



Harry Reid's Senate Standstill

Democrats And Republicans Agree: Reid Is A Terrible Leader

HARRY REID HAS SINGLEHANDEDLY BROUGHT THE SENATE TO A HALT

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's Leadership In The Senate Has Been Described As "Brutish" As He Wields "Uncompromising Control" Over The Senate. "Mr. Reid's brutish style matters beyond the marbled chamber of the Senate. Senate legislation has increasingly turned into a battle over amendments and Mr. Reid's uncompromising control over the process. The six Republicans who voted to take up the unemployment bill on Tuesday expected at least to be allowed votes on their amendments to shape the legislation. Instead, Mr. Reid dismissed all Republican proposals as unacceptable and then proposed his own new unemployment deal." (Jonathan Weisman, "Reid's Uncompromising Power Play In Senate Rankles Republicans," [The New York Times](#), 1/9/14)

- **Reid's "Iron-Fisted Control Of The Senate Floor" Is "The Greatest Consolidation Of Congressional Power" In Two Decades.** "With his strong-armed change to the filibuster rule and an iron-fisted control of the Senate floor, Senator Harry Reid has engaged in the greatest consolidation of congressional power since Newt Gingrich ruled the House, unleashing a bitterness that may derail efforts to extend unemployment insurance." (Jonathan Weisman, "Reid's Uncompromising Power Play In Senate Rankles Republicans," [The New York Times](#), 1/9/14)

Reid Has Been "The Most Resistant" To Scheduling Votes In The Senate. "Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Begich are said to be the most vocal in pressing their case for more votes, believing it could help foster consensus. But Reid is the most resistant, and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan is also skeptical, sources say. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) often sides with Reid but is said to take a middle ground, while Schumer pushes his approach aimed to please both sides: Allow for a finite number of amendments relevant to the bill — and win assurances that Republicans will allow a bill to proceed to a final up-or-down vote." (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, "Harry Reid's New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats," [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

- **Reid's Top Lieutenant, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Has Been Vocal In Pressing "For More Votes."** "Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Begich are said to be the most vocal in pressing their case for more votes, believing it could help foster consensus." (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, "Harry Reid's New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats," [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

The Wall Street Journal Editorial: Reid Has "Shut Down The Senate As A Place To Debate And Vote On Policy." "The U.S. Senate failed to advance another piece of popular bipartisan legislation late Monday, and the reason tells the real story of Washington gridlock in the current Congress. To wit, Harry

Reid has essentially shut down the Senate as a place to debate and vote on policy.” (Editorial, “Harry Reid’s Senate Blockade,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/13/14)

- **Reid’s “Parliamentary Tricks” Are Now “Standard Procedure” As He Attempts To Protect Vulnerable Democrats.** “The Nevadan used parliamentary tricks to block energy-related amendments to an energy bill. This blockade is now standard procedure as he’s refused to allow a vote on all but nine GOP amendments since last July. Mr. Reid is worried that some of these amendments might pass with support from Democrats, thus embarrassing a White House that opposes them.” (Editorial, “Harry Reid’s Senate Blockade,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/13/14)

Reid’s Ineffective Leadership In The Senate Has Broken The “Tradition” Of Open Debate On Spending Bills

“Reid Has Clamped Down On The Traditional Right Of Freewheeling Debate And Amendment.”

(Andrew Taylor, “Reid Pulls Spending Bill After Spat With GOP,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/19/14)

Reid Now Requires “An Elusive 60-Vote Supermajority To Deal With Amendments To Spending Bills.” “Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., now is requiring an elusive 60-vote supermajority to deal with amendments to spending bills, instead of the usual simple majority, a step that makes it much more difficult to put politically sensitive matters into contention.” (Andrew Taylor, “Fear Of Voting Grips Senate Democratic Chiefs,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/27/14)

- **Reid’s Move “Is At Odds With The Once-Vibrant Tradition Of Advancing The 12 Annual Agency Budget Bills Through Open Debate.”** “This hunkering down by Democrats is at odds with the once-vibrant tradition of advancing the 12 annual agency budget bills through open debate.” (Andrew Taylor, “Fear Of Voting Grips Senate Democratic Chiefs,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/27/14)

And Reid’s Broken Promise To Put Spending Bills On The Floor Is Not Sitting Well With Even Fellow Democrats. “Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has upset some Democratic senators by backtracking on his commitment to put spending bills on the floor this summer. The broken promise is not sitting well with appropriators, but Democratic sources point to the November elections, noting appropriations bills attract a slew of controversial amendments. Keeping the legislation off the floor shields vulnerable Democrats from taking tough votes that could be used in campaign ads this fall. (Alexander Bolton, “Reid Backtracks On Money Votes,” [The Hill](#), 7/9/14)

REID’S INCOMPETENT LEADERSHIP HAS RANKLED MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY

As Senate Majority Leader, Reid Has “Sidelined” His Fellow Democrats In The Senate. “Democratic senators have been sidelined in legislative debates because of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s (D-Nev.) tight grip on amendments.” (Alexander Bolton, “Dems Chafe Under Reid’s Rules As Well,” [The Hill](#), 6/24/14)

