Collecting and Connecting On and Offline Political Network Data

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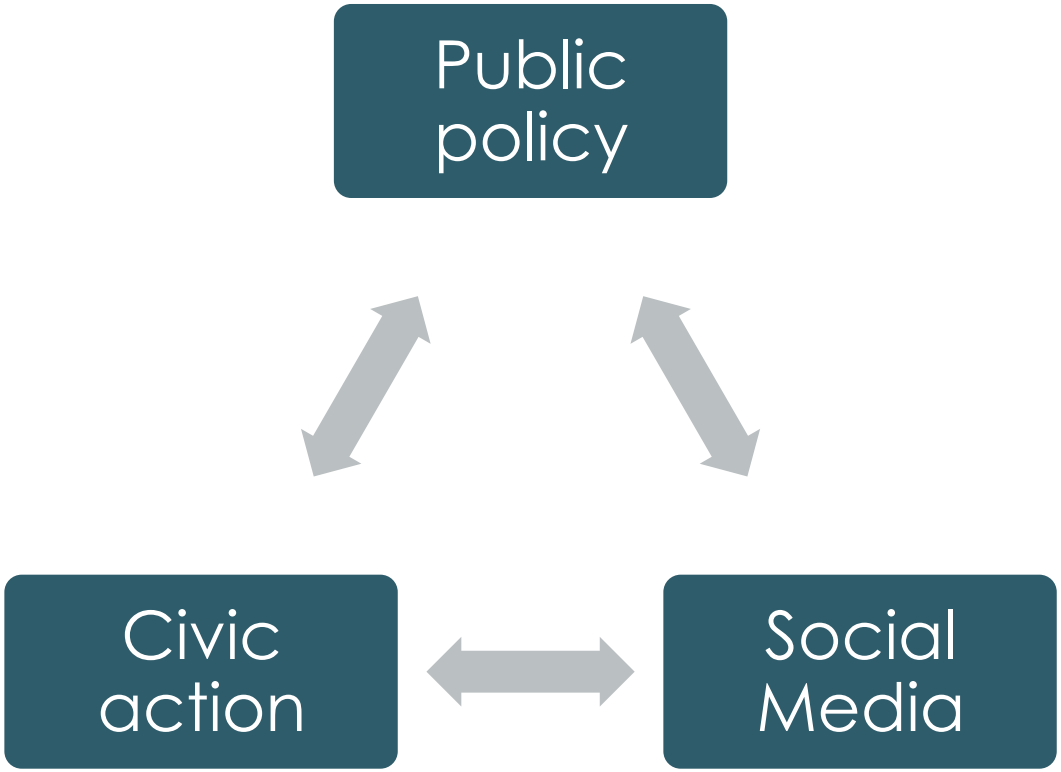
my work in general



