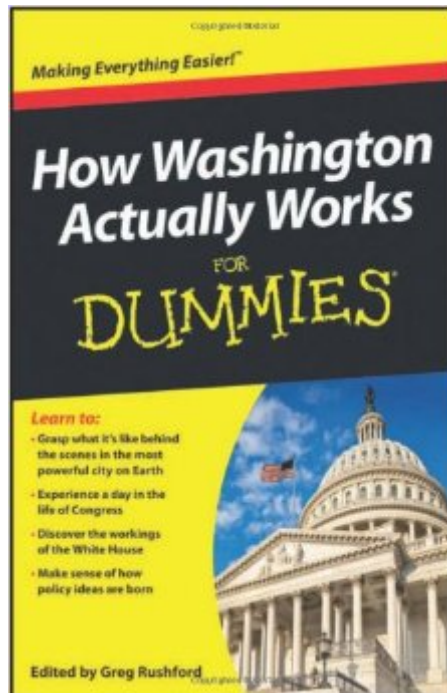


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# How Washington Actually Works For Dummies



## Synopsis

Get the inside scoop on the most powerful city on Earth Washington, D.C.: Capital of the Free World; the most powerful city on Earth. No other country, company, or international organization can compare with the reach and wealth of the federal government. Policymaking â the art of deciding what programs to support, what laws to pass, or what regulations to write â is at the core of what Washington does and is what everyone, from the President on down, wants to influence. How Washington Actually Works For Dummies isn't a dry explanation of the American system of government but a playbook for how Washington really works: who has a seat at the table, how the policymaking process works, and how one survives. It takes you inside the political process in Washington, discusses changes in recent decades, and explains how the parts fit together. You find out: Who really runs Washington Why the President's power is limited How Congress (and its committee structure) works What the bureaucrats â the men and women behind the curtain â do to earn your tax dollars How lobbyists, activists, and other players influence policy In a presidential election year when economic issues are center stage and the candidates will go head to head in policy debates, there's no better time to discover the ins and outs of how policy is actually made.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At half the physical size and only 120 pages, this book was smaller than the usual in the For Dummies series of books. As a result, it had far less information than I was expecting and the information it does provide is in a very condensed format. It is not a general overview of the

Government, but focuses rather on the inner workings of Washington...creating policy, lobbyists, bureaucracy, etc. Chapter 7 on Policymaking was the most interesting to me. Overall opinion...this would be a useful guide to include in learning more about how Government works, but would not work as a stand alone book on the topic.

I learned a lot from this little book! As a dedicated news junkie, I was surprised to see how much I didn't know about our nation's capital. This book taught me how the work going on in Washington is so much more complex than the view I get by watching the nightly news. It actually made me feel good that there is more to Washington DC than the disfunction we see on TV! A quick read for those of us that want to be well-informed. Lots of humor makes it a fun read, and a great little history of DC, too! Highly recommended.

I look back and realized that there was very little civics taught when I was in school, 50's and 60's. This book is more about the reality of How Washington Actually Works than how the founding fathers originally intended it to work. Rome started out as a republic, fell into a democracy and finally died an oligarchy. There is a lesson here.

I found it interesting and a very easy read. Yes, from Civics class many years ago, I learned that Congress makes the laws, and the President signs and enforces them, but there is a whole other level of work by a multitude of people, not directly part of the government, but all having their say in one way or another. We find out about lobbyists; what do they really do. Besides casting our votes, there is more that you and I can do to affect this whole process as individual citizens, or as groups of citizens. Easy way for all to learn how the government really works in today's complex environment. Should be required reading for all high school students, and maybe most citizens.

I hold dummies books to a higher standard than other books. This one was a bit dry and didn't have as much information as I'd hoped. If you looking for almanac or other information more specific to government, you'll be disappointed with this book. Generally speaking though, it does a satisfactory job describing how Washington actually works. Four stars

"How Washington Actually Works for Dummies" edited by Greg Rushford doesn't get into all of the dirty backroom political dealings like the title might suggest. Nor is it an in depth look at the workings of the capital city of the United States of America. What it does do, and do very well, is provide a

simple guide to the basic workings of our government and those in the capital city. It's a short book. It's only 120 pages. So you can read it fairly quickly. Like most "For Dummies" books, it makes things easier with its basics laid out in an organized and easy to follow manner. I enjoyed the quick read, and I learned some things I wasn't aware of. Chapters include: A Brief History of Washington, The People Behind the Curtain Federal Bureaucrats, Professional Persuaders Lobbyists, Other Voices in the Debate Outsiders Gatecrashers and Wallflowers, Congress, The Presidency, Policymaking, and Ten Ways to Participate in Washington Policymaking. Again, this is a simple quick guide without a much depth. I'd recommend it to anyone who wants a fast overview of the basic procedures of getting things done in Washington. Reviewed by Alain Burrese, J.D., author of "Lost Conscience: A Ben Baker Sniper Novel"

This slender book is timely--just in time for the elections. Read before voting. What does the President do? Who runs Congress? What is a lobbyist? Most important, what can the average voter do? See Chapter 10: "Ten Ways to Participate in Washington Policymaking." The Introduction explains how to use this book. Then there is a brief history of Washington, DC in Chapter 1, federal bureaucrats in Chapter 2, lobbyists in Chapter 3, media and think tanks and foreign governments and all the rest in Chapter 4, Congress in Chapter 5, the President in Chapter 6, and policymaking in chapter 9. Citizen participation in the United States government is difficult, time consuming, expensive and frustrating. The legislative process was designed to make new laws a long, hard process. Many US citizens don't participate--don't even register to vote. Fewer make it to the polls on Election Day to cast their votes. There's more to a citizen's responsible participation in the government process than voting--"How Washington Actually Works for Dummies" details some of them. This is what high school government classes should have taught!

In Junior High I took a course in American Government and it was one of my favorites. I have lived a few years in this world and I love politics. But there was a lot about government and its inner workings I just didn't know. This book seemed written for me. And - this little book filled in a lot of missing information for me and made it easy to grasp, enjoyable to read, and definitely helped expand my knowledge about the base of our government and its procedures. It was very 'readable', not like some dull dry text book. This should be a must-read for high school students. For anyone in America interested in the details of America's government it will be very revealing and useful. Highly recommend for everyone living in America from middle-school age upward, if for no other reason than to have a powerful reference book on hand in your home or office.

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