Reid Is Now Facing Pressure From Senate Democrats For The Lack Of Votes On Amendments In The Senate. “Harry Reid has a new dilemma on his hands: restless Senate Democrats who are frustrated they aren’t casting enough votes. For the past year, Reid and Republicans have bitterly sparred over the stunning inactivity in the Senate. But the majority leader is now facing growing pressure from fellow Democrats agitating over the lack of votes on amendments, a central aspect of legislating in the Senate.” (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid’s New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats,” [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV): “I’ve Never Been In A Less Productive Time In My Life Than I Am Right Now, In The United States Senate.” “I’ve never been in a less productive time in my life than I am right now, in the United States Senate,” Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), who has not received roll-call vote on an

amendment since June of last year, told Time magazine last week.” (Alexander Bolton, “Dems Chafe Under Reid’s Rules As Well,” [The Hill](#), 6/24/14)

- **Manchin: “The Frustration Levels Are So High ...”** “The frustration levels are so high that those of us who haven’t been here for a long period of time are looking and saying we’d like to see how it used to work,’ Manchin said. ‘We never did, we can’t compare it to anything.’” (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid’s New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats,” [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

Reid Promised Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) He Would Set Aside Time To Debate

Appropriations Bills But Went Back On His Promise. Reid told Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) earlier this year that he would set aside June and July for debating appropriations bills on the floor, but no spending measure came up for a vote last month and the July calendar is already full with other priorities. (Alexander Bolton, “Reid Backtracks On Money Votes,” [The Hill](#), 7/9/14)

- **According To A Democrat Senator, Mikulski Is “Frustrated” About Reid’s Broken Promise.** “A Democratic senator on the Appropriations Committee said Reid pressed Mikulski to delay the markups and added that she is ‘frustrated.’” (Alexander Bolton, “Reid Backtracks On Money Votes,” [The Hill](#), 7/9/14)

UNDER REID, LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE RARELY COMES UP FOR A VOTE

Reid’s Senate Is “On Pace For Their Worst Year In More Than Three Decades” On Bringing Bills To The Floor. “Through the end of June, just 41 measures have been reported as being out of committees and gone to the Senate floor, which puts senators on pace for their worst year in more than three decades. Total bills considered are also down, as are roll-call votes on amendments.” (Stephen Dinan and S.A. Miller, “Harry Reid Lords Over Crippled Congress,” [The Washington Times](#), 7/7/14)

- **“Just 15 Amendments Have Received A Vote Since Last July.”** (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid’s New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats,” [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

12 Freshman Democrat Senators “Have Not Had A Single Vote On The Floor On Any Amendment Bearing Any Of Their Names As The Lead Sponsor. “Since joining the Senate in January 2013, the 12 freshmen Democrats have not had a single vote on the floor on any amendment bearing any of their names as the lead sponsor. Although some freshmen have succeeded in proposing amendments during committee consideration or won changes as part of a package drafted by the managers of a particular bill, winning a vote during floor debate is a rarity these days.” (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid’s New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats,” [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

In June, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) Blamed-Senate Democratic Leaders For His Appropriations Bill Being Shelved. “So Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, probably shouldn’t have been surprised when his cherished bill to fund the Labor, Education and Health and Human Services departments got yanked from the Appropriations Committee’s agenda this month. Word quickly spread that committee Democrats in Republican-leaning states feared a flurry of votes related to ‘ObamaCare.’ ‘It’s not as if they haven’t voted on them before,’ Harkin griped. ‘My way of thinking is, ‘Hell, you’ve already voted on it. Your record’s there.’” Harkin blamed Senate Democratic leaders.” (Andrew Taylor, “Fear Of Voting Grips Senate Democratic Chiefs,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/27/14)

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT): “I Got More Substance On The Floor Of The House In The Minority Than I Have As A Member Of The Senate Majority.” “I got more substance on the floor of the House in the minority than I have as a member of the Senate majority,’ said Murphy, who is less active in the group of late because he believes the effort is likely to be fruitless.” (Manu Raju and Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid’s New Challenge: His Fellow Democrats,” [Politico](#), 6/23/14)

“Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal (Conn.) And Chris Coons (Del.) ... Have Not Ever Received Votes On Amendments They Offered On The Floor.” “Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal (Conn.) and Chris Coons (Del.), who were both elected in 2010, also have not ever received votes on amendments they offered on the floor.” (Alexander Bolton, “Dems Chafe Under Reid’s Rules As Well,” [The Hill](#), 6/24/14)

Sen. Michael Bennett (D-CO) “Last Received A Roll-Call Floor Vote On An Amendment In March 2010.” “Sen. Michael Bennet (Colo.), the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, last received a roll-call floor vote on an amendment in March 2010. Adam Bozzi, a spokesman for Bennet, said in many cases his boss has not needed a floor vote because he’s worked with Republicans to develop bipartisan agreements that are part of larger measures.” (Alexander Bolton, “Dems Chafe Under Reid’s Rules As Well,” [The Hill](#), 6/24/14)

***The Wall Street Journal*: “Texas Democrat Sheila Jackson Lee Has Been Allowed Twice As Many Amendment Votes (15) In The Republican House In The Last Year Than Mr. Reid Has Allowed His Entire Senate Caucus.”** (Editorial, “Harry Reid’s Senate Blockade,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/13/14)