

# **Washington State Legislative History Chart Book:**

A Selected Graphical and Tabular History of  
The Washington State Legislature

2008 Update

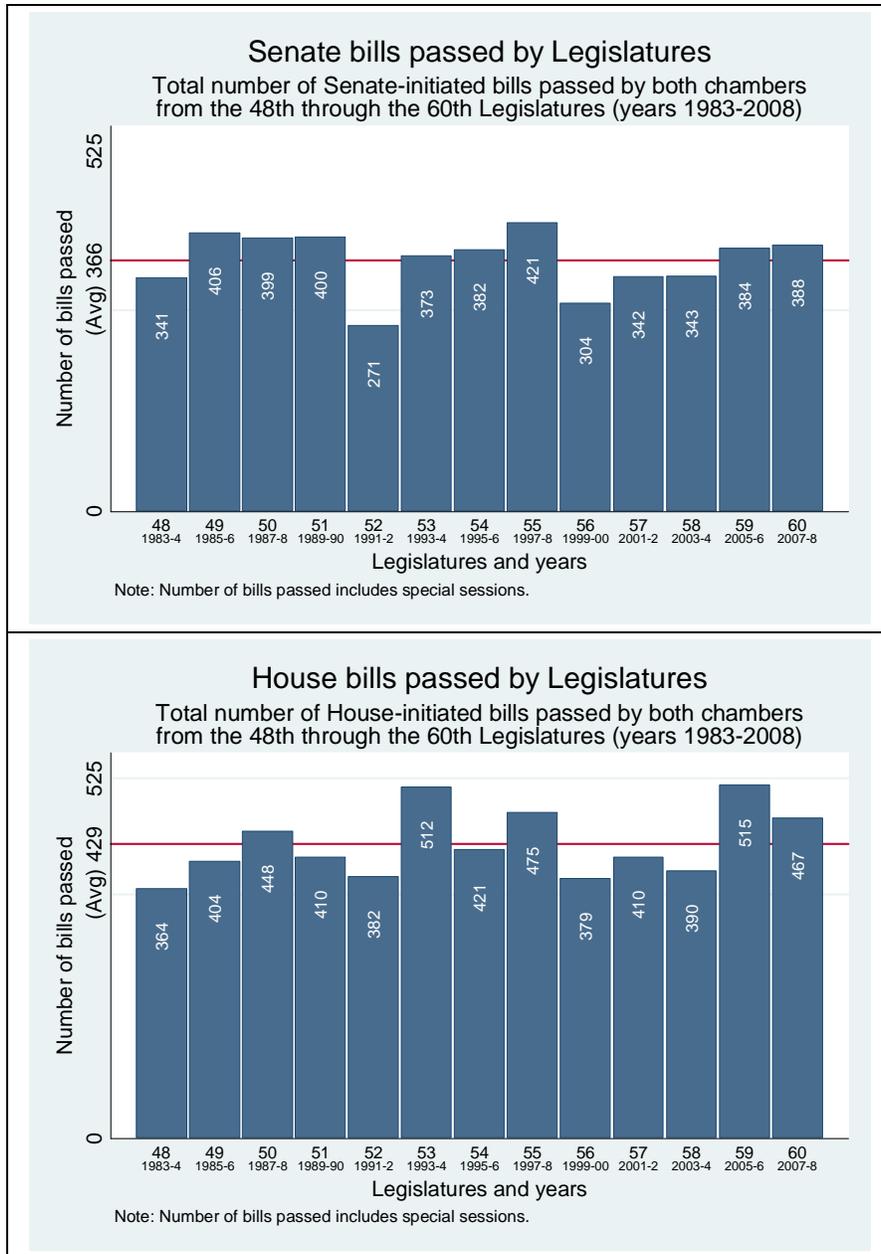
# **A Selected Graphical and Tabular History of Washington State Legislature**

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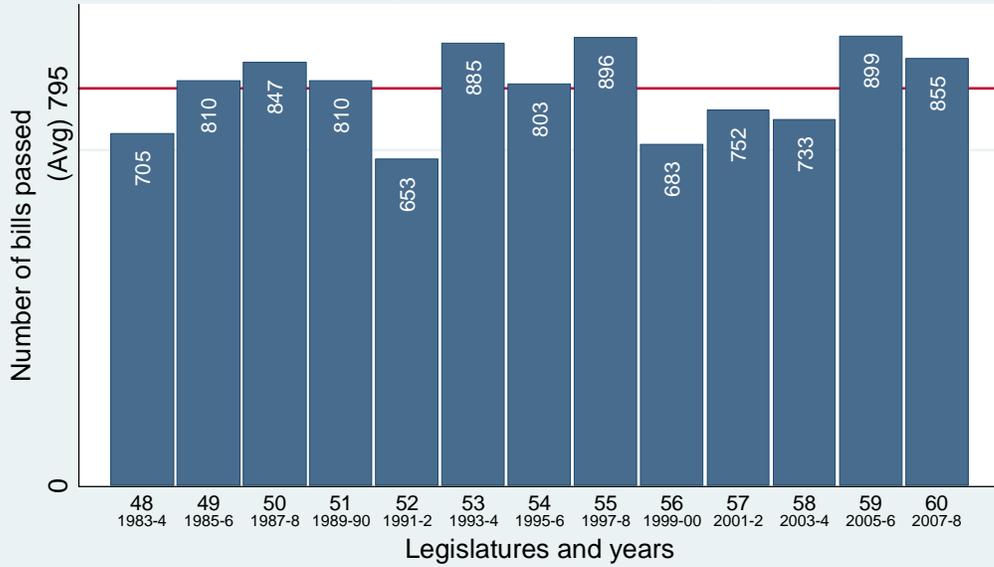
The following gives a selected graphical history of Washington state legislature.

First is an overview showing bill history beginning with the 48<sup>th</sup> legislature.



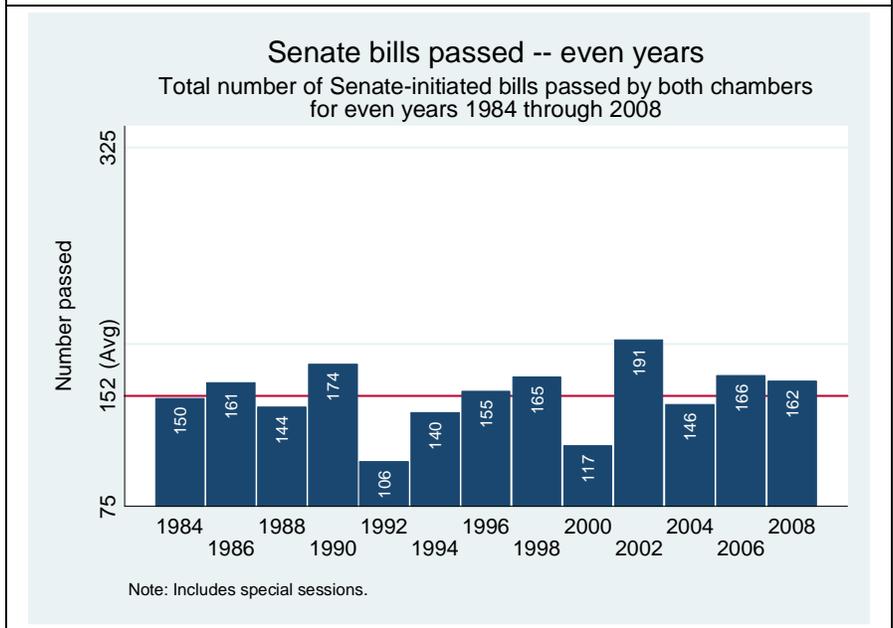
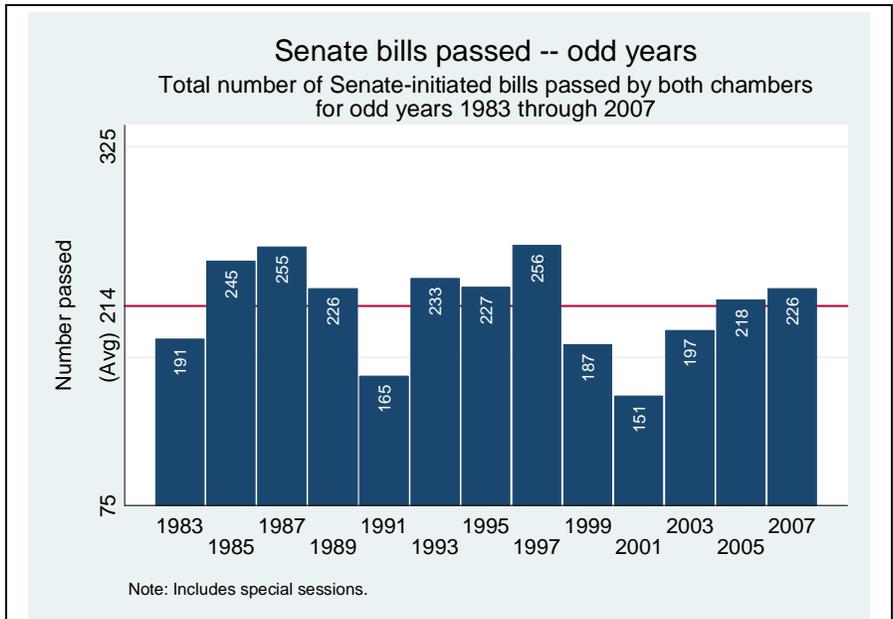
### Total bills passed by Legislatures