today's topic

focus of inquiry

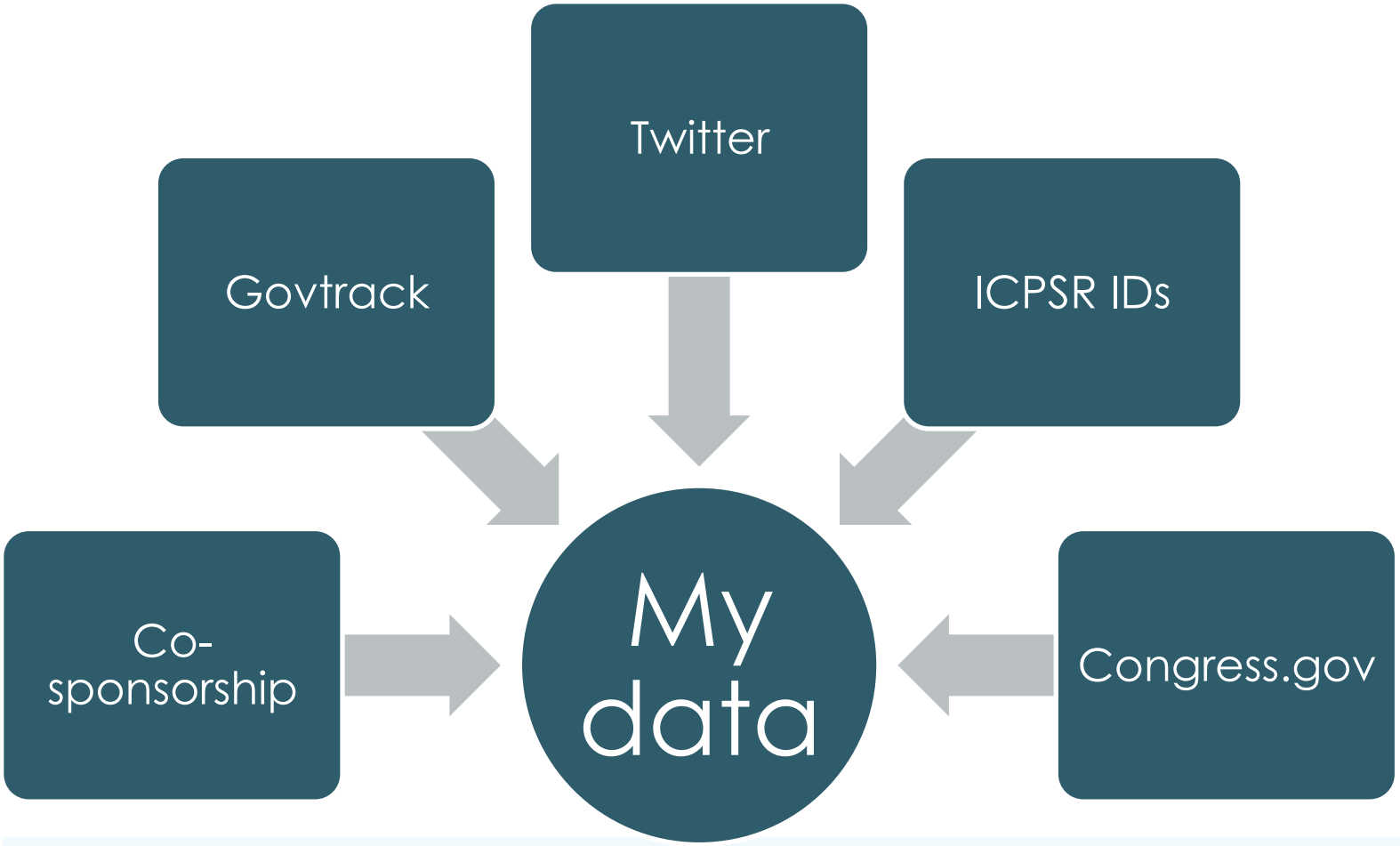
- Whole populations
- Bounded groups with known members

connecting disparate data sources

Does social media provide an alternate route to influence?

Nope.

data sources



First, fast movers control the discussion.

The same people wield influence **online** and **off**.

who's influential online?

Person	Normalized Connectedness
Speaker John Boehner (R-OH)	1.00
Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)	.99
Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA)	.94
Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI)	.91
Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)	.91
Rep. Tim Griffin (R-AR)	.91
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)	.88
Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)	.88

what's my point?

- Social media data is most useful when we connect to other data sources.
- Social media is not an alternate route to influence for politicians.
- Male-ness and Republican-ness are still the most reliable routes to power.

a call to action

- Respect expertise beyond the technical
- Educate students to be adequate coders and outstanding theorists

