

CMST 100 - FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

CANDIDATE ASSIGNMENT

The location and call number of each publication is given in parentheses at the end of its bibliographic entry. All publications in this guide may be found on the 4th level (the main floor) of the Central Library unless otherwise noted.

The URL for the Vanderbilt Library home page is <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

It's much easier to find information about incumbents; much harder to find information about challengers.

Information on Both Incumbents and Challengers

Start with these two:

Vanderbilt Library home page → "Find Articles and Databases" (upper right) → "Top Databases":

LexisNexis Academic, 1973-. ([Database](#))

Best source for full-text newspaper articles. Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings. E-mail: articles.

Step 1 - **Sources**: click on the "sources" tab at the top left.

Step 2 - **Find a Source**: in the "find a source" box at the upper right type in [name of state] news (for example, Tennessee news).[go]

Step 3 - **Select sources below** to search: check the box to the left of [name of state] news sources. Sometimes it's the top choice in the list; sometimes not.[red OK - continue]

Step 4 - **Enter search terms**: [candidate name in quotation marks] and (candidate* or congress or [specify chamber: house or senate]) [red "search" button"]

For example, search "**lamar alexander**" and (candidate* or congress or senate)

Enter these URLs:

Project Vote Smart (<http://votesmart.org/>)

Biographies, campaign finances, issues positions, performance evaluations, and voting records for federal and state elections. Enter the candidate's name in the "Find Your Representatives" search box. Find your candidates and click on his name. You may have to scroll down for much of the information. For some candidates includes biographical information, voting records (incumbents), issue positions, interest group ratings, public statements, and campaign finances.

YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/>)

Enter the name of your candidate in quotation marks (for example, "Lamar Alexander") to find political ads and other videos.

You can also try this database and this journal:

Vanderbilt Library home page → "Find Articles and Databases" (upper right) → "Top Databases":

Proquest. ([Database](#))

Provides citations and summaries of articles from over 4,000 publications, with many in full-text. Indexes a broad range of social sciences publications, numerous general-interest magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*, and recent issues of major newspapers. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. E-mail: articles.

Search: [candidate's name] and [state] and [chamber: house or senate]

example: dewine and senate and ohio

Vanderbilt Library home page → "Find Articles and Databases" (upper right) → "Need a database to find an article?":

CQ Weekly ([Database](#)) - Best source for current developments on political issues and campaigns and on activities of all three branches of government. Choose Archive "Search Articles" and use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. More information on incumbents rather than challengers

Search: [candidate's last name] and [state] and [if necessary, chamber: house or senate]

example: ford and tennessee

Information on Incumbents Only

All three of these sources provide basic information about **incumbents**, including group ratings, key votes, election results, and demographics:

Almanac of American Politics, 1972-. ([Database](#); Latest in GOV REF JK 1012 .A44)

Browse the Almanac: click on “elected officials”, then click on [initial letter of incumbent’s last name], then choose incumbent name.

Politics in America, 1982-. ([Database](#); Latest in GOV REF JK 1010 .P64)

Search: choose incumbent name and choose among those with the same last name for the incumbent’s profile.

CQ Congress Collection ([Database](#))

in the “Members of Congress” search box (upper right), enter the incumbent’s last name. Choose among those with the same last name for the incumbent’s profile.

LexisNexis Congressional, 1789-1969; 1970-. ([Database](#))

Useful for House and Senate **incumbents**, but seldom for challengers. Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings.

Congressional publications (main search) - text of prepared statements before Congressional hearings on proposed legislation, an existing government program, or an event.

Basic Search: [candidate’s first and last name]

example: lindsey graham

Congressional Record -floor speeches of members of Congress.

Congressional Record Search: Restrict by speaker on the floor: [incumbent’s last name]

example: cooper

Members and Committees - Incumbent’s personal profile, campaign finances, and voting record.

Members and Committees Search: [incumbent’s last and first name]

example: lieberman joseph