

# Federal Budget & Other Research Policy Issues Impacting Universities

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**Association  
of American  
Universities**

# CHALLENGES

- Extreme Polarization & Gridlock
- Dismal Fiscal Situation
- Extreme Uncertainty



# Normal Legislative Process





# Legislative Process Today

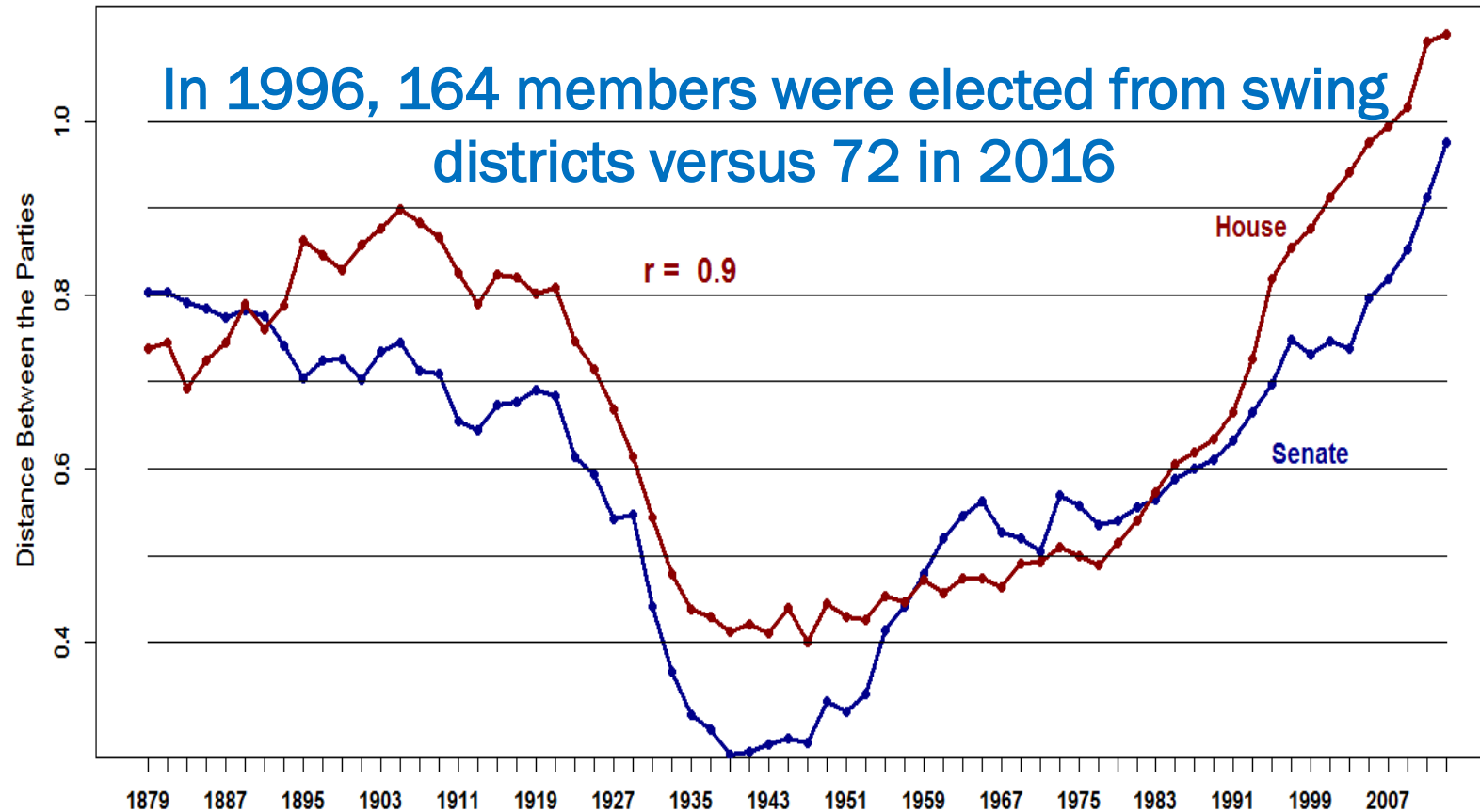


*“In a real sausage plant, everybody is on the same team, trying to produce bratwurst or knockwurst. In the legislative sausage factory, at least half the people don’t want to make sausage. Or they want to make a different kind. For the last few years, Republicans have said, ‘We won’t make sausage unless we control the recipe.’ ”*

