

# The Congressional Data Task Force

Public Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024

# Welcome

## **Kirsten Gullickson**

Office of the Clerk  
U.S. House of Representatives

[Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Gullickson@mail.house.gov)

For more information:  
[USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/](https://USGPO.GITHUB.IO/INNOVATION/)

# The Congressional Data Task Force

The Task Force is a partnership of representatives from various Legislative Branch Agencies including the—

- House of Representatives,
- Senate,
- Library of Congress,
- Government Publishing Office,
- Government Accounting Office

that work in a cooperative manner to coordinate and accomplish openness and transparency goals.

# The Congressional Data Task Force

- The Bulk Data Task Force\* was created in 2012 to focus on increased dissemination of congressional information via bulk data
- *current work goes beyond bulk data*
- ❑ meets internally with Legislative Branch organizations to coordinate projects and other transparency and modernization initiatives
- ❑ meets with civil society organizations

*\*The name changed to the Congressional Data Task Force on June 21, 2022*

# Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>

# AGENDA

1. Welcome and Background
2. Reports/Updates from CDTF Working Groups and Legislative Branch organizations
3. Report(s) from academics, advocacy groups and/or civil society organizations
4. Reports/Updates from CDTF Working Groups and Legislative Branch organizations
5. Announcements/Closing

*Meeting ends at 4:00 pm EST*

*Q&A will be held throughout the meeting*

# Housekeeping Items



*The meeting will be recorded and posted online at <https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/>*



*Use the Q&A feature to ask questions. The panelists will respond during the meeting.*



*Use the “raise hand” feature during the Q&A portion so we can unmute your mic.*



*Make sure the name displayed is you. Using the chat, please share a little about yourself. Suggestions: your name, where you work, and expectations for this meeting.*



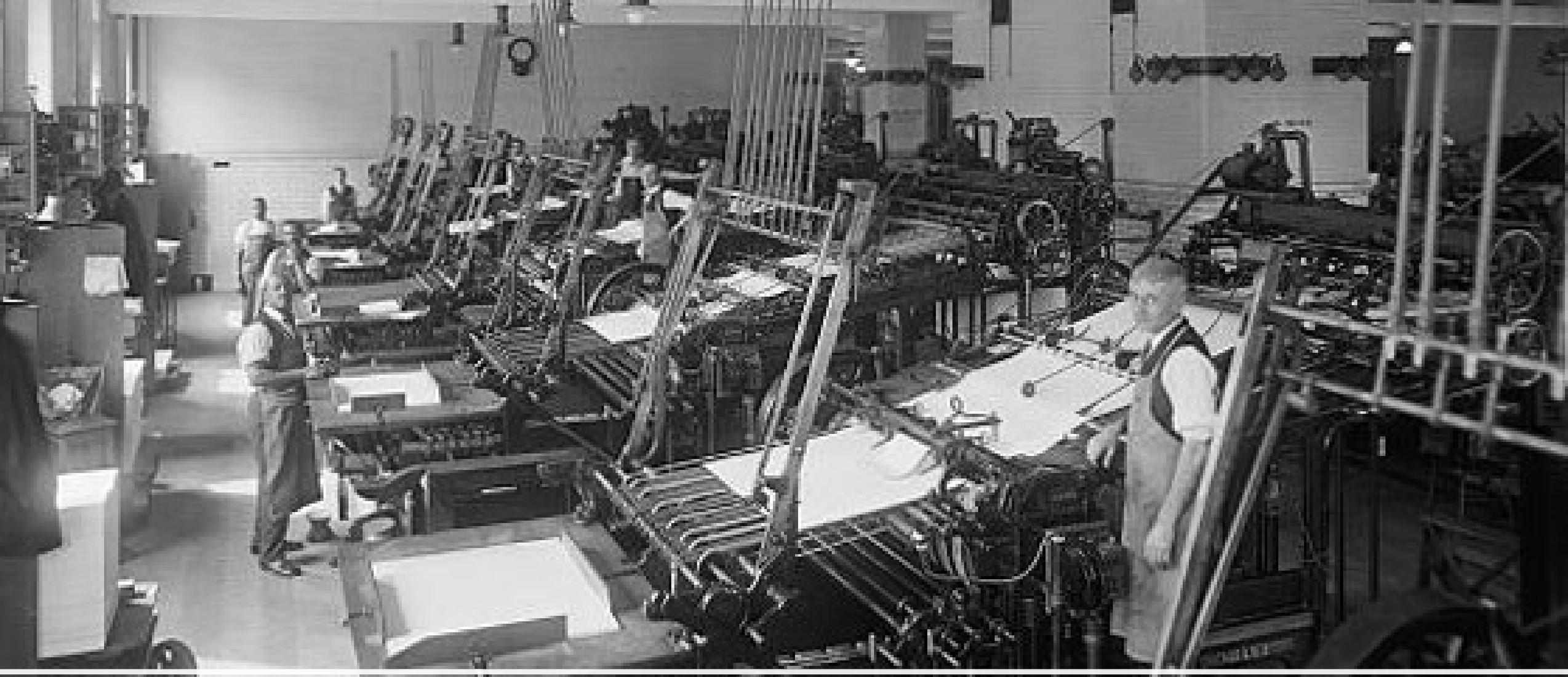
*Meeting will start at ~2:02 pm and end at 4:00 pm EST*