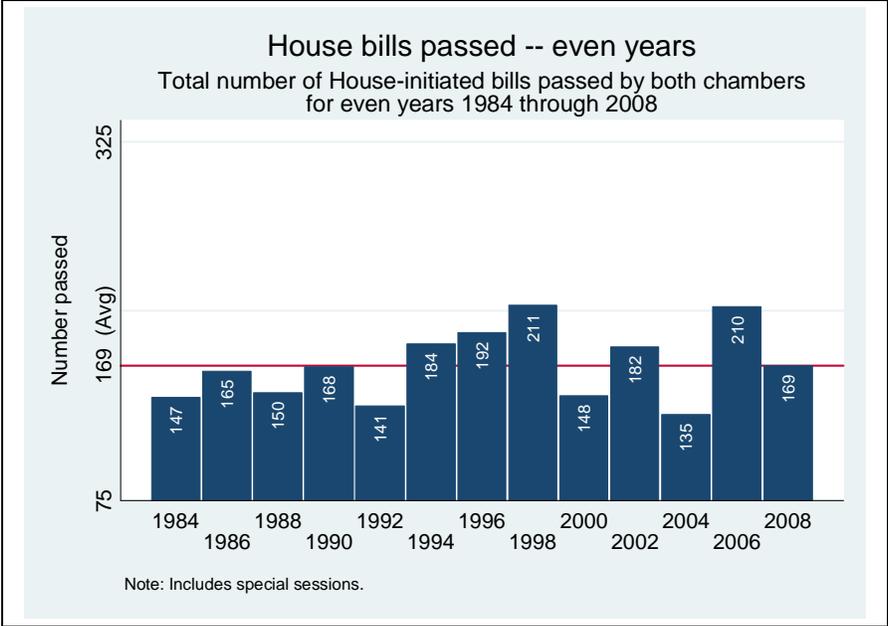
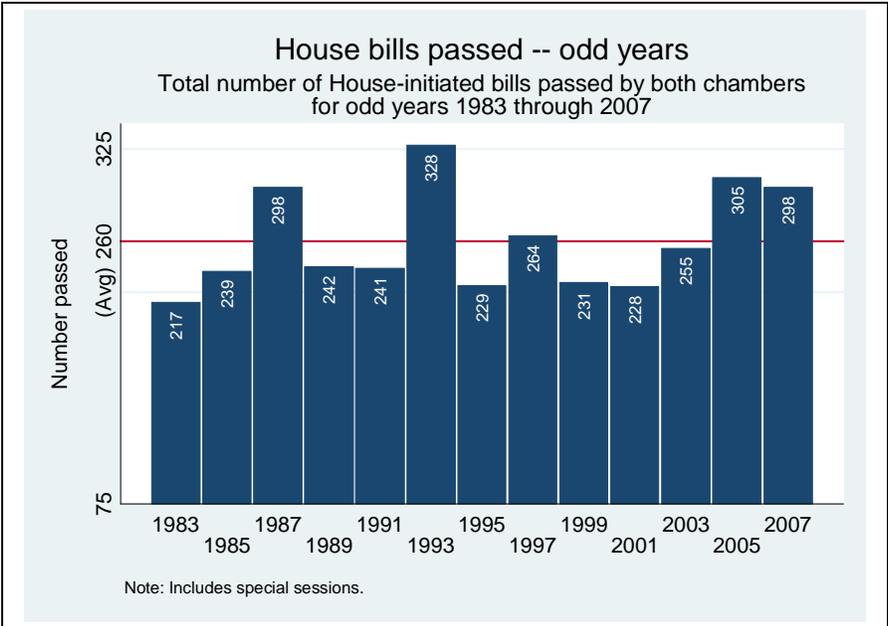
Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both from the 48th through the 60th Legislatures (years 1983-2008)

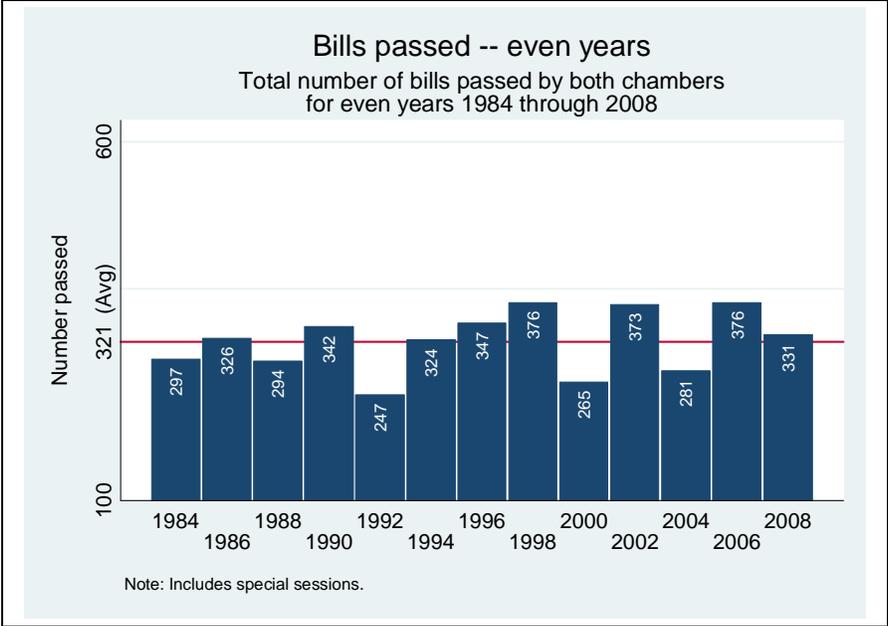
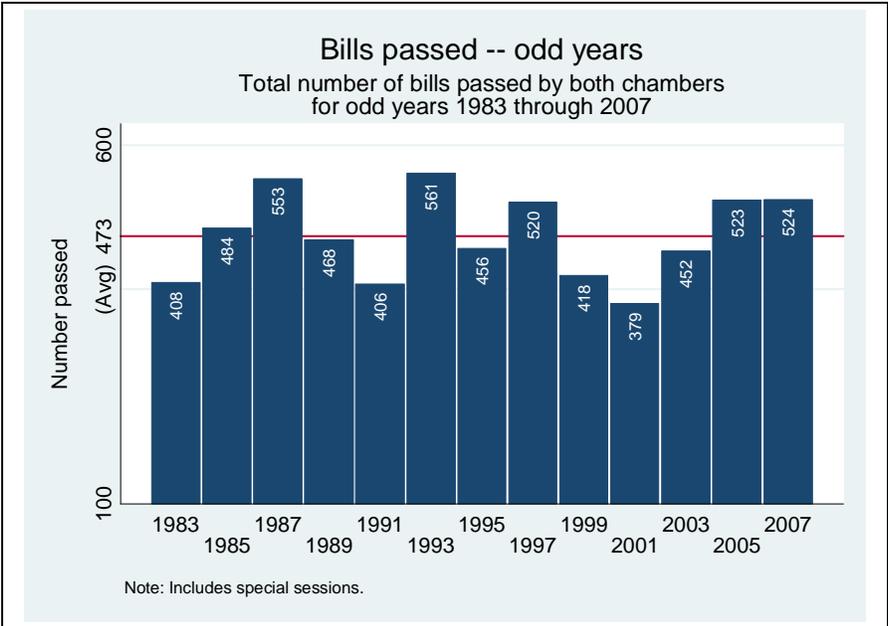


Note: Number of bills passed includes special sessions.

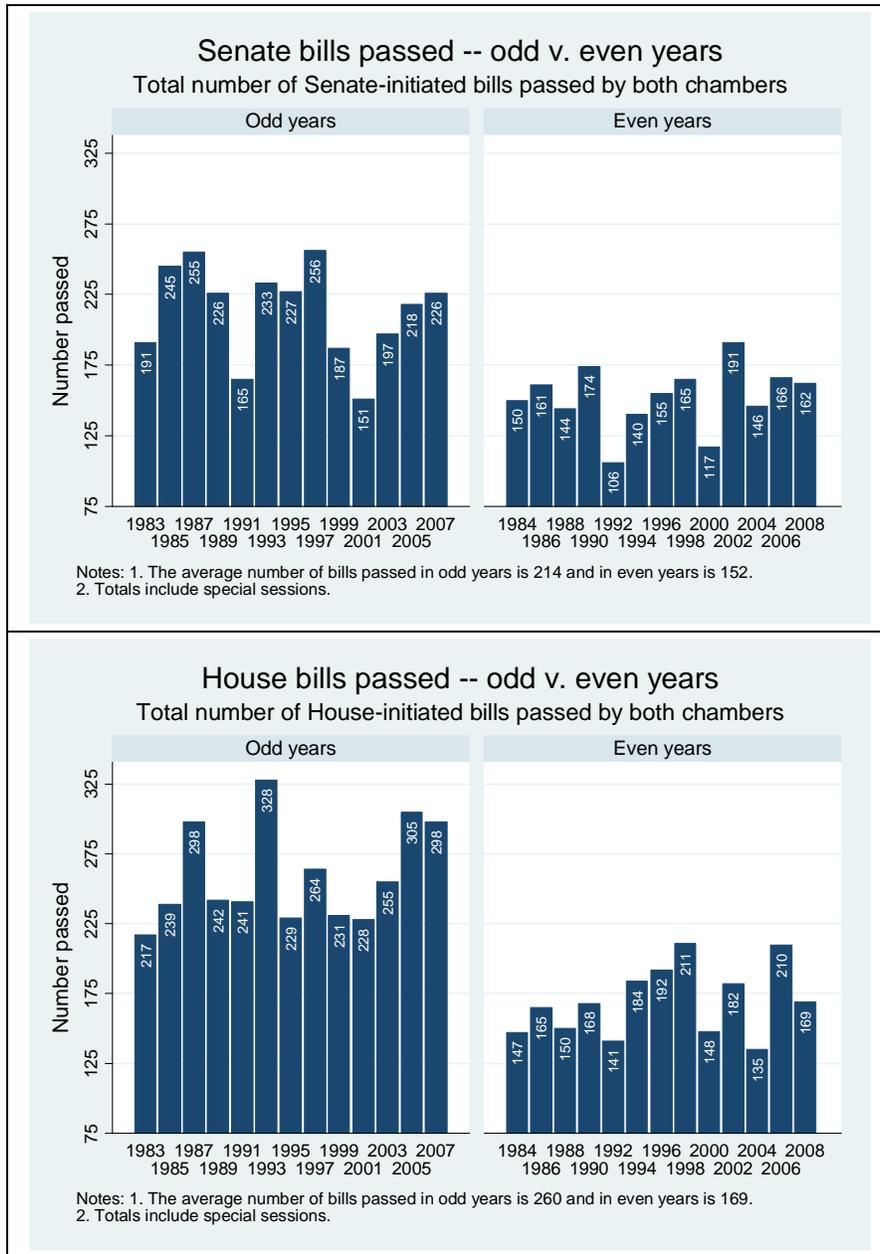
The next six charts summarize bills initiated by each chamber and legislature as a whole and passed by both, for odd and even years.





