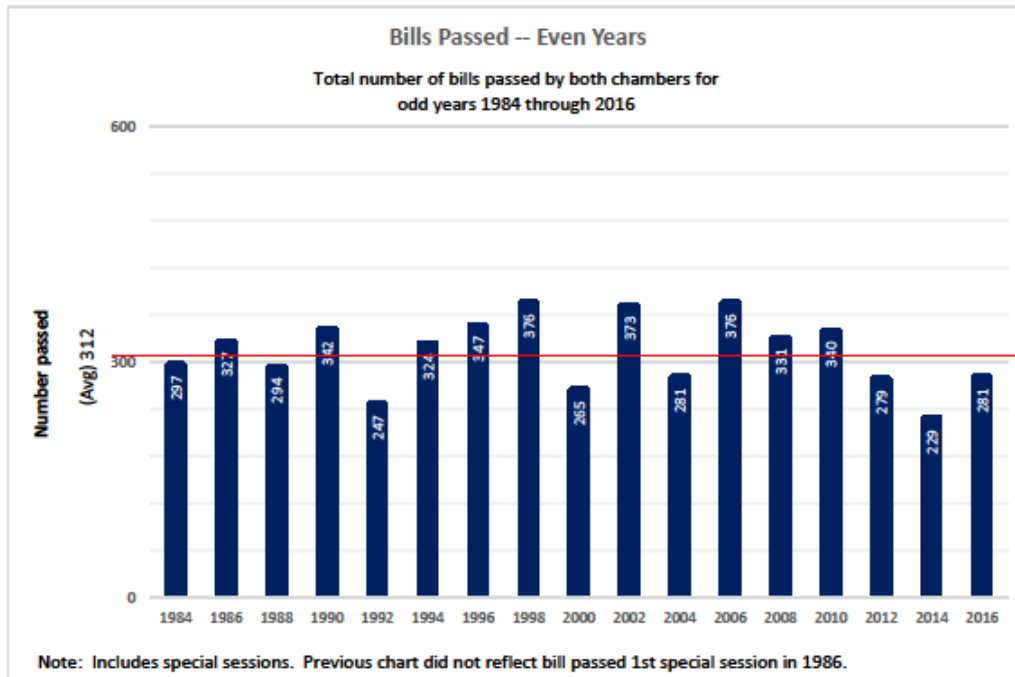




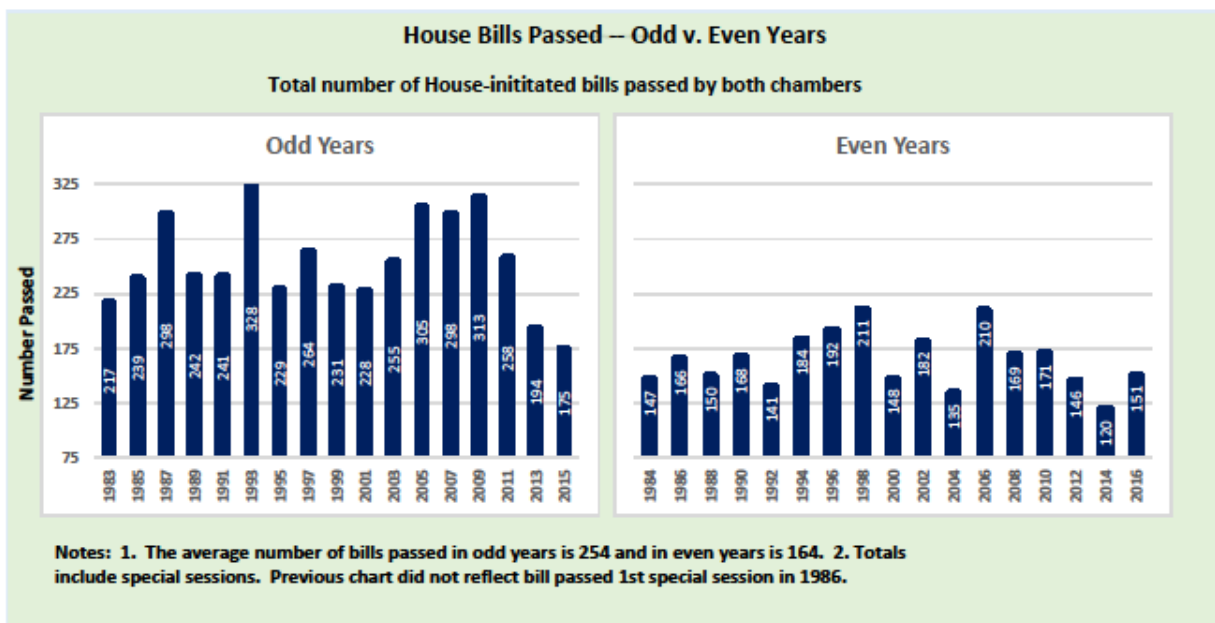
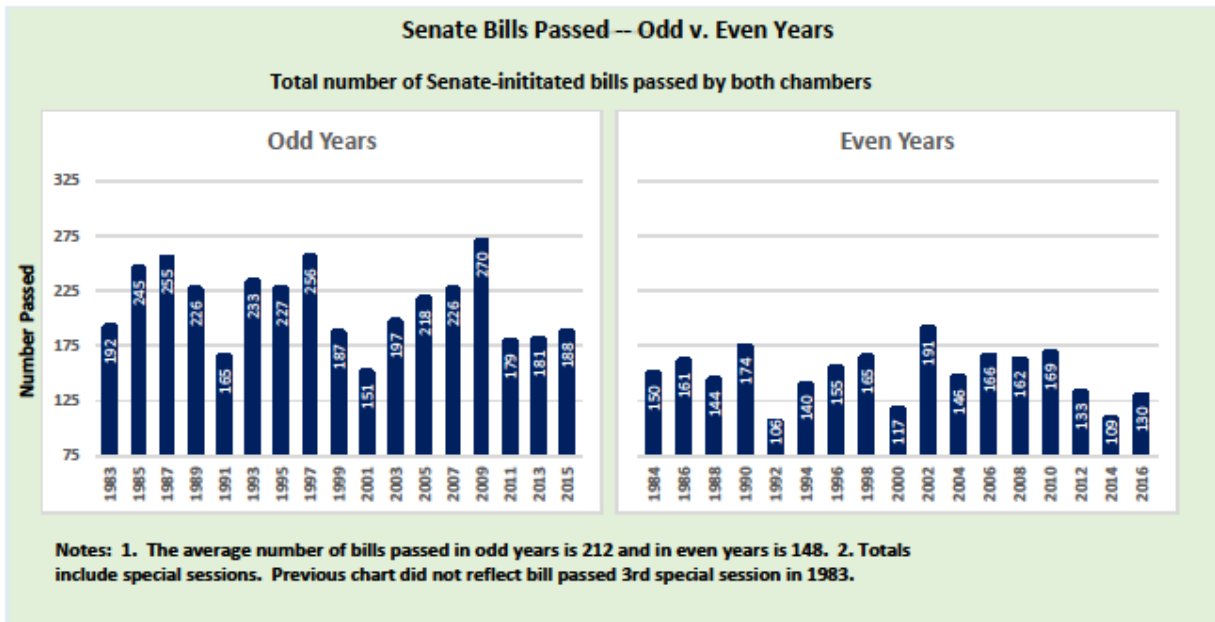
The next six charts summarize bills initiated by each chamber and legislature as a whole and passed by both, for odd and even years.





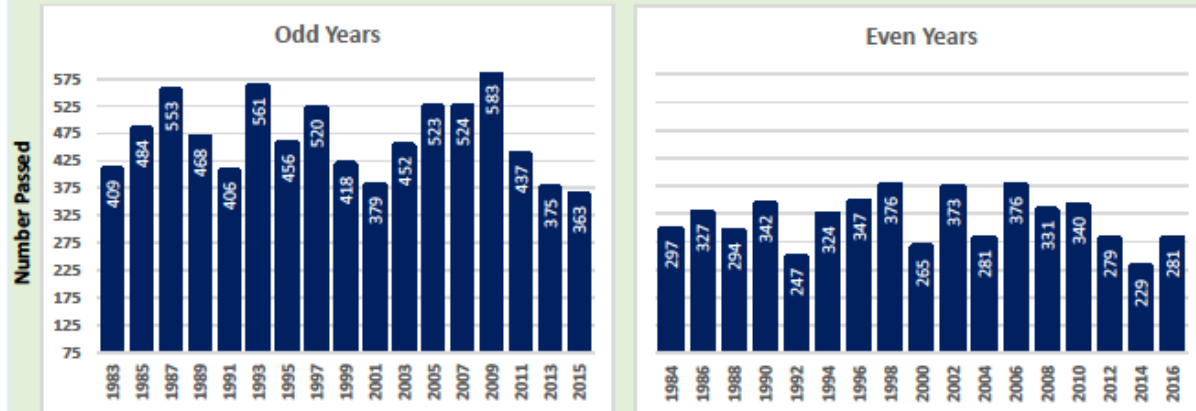


These and the next page are similar to the previous six charts but odd and even years are side-by-side for ease of comparison.