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**PREPARE**



**MANAGE**



**DISTRIBUTE**



**ARCHIVE/PRESERVE**

CONSTITUTION  
JEFFERSON'S MANUAL  
AND  
RULES OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE UNITED STATES  
SEVENTY-SECOND CONGRESS

By

LEWIS DESCHLER  
PARLIAMENTARIAN



**Bound by Rules, Traditions, and Practices**

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1931

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3712

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Courthouse”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. JAMES M. & THOMAS W.L. ASHLEY CUSTOMS**  
4 **BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURT-**  
5 **HOUSE.**

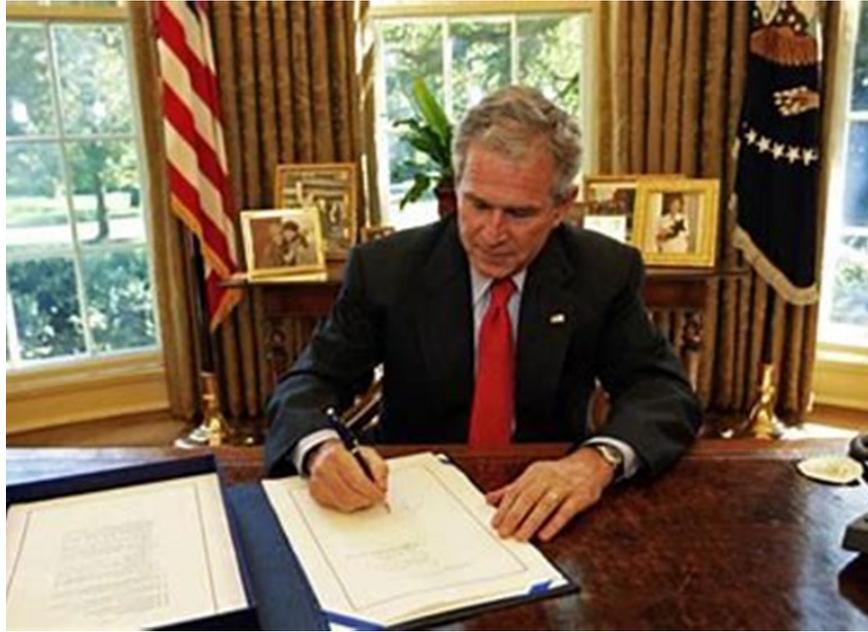
6 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United  
7 States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in  
8 Toledo, Ohio, shall be known as the “James M. & Thomas

1 W.L. Ashley Customs Building and United States Court-  
2 house”.

3 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-  
4 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United  
5 States to the Federal building and United States court-  
6 house referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be  
7 a reference to the “James M. & Thomas W.L. Ashley Cus-  
8 toms Building and United States Courthouse”.



The paper  
version is the  
official document  
of record.



