

An Introduction to the *Journal of the House of Representatives*

Everything That (Hasn't) Changed
in 250 Years

Jenelle Pulis, Journal Clerk

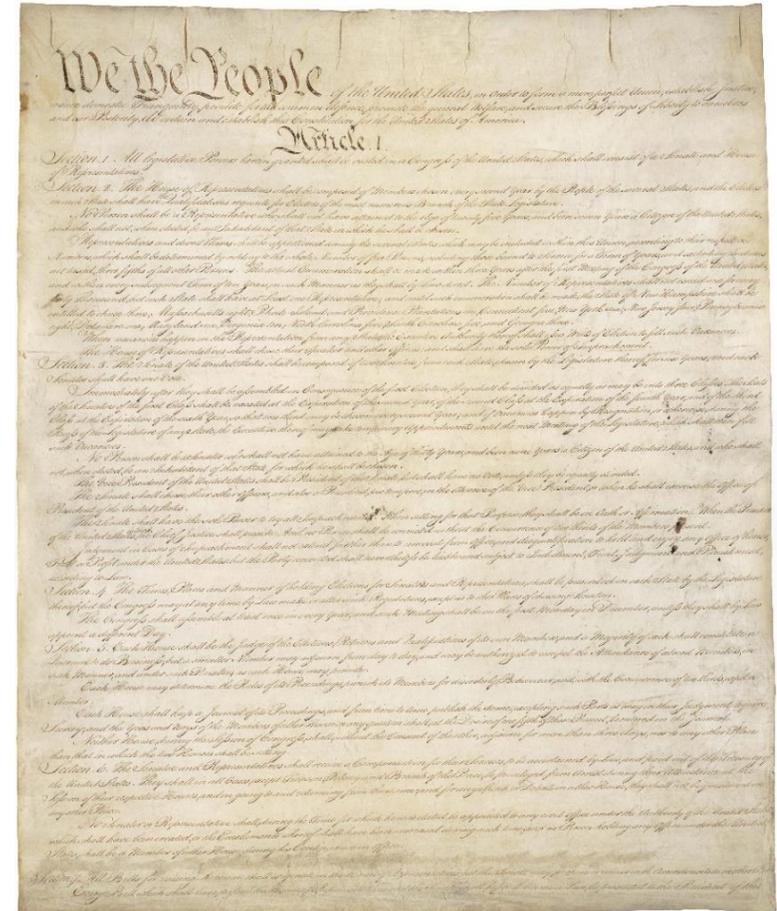
Lawrence McLaughlin, Deputy Chief

Office of Legislative Operations, Office of the Clerk,
U.S. House of Representatives



Overview of the *House Journal*

- official record of House proceedings
- mandated in U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 5:
 - “Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same . . .”
- rendition of all official actions, including every motion made and vote taken
- not a verbatim transcript of debate



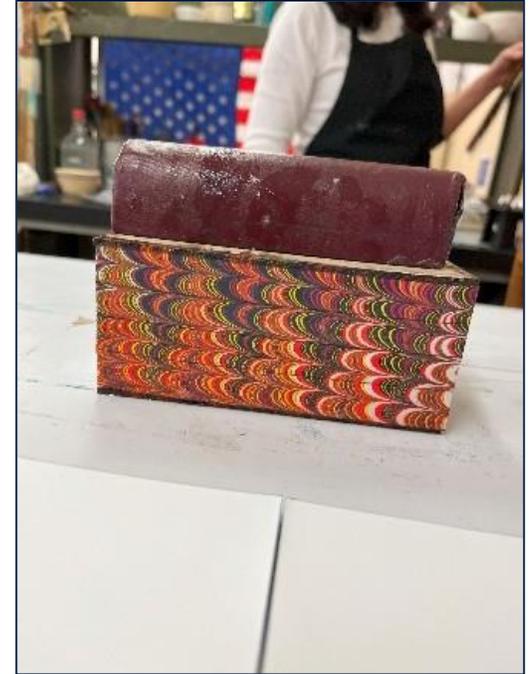
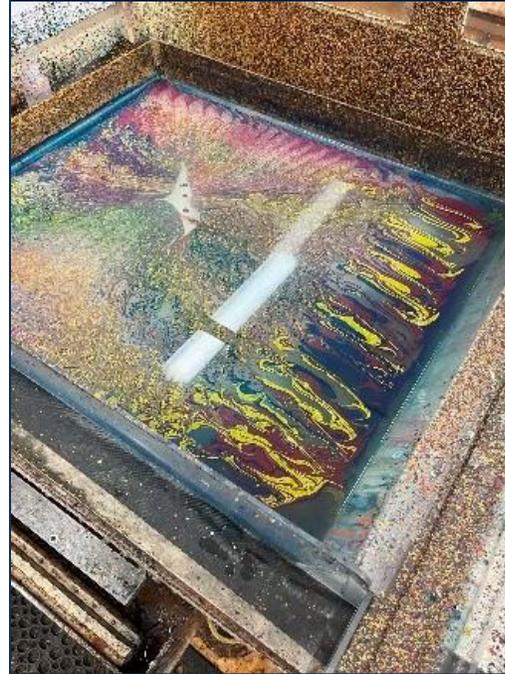
First Order of Business