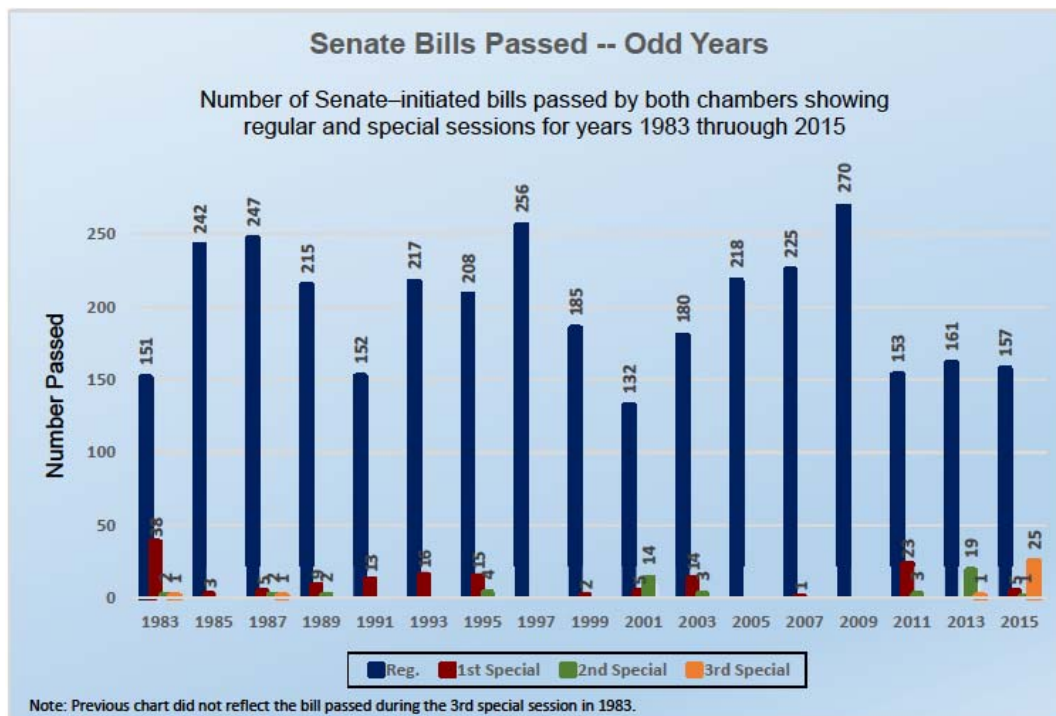
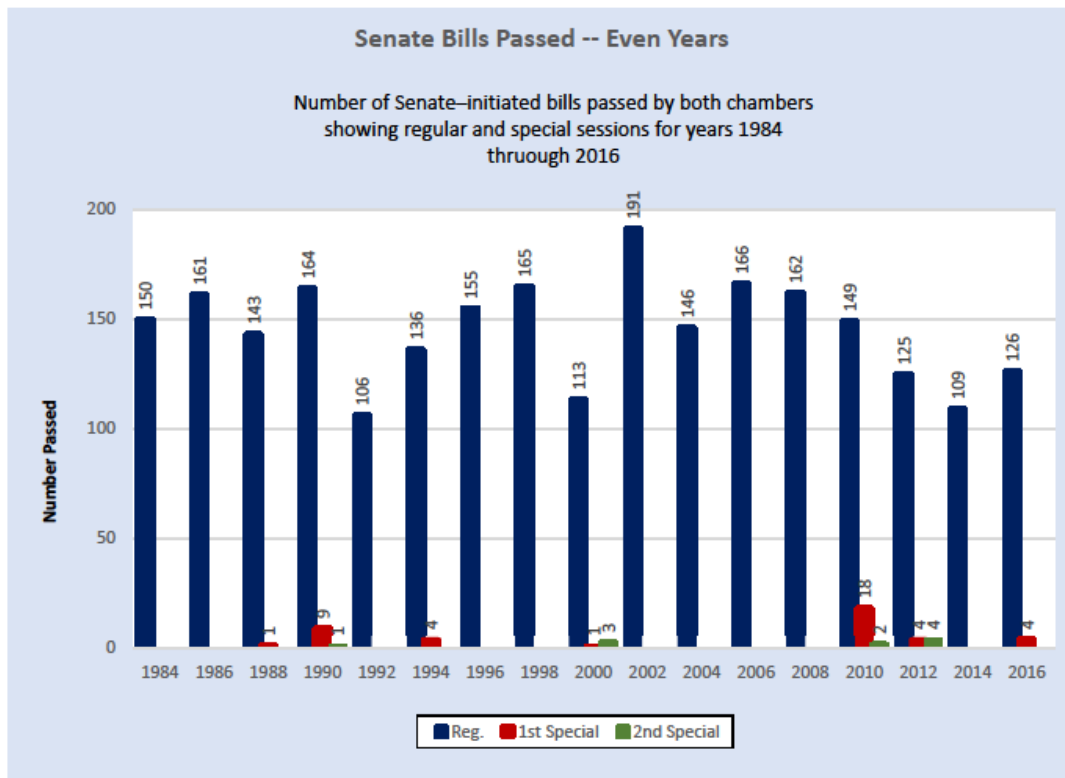
Total Bills Passed -- Odd v. Even Years

Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both



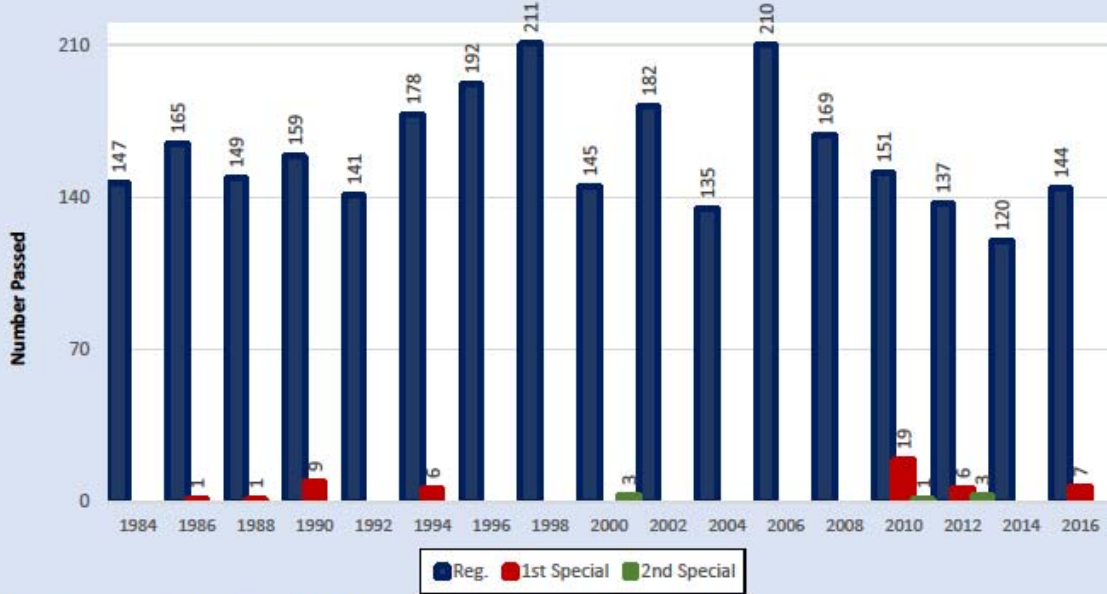
Notes: 1. The average number of bills passed in odd years is 465 and in even years is 312. 2. Totals include special sessions. Previous chart did not reflect bill passed 3rd special session in 1983 and 1st special session in 1986.

Six bar charts showing regular and special sessions.



House Bills Passed -- Even Years

Number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers showing regular and special sessions for years 1984 through 2016



Note: Previous chart did not reflect the bill passed during the 1st special session in 1986.

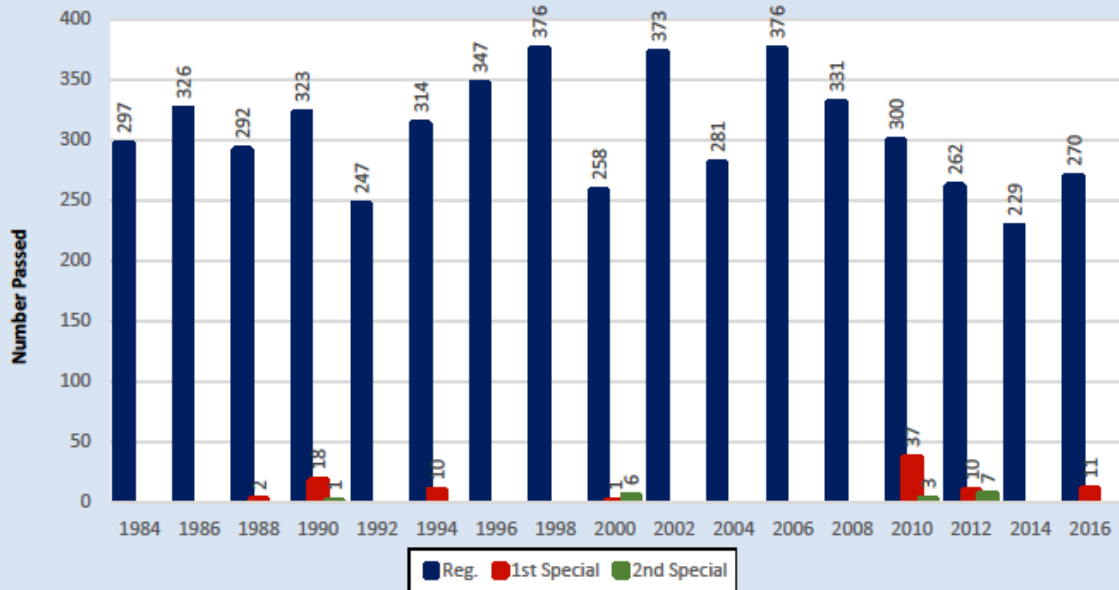
House Bills Passed -- Odd Years

Number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers showing regular and special sessions for years 1983 through 2015



Total Bills Passed -- Even Years

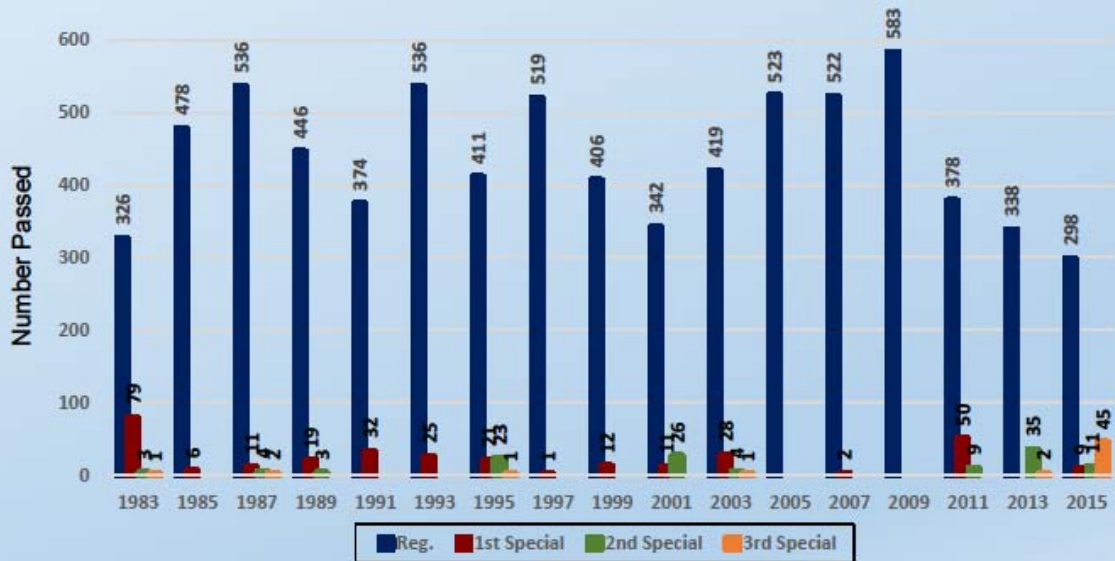
Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both showing regular and special sessions for years 1984 through 2016



Note: Previous chart did not reflect the bill passed during the 1st special session in 1986.

