

## Election Results – Big Picture

Republicans Retain Majority in the Senate and Democrats Take Over the Majority in the House

Democrats 115 <sup>th</sup> Congress → 116 <sup>th</sup> Congress			Republicans 115 <sup>th</sup> Congress → 116 <sup>th</sup> Congress		
Senate	49	45*	Senate	51	52*
House	194	220*	House	235	196*

\*Not all races declared

The polls are closed across the country but there are several races that will drag on a few more days. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), Ranking Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee, announced that his race is headed to a recount, as is Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA), who is competing for the top slot on the House T&I Committee. However, two things are clear - the Democrats are now in the Majority in the US House of Reps and the Senate remains in Republican hands.

## Lame-Duck Session/ Leadership Elections & Organization, Finish up 2018 Legislative Business

### Key Dates

- Nov 13 - Congress returns to Washington for Lame-Duck session
- Nov 14 - House and Senate Republican Leadership elections
- Nov 14 - Senate Democrat Leadership elections
- Nov 28 - House Democrat Leadership elections
- Dec 7 – Current CR expires
- Jan 3, 2019 – the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes

**Legislation** - Congress will return to DC and attempt to complete the remaining seven appropriations bills, including USDOT spending. The last minibus being negotiated, a four-bill package that included Agriculture; Interior; Financial Services and General Government; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, was close to being wrapped up before negotiations stalled and the House recessed for the election. Agencies covered under the remaining seven bills are running on a CR and failure to pass any of those bills could lead to a partial government shutdown. The primary appropriations bill Republicans and Democrats will be arguing over is the Department of Homeland Security, which is where wall funding and other immigration security and enforcement provisions will be debated. The outcome of the elections will have an impact on what Congress can accomplish in Lame-Duck. With the Democrats taking over the House in the next Congress, they are not going to give Republicans any big wins in Lame- Duck, and negotiations could break down pushing any unfinished business till next year.

Some other issues Congress may consider include – the Farm Bill, and tax-extendors, maybe autonomous vehicle legislation.

### House Leadership

**Republican** - House Republicans are planning to hold their leadership races on November 14. Having lost control of the House, the top race will be for Minority Leader. This race is expected to pit current Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) against Representative Jim Jordan (R-OH), founding Chair of the conservative Freedom Caucus. Jordan is a staunch ally of President Trump. Should the Leader's race be decided on the first ballot, the current Republican Whip, Steve Scalise (R-LA), is expected to run again for Minority Whip. Representative Patrick McHenry (R-NC) is expected to jump into the Whip race if Scalise opts to mount a run for Leader. The Current Republican

Conference Chairman, Cathy McMorris Rogers (R-WA), may decide to opt out of the Leadership ranks in order to reclaim a top subcommittee post on the Energy & Commerce Committee. Should she seek to return to leadership, however, Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY) has indicated she intends to run for Conference Chairman, thus setting up a potential contest with McMorris Rogers. The position of Republican Policy Committee Chairman is vacant, due to the primary loss by Representative Luke Messer (R-IN) in his bid for a Senate seat. Both Representatives Gary Palmer (R-AL) and David Schweikert (R-AZ) have indicated an interest in running for this post.

**Democrat** - The current leadership team is comprised of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Assistant to the Leader Jim Clyburn (D-SC). In 2016, they were forced to respond to pressures created by the disappointing election results for Democrats, combined with generational issues and a desire for new opportunities by rank and file Members, by creating a more inclusive Democratic steering Committee and a new leadership position. Even though Democrats increased their ranks and reclaimed control of the House, these pressures have not abated. Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH), who mounted and lost a challenge to Leader Pelosi in 2016, has not ruled out another challenge now. Moreover, the Congressional Black Caucus recently penned a Dear Colleague reiterating that “if there is any change in our top leadership positions” that it would advocate for one of the two top slots being filled by an African American representative. Every other leadership spot below the top three is contested.

Given that Democrats have won back the majority, the most likely scenario is that the current slate of leaders retains the top three spots – Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Majority Whip Clyburn. In order to do so, however, they will again have to create more opportunities for rank and file Members to play enhanced decision-making roles within the Caucus, which could result in term limits, other changes in the rules package, creation of select committees, and other newly established leadership roles.