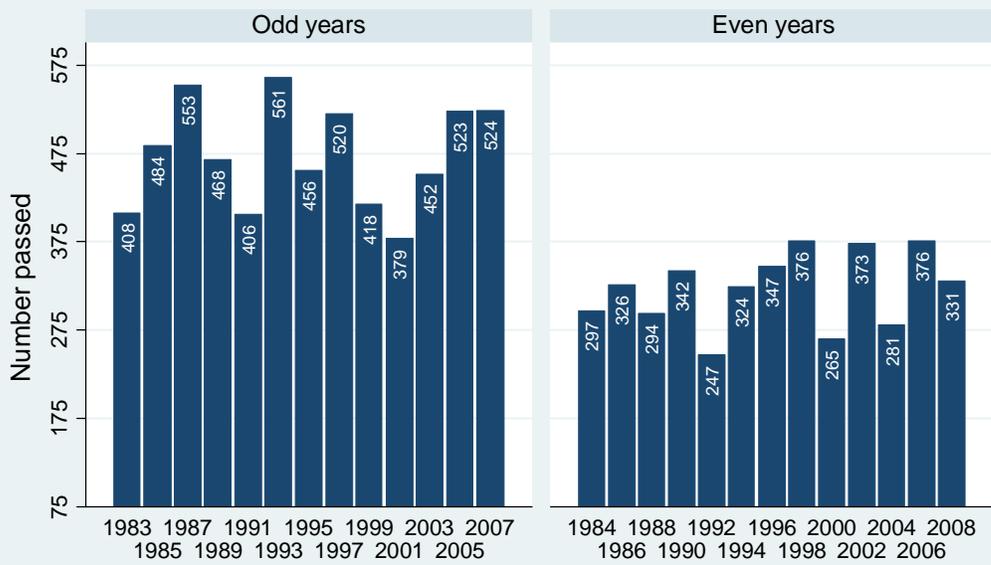


These and the next page are similar to the previous six charts but odd and even years are side-by-side for ease of comparison.



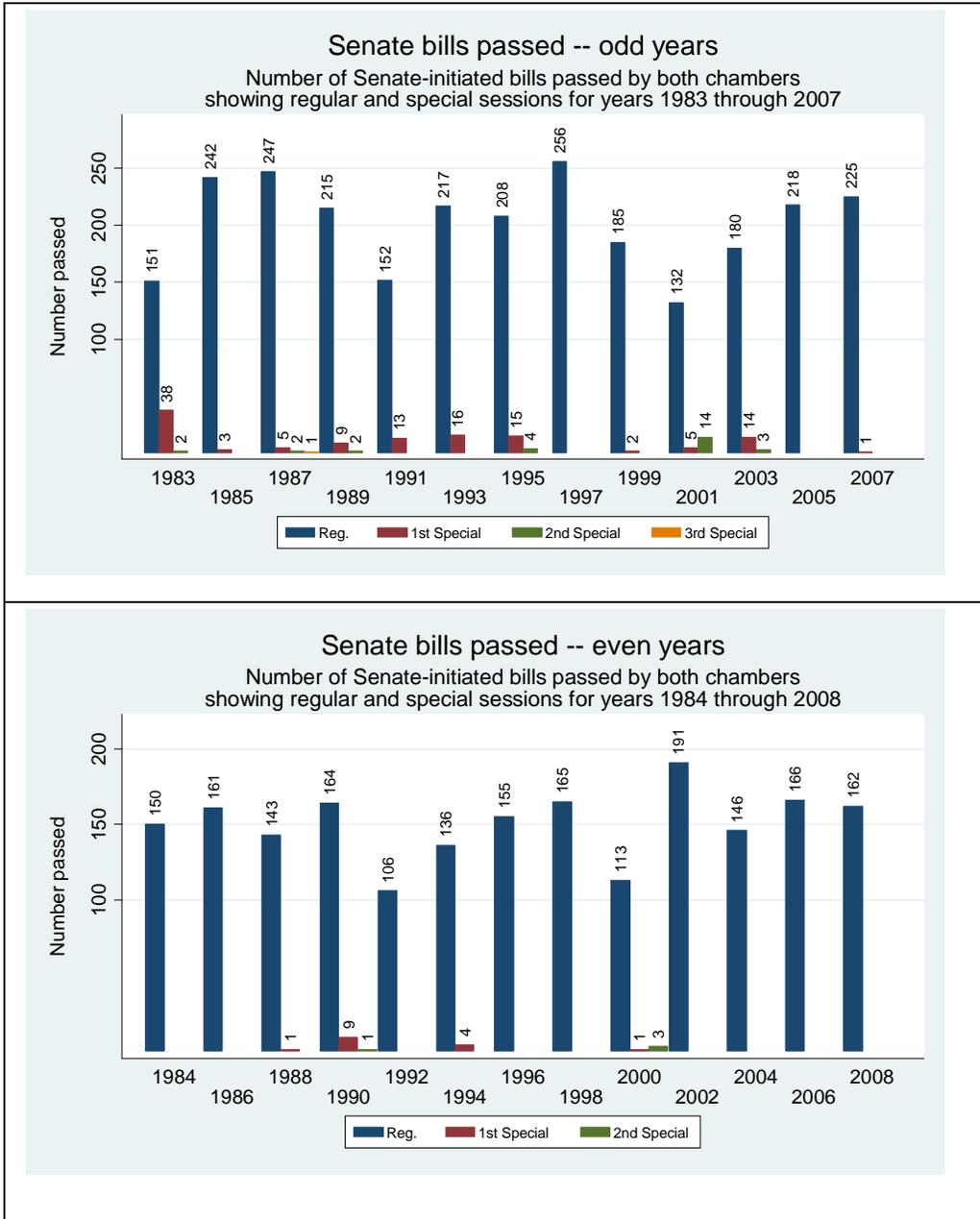
### Total bills passed -- odd v. even years

Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both



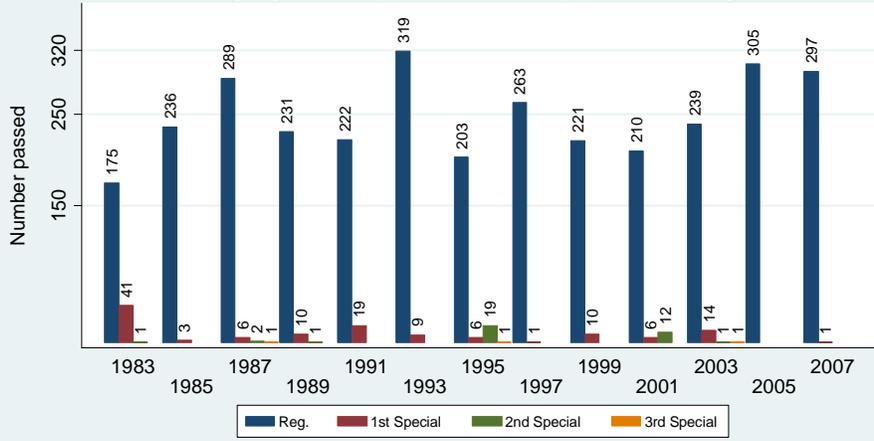
Notes: 1. The average number of bills passed in odd years is 473 and in even years is 321.  
 2. Totals include special sessions.

Six bar charts showing regular and special sessions.



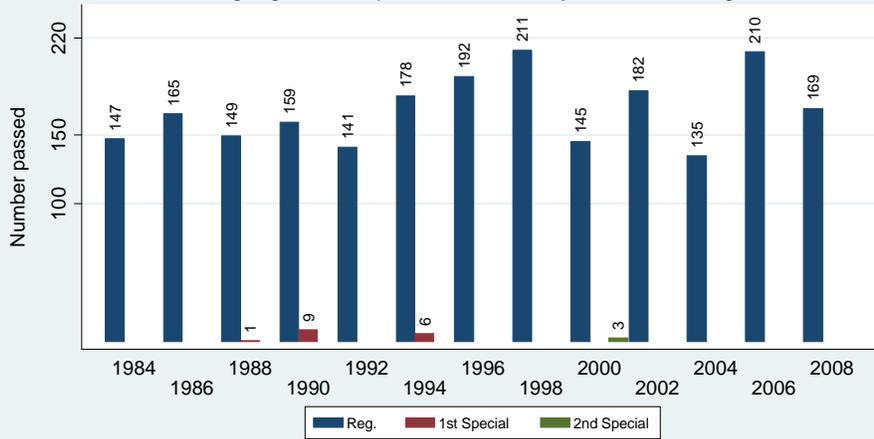
### House bills passed -- odd years

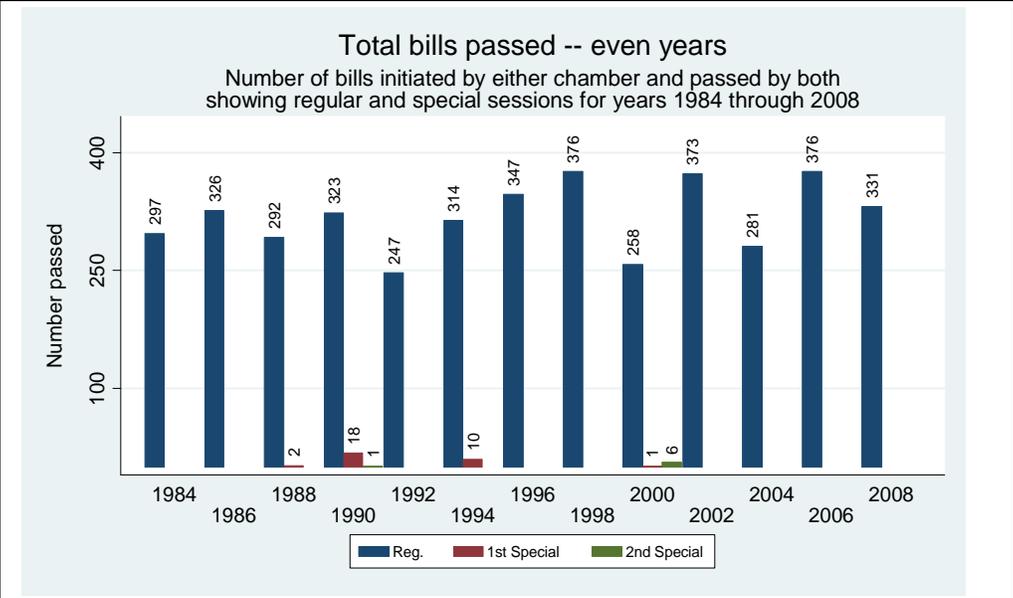
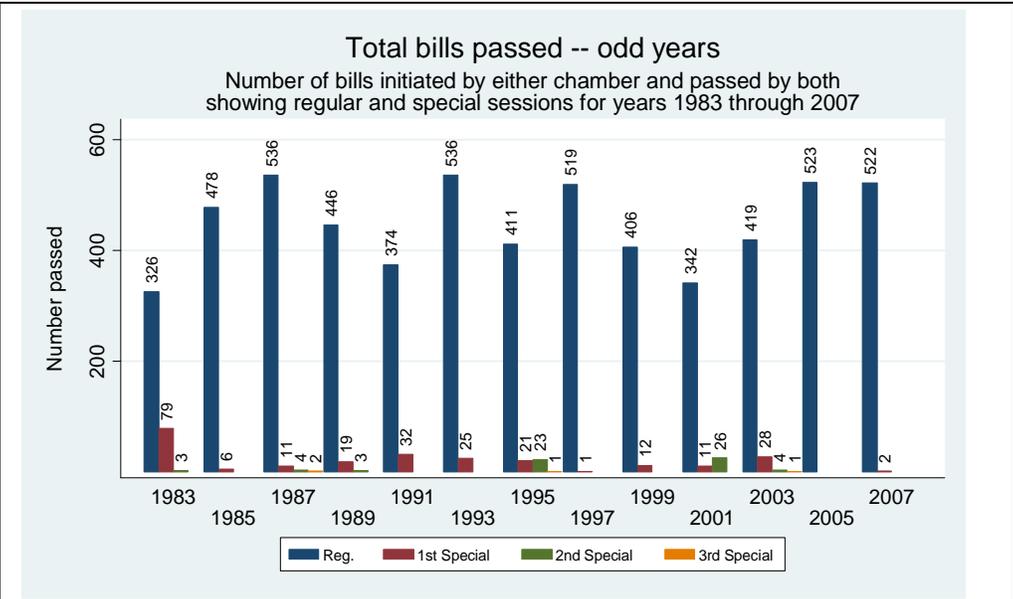
Number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers showing regular and special sessions for years 1983 through 2007



### House bills passed -- even years

Number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers showing regular and special sessions for years 1984 through 2008





Summary tables of regular and special sessions.