Total Bills Passed -- Odd Years

Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both



Note: Previous chart did not reflect bill passed 3rd special session in 1983.

Summary tables of regular and special sessions.

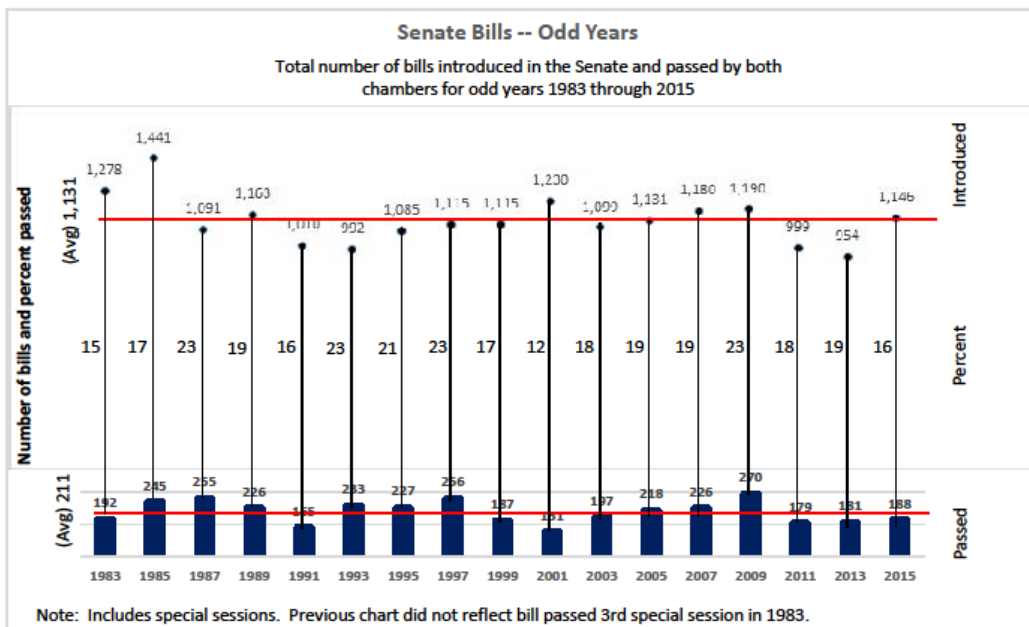
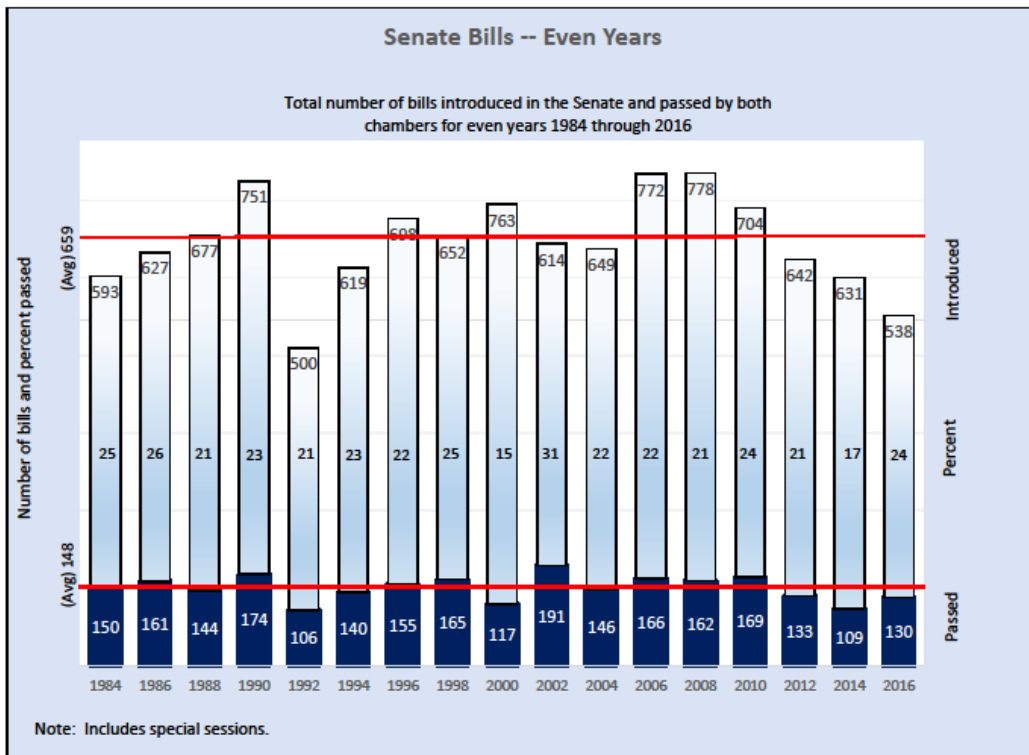
Senate – average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions for years 1983-2016				
	Odd Years		Even Years	
Sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions
Regular	198.2	17	145.1	17
1st Special	9.9	16	5.1	8
2nd Special	5.6	9	2.7	4
3rd Special	4.7	7	0.0	0

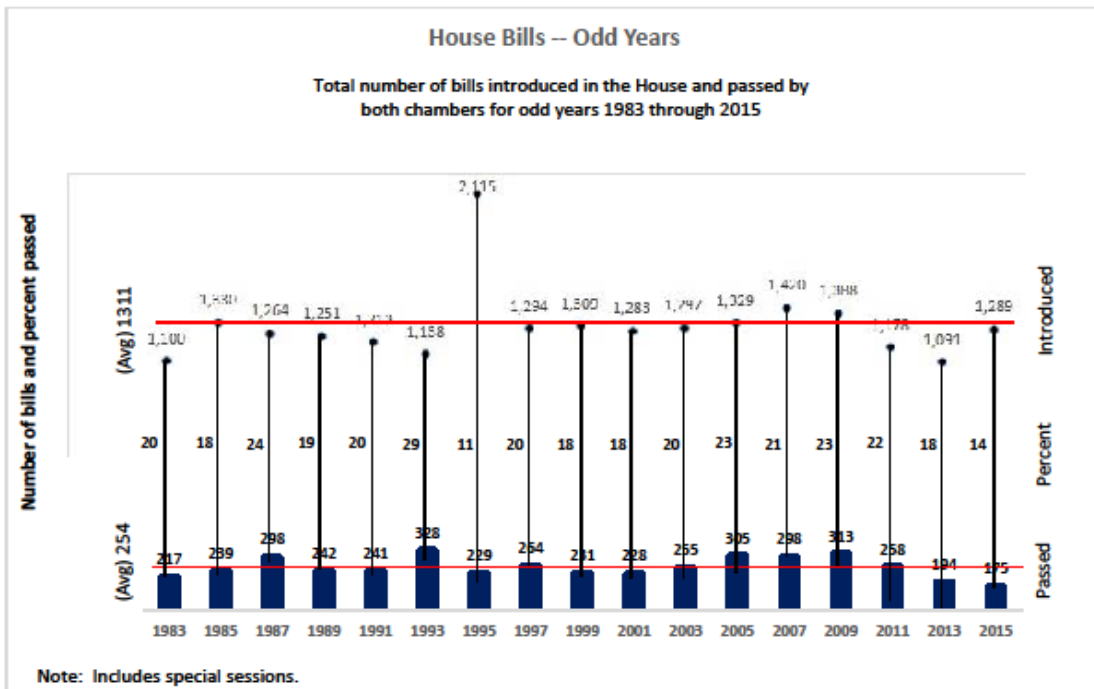
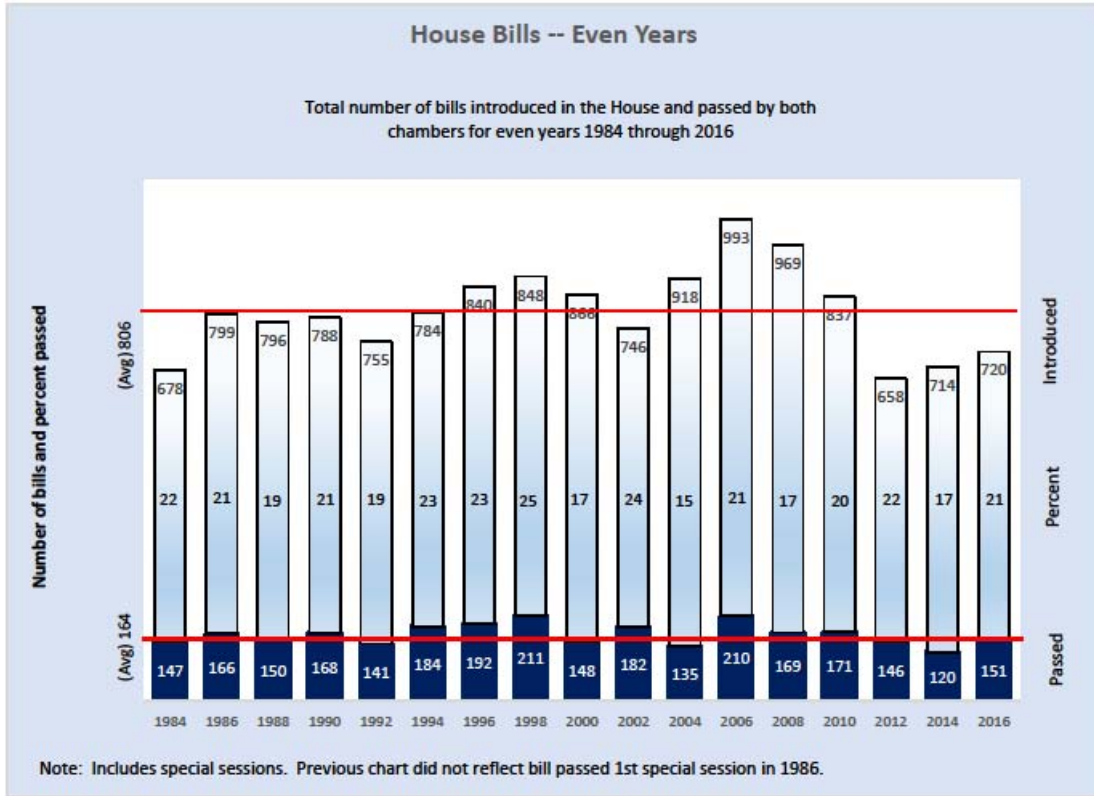
House – average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions for years 1983-2016				
	Odd Years		Even Years	
Sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions
Regular	239.2	17	160.9	17
1st Special	10.5	16	6.1	8
2nd Special	7.6	9	1.8	4
3rd Special	3.4	7	0.0	0