**Adding a digital layer to a centuries-old paper process**

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88TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7152

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1964

Ordered printed as passed the House

## AN ACT

To enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That this Act may be cited as "The Civil Rights Act of

**Online means more  
than just the  
electronic  
representation of  
the paper document**

# The Solution

## Structured Data

Formats: XML, JSON, HTML...

*GPO Developer Hub at [GovInfo.gov/developers](http://GovInfo.gov/developers)*

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The three characteristics that documents share:

- **Presentation:** how the content looks
- **Structure:** how the content is organized
- **Semantics:** what does it mean

*Roadmap for Publishing Legislative Documents in USLM XML Format<sup>1</sup>*



Completed	U.S. Code
Completed	Enrolled bills, public laws, and the Statutes at Large
Completed	HOLC/SOLC statute compilations
IN PROGRESS <i>Initiated</i>	Remaining bill/resolution versions (introduced, reported, engrossed, all amendments, et. al.)
C	Committee Reports
D	House portions of the <i>Congressional Record</i> , including the <i>Daily Digest</i>
E	Hearing record
F	House Calendar
G	<i>Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
H	<i>House Journal</i>

# The Solution: XML USLM schema

## Legislative Branch Innovation Hub

[About the Hub](#)[Leadership Support](#)[Data Standardization](#)[Reports](#)[Events](#)[Resources](#)