**Senate -- average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions, for years 1983 -2008**

Sessions	Odd years		Even years	
	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions
Regular	214	13	151	12
1st Special	11	11	4	4
2nd Special	5	6	2	2
3rd Special	0.25	4	0	0

For example, during odd years there were four 3rd special sessions, in which one bill had been introduced in the Senate and passed both chambers.

**House -- average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions, for years 1983-2008**

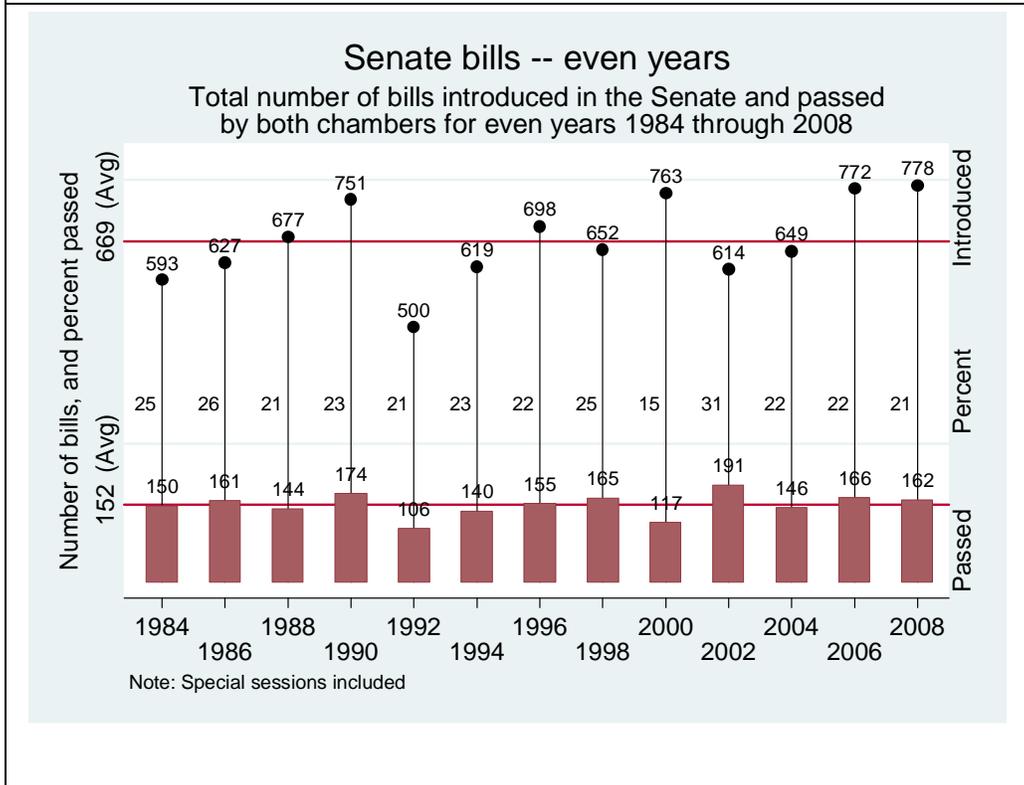
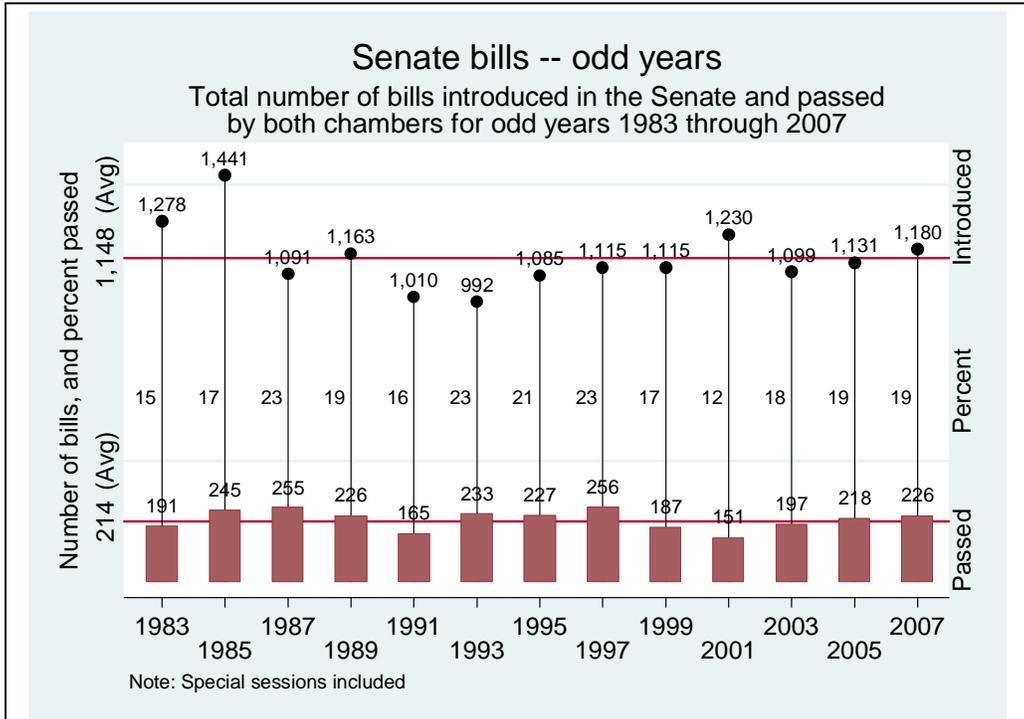
Sessions	Odd years		Even years	
	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions	Average number of bills passed	Number of sessions
Regular	260	13	169	12
1st Special	11	11	4	4
2nd Special	6	6	1.5	2
3rd Special	0.75	4	0	0

For example, during odd years there were four 3rd special sessions, in which three bills were introduced in the House and passed by both chambers.

**Average number of bills passed by both chambers and frequency of sessions, for years 1983-2008**

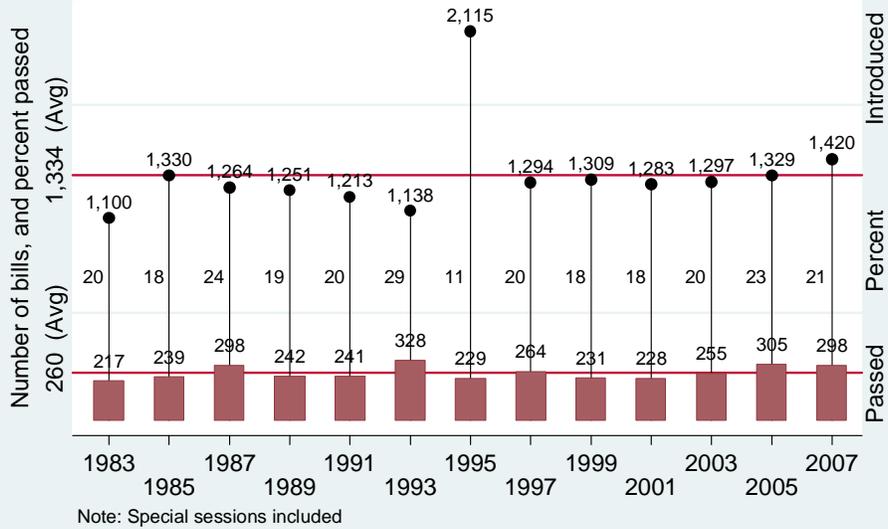
Sessions	Odd years		Even years	
	Number of bills passed	Number of sessions	Number of bills passed	Number of sessions
Regular	474	13	320	12
1st Special	22	11	8	4
2nd Special	11	6	3.5	2
3rd Special	1	4	0	0