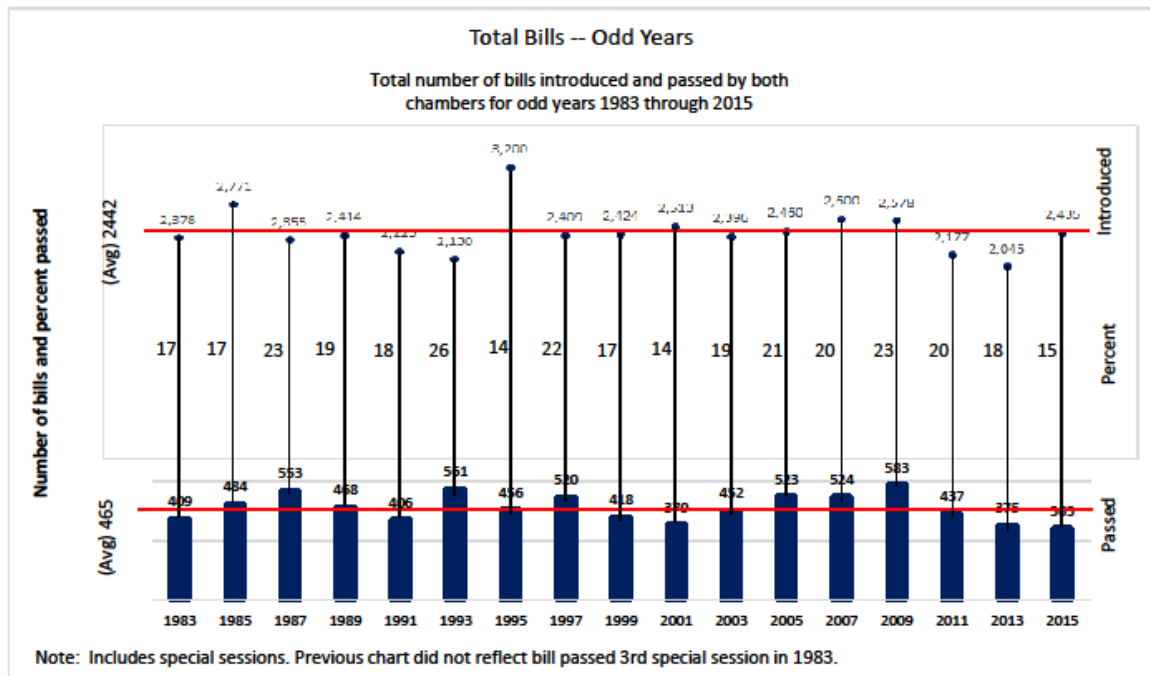
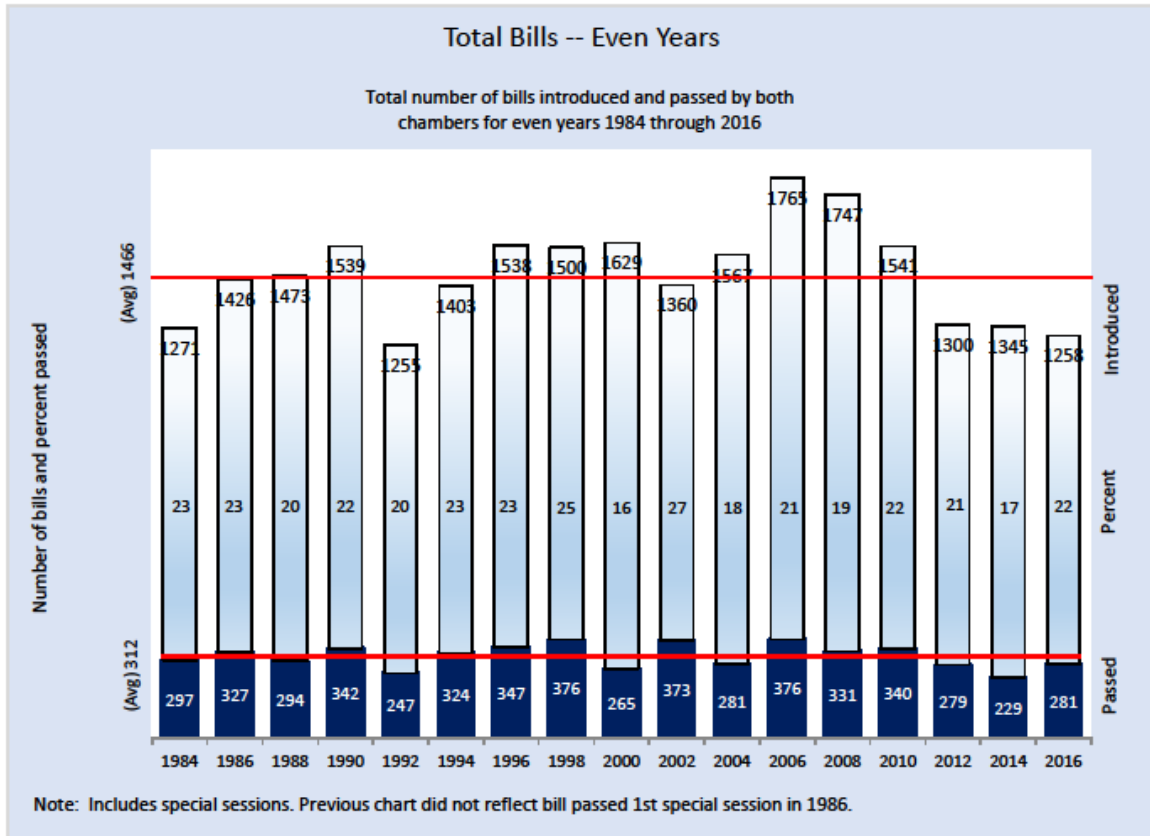
Both Chambers – sum of the average number of bills passed for years 1983-2016		
	Odd Years	Even Years
Sessions	Average number of bills passed	Average number of bills passed
Regular	437.4	306.0
1st Special	20.4	11.3
2nd Special	13.1	4.4
3rd Special	8.1	0.0

Note: The combined chambers numbers are based on tables above, not directly from the data. The 2014 chart incorrectly showed counts for Even Years - Number of Sessions as 3 for the 2nd Special Sessions. The correct number is 4.

Next are six statistical summary charts of bills introduced and passed.