### **Senate Leadership**

**Republican** – There will be some changes in the Senate Republican leadership due to term limits. However, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will retain his spot as Leader. Senator John Thune (R-SD) is expected to move up to the Republican Whip, replacing term-limited Senator John Cornyn (R-TX). With the move to Whip Thune will likely give up his post as Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, opening the door for Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) to lead the minority on the Commerce Committee. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) is expected to move into the role of Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) is expected to lead the Senate Republican Policy Committee. Senators Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Deb Fischer (R-NE) are expected to vie for the Conference Vice Chairman position. Republicans also will have to choose a new chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the election arm of the conference.

**Democrat** – There are not any anticipated changes to the Senate Minority leadership. Senator Schumer (D-NY) will continue to be the Minority Leader, Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL), Assistant Democratic Leader Patty Murray (D-WA), and Policy and Communications Chairman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

### **Congressional Committees**

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Final decisions on who will lead committee, who will be appointed to committee, and the ratio of Democrats to Republican will all be decided in the upcoming weeks and months. Members-elect will start lobbying their leadership for appointment to committees and once the election results are complete then ratios on committees will be determined. Committee size will also be a factor in which committees members sit on.

In the House two retirements on two key transportation related committees will result in new Republican leaders. Appropriations, and Transportation & Infrastructure Committees will have competition for the top spot.

Possible Ranking Republican	House Committee	Possible Democrat Chairman
Kay Granger (TX) Michael Simpson (ID) Tom Cole (OK) Tom Graves (GA) (Rep. Aderholt (AL) is from the same state as Senate Approps Chair Sen. Shelby and leadership is unlikely to want two members from the same state leading Approps)	Appropriation	Nita Lowey (NY)
Greg Walden (OR)	Energy & Commerce	Frank Pallone (NJ)
Jeff Denham (CA) Sam Graves (MO)	Transportation & Infrastructure	Peter DeFazio (OR)
Kevin Brady (TX)	Ways & Means	Richard Neal (MA)

In the Senate, election losses and leadership changes opened several key committee slots, and the individual choices Senators make about their committee assignments could make the committee shuffles even more interesting. The potential loss of Senator Bill Nelson (D) has perhaps the biggest domino effect on Committees in the Senate for Democrats. As noted earlier with Sen. Thune moving up in leadership the Chairmanship may fall to Sen. Wicker (MS). Again, once the elections are finalized, we will know more about how the Senate committee leadership shakes out.

Possible Republican Chairman	Senate Committee	Possible Ranking Democrat
Richard Shelby (AL)	Appropriations	Patrick Leahy (VT)
Mike Crapo (ID) Pat Toomey (PA)	Banking	Sherrod Brown (OH)
John Thune (SD) Roger Wicker (MS)	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Bill Nelson (FL) Maria Cantwell (WA)
John Barrasso (WY)	Environment and Public Works	Tom Carper (DE)
Chuck Grassley (IA)	Finance	Ron Wyden (OR)

## **Durham wins \$1M grant to promote public transportation in downtown**

11 ABC by Ana Rivera October 29, 2018

- Transportation in downtown Durham is getting some extra attention thanks to a \$1 million grant.

Durham is among cities like Philadelphia and Los Angeles to win the money, which will be used to get residents out of their car and using public transportation.

During a six-month period, Durham competed against 350 other cities to fix common problems in the Bloomberg Philanthropies U.S. Mayors Challenge.

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For Durham, the focus was on transportation and to reduce congestion, pollution, and parking issues.

Sixteen hundred downtown employees participated in a pilot program that encouraged them to stop driving their personal cars to work and start using alternative methods of transportation, like the bus or a bike.

"You want to be able to breathe clean air, and you want to be able to get to work in a reasonable amount of time without lots of frustration and something that reduces the number of cars is good," said Michael Bloomberg.

The pilot program used different strategies like creating personal routes for employees and creating a bus lottery.

The more someone rides the bus, the better chance they have of winning a prize.

Within five months, the program reduced the number of people driving their personal vehicles into downtown Durham by five percent.

And Bloomberg said the best part -- and the reason Durham won the grant -- is other cities can use the same strategies.

Durham will receive the million over a period of three years.

With that money, they'll be able to try new strategies and get more people looking into different ways of getting into downtown Durham.