—Alan Rosenthal, Professor of Public Policy , Rutgers University,  
New York Times, “If Only Laws Were Like Sausages,” December 4, 2010

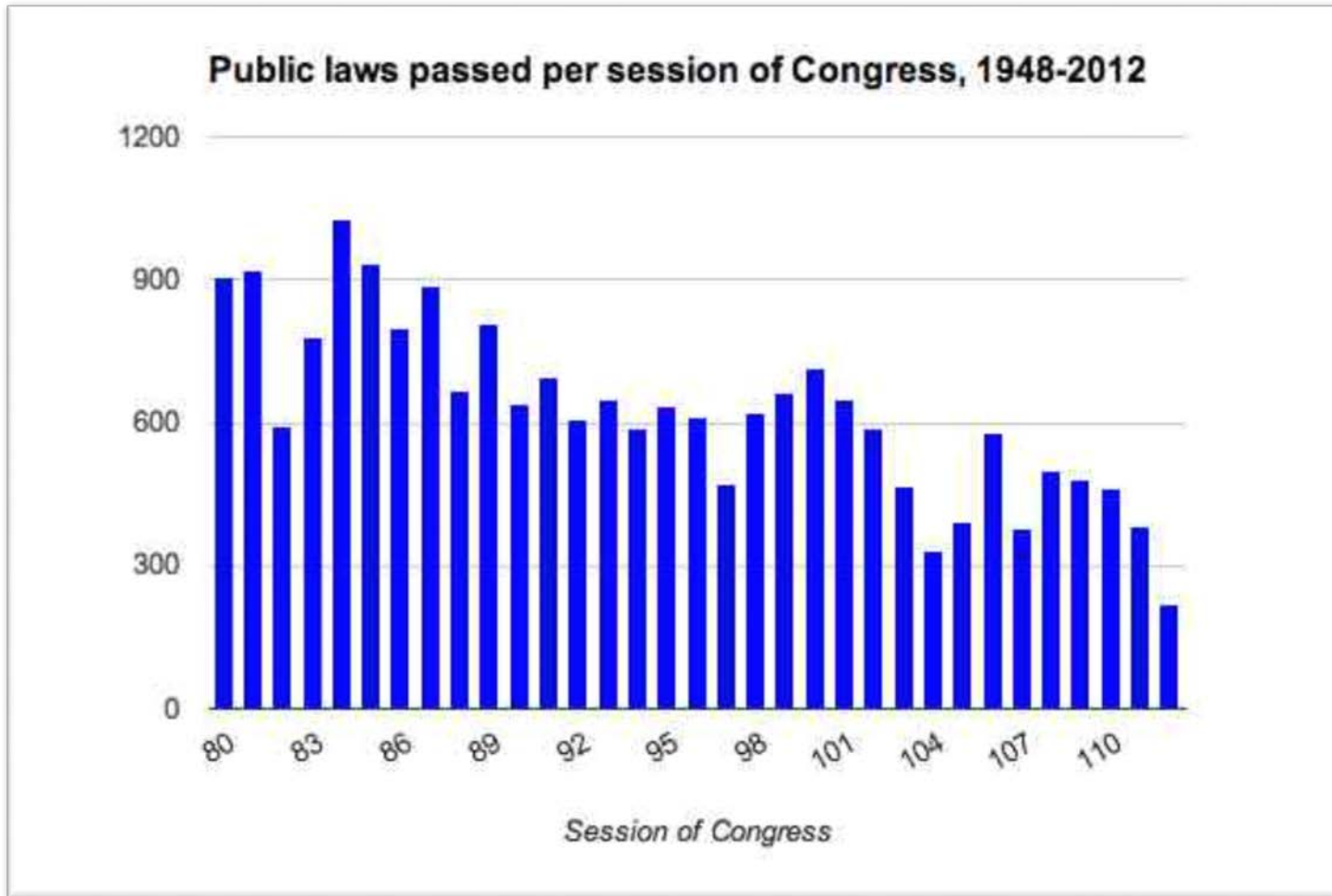
# Party Polarization: 1879 - 2014

Party Polarization 1879-2014  
Distance Between the Parties on the First (Liberal-Conservative) Dimension



