

## Voting from Desk in the Senate Chamber

Prior to 1984 there was no requirement, by rule or precedent, to require a senator to vote from his or her desk, although this practice had been used on occasion. In 1984, S. Res. 480 passed the Senate, establishing this requirement by standing rule.<sup>1</sup> Although this requirement has been in place since 1984, senators typically do not vote from their seats. On certain occasions, however, the majority leader has requested senators to follow this order, because it provided for a quick or orderly vote, or because of the symbolic importance of the vote. We have kept track of such votes in recent years.

June 27, 2013	Vote on S. 744, Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill.
March 22, 2013	As part of a vote-arama on S. Con. Res. 8, the Budget Resolution, conducted on the legislative day of March 22, senators were requested to take their seats and vote from their desks. This request came around 3:00 a.m. on March 23.
December 4, 2012	Vote on Resolution of Ratification to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Treaty Doc 112-7)
May 3, 2011:	Vote on S. Res. 159, a resolution commending troops and intelligence committee for the killing of Osama Bin Laden.
December 8, 2010	Vote on impeachment articles against Judge Thomas Porteous.
August 5, 2010	Vote on confirmation of Justice Elena Kagan.
March 25, 2010	Final vote on Reconciliation Bill (Health Care Reform), H.R. 4872.
December 24, 2009	H.R. 3590 -- Health Care bill.
December 21, 2009	Cloture motion on Reid Amdt 3276 to Amdt 2786 to H.R. 3590, Health Care bill.
November 21, 2009	Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590, Health Care bill.
August 6, 2009	Vote on confirmation of Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
October 1, 2008:	H.R. 1424 – Bailout Bill
July 18, 2007:	Cloture motion on Levin-Reed Amdt 2087 on H.R. 1585, Defense Authorization.
January 31, 2006:	Vote on confirmation of Justice Samuel Alito.
September 29, 2005:	Vote on confirmation of Chief Justice John Roberts.
June 9, 2004:	S. Res 373, a resolution relative to the death of President Ronald Reagan.
May 8, 2003:	NATO expansion treaty ratification (Treaty Doc 108-3).
February 5, 2003	S. Res 45 – Honoring the Columbia Space Shuttle Astronauts
June 26, 2002	S. Res 292, a resolution to express support for the Pledge of Allegiance
September 14, 2001:	S. 1426, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance, for anti-terrorism initiatives, and for assistance in the recovery from the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001.

September 12, 2001: S.J. Res 22, a joint resolution expressing the sense of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

February 12, 1999 Vote on articles of impeachment against President Clinton.

April 30, 1998 Resolution of approval for ratification of NATO expansion treaty.

March 4, 1997 S.J.Res.1, Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment.

March 2, 1995 H.J. Res 1, Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment.

August 3, 1993 Vote on confirmation of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

October 15, 1991 Vote on confirmation of Justice Clarence Thomas.

January 12, 1991 S.J. Res 2 – Resolution on use of force against Iraq

November 3, 1989 Vote on articles of impeachment against Judge Walter Nixon.

October 20, 1989 Vote on articles of impeachment against Judge Alcee Hastings.

October 2, 1986 Override of President Reagan’s veto of South Africa sanctions bill (H.R. 4868)

March 16, 1978 Vote on resolution of approval to ratify neutrality treaty, first of two Panama Canal Treaties.

**U.S. Senate Historical Office  
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<sup>1</sup>S. Res. 480, October 11, 1984, “A Resolution Creating a Standing Order of the Senate requiring that each Senator shall vote from the assigned desk of the Senator.” Sponsored by Senator Jennings Randolph.