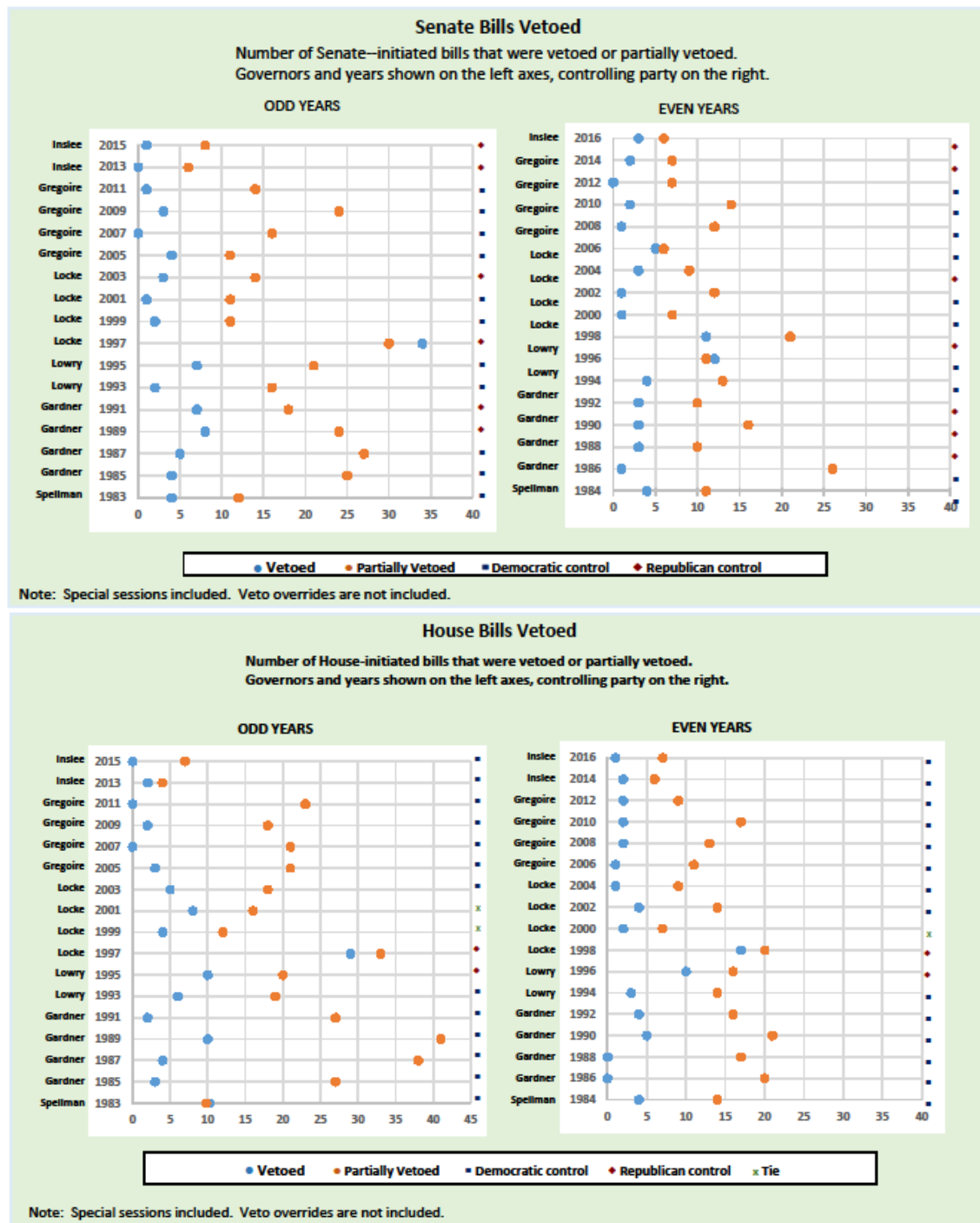




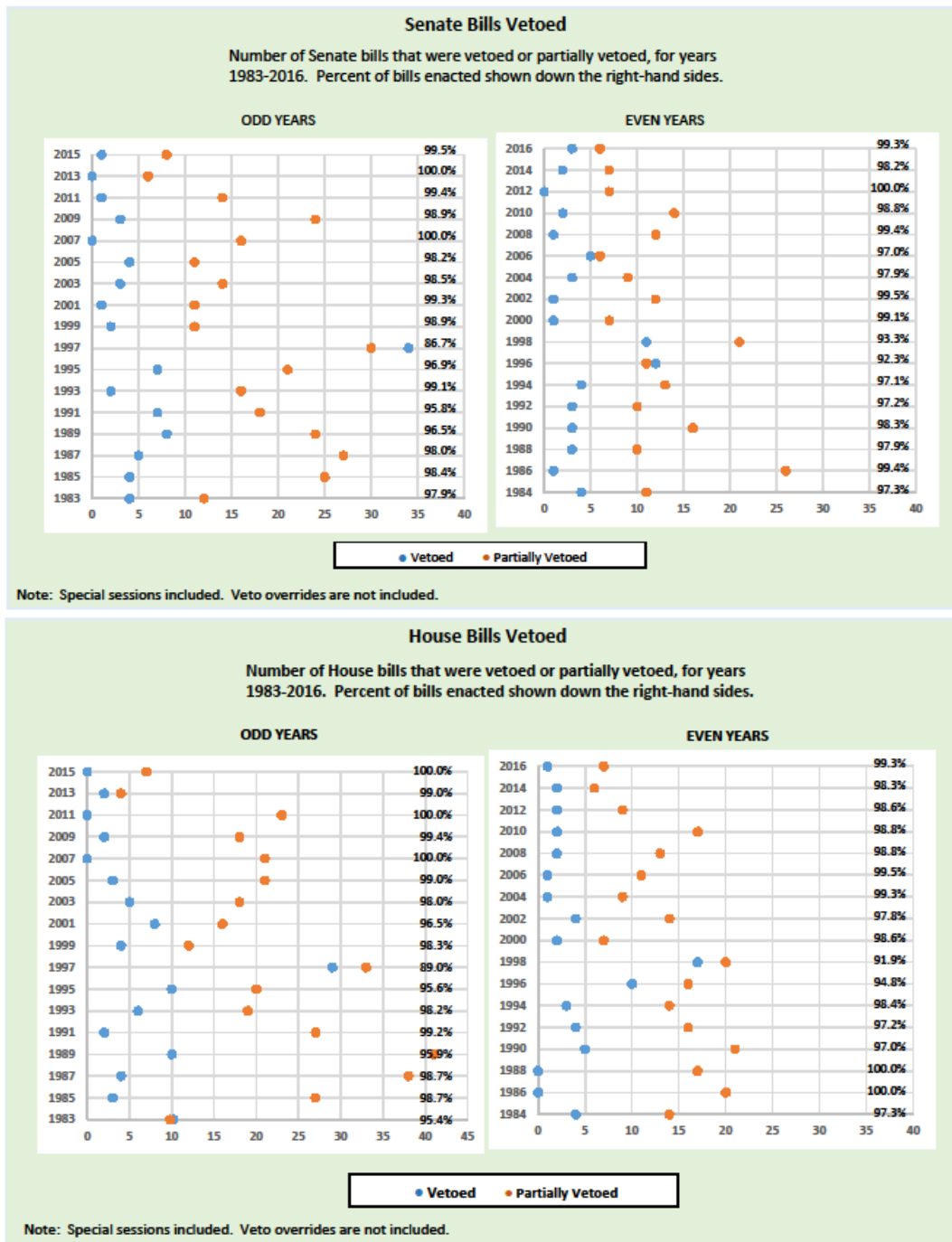


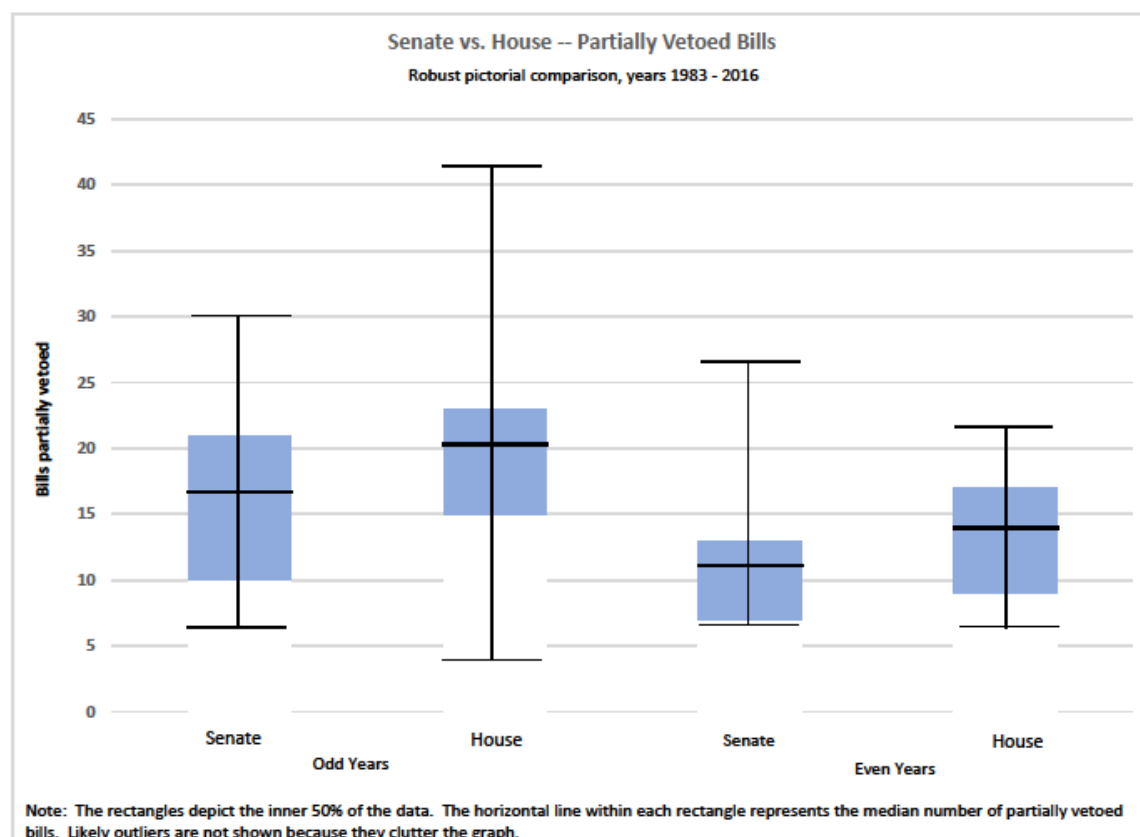
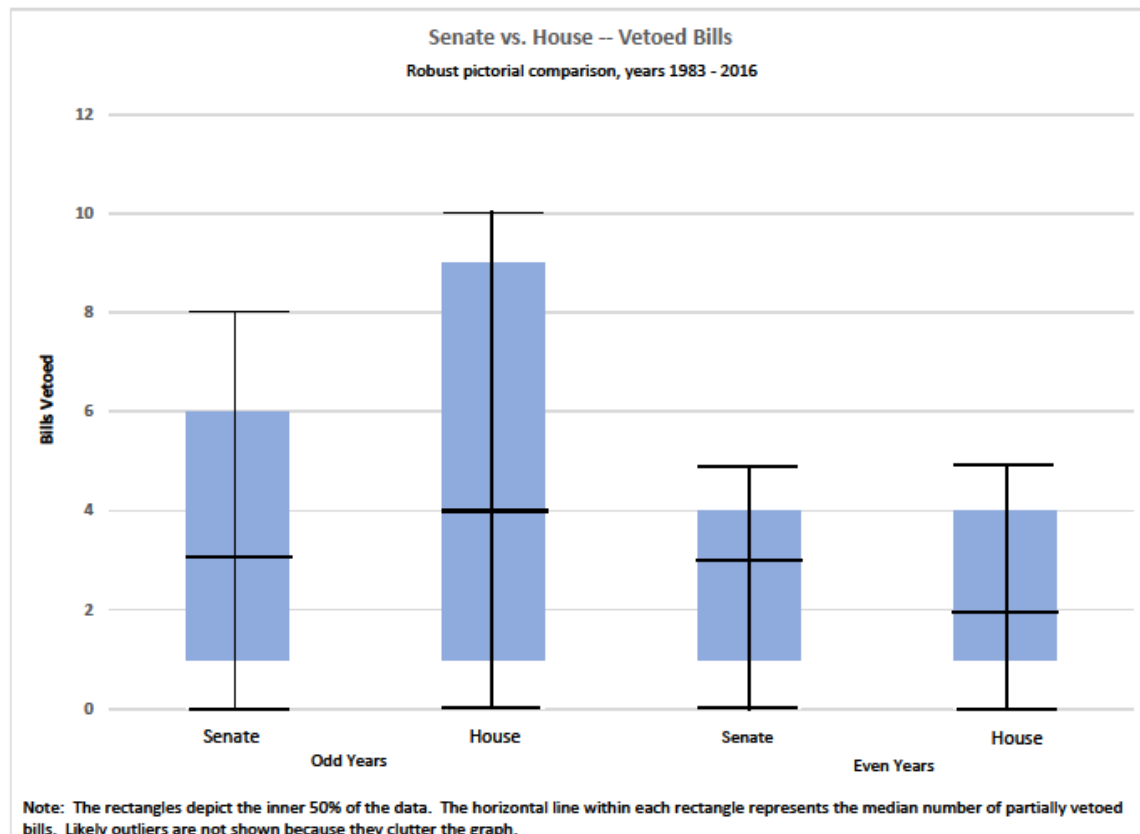
Bills Passed as a Percent of Those Introduced			
Year	Senate %	House %	Legislature %
2016	24.2%	21.0%	22.3%
2015	16.4%	13.6%	14.9%
2014	17.3%	16.8%	17.0%
2013	19.0%	17.8%	18.3%
2012	20.7%	22.2%	21.5%
2011	17.9%	21.9%	20.1%
2010	24.0%	20.4%	22.1%
2009	22.7%	22.6%	22.6%
2008	20.8%	17.4%	18.9%
2007	19.2%	21.0%	20.2%
2006	21.5%	21.1%	21.3%
2005	19.3%	22.9%	21.3%
2004	22.5%	14.7%	17.9%
2003	17.9%	19.7%	18.9%
2002	31.1%	24.4%	27.4%
2001	12.3%	17.8%	15.1%
2000	15.3%	17.1%	16.3%
1999	16.8%	17.6%	17.2%
1998	25.3%	24.9%	25.1%
1997	23.0%	20.4%	21.6%
1996	22.2%	22.9%	22.6%
1995	20.9%	10.8%	14.3%
1994	22.6%	23.5%	23.1%
1993	23.5%	28.8%	26.3%
1992	21.2%	18.7%	19.7%
1991	16.3%	19.9%	18.3%
1990	23.2%	21.3%	22.2%
1989	19.4%	19.3%	19.4%
1988	21.3%	18.8%	20.0%
1987	23.4%	23.6%	23.5%
1986	25.7%	20.7%	22.9%
1985	17.0%	18.0%	17.5%
1984	25.3%	21.7%	23.4%
1983	15.0%	19.8%	17.2%
Average	20.0%	19.5%	19.7%