*Polarized America / voteview.com*

# Legislative Productivity:

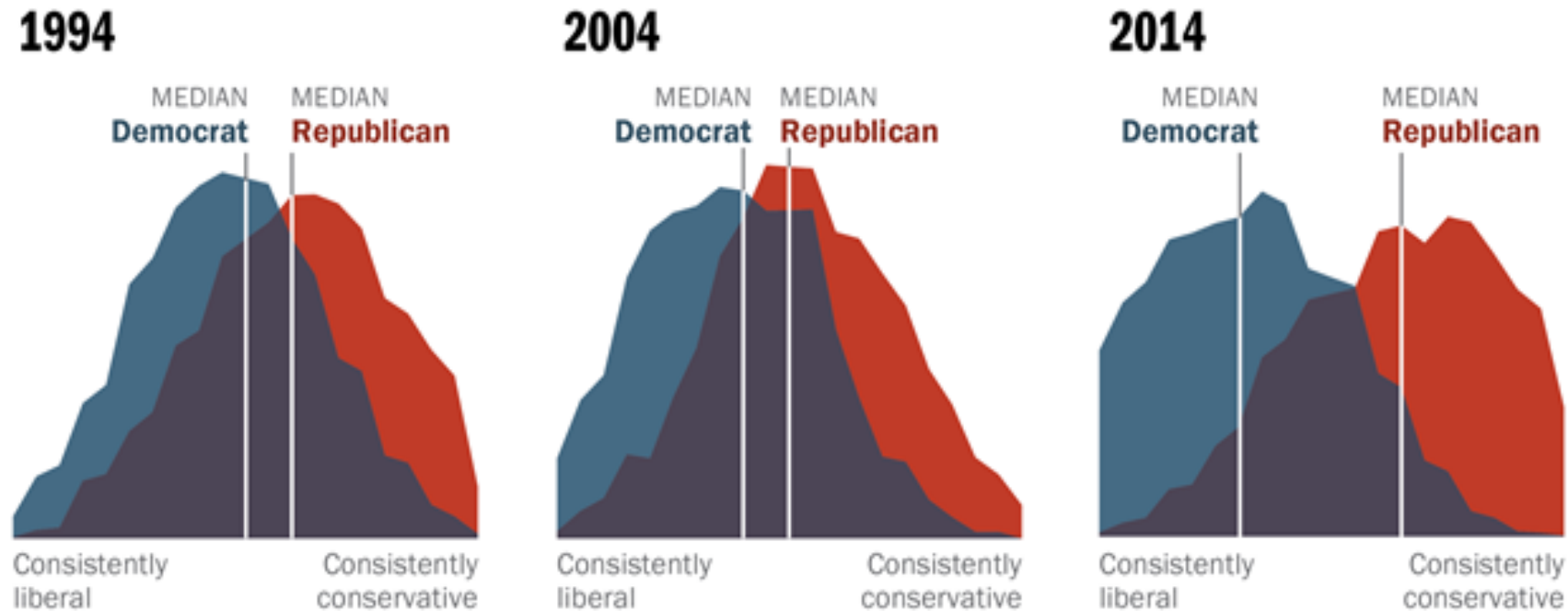


- 112<sup>th</sup> Congress (2011-2012): 284 Public Laws
- 80<sup>th</sup> Congress (1947-1948): 900 Public Laws
- 113<sup>th</sup> = 296 Public Laws    114<sup>th</sup> = 329 Public Laws