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



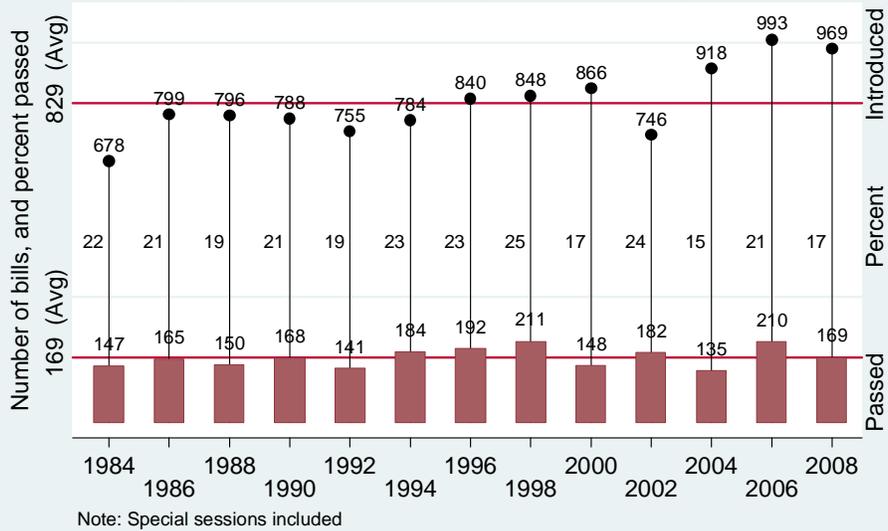
### House bills -- odd years

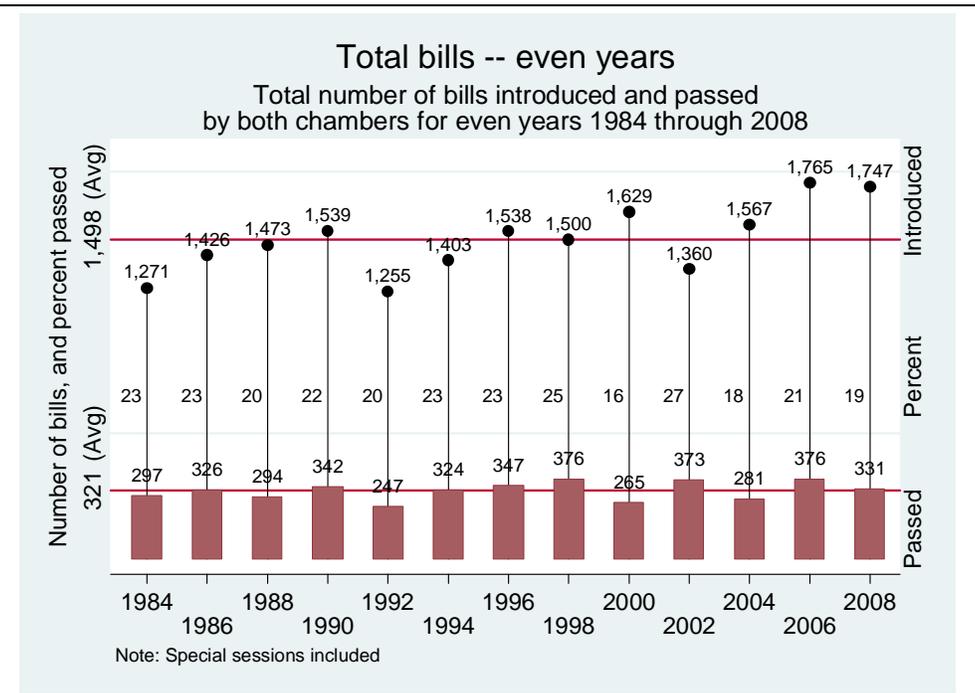
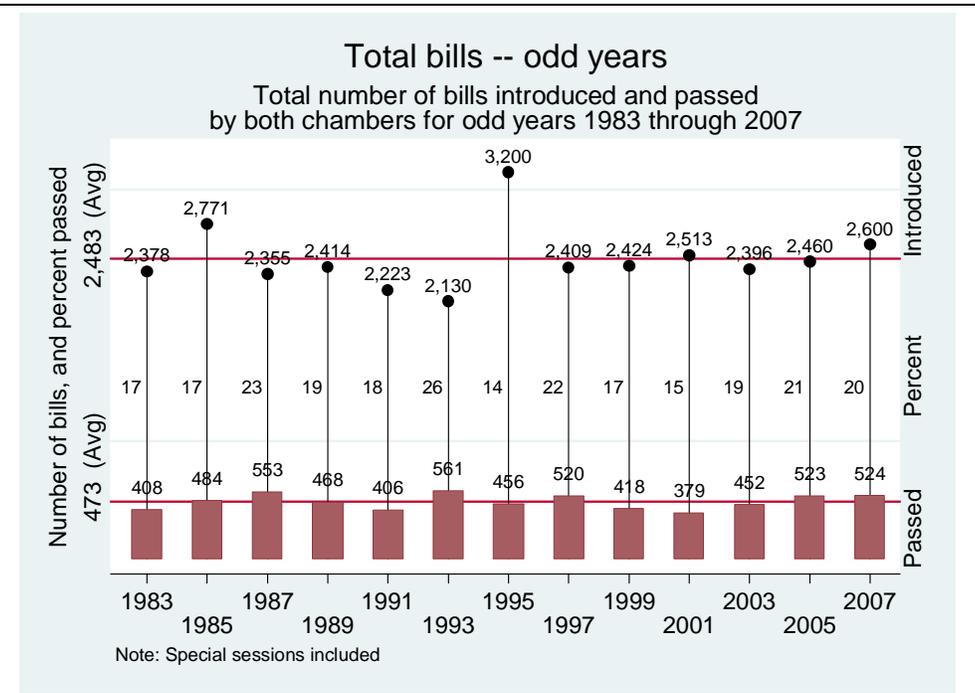
Total number of bills introduced in the House and passed by both chambers for odd years 1983 through 2007



### House bills -- even years

Total number of bills introduced in the House and passed by both chambers for even years 1984 through 2008

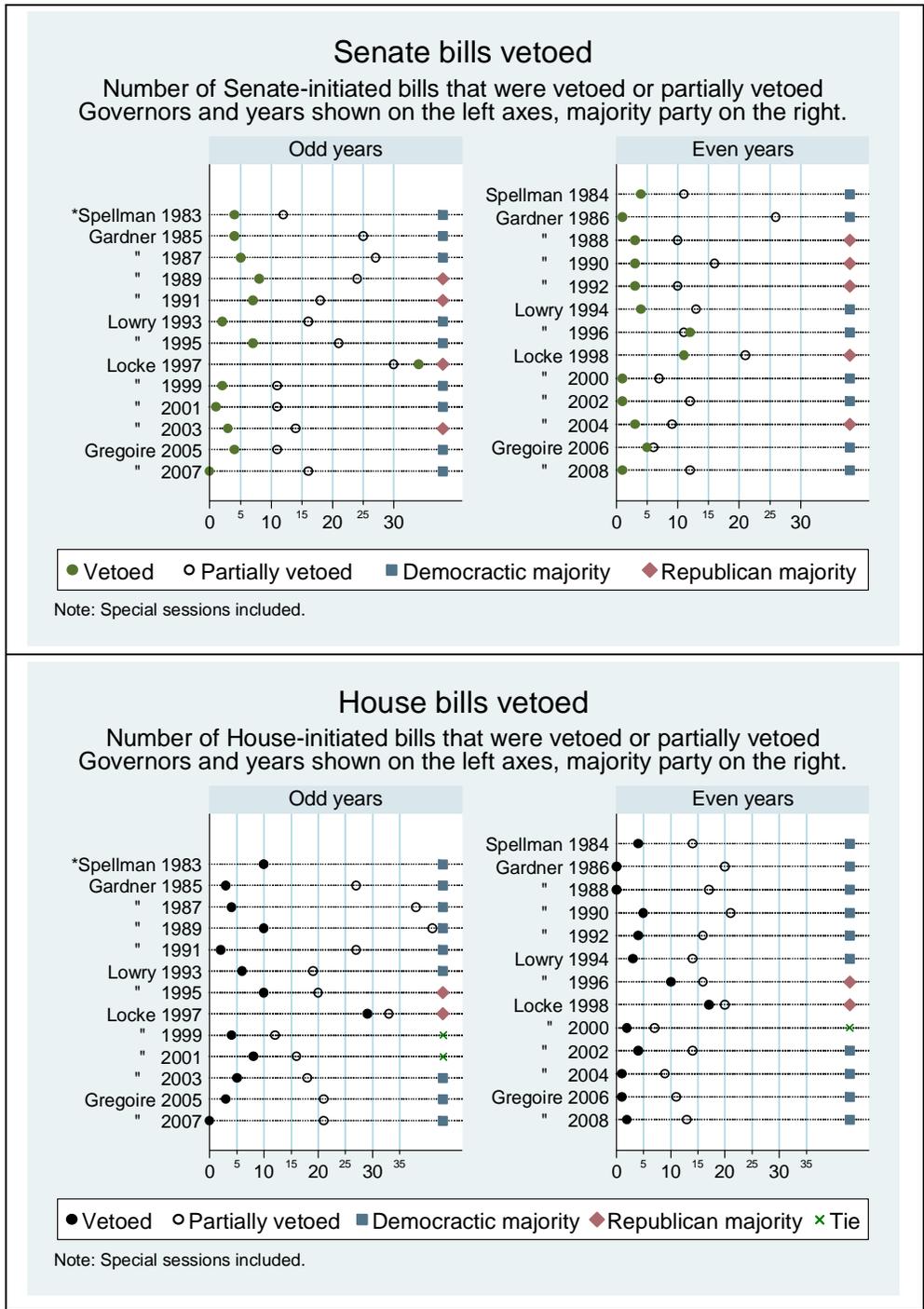




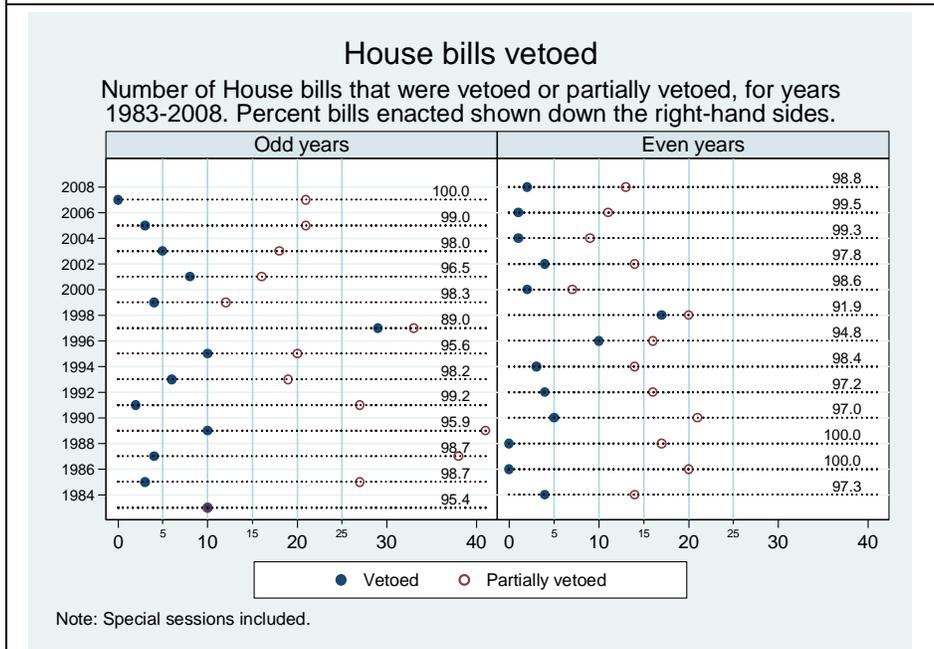
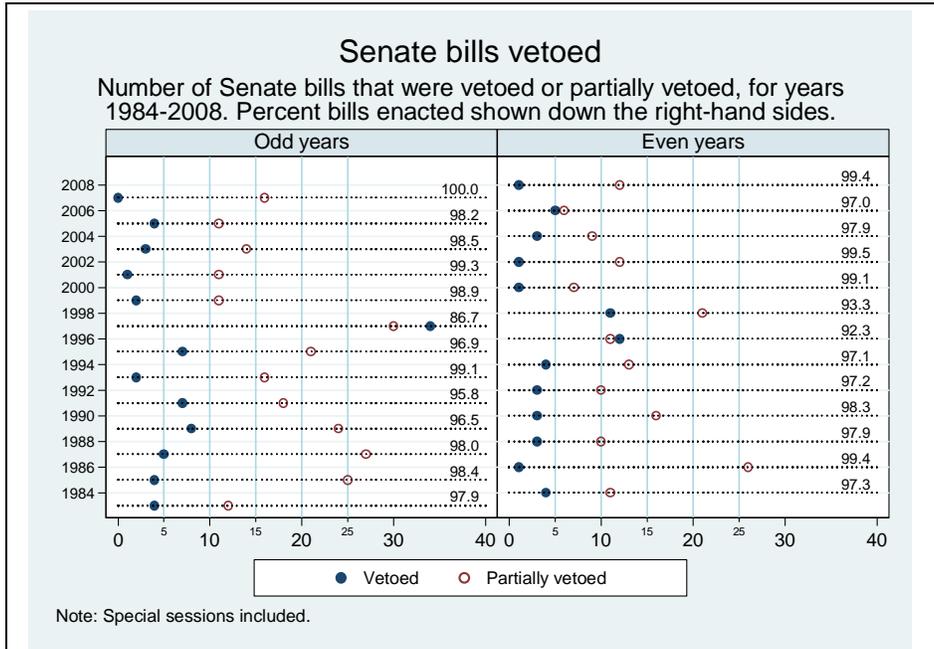
**Bills passed as a  
percent of those introduced**