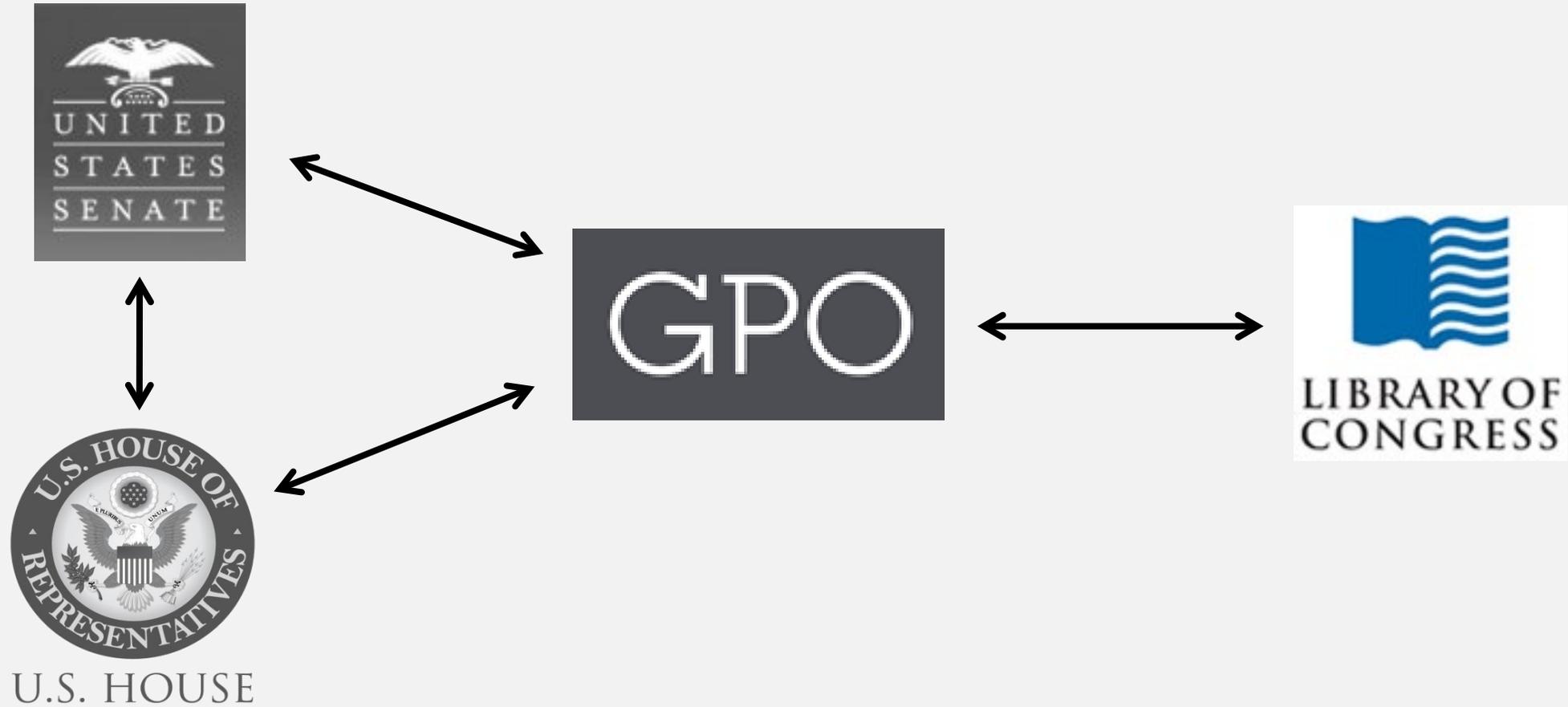
### Reports

#### Standardized Formats for Legislative Documents, USLM

- **Initial Report** - Required by Section 501 of House Resolution 756 of the 116th Congress - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 1 - October 15, 2020 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 2 - January 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 3 - April 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 4 - July 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 5 - October 15, 2021 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 6 - January 15, 2022 - [PDF](#)
- Quarterly Report 7 - April 15, 2022 - [PDF](#)

[//usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports/](https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports/)

# Data Exchange: Simple



More comprehensive workflows can be found on the Innovation Hub:  
<https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/resources/>

# Next on the Agenda

## Reports from

### – The House

- The CAO's Office, House Digital Services
- the working group on a Legislative Branch-wide Online Staff Directory
- The Clerk's office, Legislative Computer Systems

### – The Senate

- The Secretary's Office
- the Congressional Video Preservation and Access Technical Working Group

### – The Congressional Budget Office

- *No report this meeting*

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United States House of Representatives

# FlagTrack

Congressional Data Task Force



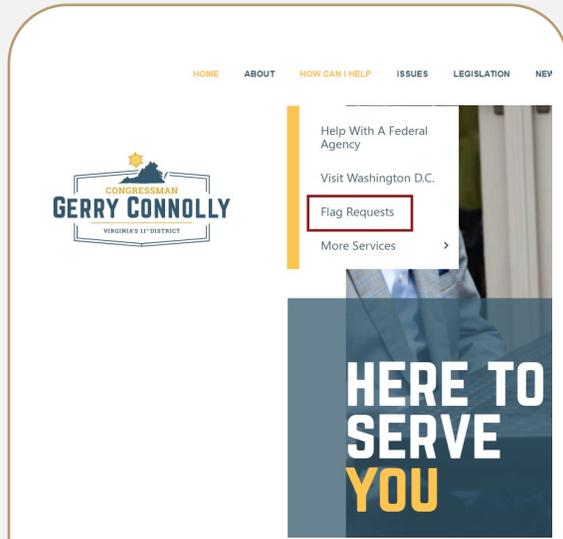
*U.S. House of Representatives*

**CAO**

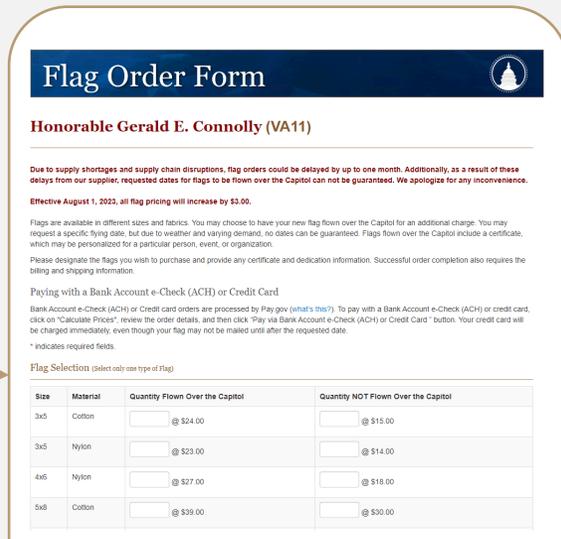
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# Flag Ordering Process

Each Representative allows their constituents to order a flag directly from their website that can be flown over the Capitol.