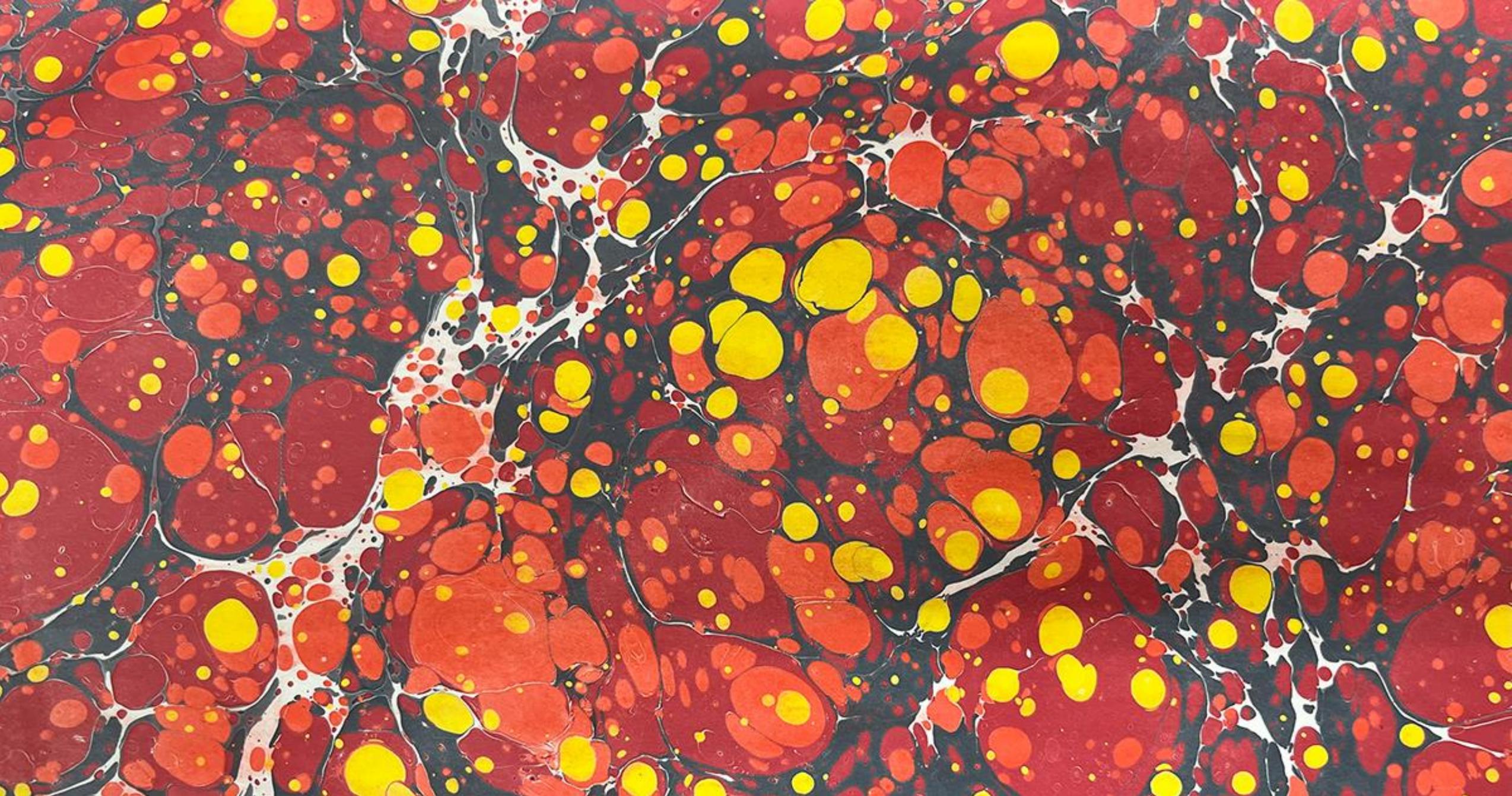
- approval of previous day's *Journal* is first order of business each legislative day
- approval can be subject to a vote
- if vote fails, *Journal* can be subject to an amendment, as it was on March 19, 1990