Thank you

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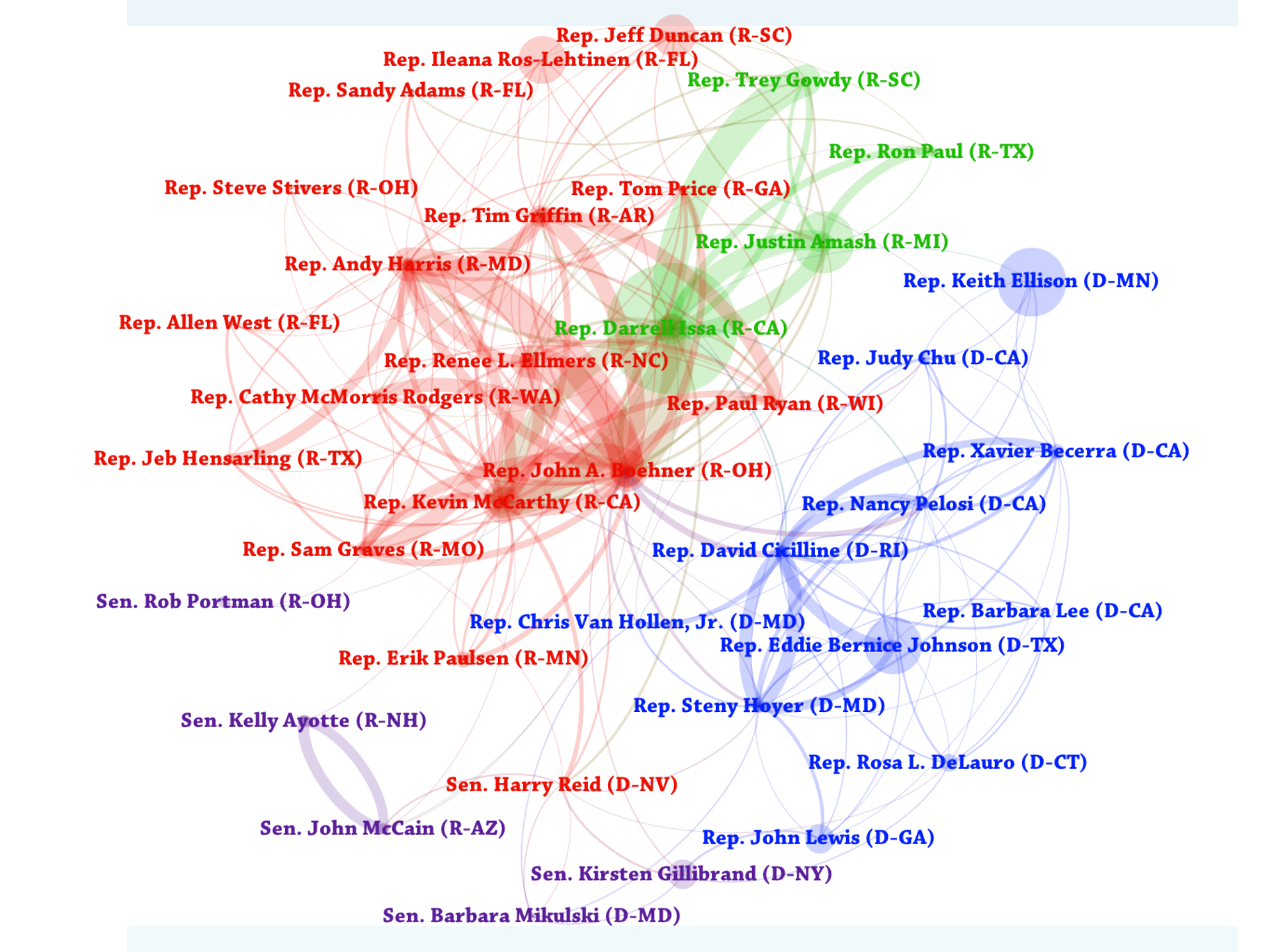
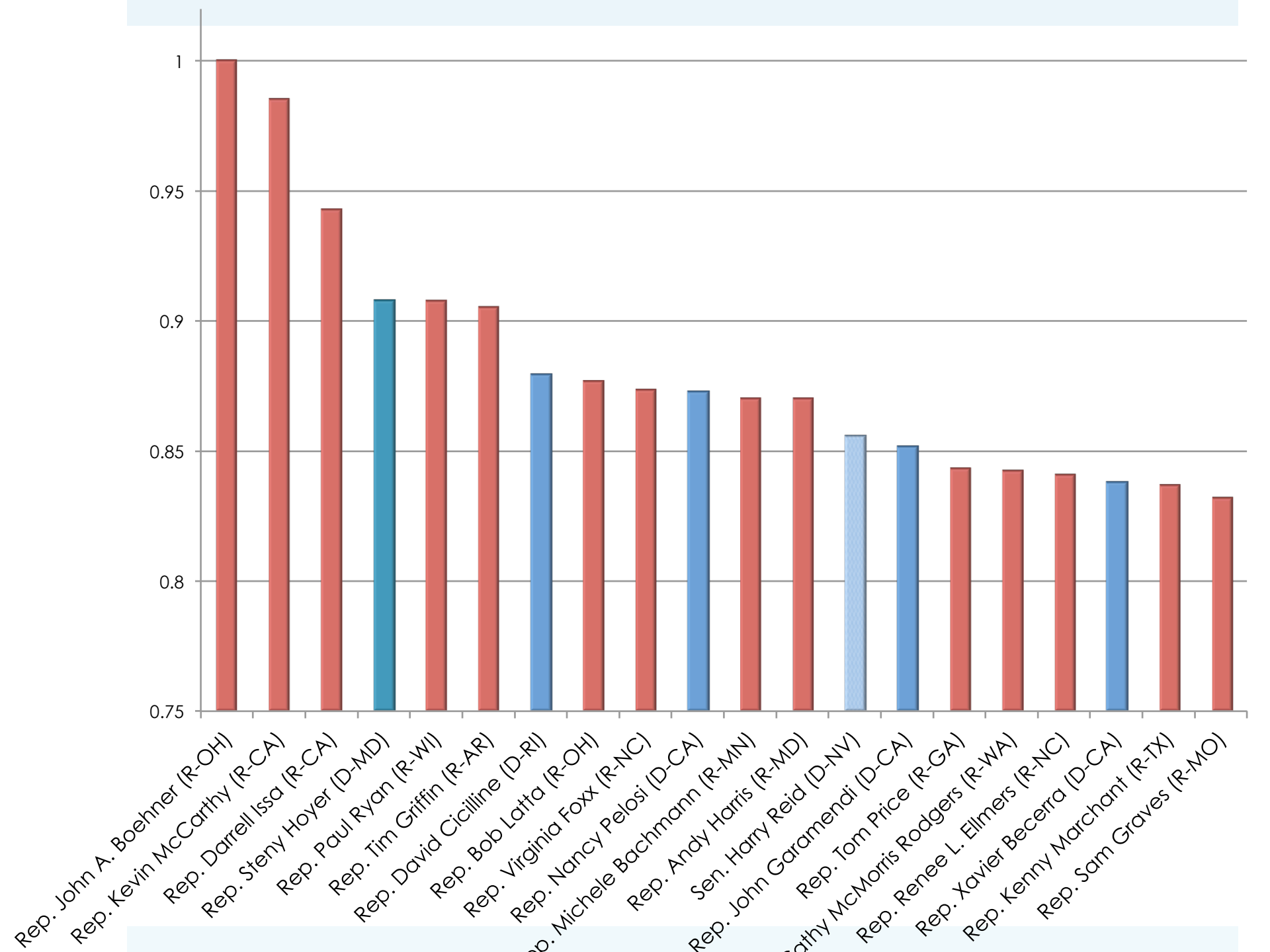
- Who said it first – Congress or the press?
- How do constituents lobby Congress via Twitter?
- How can we measure the impact of online protests like #stopthensa?


Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC)
Rep. Sandy Adams (R-FL)
Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX)
Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA)
Rep. Tim Griffin (R-AR)
Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI)
Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)
Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)
Rep. Allen West (R-FL)
Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)
Rep. Renee L. Ellmers (R-NC)
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI)
Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX)
Rep. John A. Boehner (R-OH)
Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)
Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Rep. Chris Van Hollen, Jr. (D-MD)
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN)
Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)
Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)
Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)
Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)


1
0.95
0.9
0.85
0.8
0.75
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Rep. Tim Griffin (R-AR)
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Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)
Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)
Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)
Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA)
Rep. McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
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Rep. Kenny Marchant (R-TX)
Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)