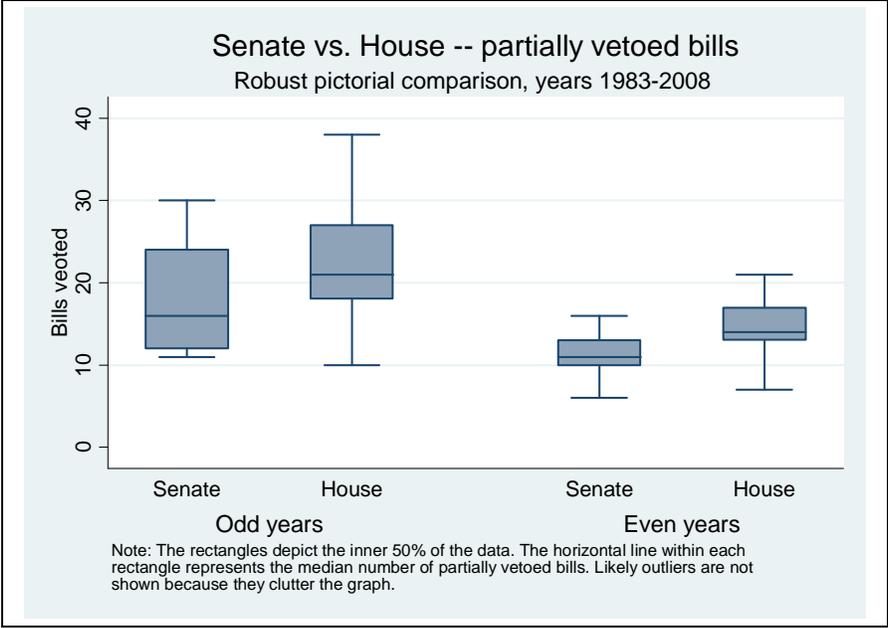
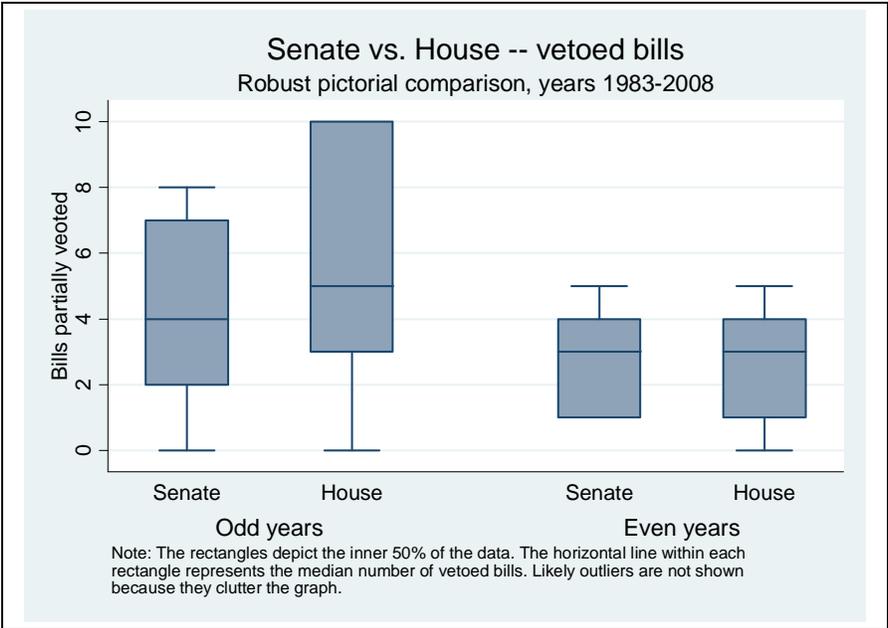
<b>Year</b>	<b>Senate %</b>	<b>House %</b>	<b>Legislature%</b>
1983	14.9	19.7	17.2
1984	25.3	21.7	23.4
1985	17.0	18.0	17.5
1986	25.7	20.7	22.9
1987	23.4	23.6	23.5
1988	21.3	18.8	20.0
1989	19.4	19.3	19.4
1990	23.2	21.3	22.2
1991	16.3	19.9	18.3
1992	21.2	18.7	19.7
1993	23.5	28.8	26.3
1994	22.6	23.5	23.1
1995	20.9	10.8	14.3
1996	22.2	22.9	22.6
1997	23.0	20.4	21.6
1998	25.3	24.9	25.1
1999	16.8	17.6	17.2
2000	15.3	17.1	16.3
2001	12.3	17.8	15.1
2002	31.1	24.4	27.4
2003	17.9	19.7	18.9
2004	22.5	14.7	17.9
2005	19.3	22.9	21.3
2006	21.5	21.1	21.3
2007	19.1	21.0	20.2
2008	20.8	17.4	18.9
<b>Average</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>20.4</b>

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 box (or box-and-whisker) plots are 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 1983-2008**

Action	Odd years			Even years		
	Senate	House	Legislature	Senate	House	Legislature
Partial veto	7.1 %	8.7 %	8.2 %	6.5 %	8.3 %	8.0 %
Full veto	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9

**Note: Percentages based on median number of bills passed.**

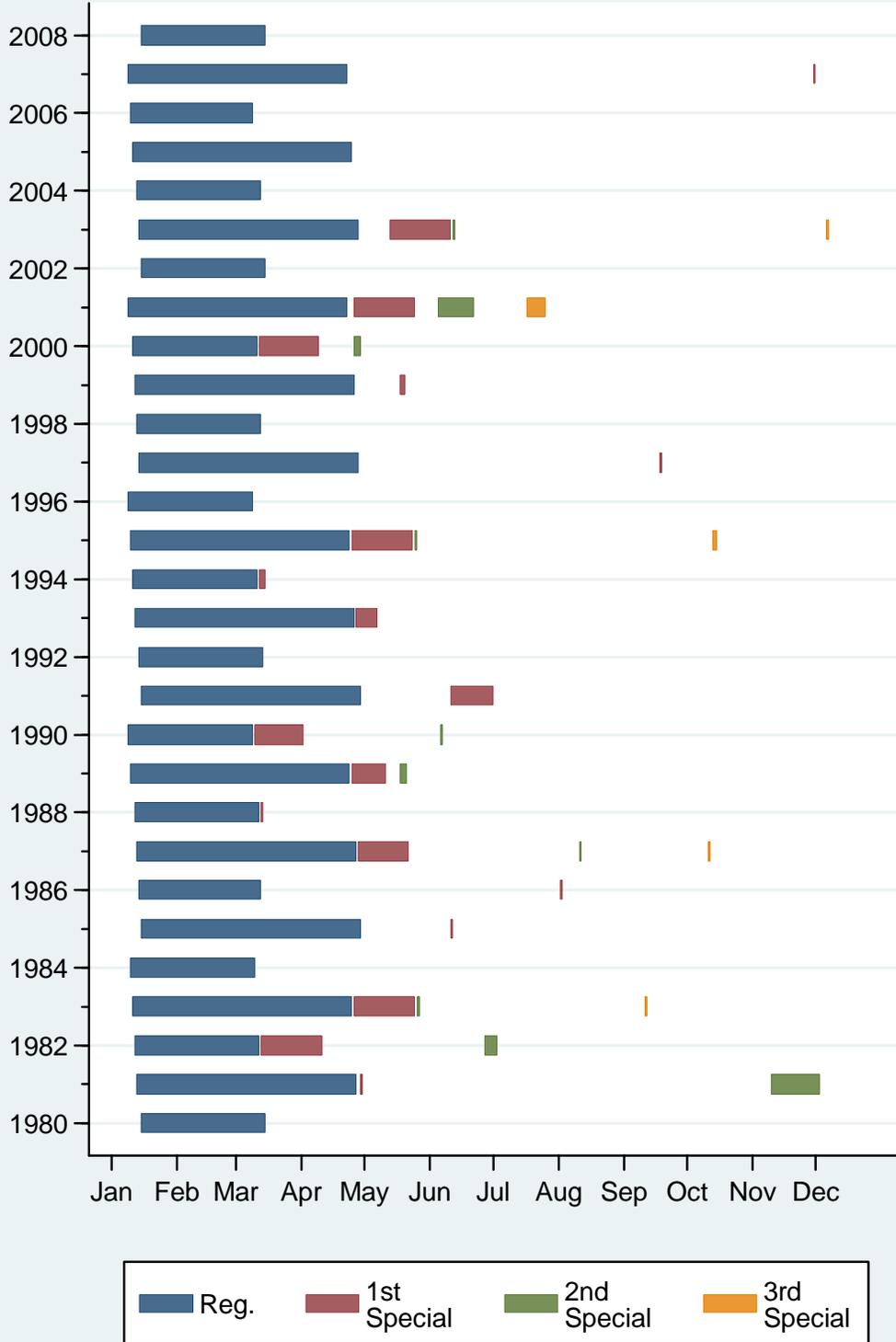
Action	Odd years			Even years		
	Senate	House	Legislature	Senate	House	Legislature
Partial veto	16	21	19	11	14	13
Full veto	4	5	4	3	3	3
Bills passed	226	242	232	155	168	162

**Note: Percentages are calculated directly from the above tabled median values (e.g., 16 divided by 226 yields 7.1%).**

The next graph summarizes length of sessions from 1980 through 2008, showing regular and special sessions.