Visit your Member's website



Order the Flag  
flagorder.house.gov

Size	Material	Quantity Flown Over the Capitol	Quantity NOT Flown Over the Capitol
3x5	Cotton	<input type="text"/> @ \$24.00	<input type="text"/> @ \$15.00
3x5	Nylon	<input type="text"/> @ \$23.00	<input type="text"/> @ \$14.00
4x6	Nylon	<input type="text"/> @ \$27.00	<input type="text"/> @ \$18.00
5x8	Cotton	<input type="text"/> @ \$39.00	<input type="text"/> @ \$30.00



\* Disclaimer: Hardwood display case not included

# Architecture Complexities

*The process of ordering, flying and delivering a flag is a complex process involving multiple disparate systems. FlagTrack aims to unify these systems to make the order process more Transparent to Member Office staffers by providing a modern, easy-to-use portal for managing orders.*



# FlagTrack Demo



*U.S. House of Representatives*

**CAO**

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# Project Partnership

To make FlagTrack a reality, the House of Representatives had to partner multiple business units across the CAO, AOC and Member Offices. This partnership ensured a smooth release of the initial FlagTrack pilot.

## Keys to Success



### Unified Project Team

The project team for FlagTrack was made up of the following business units:

- Architect of the Capitol
- House Office Supply Store
- CAO Enterprise Services
- House Digital Service

**Having members from each involved business unit on the team ensured that all possible viewpoints were considered for the application**



### Involving Staffers

From the beginning, member office staffers were involved in the design of the application.

This ensured that current pain points and desired functionality was identified and logged from Day 1 of the project.

**Through this process, we have been able to identify a backlog of items that continue to improve the experience for Member Office staffers**

*These 'keys to success' allow the House to achieve the goal of **transparency** throughout the flag ordering process*



Product Updates  
Office of the Clerk



# Q&A/Discussion



*Use the “raise hand” feature so we can unmute your mic.*



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*Make sure the name displayed is you.*

# Next on the Agenda

Lorelei Kelly

McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University

Author: Lorelei Kelly  
Georgetown  
Democracy, Education  
+ Service  
McCourt School of  
Public Policy

Congress Clinic  
Georgetown + higher ed & civil society

### First Branch Sandbox

### Civil Society innovation

### Individual Member/House Capacity

institutional remnants of Right to Petition, grievance processing & public voice methods

Correspondence Management Platforms

NARA WebHarvest, snapshot every 2 years

Select Committee on Modernization of Congress 202 recommendations (Derek K)

Text messages, emails, letters, in person meetings, advocacy, calls, lobbying

Congressional Record, Extension of Remarks

Committee on House Admin Subc on Modernization

Casework, newsletters drop bys (Anne M)

Committee Repository, testimony & statements for the Record Govinfo.gov

House Clerk Data Task Force CAO Hackathon Congressional Digital Service, House Info Resources, Committees

Town Halls, Advisory Panels, site visits, constituent engagement

Fix Congress Caucus

Modernization Staff Assn. bicameral

Other Member led groups on tech, AI, data, Blockchain

Federal Depository Library, 1200 First Branch archival properties in GPO

amend Title 44 to build CVA capacity requirements

Cornell Legal Info Institute model

CBO  
GAO  
CRS  
GPO  
all Archives  
Fed Register  
Committees

Library of Congress  
Congress.gov

Existing Archives  
i.e. Veterans History, StoryCorps, Covid History

Experiment with format, structure & policy relevant input

Create by statute a Constituent Voice Archive

### Constituent Voice Archive Member authenticated info to supplement deliberation & oversight duties in Congress. + Content for local news

Community Data Trust

### "District Water Cooler" data input prototypes

prototype tools with local media orgs

prototype civil society

"Cspan 5" experiment with Cspan Archive at Purdue U

prototype Executive Branch oversight in a committee

SIDE Hearings Stakeholders, Individuals, Data, Evidence

Advisory Panels

Modern Town Halls

Citizen Assembly

Stakeholder meetings

Community Meetings

Mini Publics

proofs of concept

Ongoing work in Districts

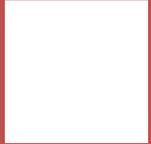
900 + district offices House, Senate

Deliberative technology platforms i.e. MIT Cortico Fora, Pol.is, Popvox, Remesh

community bridging organizations, social cohesion accelerators (Lisa S)