Minute Book

- real-time handwritten House proceedings
- dates back to first Congress in 1789
- written in cursive with a pencil
- very different from published *Journal*
- new set hand-created with marbling by GPO every two years for specific Congress and session





What's Included

all proceedings that take place on House Floor

- bills brought up by suspension, brought up by a rule, in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
- roll call votes
- Senate amendments
- messages from Senate or President
- enrolled bills signed
- unanimous consent requests that are outside standing House rules
- leaves of absence

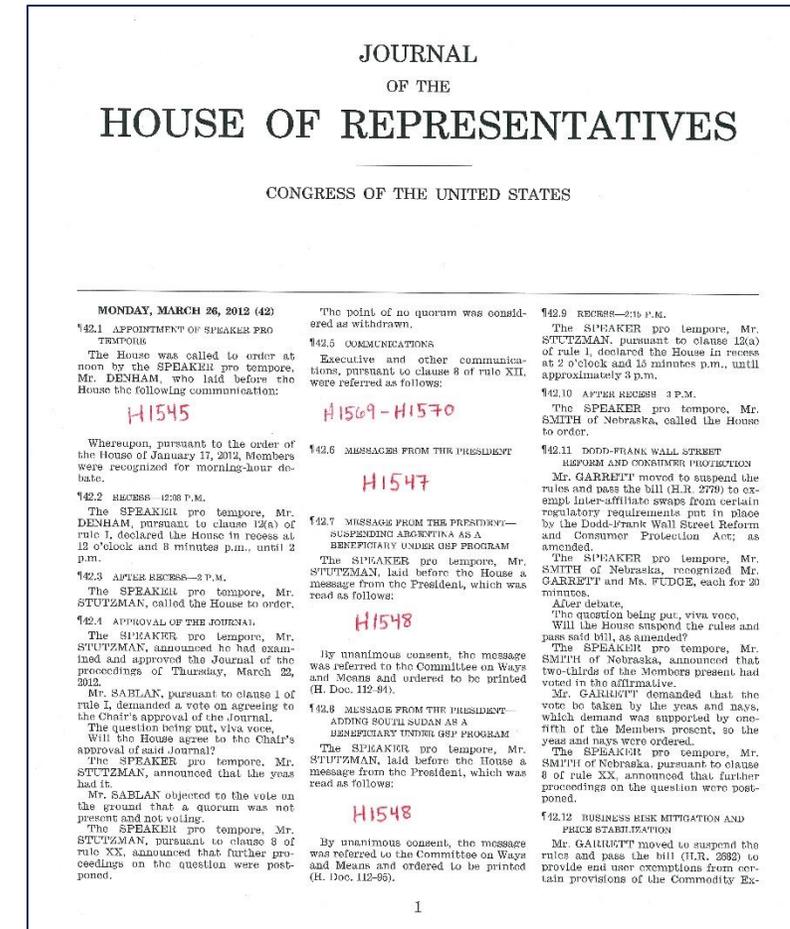
only debate recorded comes in the form of questions of order

