

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

Everything That (Hasn't) Changed  
in 250 Years

Jenelle Pulis, Journal Clerk

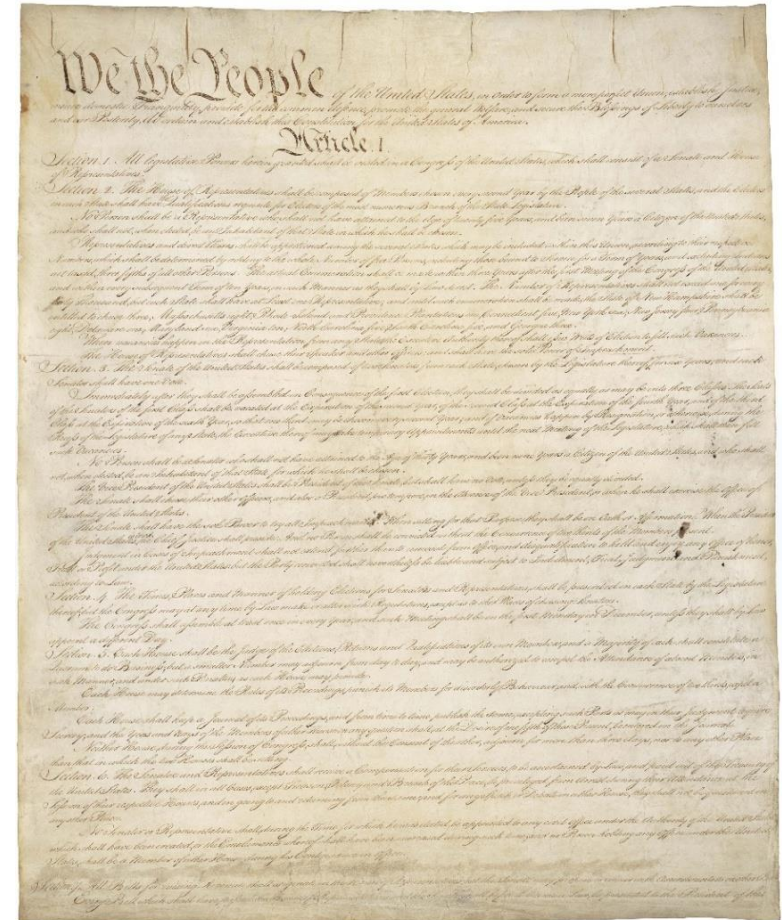
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U.S. House of Representatives



