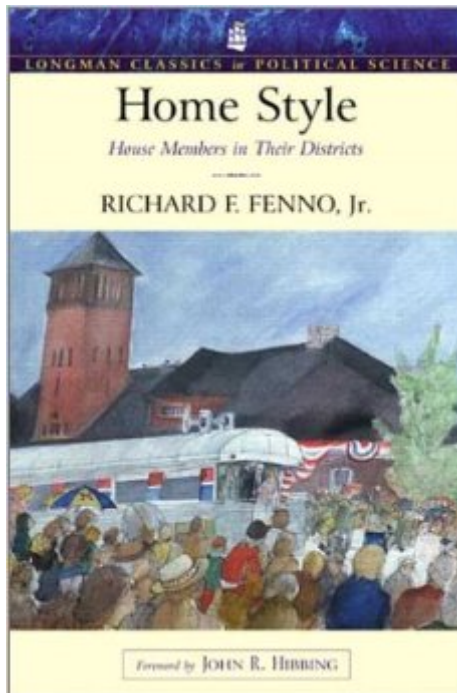


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# Home Style: House Members In Their Districts (Longman Classics Series)



## Synopsis

Reissued as part of the "Longman Classics in Political Science" series, Fenno's landmark study of eighteen members of Congress in their districts features a new Foreword by John Hibbing. *Home Style*, which won the 1979 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award and the 1980 D.B. Hardeman prize, has been re-issued in a "Longman Classics" Edition and features a new Foreword by renowned scholar John Hibbing of The University of Nebraska.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

A classic in the field, it represents the districts and their representatives as they are. Mostly for the academic minded if you're going to teach a course on US Politics or Legislative behavior it is a good core book to read and build a class or two around.

This is a unique approach to the study of Congressional politics. It is not a 'first choice' for casual readers (see Mayhew or Fiorio for that). However, it is an interesting read and a nice supplement to other theory heavy texts. I have to imagine that this book has supplied more than a few questions for Grad students to begin their research on.

Fenno's *Home Style* may have since been surpassed by some of his own work, but the original is still the best, in my humble opinion. Fenno traveled with congressmen from around the country and examined how they interact with their constituents while "at home" and out of the Beltway. His

findings are a must-read for anyone interested in politics, Congress, and the legislative process. Fenno finds that congressmen are motivated by three factors: first, a desire to be re-elected; second, a desire to gain power within Congress; and third, to try and enact what they believe to be good public policy. Congressmen link these desires with their "home style," that is to say, how they act when dealing with their constituents, and how that translates into their legislative effectiveness. Fenno also portrays the differing ways that congressmen approach their districts. Some are more personable, while others are more aloof and indirect in their dealings. Those who fear losing re-election the least are the least likely to regularly visit their districts (no surprise, but still a useful empirical finding). This book is a must-read!

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