

## House Rules

■ The Democratic takeover of the House has produced changes at the Rules Committee, like the Republican Party's coming to power did 12 years ago. The graph below shows four major types of rules -- open, modified open, closed and modified closed -- as a percentage of the total number of those types issued in each of the last seven Congresses, as well as tentative percentages for the current session. Like the Republicans before them, Democrats are curbing the use of restrictive rules that limit or prohibit amendments from being offered to bills. But not in all cases: though each of the Democrats' "Six for '06" agenda items passed with some degree of Republican support, the measures were considered under closed rules.

**Closed, Modified and Open Rules, 1993-Present**