# 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



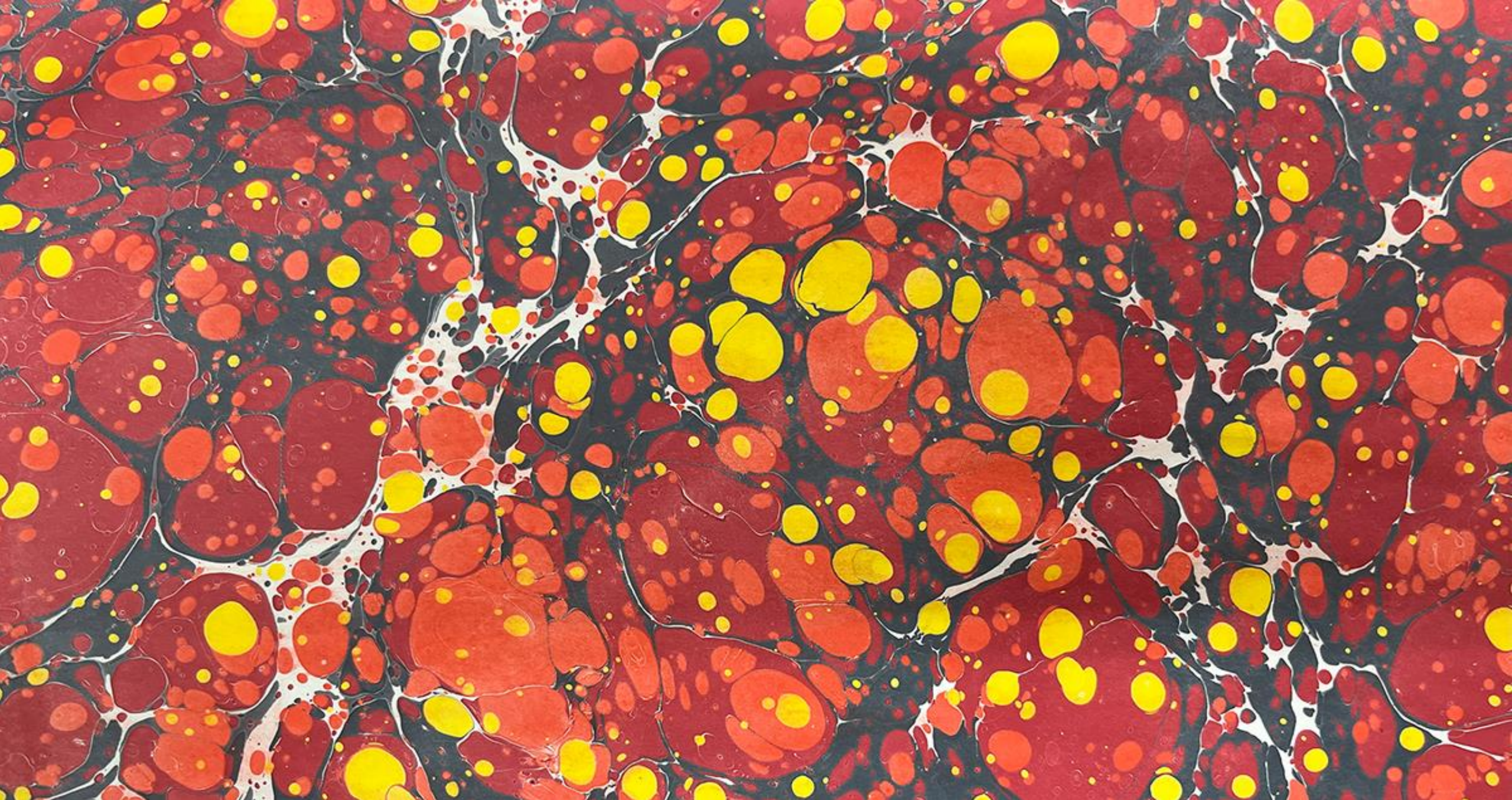


# Minute Book

- 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	Pq. 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	

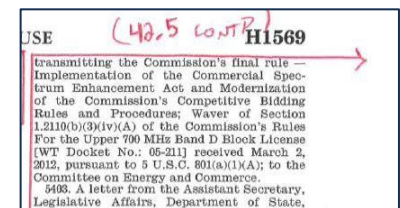
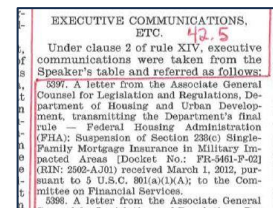
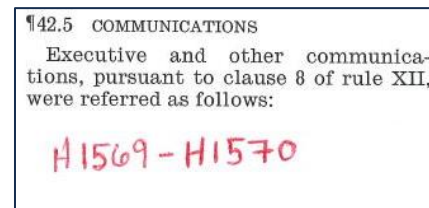
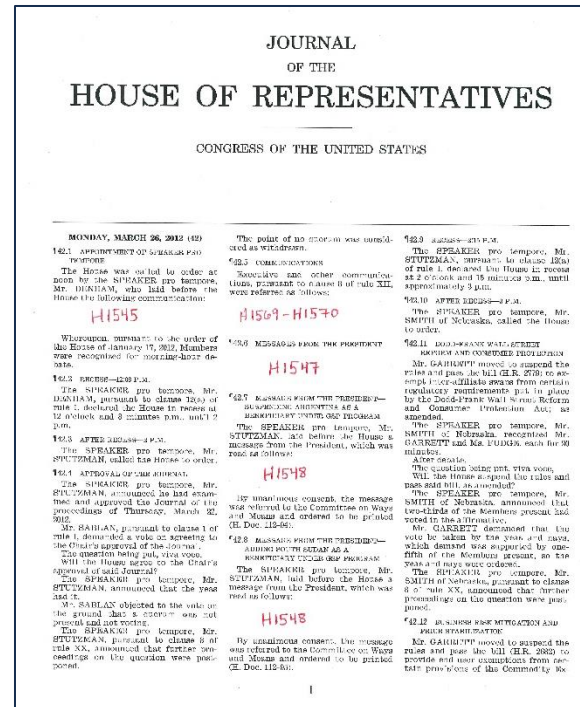
# Behind the Scenes

- 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

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES		
<p>MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012 (42)</p> <p>¶42.1 APPOINTMENT OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE</p> <p>The House was called to order at noon by the SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. DENHAM, who laid before the House the following communication:</p> <p>H1545</p> <p>Whereupon, pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, Members were recognized for morning-hour debate.</p> <p>¶42.2 RECESS—12:00 P.M.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. DENHAM, pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule 1, declared the House in recess at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m., until 2 p.m.</p> <p>¶42.3 AFTER RECESS—2 P.M.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, called the House to order.</p> <p>¶42.4 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, announced he had examined and approved the Journal of the proceedings of Thursday, March 22, 2012.</p> <p>Mr. SABELAN, pursuant to clause 1 of rule 1, demanded a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.</p> <p>The question being put, viva voce, Will the House agree to the Chair's approval of said Journal?</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, announced that the yeas had it.</p> <p>Mr. SABELAN objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the question were postponed.</p>	<p>The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.</p> <p>¶42.5 COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Executive and other communications, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XII, were referred as follows:</p> <p>H1569-H1570</p> <p>¶42.6 MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT</p> <p>H1547</p> <p>¶42.7 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—SUSPENDING ARGENTINA AS A BENEFICIARY UNDER OEP PROGRAM</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:</p> <p>H1548</p> <p>By unanimous consent, the message was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112-49).</p> <p>¶42.8 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—ADDING SOUTH SUDAN AS A BENEFICIARY UNDER OEP PROGRAM</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:</p> <p>H1548</p> <p>By unanimous consent, the message was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112-50).</p>	<p>¶42.9 RECESS—2:15 P.M.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STUTZMAN, pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule 1, declared the House in recess at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m., until approximately 3 p.m.</p> <p>¶42.10 AFTER RECESS—3 P.M.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, called the House to order.</p> <p>¶42.11 DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION</p> <p>Mr. GARRETT moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2779) to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; as amended.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, recognized Mr. GARRETT and Mr. FUDGE, each for 20 minutes.</p> <p>After debate, The question being put, viva voce, Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.</p> <p>Mr. GARRETT demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.</p> <p>The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the question were postponed.</p> <p>¶42.12 BUSINESS RISK MITIGATION AND PRICE STABILIZATION</p> <p>Mr. GARRETT moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2982) to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Ex-</p>