This page gives horizontal dot plots for easy comparison of bills partially and fully vetoed versus odd and even years, also showing presiding governors and controlling party.



Here we have plots similar to the preceding page but showing the number of bills vetoed and the percent enacted. The next page or box (or box-and-whisker) plots is used to contrast the Senate and House. These were used because the data are too skewed and variable for the mean to reasonably portray central tendency. This is followed by a summary table of percentages using medians.





On the average, the House introduces and subsequently passes more bills than the Senate. So one would expect the average number of bills vetoed to be somewhat higher in the lower chamber. The following table looks at percentages. Again, for robustness the median was used, this time to calculate the percentages.

**Average Percent of Partial and Full Vetoes
for years 1983-2016**

Action	Odd Years		Even Years	
	Senate	House	Senate	House
Partial veto	7.3%	8.3%	7.3%	8.4%
Full veto	1.4%	1.7%	2.0%	1.2%

Note: Percentages based on median number of bills passed. Does not include veto override bills (which totaled 27 in the 2016 session).

**Senate -- average number of bills passed and frequency
of sessions for years 1983-2016**

Sessions	Odd Years		Even Years	
	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions
Regular	198.2	17	145.1	17
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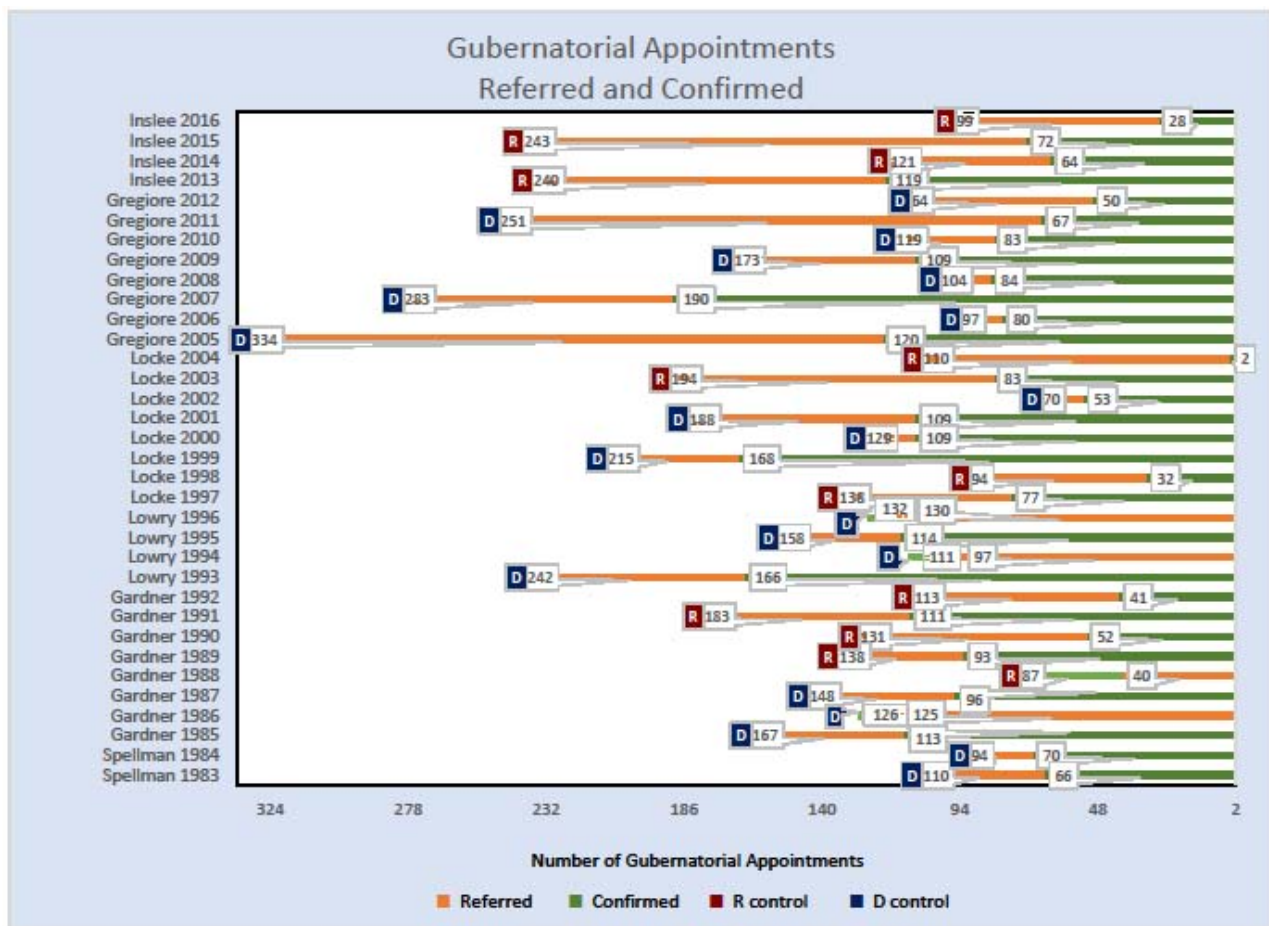
**House -- average number of bills passed and
frequency of sessions for years 1983-2016**

Sessions	Odd Years		Even Years	
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**Both Chambers -- sum of the average number of bills
passed for years 1983-2016**

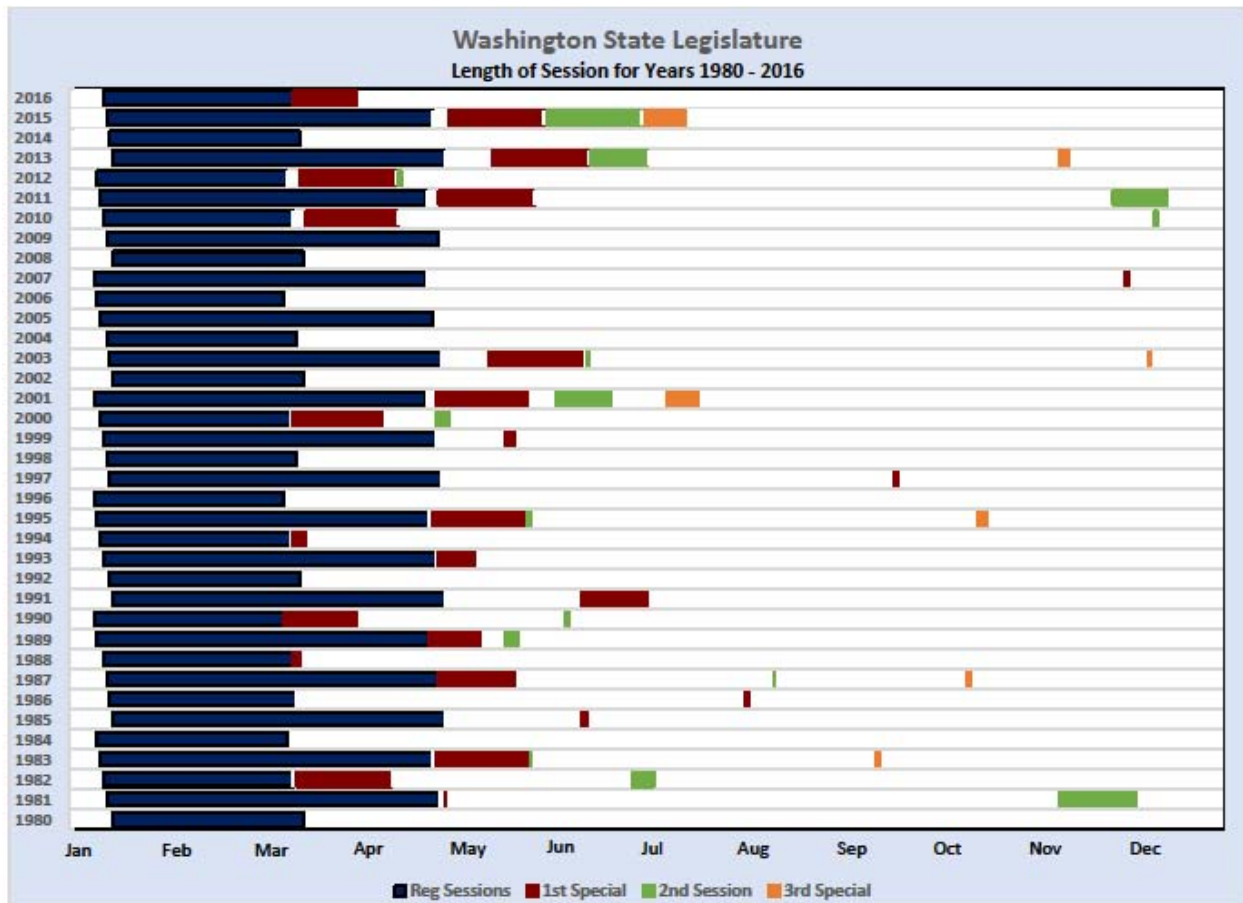
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Note: The combined chambers numbers are based on tables above, not directly from the data. The 2014 chart incorrectly showed counts for Even Years - Number of Sessions as 3 for the 2nd Special Sessions. The correct number is 4.