# Increasingly Polarized Public

## Democrats and Republicans More Ideologically Divided than in the Past

*Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values*



Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public

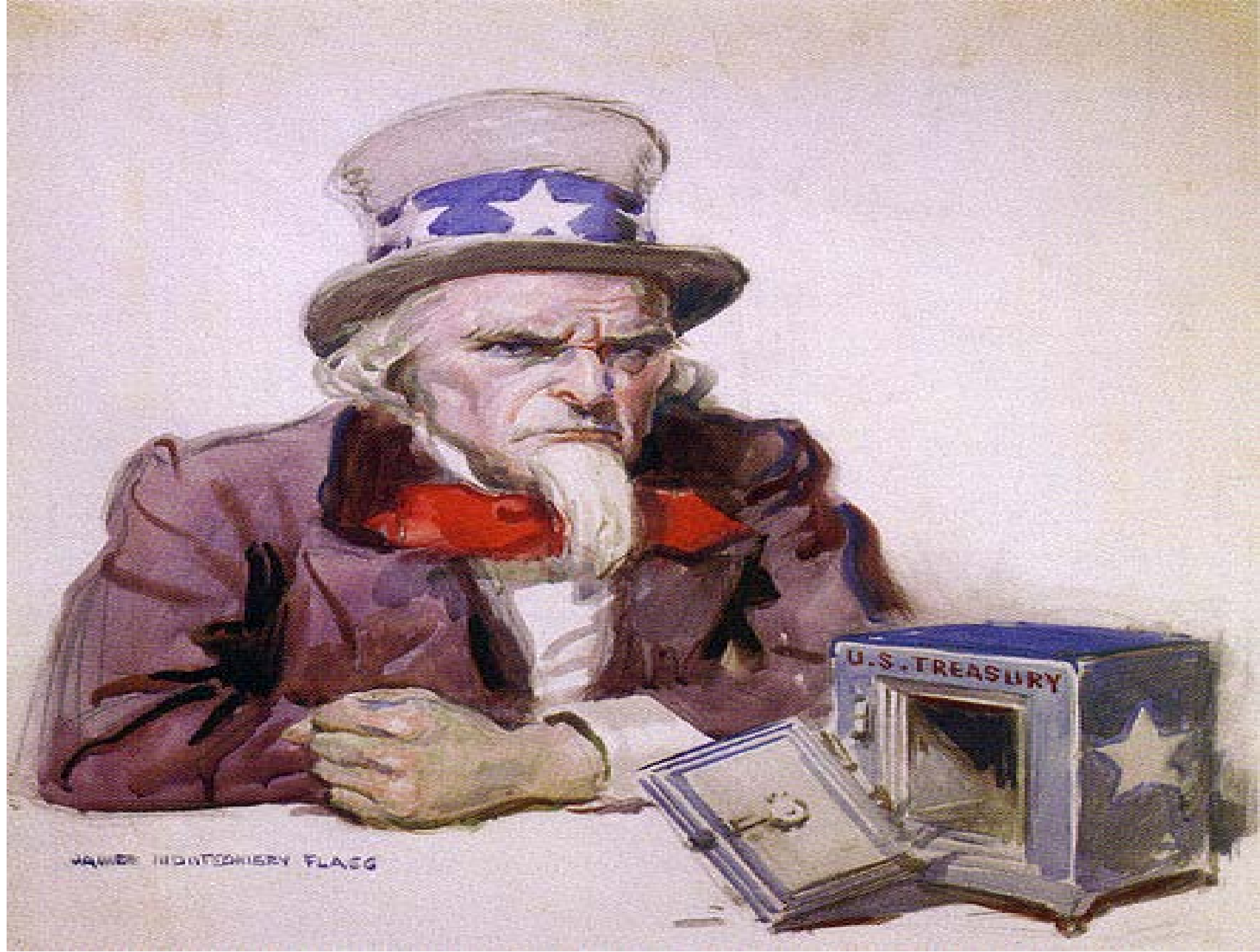
Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see Appendix A). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats; the red area of Republicans. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple. Republicans include Republican-leaning independents; Democrats include Democratic-leaning independents (see Appendix B).

