



BICAM Data Codebook

Citation

Use of BICAM data for academic purposes (presentations, working and conference papers, theses and dissertations, journal articles, software packages) requires that you cite the following paper:

Committee Meetings

We include records of 10,250 committee meetings (which include some, but not all, congressional hearings; see below) from the 114th to the 118th Congress. Committee Meeting data is linked to other key components and related sub-components via `meeting_id`, which utilizes an internal congressional event identification number. Sub-components include associated bills, treaties, nominations, meeting documents, witness documents, and witnesses. Beyond hearings, meetings cover broader committee work, such as bill markup (evaluating and recommending changes to bills). Committee meetings can be directly mapped to the Bills, Treaties, and Nominations components. One example is `meeting_id` = 108090, a hearing titled “Facebook: Transparency and Use of Consumer Data.” The sole witness for this testimony was the CEO of Meta Platforms, Inc. (then Facebook), Mark Zuckerberg, who testified about the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Through this dataset, researchers can easily search and retrieve the text of Zuckerberg’s testimony and supporting documents, including letters of complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission against Meta.

Each CSV file in this component is described below, one per page.



BICAM Data Codebook

Committee Meetings

Row Count: 10,250

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
title	Text title associated with record	CHAR
meeting_type	Type of meeting held, which is either “Hearing”, “Meeting”, or “Markup”	CHAR
chamber	Chamber of Congress for a record. Most often “house” or “senate”, but may also be “joint” depending on component type.	CHAR
congress	The term of U.S. Congress for a record	NUMERIC
date	Date that a committee meeting has been held	DATE
room	Room number where a committee meeting has been held	CHAR
street_address	Street name and number where a committee meeting has been held	CHAR
building	Building name where a committee meeting has been held	CHAR
city	City where a committee meeting has been held	CHAR
state	State where a committee meeting has been held	CHAR
zip_code	Generally blank, five digit ZIP code for meeting location	CHAR
meeting_status	Status of committee meeting on calendar, which is either “Scheduled”, “Rescheduled”, “Postponed”, or “Canceled”	CHAR
updated_at	Date associated with last update of document (from Congress, not to be confused with BICAM version dates)	DATE



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Committee Meetings-Associated Bills

Row Count: 5,100

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
bill_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Bill across all bill files.	CHAR



Committee Meetings-Associated Hearings

Row Count: 0

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	CHAR
hearing_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Hearing across all hearing files.	CHAR



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Committee Meetings-Associated Nominations

Row Count: 3,004

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
nomination_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Nomination across all nomination files.	CHAR



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Committee Meetings-Associated Treaties

Row Count: 15

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
treaty_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Treaty across all treaty files.	CHAR



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Committee Meetings-Committees

Row Count: 10,254

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
committee_code	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee across all Committee files. This comes from internal THOMAS ID identifiers	CHAR



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Committee Meetings-Meeting Documents

Row Count: 19,360,084

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
name	Name of record	CHAR
document_type		CHAR
description	Short description of what is contained within a record	CHAR
url	URL associated with document	CHAR



Committee Meetings-Witness Documents

Row Count: 47,522

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
document_type		CHAR
url	URL associated with document	CHAR



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Committee Meetings-Witnesses

Row Count: 18,316

Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type
meeting_id	Primary key, unique identifier capturing an individual Committee Meeting across all Committee Meeting files.	NUMERIC
name	Name of record	CHAR
position		CHAR
organization		CHAR