# Washington State Legislature

## Length of sessions for years 1980-2008



## Overview of legislative sessions since 1980

### Regular sessions

Scheduled length of regular sessions: 60 days in even years  
105 days in odd years

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 num. days	Maximum num. days
1st	19	15	1	30
2nd	10	6	1	24
3rd	5	3	1	10

In 2001, three special sessions totaled 58 days to make it Washington's longest one-year session of 163 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.

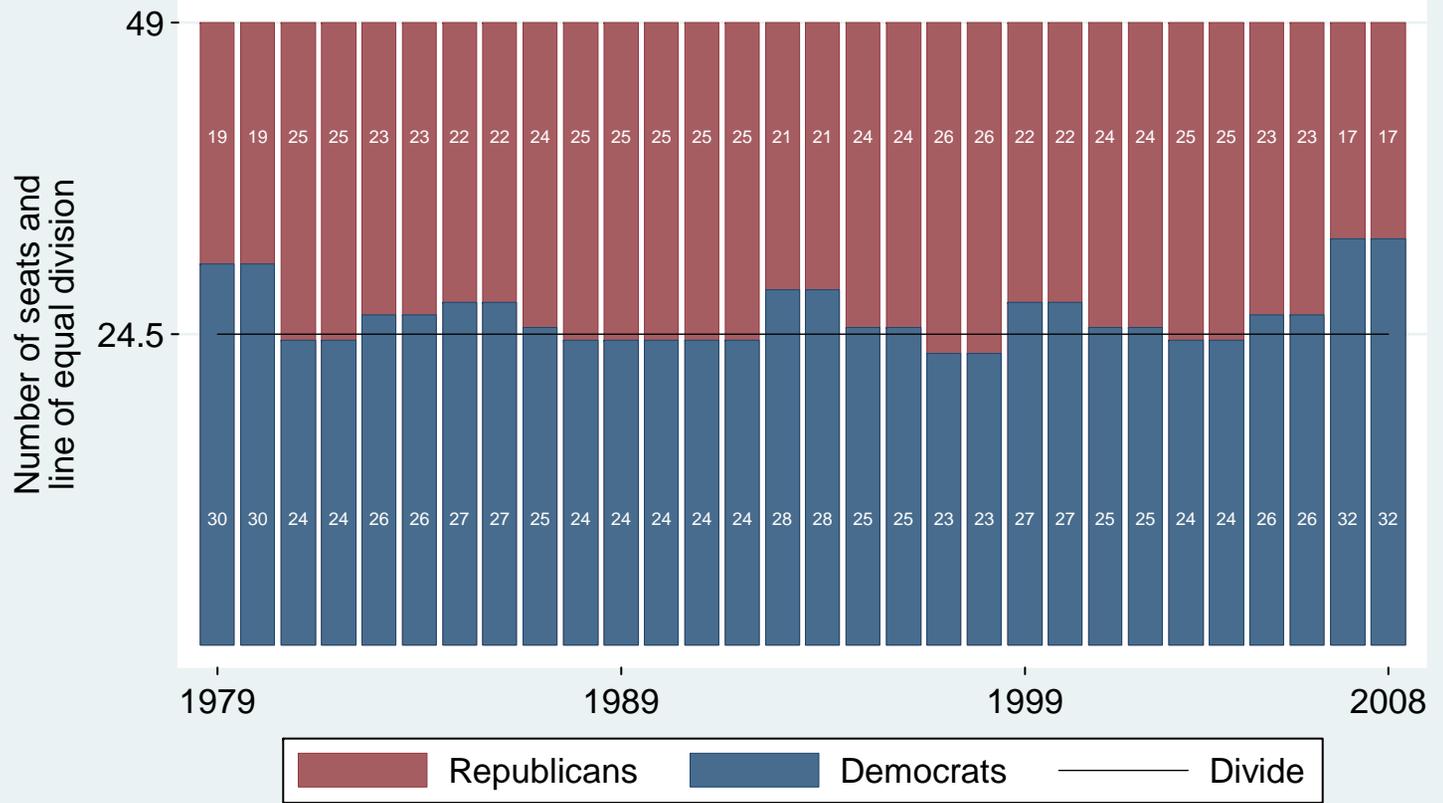
In 1896, J.R. Rogers became Washington's only populist governor.

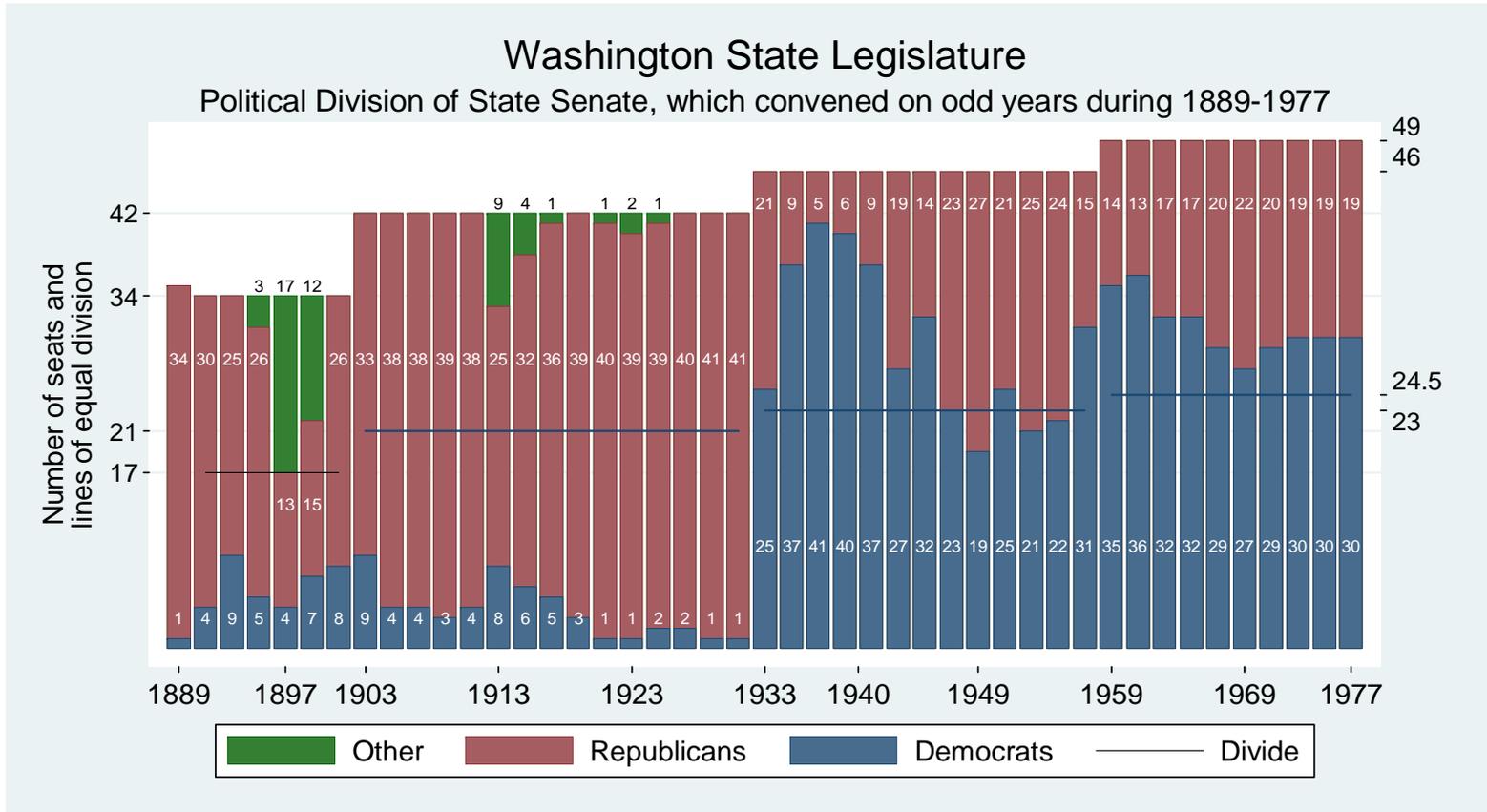
The drop in the total number of seats in the House for the years 1905 and 1911 is surprising. Expected would be for the number of seats to steadily increase toward the constitutional maximum for the House of 99 seats.

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.

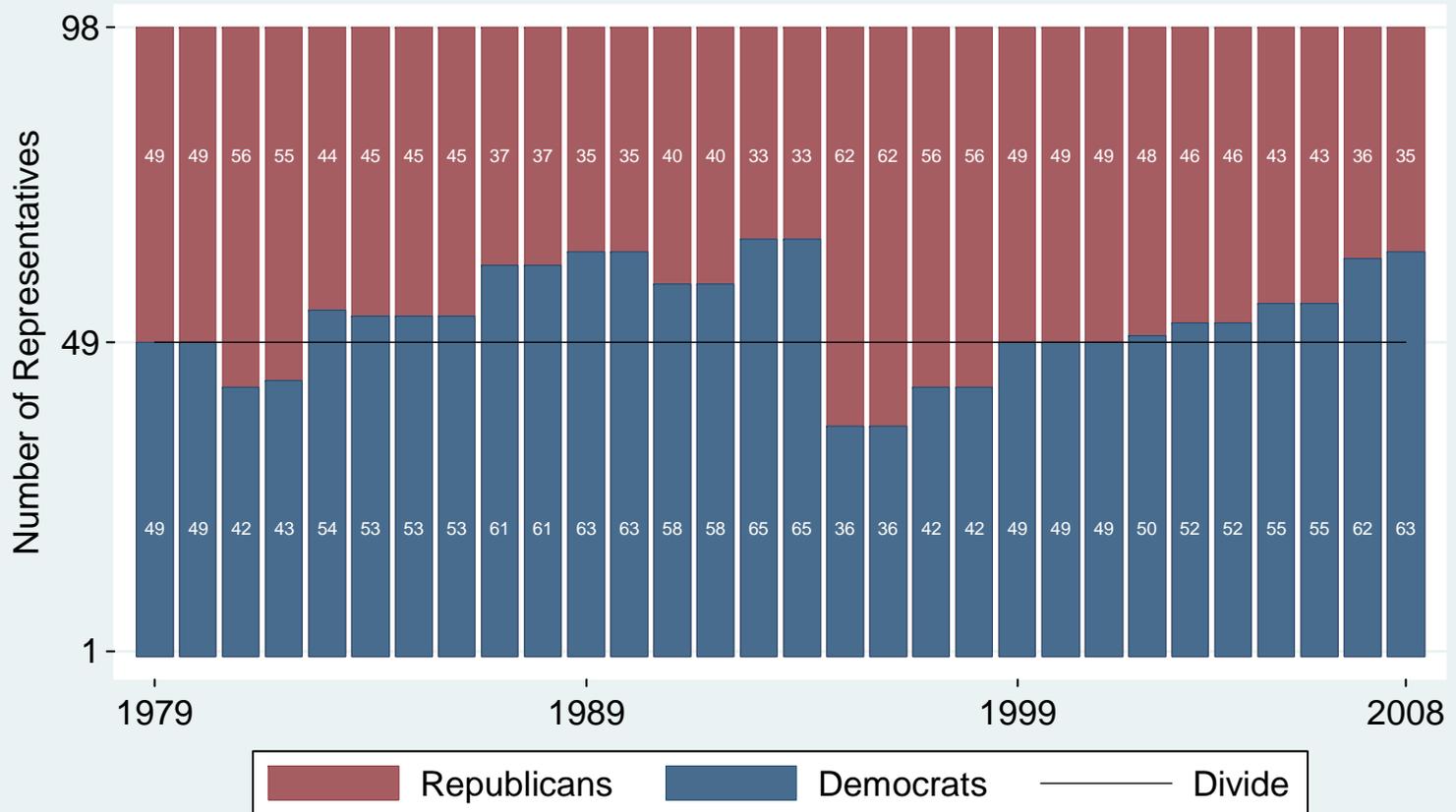
### Washington State Legislature Political Division of State Senate, years 1979-2008