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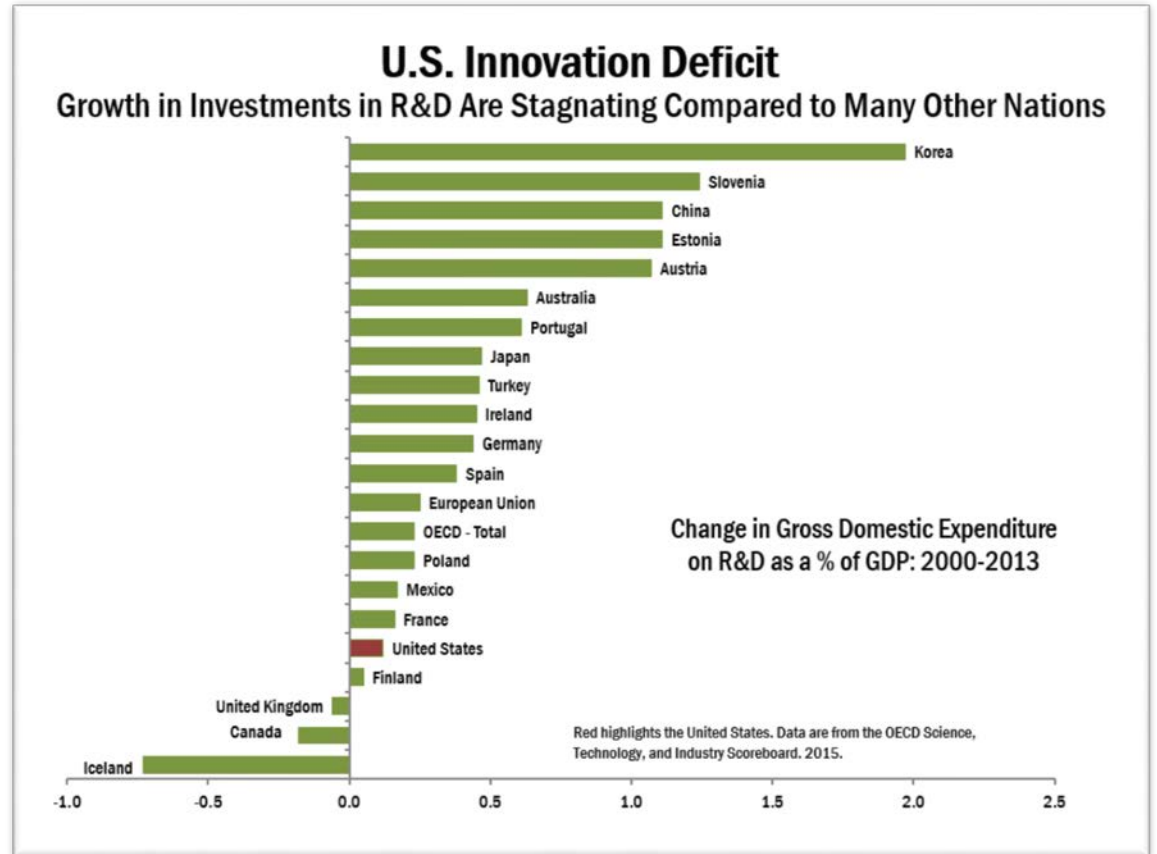


