April 19, 1775, bullets rang through Lexington, in the British colony of Massachusetts. This first exchange of fighting is said to have been heard around the world. This was the start of the American Revolutionary War. After the British lost the colonies, the newly independent Americans had to form a new government. The government that the Americans created was unprecedented in history. This unique government, an experiment, has succeeded in the United States of America ever since. Many have fought and died to keep this government going.

One of the reasons this government was unique was that it gave people the right to vote for those that represent them. This allows the public to have power over those that govern it: if the citizens don’t like what is going on they can vote their representative out. This paper aims to determine whether the man voted to represent the Sixth Congressional District where I live represents the will of the people in our district. Currently, our representative is Frank Pallone, Jr.

Fifty-seven year old Frank Pallone Jr. is New Jersey’s Sixth District representative for the United States House of Representatives. Pallone was first voted into the United States House of Representatives in 1988 and has been serving in this position for the past ten terms. He is considered to be a senior member for the Democratic Party. GovTrack categorizes him to be a “radical Democrat” (GovTrack). Pallone is said to vote with his party 97.9% of the time.

Biographical Details

A son of a Roman Catholic police officer, Frank Pallone Jr. was born on October 30, 1951 in Long Branch, New Jersey. Pallone attended public schools and grew up in Long Branch. He still lives there with Sarah, his wife since 1992, and three children: Rose Marie, Frank and Celeste (Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.) (Project Vote Smart).

Pallone attended Middlebury College where he graduated with his BA in 1973. In 1975, Pallone attained his MA in International Relations from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Rutgers University School of Law granted Pallone his JD in 1978 (Project Vote Smart).

Before Pallone was a full-time politician, he worked for Rutgers as an adjunct professor, and an instructor for Monmouth University. He also served as legal counsel for Protective Services for the Elderly in Long Branch. He was also a coastal law specialist for the New Jersey Marine Advisory Service from 1980 and 1981. Finally from 1982 to 1984 Pallone worked for a Maritime Attorney in New York City (Project Vote Smart).

Pallone was first elected to office in 1982 as a council member to the Long Branch City Council. He served two three-year terms finishing up in 1988. A year after he became a council member, he was first elected a New Jersey state senator. His term lasted until 1988. That same year, he was elected a United States House Representative for District Three and has been a member of the
House ever since (Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.) (Frank Pallone Congress - votes databases) (Project Vote Smart).

Pallone has been in two non-political organizations: the Save Our Fort Committee and Save Central Jersey Jobs Task Force. Pallone has also been in twenty-seven non-legislative committees. He was on the executive board for the Congressional Arts Caucus, Democratic Homeland Security Task Force, and was Co-Chair of the Democratic Task Force for Health Care Reform, just to name a few (Project Vote Smart).

Pallone is also a member of two committees in the House and four subcommittees. He is part of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and is a member of the subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, and Telecommunications and the Internet. He is also the chair of the Health subcommittee under the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. He is also a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and its subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans (GovTrack).

**Congressional District Six**

The Constitution spells out regulations concerning representatives. Article 1, Section 2 states: “The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the Poll of the Several States.” Section 8 describes the many duties of the Legislative Branch, including: “to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imports and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States…”

District Six in New Jersey is gerrymandered. It reaches into four different counties, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset and Union. District Six fully engulfs thirty-five municipalities and also has six municipalities that are only partially in the district. Twenty-six municipalities and three partial municipalities are located in Monmouth. Middlesex County has eight municipalities, and two partial municipalities. In Somerset only part of one municipality, Franklin, is in District Six. Union County also has only one municipality, Plainfield (njvoterinfo.org).

In Monmouth County the municipalities are Aberdeen, Allenhurst, Asbury Park, Atlantic Highlands, Avon, Belmar, Bradley Beach, Deal, Hazlet, Highlands, Interlake, Keansburg, Keyport, Loch Arbor, Long Branch, Manalapan, Matawan, Monmouth Beach, Neptune City, Neptune Township, Ocean Township, Neptune City, Neptune Township Ocean Township, Red Bank, Sea Bright, South Belmar, Union Beach and West Long Branch. Parts of Marlboro, Manalapan, and Middletown in Monmouth are also in District Six (njvoterinfo.org).

In Middlesex County the municipalities are Dunellen, Highland Park, Middlesex, New Brunswick, Piscataway, Sayreville, and South Amboy. Part of the municipalities of Edison, and Old Bridge are also in District Six (njvoterinfo.org).

District Six is one of the most industrial regions in New Jersey. The district also has tourism and fishing. District Six has Rutgers, Monmouth, and DeVry Universities. It also has Middlesex County College, Fort Monmouth, Earle Naval Weapons Station and the historical site, Twin Lights (njvoterinfo.org).
In the 2000 Census the population of District Six was 647,257. 24% of the population is under 18 and 12% is over 65. The median age is 35.2 for both genders. For male the median age is 34 and 36.3 for females (CQ Politics-Frank Pallone, Jr.). There are 82,679 families with children under 18 and 75,606 of them have no children under 18. 59,461 families with children have two parents. 5,147 families have only a father, and 18,071, have only a mother (wnjpin.state.nj.us).

