

# Need-to-know terms for Congress

<b>Fiscal Year (FY)</b>	→	The accounting period for the federal government which runs October 1 through September 30, unlike most businesses' fiscal years
<b>Authorization &amp; Appropriation</b>	→	Legislation that requires funding for a certain program or agency (authorization); legislation that actually sets a dollar amount of funding (appropriation)
<b>LD, LA, LC</b>	→	Legislative Director, Legislative Assistant, and Legislative Correspondent; staff positions in Congressional offices in descending order of seniority
<b>Congressional Budget Office (CBO)</b>	→	Non-partisan arm of Congress that provides economic analyses of legislation and programs covered by the budget
<b>Filibuster</b>	→	A process only in the Senate that allows senators to stall movement on legislation or nominations by holding the floor (continuously speaking)
<b>Cloture</b>	→	The process by which a filibuster is overridden; 60 out of 100 votes are needed, except for presidential nominations, which need 50
<b>Veto</b>	→	The power of the president to block legislation passed by Congress; a veto can be overridden with a 2/3 majority vote in both houses of Congress
<b>Reconciliation</b>	→	A process by which the Senate can pass filibuster-proof legislation (needing only 51 out of 100 votes) through the budgeting process
<b>Chairman &amp; Ranking Member</b>	→	The leaders of the majority and minority party, respectively, in committees and subcommittees
<b>Dirksen, Russell &amp; Hart Buildings</b>	→	Senate office buildings located to the north of the Capitol Building
<b>Cannon, Rayburn &amp; Longworth Buildings</b>	→	House office buildings located to the south of the Capitol Building