JAMES HUNTERMAN FLAG

# The Growing Innovation Deficit



# Growth in Investment in R&D





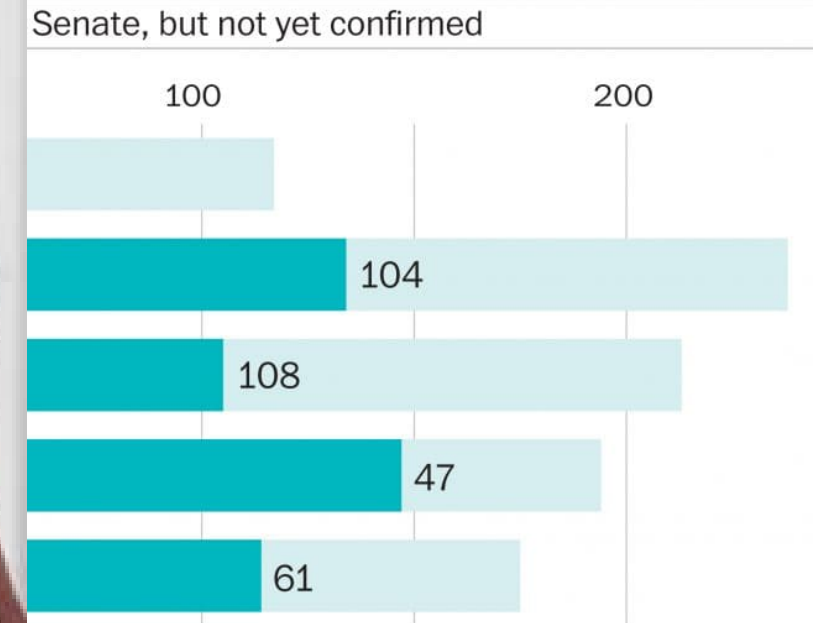


# Status of Trumps Nominations

- Of 577 key positions require Senate confirmation, 354 are without a nominee. Of 117 have been confirmed.
- Very few key science positions nominated.
- Yet to fill...
  - OSTP Director
  - NIST Director
  - NOAA Director



hind at filling Senate-confirmable positions at s, a new analysis as of June 23 shows.



and holdovers from previous administrations are excluded.

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KEVIN UHRMACHER/THE WASHINGTON POST