# Markup and Integrations

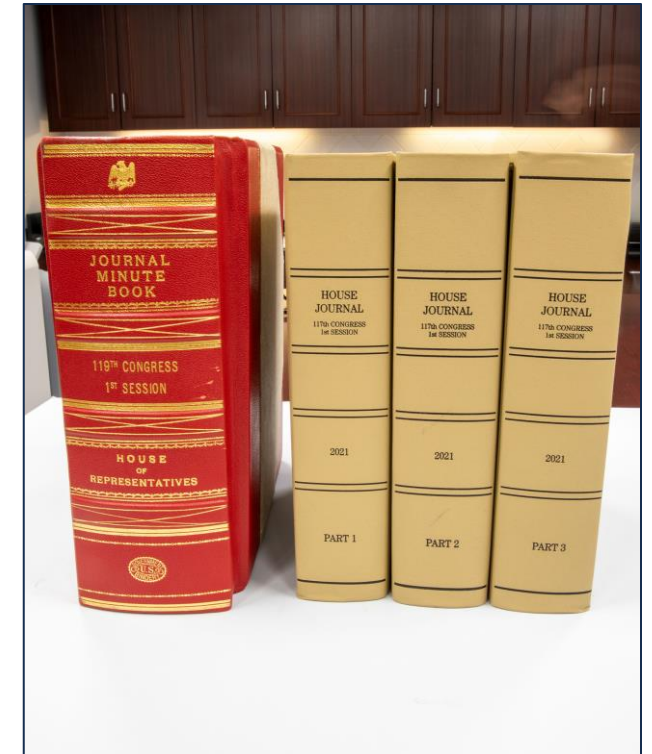
- manuscript approval leads to process of integrating parts of the Congressional Record
- happens in every legislative day manuscript
- GPO provides electronic version of the Record that we convert in TextPad
- after integration, every journal clerk proofs and notates with edits





# Publication

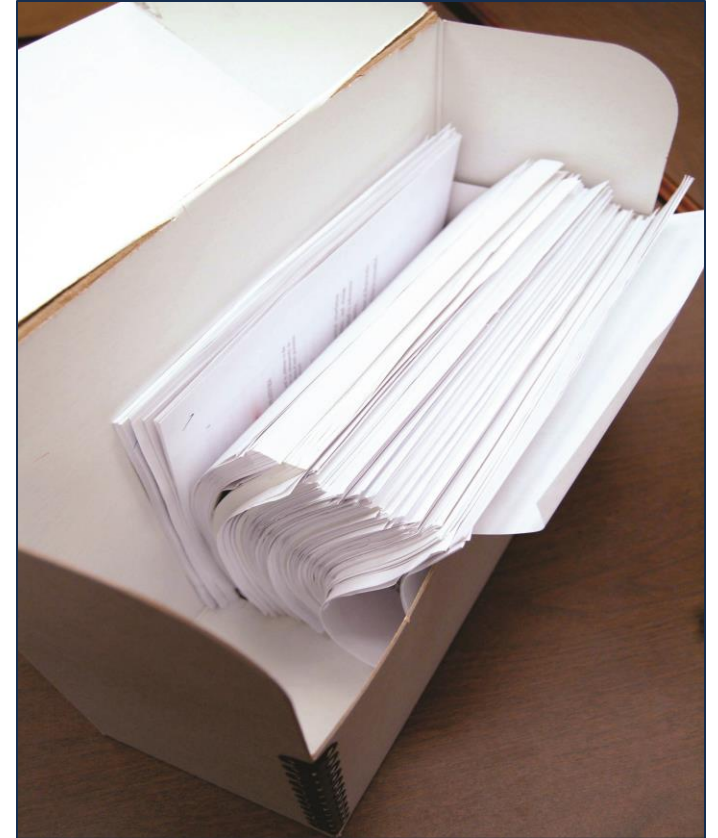
- heaviest lift
- journal clerks compile all legislative days into command files, split the year in half, and print entire year
- every journal clerk proofs and notates with edits
- gather all other parts (proceedings subsequent to sine die adjournment, Rules of the House, questions of order, History 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