DEC 25 2014		DEC 25 2014
Member	Rules, called up (consideration of H.R. 3408, H.R. 3813 and H.R. 7)	H. Res. 547
	Debate,	
Member	Moved PQ	
Spt. Member	Ques - PQ - vv - ayes	
Member	Demanded yeas and nays	Roll No. 50 yea 229 nay 181 (410)
	Previous question was ordered	
Spt. Member	Ques - resolution - vv - ayes	
Member	Req. recorded vote	Roll No. 51 yea 235 nay 186 (421)
	Resolution was agreed to	
	SRC	

Spt. Member	Unfinished Business	H. Res. 522
	Agreeing to	Roll No. 12 yea 251 nay 157 (408)
	Resolution was agreed to	
	SRC	

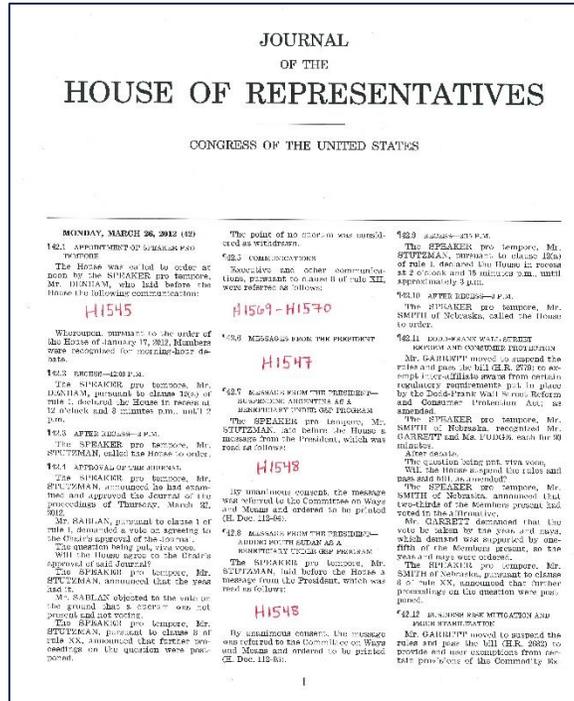
Behind the Scenes

- as the journal clerk writes in Minute Book, another clerk creates an electronic version (the manuscript) in our office
- manuscript is what is approved by the Speaker at the start of a legislative day
- created using TextPad, which contains standard phrasing
- fill in the blanks with who is involved and what measure or proceeding they are trying to accomplish



Markup and Integrations

- manuscript approval leads to process of integrating parts of the Congressional Record
- happens in every legislative day manuscript
- GPO provides electronic version of the Record that we convert in TextPad
- after integration, every journal clerk proofs and notates with edits



142.5 COMMUNICATIONS
 Executive and other communications, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XII, were referred as follows:

H1569-H1570

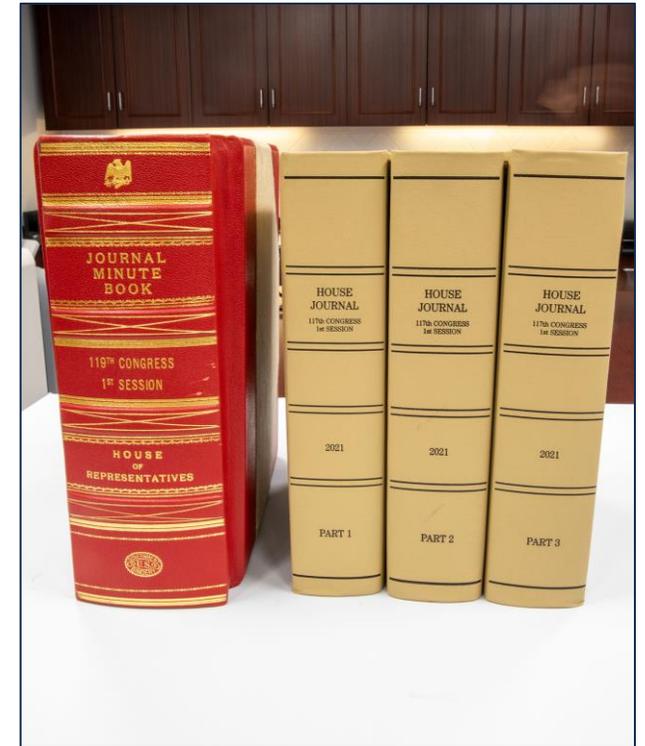
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.	42.5	Cong
Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:		Com
599. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Suspension of Section 230(c) Single-Family Mortgage Insurance in Military Impacted Areas [Docket No.: FH-5461-P-02] (RIN: 2500-A-303) received March 1, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.		Com
598. A letter from the Associate General		Com