62% of people in District Six are non-Hispanic White, 16% are African-American, 12% Hispanic and 8% Asian. 19.2% of people in District Six are foreign born, and 25.2% have another language other than English. The median household income was $55,681. District Six has more registered Democrats than Republicans, however the county of Monmouth tends to be Republican (CQ Politics- Frank Pallone Jr.).

**Pallone’s Role in Committees**

Pallone is part of two committees and four subcommittees. He is part of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and three of its subcommittees, Environment and Hazardous Materials, Health and Telecommunications and the Internet. Pallone is also part of the House Committee on Natural Resources and its subcommittee, Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. (GovTrack).

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has been around for more than 200 years under different names. The only other two standing committees as old as the House Committee on Energy and Commerce are the House Rules Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. The role of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce is to reside over consumer protection, telecommunications, drug and food safety, air quality, public health, environmental health, supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce. The committee also has oversight of five Cabinet level departments. It has jurisdiction over seven independent agencies; Health and Human Services, Energy Disarmament, Transportation Department of the Federal Trade Commission, Federal Communications Commission, Food and Drug Administration and sundry quasi-government organizations. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has thirty-one Democrats and twenty-five Republicans. John Dingell a Democrat from Michigan is the Chairman, and Joe Barton from Texas is the Republican Ranking Member (Wikipedia).

The role of the United States House Energy Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials is to oversee the protection of the environment. One of the jobs in protecting the environment is to evaluate hazardous materials like problems of toxic substances, solid waste, and hazardous, waste, and others. The subcommittee also helps noise pollution control. The Safe Drinking Water Act falls under this subcommittee. There are sixteen Democrats on the committee, including Pallone. The chair is Al Wynn from Maryland. The Vice-Chair is Hilda Solis from California. The Ranking Member of the thirteen Republicans is John Shimkus from Illinois (Wikipedia).

The role of the United States House Energy Subcommittee on Health is to reside over bills, resolutions, agencies, programs and activities regarding public
health. The committee sets the regulations of hospital and mental health facilities. The subcommittee also governs national health insurance, Medicaid, and food and drug regulations. There are eighteen Democrats on this subcommittee and fifteen Republicans. Pallone is the Chair for the subcommittee. Pallone’s Vice Chair is Gene Green from Texas. Nathan Deal from Georgia is the Ranking Member (Wikipedia).

The last subcommittee that Pallone is a member of is the United States House Energy Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. This subcommittee is in charge of telecommunications and information broadcasting by radio, broadcast, satellite and any other mode that falls into the telecommunication category. There are thirty-two members of this subcommittee, eighteen Democrats and fourteen Republican. Edward Markey from Massachusetts is the Chair, and Mike Doyle from Pennsylvania is the Vice-Chair. Cliff Stearns from Florida is the Republican that is the Ranking Member (Wikipedia).

The United States House Committee on Natural Resources is the other committee Pallone is on. This committee is in charge of oversight of fisheries and wildlife, land grants, geological serves, mineral laws, and mining affairs. The subcommittee also takes care of the Native American land, military parks and battlefields, and ocean. The House Committee on Natural Resources has five subcommittees: Energy and Mineral Resources, Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and Water and Power. Pallone is part of the Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans subcommittee. There are twenty-six Democrats and twenty-two Republicans in the Committee on Natural Resources. The Chair is a Democrat from West Virginia, Nick J. Rahall, and the Ranking Member is Republican Don Young from Alaska (Wikipedia).

Pallone is part of the subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. This subcommittee’s job is to reside over organizations that are supposed to help protect the environment. There are ten Democrats and eight Republicans. The Chair is Democrat Madeleine Bordallo from Guam. The Republican Ranking Member is Henry Brown from South Carolina. (resourcescommittee.house.gov)

### Voting on Bills

One of the biggest jobs of a representative is to vote on the issues. Pallone only missed a total of 137 votes—2% out of 9044 votes—since January 5, 1993. Pallone votes along Democratic party lines 97.9% of the time. Citizens Against Government Waste has ranked Pallone 7% out of hundred for cutting government waste. According to Citizens Against Government Waste, Pallone is classified as “hostile” (Citizens Against Government Waste) (Frank Pallone Congress - votes databases) (GovTrack).

Pallone voted nay on bill HR503, Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2001, a bill that would make it a crime to harm unborn babies in the womb. On a similar bill, S 3 Prohibiting Partial-Birth Abortion, Pallone voted nay (Project Vote Smart).

On a short values quiz by Project Vote Smart, Pallone says that he is willing to increase spending for Homeland Security. Pallone is also a member of the non-legislative Democratic Homeland Security Task Force. However on bill
HR 5005, also known as the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pallone voted nay. This bill would establish a Homeland Security Department (Project Vote Smart).

On bill HR 6096, Immigration Law Enforcement Act of 2006, Pallone voted nay. This bill allows local offices to enforce immigration laws. Bill Emersion English Language Empowerment Act of 1996, HR 123, proclaims English as the official language used by the Government of the United States. Pallone voted nay on this bill also (Project Vote Smart).