# Legislative Productivity

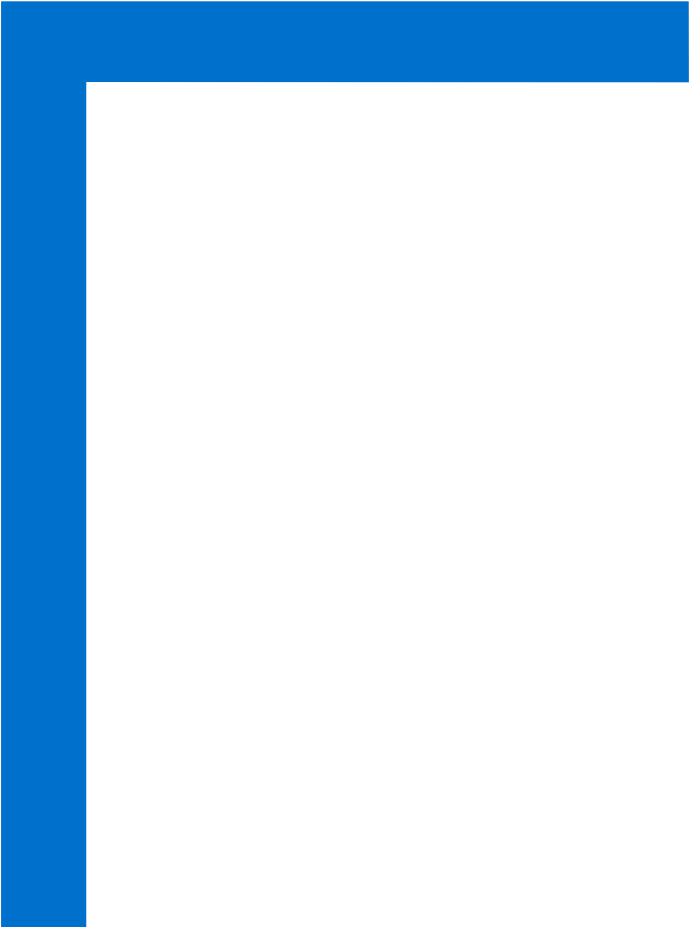
55 Bills signed

- Many reverse Obama policies
- Failed to Pass Health Care
- No major bills passed


Yet to do:

- Budget Resolution
- Debt Ceiling
- Harvey Relief
- Tax Reform
- Appropriations
- Infrastructure???





...and then  
there is  
Twitter!