Evidence Based Decision Making, Open Data Act

# Q&A/Discussion



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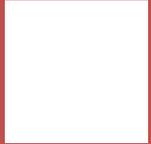
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## Reports from

- Government Publishing Office

- the Legislative Branch XML Technical Working Group

# Q&A/Discussion



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## Reports from

### – Library of Congress

- the Legislative Branch Data Interchange Working Group
- the working group on Digitization Of Congressional Documents

# Q&A/Discussion



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*Make sure the name displayed is you.*

# Large bills and the ecosystem

118 HR 2670 NDAA FY24

- Engrossed Amendment Senate (EAS) – 2,330 pages

118 S 2226 NDAA FY24

- Engrossed (ES) – 2,376 pages

118 HR 3935 FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024

- Engrossed Amendment Senate (EAS) – 1,062 pages

117 HR 2617 Consolidated Appropriations FY23

- Engrossed Amendment Senate (EAS2): 4,126 pages

117 HR 7776 NDAA FY23

- Engrossed House (EH) – 3,470 pages
- Engrossed Amendment House (EAH) – 4,312 pages
- Enrolled (ENR) – 1,772 pages

116 HR 133 Consolidated Appropriations FY21

- Engrossed Amendment in House (EAH): 5,432 pages
- Enrollment (ENR): 2,124 pages

*H. R. 133 ENR on its way to the Senate (for signature): 12/24/2020*

*Photo courtesy of the staff in Legislative Operations, Office of the Clerk*



# Long official titles

- 118 H Res 1173 – 1895 characters
- 118 H Res 1227 – 1837 characters
- 96 S 2388 – 2,388 characters

Image from the House Calendar ([www.housecalendar.gov](http://www.housecalendar.gov))

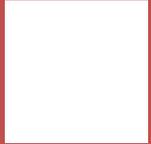
H. Res. 1173 (H.R. 615) (H.R. 764) (H.R. 2925) (H.R. 3195) (H.R. 3397) (H.R. 6090) (H.R. 6285).— Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 615) to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2925) to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3195) to rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 764) to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3397) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6285) to ratify and approve all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the establishment and administration of the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6090) to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes. • Reported from Rules Apr. 29, 2024; Rept. 118–477. House Calendar. Passed House Apr. 30, 2024; Roll No. 163: 209–205.

# Discussion: data and documents

The three characteristics that documents share:

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# AGENDA

- **Announcements/Closing**

*Meeting ends at 4:00 pm EST*

# SPECIAL THANK YOU



**BÚSSOLA**  
.tech

Bússola Tech is a global Think Tank that works in the promotion of the institutional modernisation and digital transformation in the Parliaments and Legislatures, through parliamentary diplomacy, cooperation and research. Their site says they “... seek to strengthen peer-to-peer collaboration and knowledge sharing between the Parliamentary community and practitioners.”

## Past Event

- May 2, 2024
  - Special event to highlight our work with the Comparative Print Suite

## Their Library

- Their Case Study paper on our work is one of the most read resources in the library.
  - <https://library.bussola-tech.co/p/evolving-technologies-in-the-legislative>

## Upcoming Event in DC

- October 17 & 18, 2024
- Hosted with the Organization of American States

# Future Events

## **Hackathon**

*Date – TBD – likely the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## **Congressional Data Task Force meetings**

*December 12, 2024*

# Employment Opportunities

## usajobs.gov

- House: <https://www.house.gov/employment/positions-with-other-house-organizations>
- Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/visiting/employment.htm>
- GPO: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/?a=LP00>
- LOC: <https://loc.gov/careers/>