Notes: The average number referred for 1983-2016 was 151; the average number confirmed was 91. Special session appointments, if any, are included.

The next graph summarizes length of sessions from 1980 through 2016, showing regular and special sessions.



Overview of Legislative Sessions Since 1980

Regular Sessions

Schedule length of regular sessions:	60 days in even years 105 days in odd years
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Since regular annual sessions began in 1980, the shortest sessions occurred in 1986 and 2006, each being 59 days.

Special Sessions

Special Sessions	Count Since 1980	Average Length (days)	Minimum Number of Days	Maximum Number of Days
1st	25	18.4	1	30
2nd	15	8.7	1	30
3rd	7	4.6	1	13

In 2015, three special sessions totaled 73 days to make it Washington's longest one-year session of *176 days.

*The 2015 regular session lasted 103 days.

Next are four charts showing the political division of the Senate and House going all the way back to 1889, when Washington was still a territory. Following these political division charts, and completing this chart book, are three historical charts of women in our legislature.

A few highlights are: The Enabling Act of 1889 changed three territories into four states: Washington, Montana, N. & S. Dakota.

In 1896, J.R. Rogers became Washington's only populist governor.

The drop in the total number of seats in the House for the years 1905 and 1911 is surprising. Expected would be for the number of seats to steadily increase toward the constitutional maximum for the House of 99 seats.

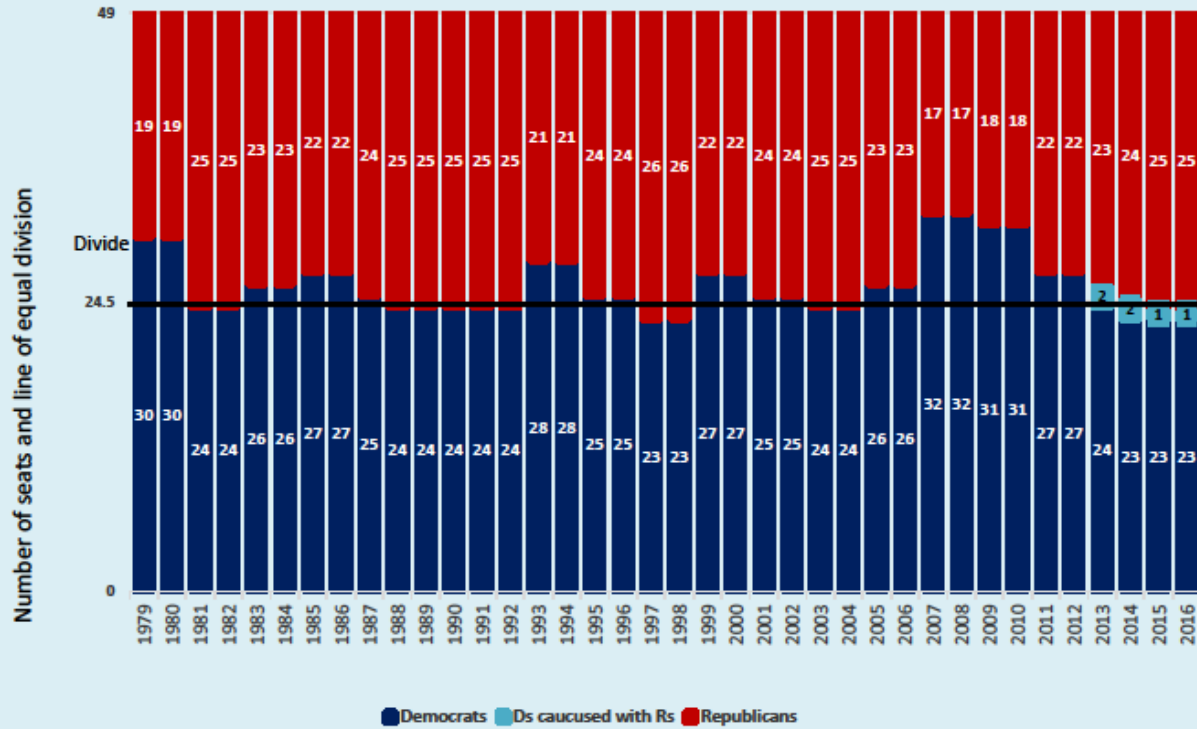
The charts suggest the influence of redistricting. For example, for the state Senate, from 1967 on (following the Supreme Court's decisions, Carr v. Baker in 1962 and Reynolds v. Sims in '64) there is less variability in the political division, and by 1981 political majority swings are even less, staying within a maximum of three seats.

Note the dominant Republican majority in both chambers after WWI, followed by the significant switch to the Democrats during the Great Depression and the New Deal.

In 2013 two Democrats joined with the Republicans to form the Majority Caucus Coalition.

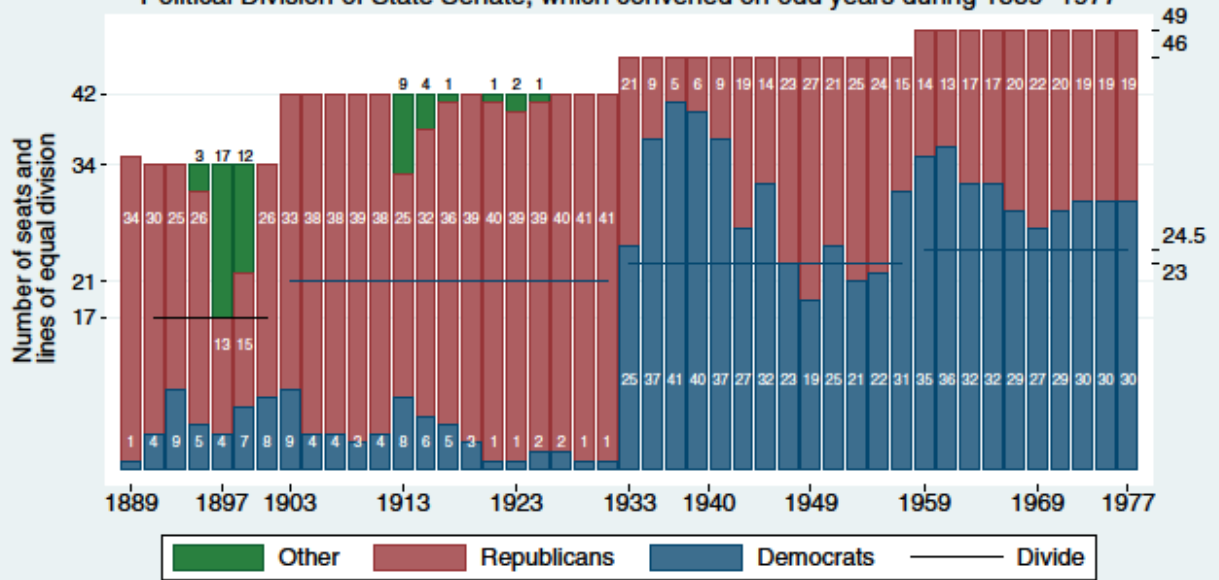
Washington State Legislature

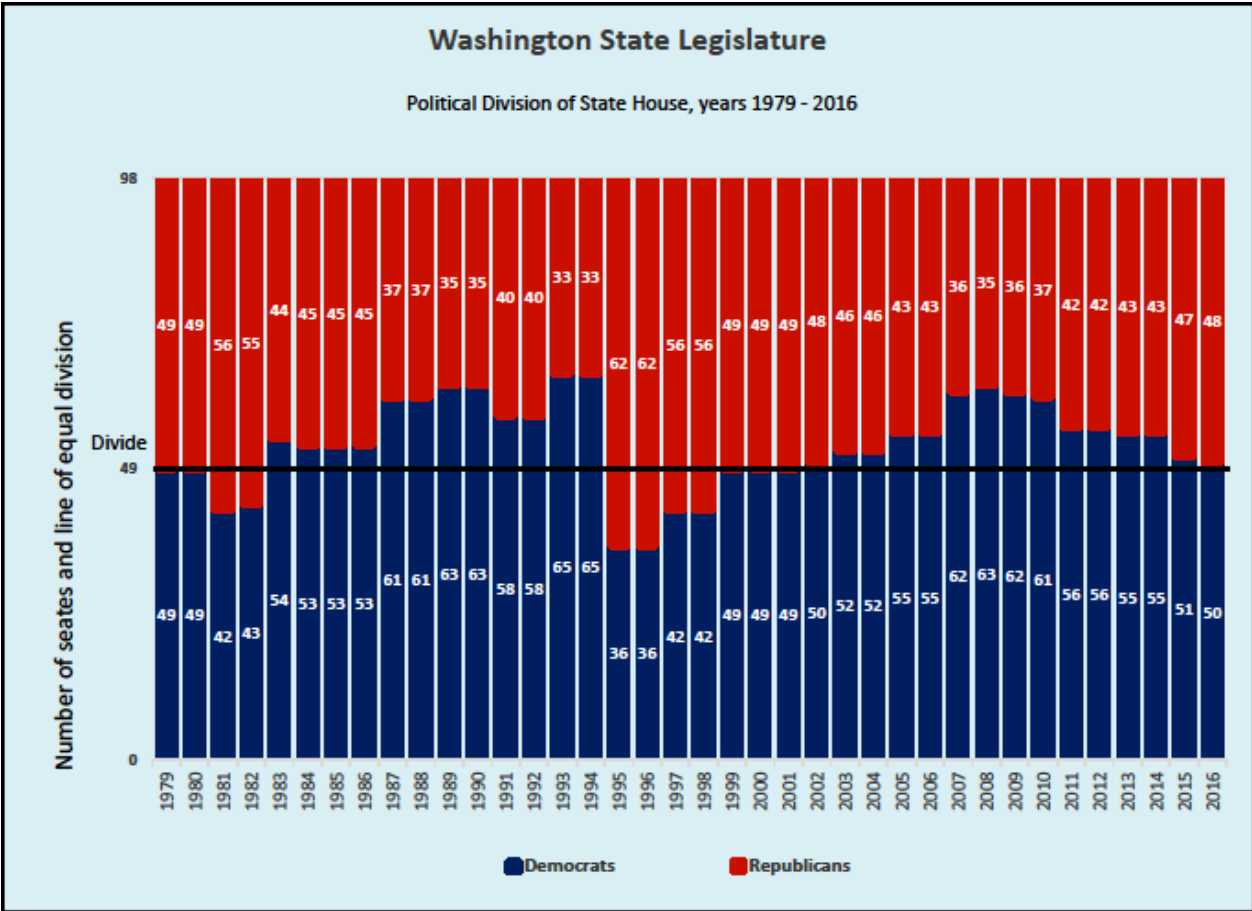
Political Division of State Senate, years 1979 - 2016