Pallone’s Legislation
Since January 3, 1993, Pallone has introduced 283 bills. 261 of those bills died in committee. Only two of his bills were successful (GovTrack).

On April 17, 2007 Pallone put forth bill H.RES. 300, title “Commending the Achievement of the Rutgers University Women’s Basketball Team, and Applauding the Character and Integrity of their Student-Athletes”. H.RES.300 was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. The next day, April 18, 2007, bill H.RES.300 was passed in the house without an amendment (The Library of Congress).

Pallone also introduced bill H.CON.RES 8 titled as “Expressing the Sense of the Congress Relating to the Slaughter of Greek Civilians in Kalavryta, Greece, during the Second World War, in January 4, 1995”. The bill went to the House Committee on International Relations, where it died (The Library of Congress).

Pallone also sponsored H.R. 2041, also known as “To Provide for Grants to States for Enacting Statewide Law Regulating Public Playgrounds consistent with Play Ground Safety Guidelines Established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission,” was introduced on May 8, 2003 to the Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2041 was then passed on to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection on May 20, 2003 where it died (The Library of Congress).

“To Amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to Promote Clinical Research and Development on Dietary Supplements and Foods for their Health Benefits to Establish a New Legal Classification for Dietary Supplements and Food with Health Benefits, and for other Purposes”, also know as H.R 3001, was referred to the Subcommittee on Health and Environment where it died (The Library of Congress).

On October 4, 2001, Pallone referred a bill, H.R. 3037, also known as “To Enhance the Benefits on the National Electric System by Encouraging and Supporting State Programs for Renewable Energy Sources, Universal Electric Service, Affordable Electric Service, and Energy Conservation and Efficiency, and for other Purposes” to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R 3037 was then passed onto the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality on October 15, 2001 (The Library of Congress).

Funding
A politician is nothing without a war chest. The war chest allows the politician to campaign. If there is no money, then there is no way that a politician
can get his or her name out and have a chance to win. One of the ways that money is raised is by donations.

As of December 31, 2007 Pallone had a total of $3,250,178 on hand. This is the most money that any representative in the House has on hand. Pallone received $247,551 (51%) from donations from inside of New Jersey. $237,114 (49%) came from other states besides New Jersey (Frank Pallone Jr: Campaign Finance Money)(Giroux, Greg).

Health Professionals are the top industries that donated to Pallone at a total of $253,176. Lawyers and Law Firms donated $66,991 and Pharmaceutical/ Health Products donated $55,042 and Lobbyists gave $44,397. Pallone gets $685,110 or 47% from PACs, $676,100 (47%) came from individuals and $84,583 (6%) came from others. Pallone has contributed no money to his own campaign (Frank Pallone Jr: Campaign Finance Money).

**Pallone’s Elections**

In 1988, the Third District’s congressman, Representative James J. Howard, died in office. This left a vacancy that had to be filled by a special election. Pallone ran and won, however Congress had adjourned, and Pallone was never sworn in. Instead Pallone had to run for his position again. Pallone won and was sworn into the 101st Congress (Frank Pallone Congress - votes databases).

In 1992, the Third District was combined with part of other two districts to make the Sixth District. Pallone ran and won in the Sixth District, which he has been representing ever since. Pallone is most likely to run against the candidate endorsed by the Monmouth County Republican Committee, Robert McCleod from Keyport, for his chance to have an eleventh term in the House (CQ Politics-Frank Pallone Jr.)(GovTrack)(Pais, Matt).

In the past four campaigns, Pallone has been able to win by 66% or more of the vote. This history of large wins means that Pallone will most likely be a shoe in for the November 4, 2008 election. In Pallone’s last election in 2006 he won with 98,615 (68.6%) of the votes against Leigh-Ann Bellow’s 43,539 votes (30.3%). In 2004, Pallone obtained 153,981 (66.9%) of the votes against Sylvester Fernandez’s 70,942 (30.85%) of the votes. Pallone obtained 91,379 (66.5%) of the votes against Ric Medow’s 70,842 (30.9%) of the votes in 2002 (CQ Politics- Frank Pallone Jr.).

**Conclusion**

Frank J Pallone Jr. has served in the House since 1988 and is a likely shoe in for the 2008 election. Even though Pallone is constantly voted in, the question still remains; does the public know what he is up to? Often the public will reelect people because of name recognition. In this case, name recognition has backfired on the people.

The public may believe that they are getting a Representative that stands for them but in reality they are not. Pallone is more dedicated to his career and climbing the ladder of power then he is to his district. He mostly votes not for
what is best for his district but along party lines. This insures that he will be put on better committees and given leadership positions.

Pallone also receives nearly half of his funding from other states outside of New Jersey. Industries that donate to him, mostly related to health care, expect him to do what they want. This makes me wonder, who is Pallone more dedicated to, his district or those that give him the money?

I wish Robert McCleod the best of luck and will be fighting to help him overtake Pallone. Perhaps if Pallone is overtaken by McCleod in my district, we will finally have a representative who is for District Six, not simply a person who is from District Six.

Works Cited


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