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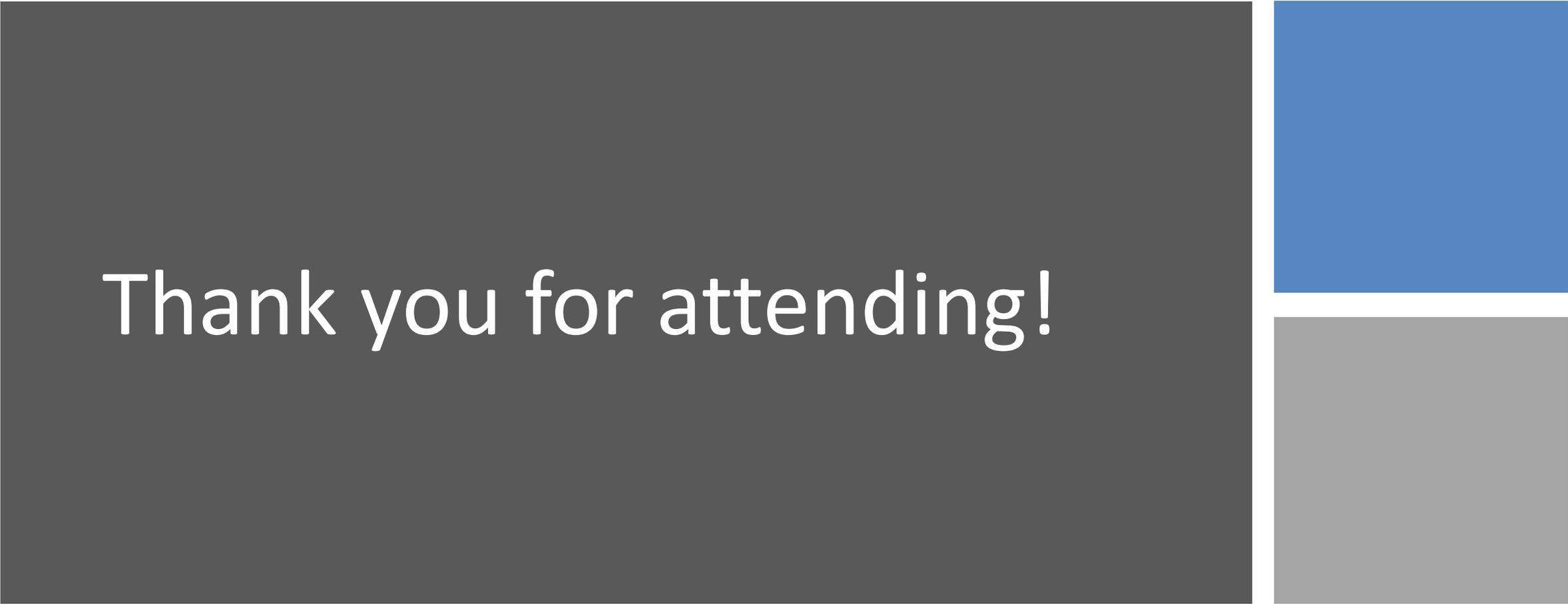
# Thank you

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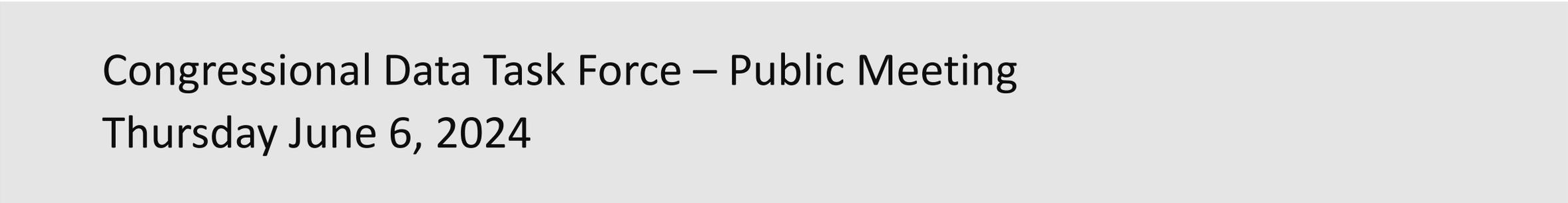
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Thank you for attending!



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