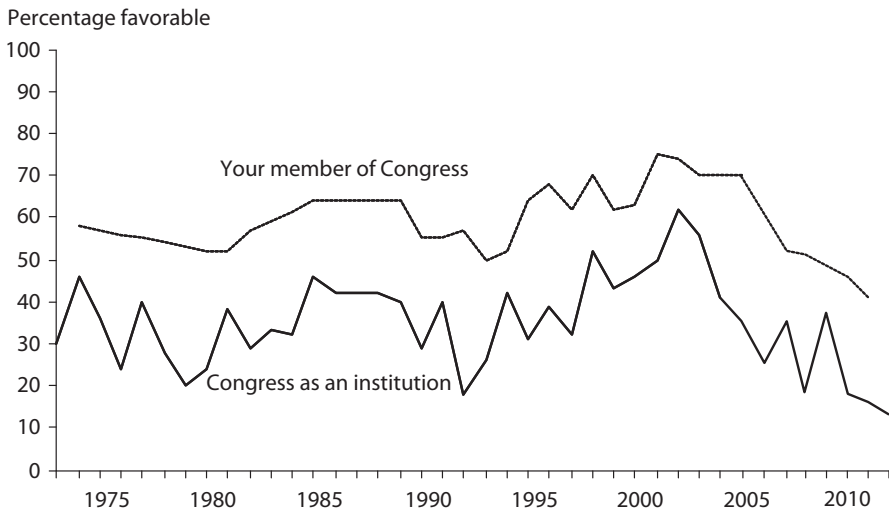


FIGURE 16-1 Public Assessments of the Two Congresses, 1974–2012



*Source:* Authors' interpolations of survey results, primarily drawn from the Gallup Organization and the Harris Survey.

*Note:* The Gallup Organization's questions are "Do you approve of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job? Do you approve or disapprove of the way the representative from your own congressional district is handling his/her job?" The Harris Survey's question is "How would you rate the job done this past year by [Congress] [your member of Congress]—excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?" Responses are dichotomized as favorable ("excellent," "pretty good") or unfavorable ("only fair," "poor"). The plotted points in the figures indicate respondents having opinions who approve of or are favorable toward congressional performance. Polling data for 2010 and 2011 are from ABC News/*Washington Post* polls.