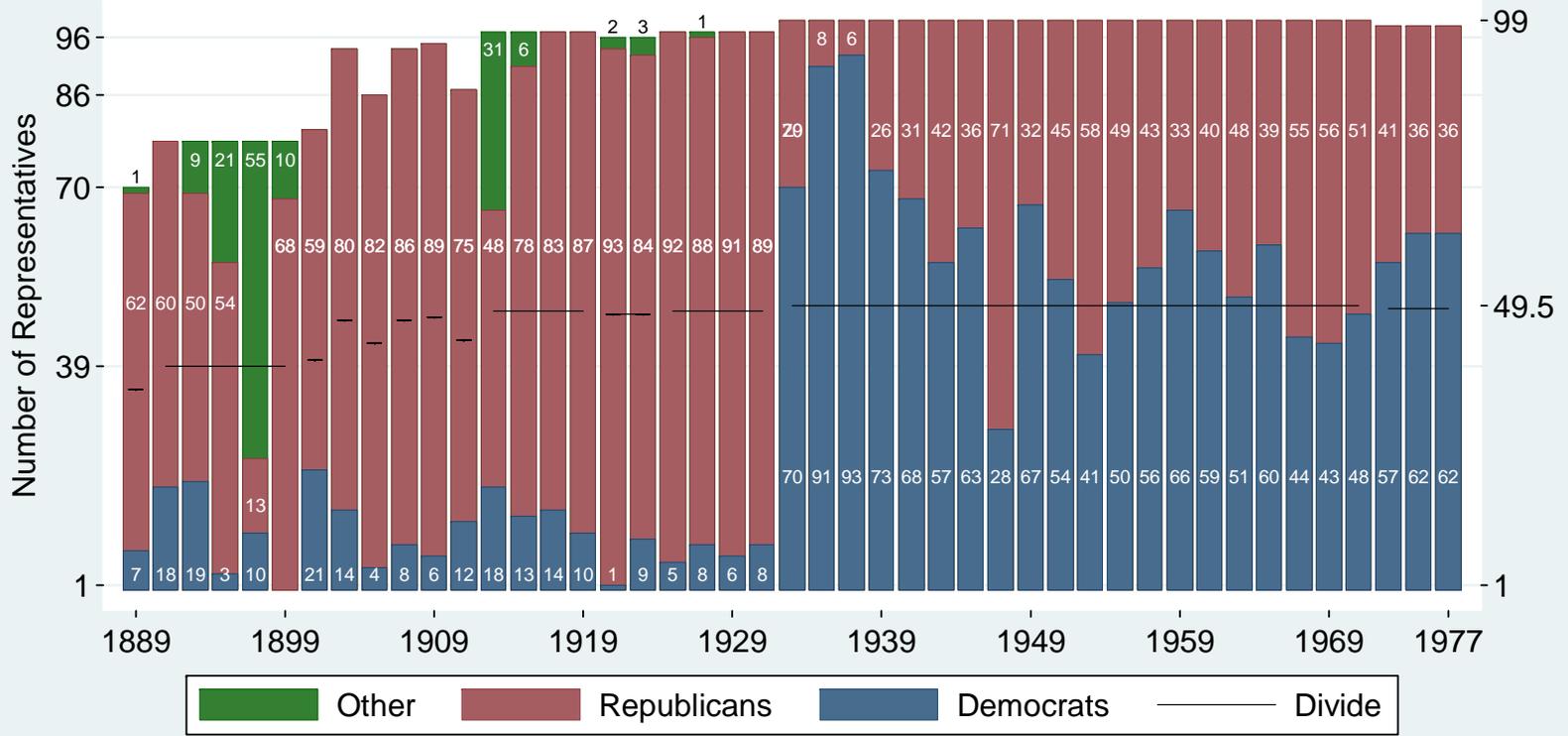


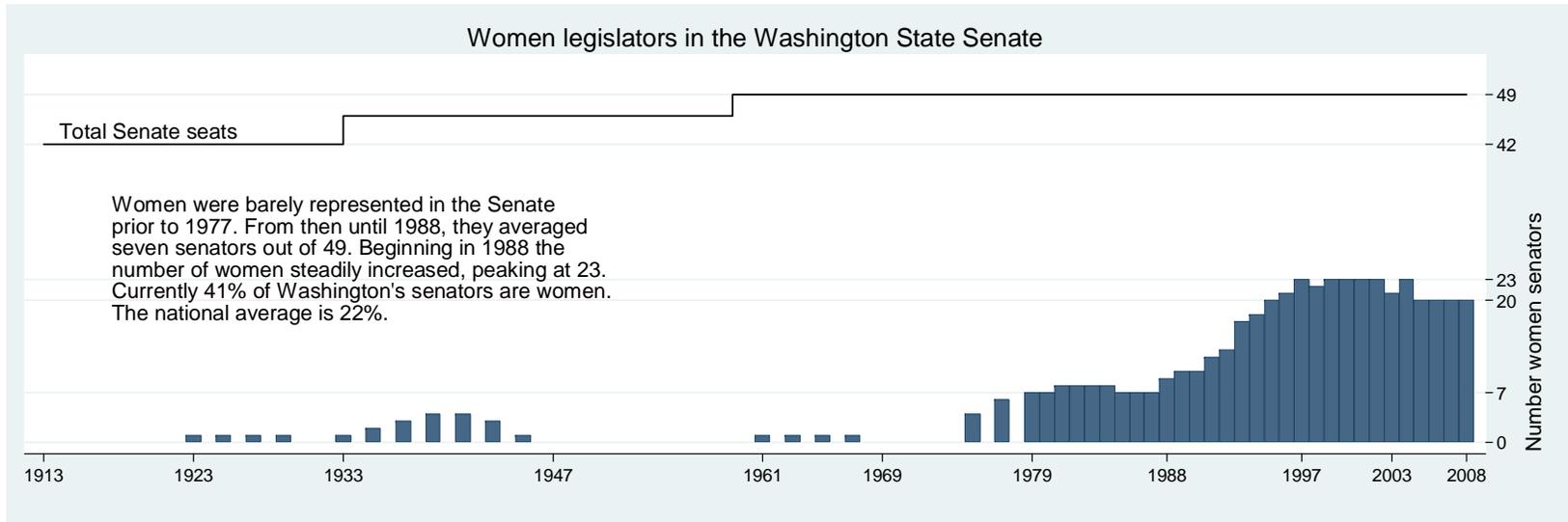
# Washington State Legislature

## Political Division of State House, years 1979-2008

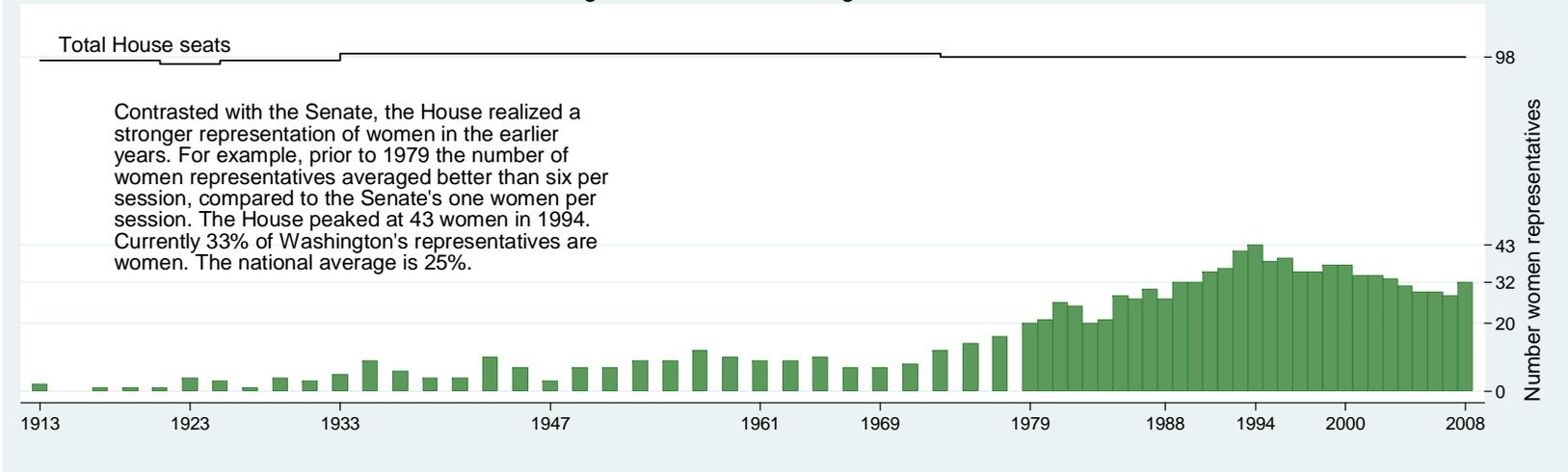


## Washington State Legislature Political Division of State House, years 1889-1977





### 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 52 state women legislators, 35% of the total 147 legislative seats. The national average is 24%.