USE (42.5 CONF) H1569
 transmitting the Commission's final Rule — Implementation of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act and Modernization of the Commission's Competitive Bidding Rules and Procedures; Waiver of Section 1.2110(b)(3)(iv)(A) of the Commission's Rules For the Upper 700 MHz Band D Block License [WT Docket No.: 05-211] received March 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5403. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

Publication

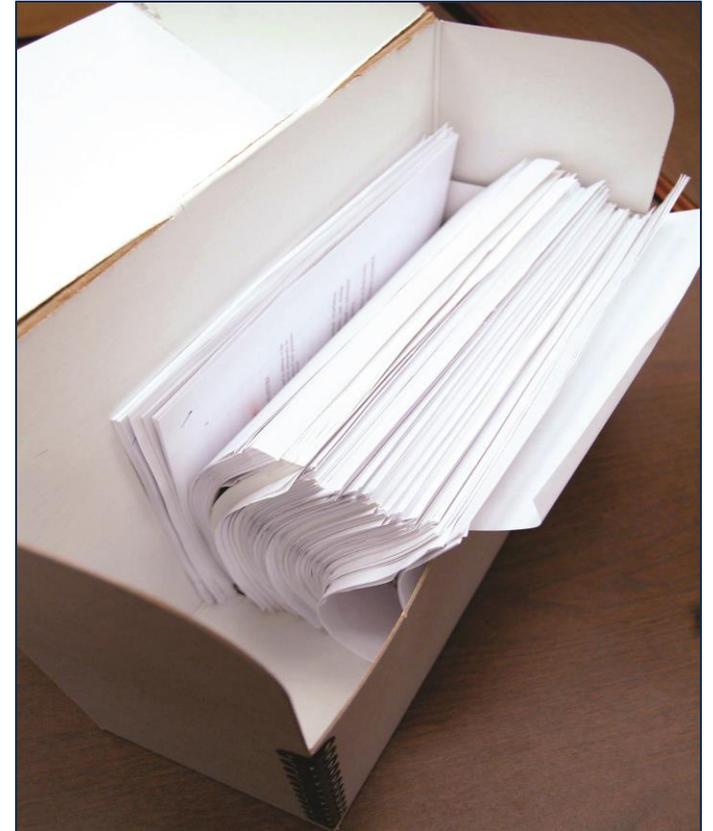
- heaviest lift
- journal clerks compile all legislative days into command files, split the year in half, and print entire year
- every journal clerk proofs and notates with edits
- gather all other parts (proceedings subsequent to sine die adjournment, Rules of the House, questions of order, History of Bills, index, and appendix to the index) that go into the published *Journal* in addition to the year of legislative days
- receive three parts from other offices: Rules of the House from the Parliamentarian and History of Bills and index from GPO
- GPO team helps with technical problems
- make one final version with all other parts combined and proof for formatting issues
- send to GPO to produce a soft copy of the *Journal* for our proof and approval to print hardbound



Archiving

archive all the “papers” of the House

- electoral results (if applicable)
- messages from the President (including SOTU)
- message from the Senate letters
- resignations
- unofficial election results
- appointments
- discharge petitions
- unanimous consent requests



Unprecedented Times

how we maintain consistency amid change

- impeachment proceedings
- 15 ballots for Speaker
- vacating the Speaker's Chair