# Budget

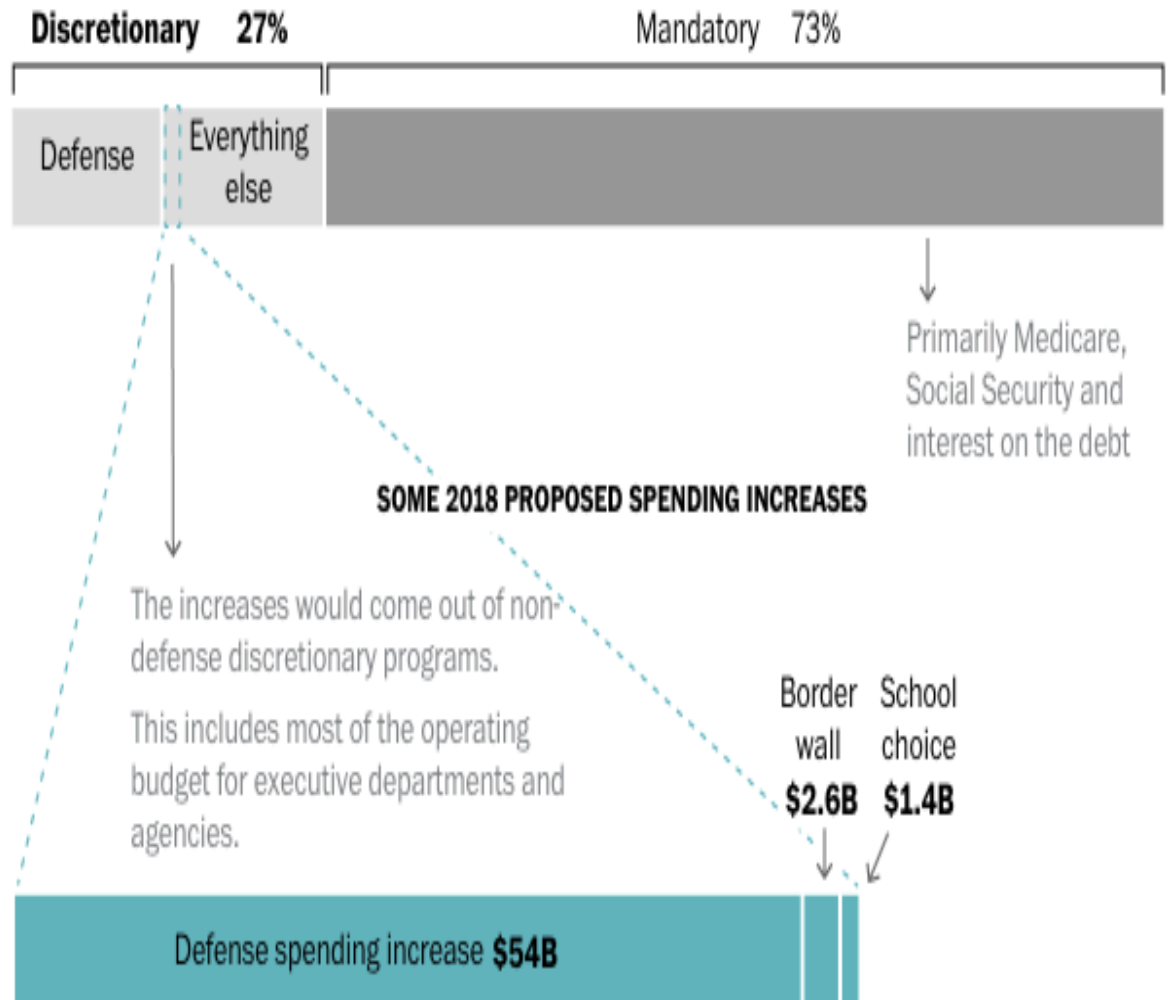




# Budget



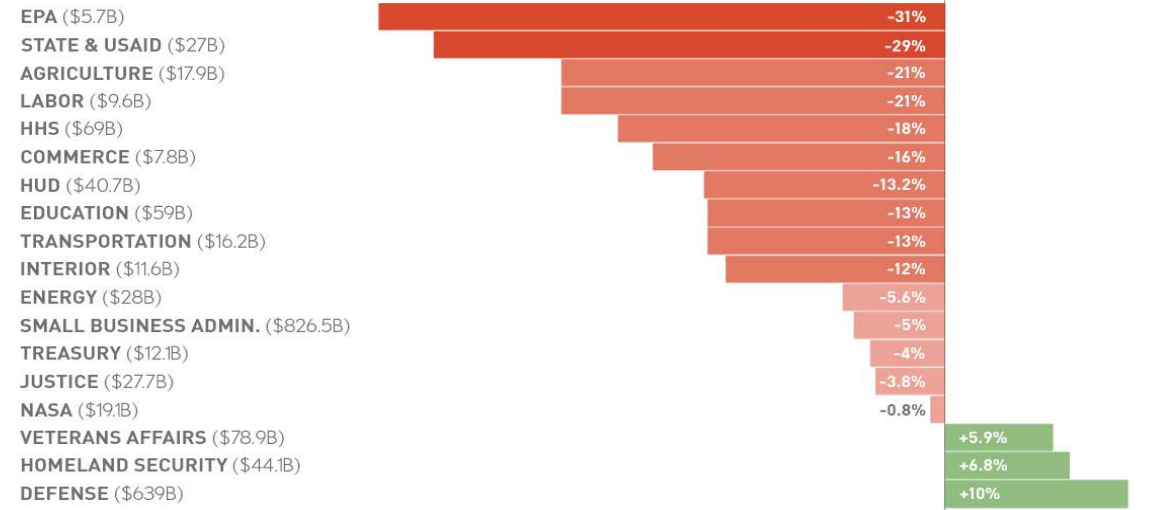
2017 FEDERAL BUDGET, RELEASED IN 2016



# Impact on Science

- Cuts to science much deeper than expected
- Over 20% cut to NIH
  - Included were F&A and Salary Caps
- NSF Cut by 11%
- 5.6% cut to DOE
  - 17% cut to Office of Science
  - ARPA-E eliminated
- EPA cut by one-third (31%)
  - Office of R&D cut in half
- 16% cut to Commerce (\$7.8B)
  - NOAA Research cut in half
  - NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership zeroed out
- NASA cut by 0.8%
- No increases for DOD Basic Research

## BREAKING DOWN TRUMP'S FIRST PROPOSED BUDGET



SOURCE: OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

NINA LIN/NBC



THERE IS  
STILL HOPE...





It is the duty of the President to propose and it is  
the privilege of the Congress to dispose.

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)

[izquotes.com](http://izquotes.com)



# Key Budget & Policy Issues

- F&A Cap
- NIH Salary Cap
- Fetal Tissue & hESC Research
- ARPA-E
- Applied Energy & Climate Research
- NEH & NEA
- Immigration
- Regulatory Reform
- Govt–Univ Partnership