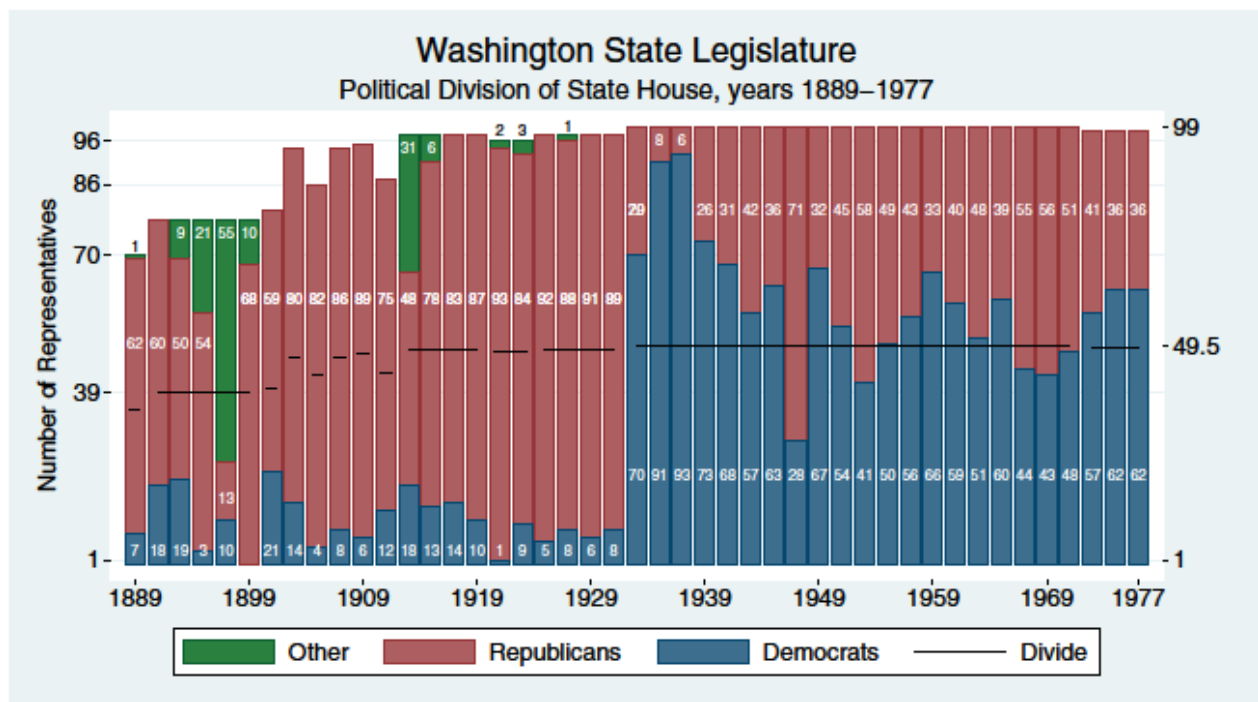


Washington State Legislature

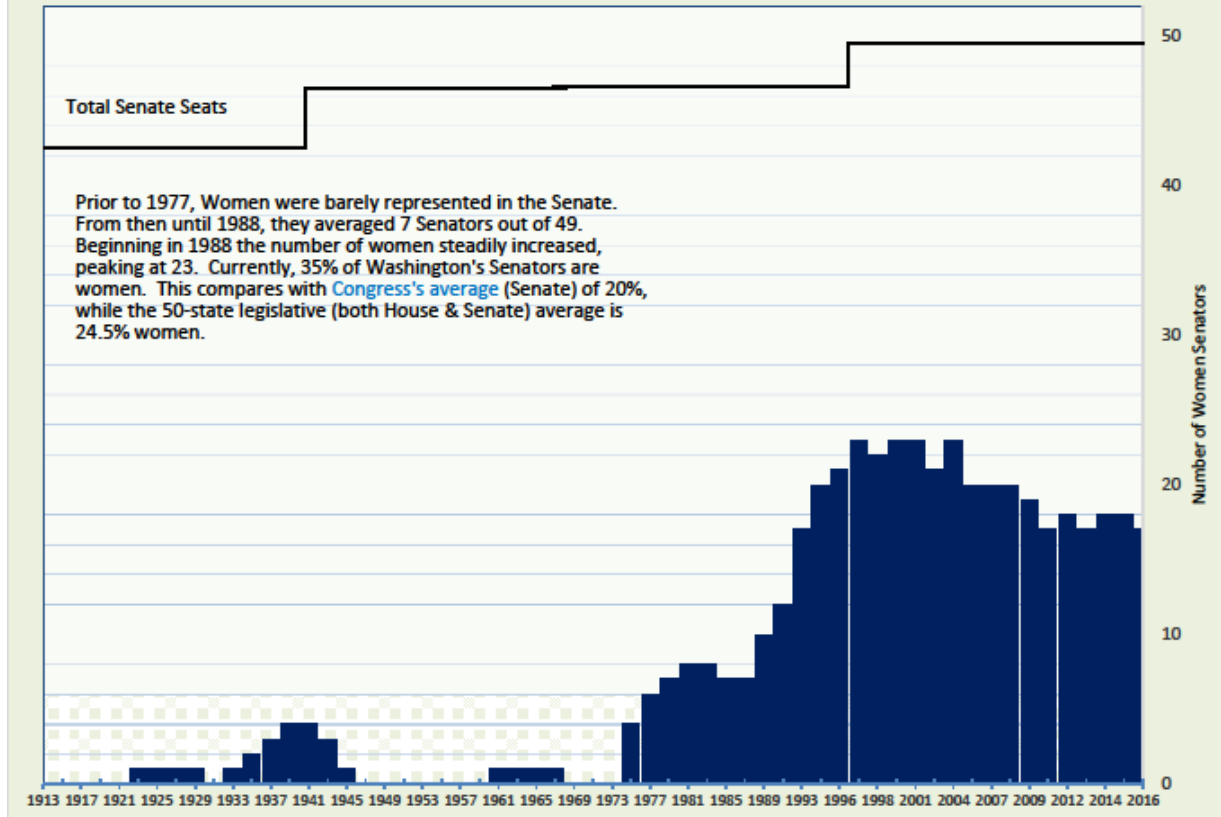
Political Division of State Senate, which convened on odd years during 1889–1977



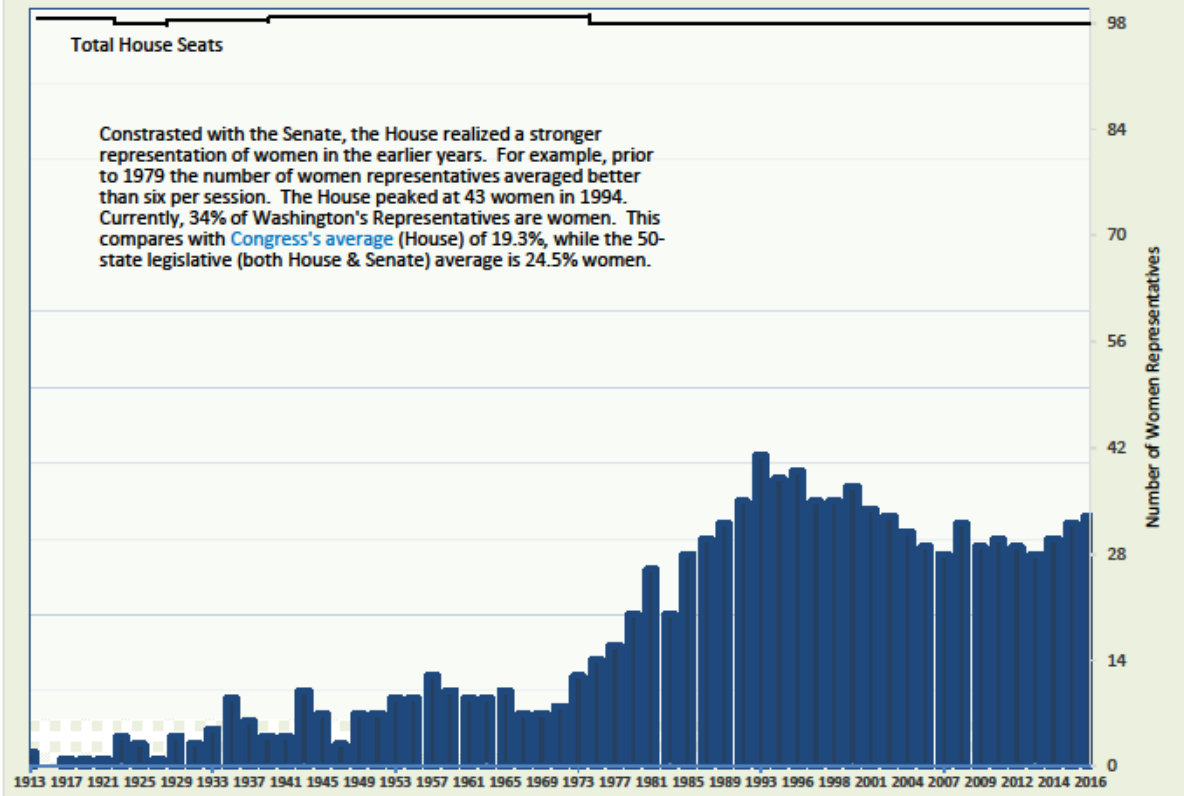




Women Legislators in the Washington State Senate



Women Legislators in the Washington State House



Women Legislators in the Washington State House and Senate

In 1910, ten years before women's suffrage became the law of the land, Washington women gained the right to vote. Three years later, in 1913, two women became members of the House. Now there are 50 state women legislators, 34% of the total 147 legislative seats. Congress's average is 19.4%; the 50-state legislative average is 24.5%.

