2017 Congressional Update

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Congressional Leadership of the 115th Congress
Senate Majority Leadership

1. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
   Position: Senate Majority Leader

2. John Cornyn (R-TX)
   Position: Senate Majority Whip

3. John Thune (R-S.D.)
   Position: Senate Republican Conference Chairman

4. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.)
   Position: Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairman

5. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.)
   Position: Senate Republican Conference vice chairman

6. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
   Position: National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman
1. Charles "Chuck" Schumer (D-NY)
   Position: Senate Minority Leader

2. Dick Durbin (D-IL)
   Position: Senate Democratic Whip

3. Patty Murray (D-WA)
   Position: Assistant Democratic Leader

4. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
   Position: Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee

5. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
   Position: Vice Chair of the Democratic Conference

6. Mark Warner (D-VA)
   Position: Vice Chair of the Democratic Conference

7. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
   Position: Chair of Steering Committee

8. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
   Position: Chair of Outreach

9. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
   Position: Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairman
1. Paul Ryan (WI-1)
   Position: Speaker of the House

2. Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)
   Position: House Majority Leader

3. Steve Scalise (LA-1)
   Position: House Republican Whip

4. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5)
   Position: Republican Conference Vice Chair

5. Luke Messer (IN-6)
   Position: Republican Policy Committee Chairman

6. Steve Stivers (OH-15)
   Position: National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman
Opposing factions in the Republican Party threaten to impede its ability to form a majority in the House

If Dems maintain unity, GOP can only lose 22 votes

More conservative caucuses

- **Freedom Caucus** (~30 members)
  - Farthest-right group of Republicans
  - Chair, Mark Meadows (R-NC11)
- **House Liberty Caucus** (~35 members)
  - Libertarian wing of the Republican party
  - Chair, Justin Amash (R-MI03)
- **Republican Study Committee** (~170 members)
  - Strong conservatives, limited spending and traditional values
  - Chair, Mark Walker (R-NC06)

Moderate caucuses

- **Tuesday Group** (~50 members)
  - Moderate fiscal conservatism and more socially liberal
  - Co-chairs, Charlie Dent (R-PA15), Elise Stefanik (R-NY21)
    - Tom MacArthur (R-NJ03) recently resigned as co-chair after the contentious AHCA vote
- **Republican Main Street Partnership** (65 representatives, 4 senators)
  - More centrist, attempts to form bipartisan initiatives
  - Chair, Amory “Amo” Houghton (R-NY29, retired)

Whip stats (four vacancies)

- Republicans hold a 46-seat lead
- A majority requires 217 votes (if all members cast a ballot)

House Minority Leadership

1. Nancy Pelosi (CA-12)
   Position: House Democratic Leader

2. Steny Hoyer (MD-5)
   Position: House Democratic Whip

3. James Clyburn (SC-6)
   Position: Assistant Democratic Leader

4. Joseph Crowley (NY-14)
   Position: House Democratic Caucus Chairman
Moderates in the House form a strong majority over each party’s farthest wings

House makeup by caucus membership

- Freedom Caucus
- Progressive Caucus
- Moderate Republicans
- Moderate Democrats
- Tuesday Group
- Blue Dog Coalition
- Vacancies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caucus</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<td>House Republican Conference</td>
<td>239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom Caucus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republican Study Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republican Main Street Partnership</td>
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<td>House Democratic Caucus</td>
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<td>Progressive Caucus</td>
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<td>Vacancies</td>
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</tbody>
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*Estimated caucus size; rosters have not been finalized and published for the 115th Congress. The House Freedom Caucus does not publish its member list. Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

**Whip stats**
- Republicans hold a 46-seat lead
- A majority requires 217 votes (if all members cast a ballot)
- If Republicans lose all Freedom Caucus votes, they require 7 centrist Democratic votes to form a majority
2018 Congressional Elections Landscape
President Trump’s Approval Ratings, Jan. 20th - present

Gallup: June 5
Since the Civil War, President’s party has lost seats in 36 of 39 midterms - losing an average of 33 seats.

Since 1914, President’s party has lost Senate seats in 20 out of 25 midterm elections.
Clinton beat Trump by nearly 7M votes in CA, MA & NY (65-35% margin). In the other 47 states (plus DC), Trump received 4M more votes (winning 52% - 48%).
8th consecutive Presidential Election within 10 points
Uncompetitive Counties

Counties where presidential candidates won the two-party popular vote by more than 20 percentage points:

In 1992, 1,096 counties were decided by single-digit margins. In 2016, only 303 counties had close margins.

Along the Acela Corridor and Pacific Coast, Democrats hold a 98-33 House Seat advantage over Republicans. In the other 40 states, Republicans hold 208 seats to Democrats’ 96.

In these same 40 states, Donald Trump won 306 electoral votes to Hillary Clinton’s 80.
Landslides Everywhere

Share of U.S. voters living in counties where either major-party candidate won by a margin of:

The number of “extreme landslide” counties – those in which one presidential candidate won by more than 50 percentage points – rose from 93 in 1992 to 1,196 in 2016.

All years calculated using major two-party vote only.
Competitive Seats

Number of House and Senate seats with Cook PVI scores between R+5 and D+5, 1998-2014

Only **33 competitive** House seats in 2016 – a greater than **80 percent** drop

SOURCE: THE COOK POLITICAL REPORT
The last time Congress had 15 states represented by only one political party in both chambers was 1957.
Partisan Divide

Districts split between Congressional representation and presidential preference:

111th Congress: 2009

115th Congress: 2017

First time in 100+ years that percentage of split districts has been in single digits in consecutive elections

Only 1 Dem (Collin Peterson) remains from a McCain dist.
Partisan Politics

41% of Dems view Republican policies as a threat. More than 1/2 of Dems (55%) say the Republican Party makes them “afraid.”

45% of Republicans view Dem policies as a threat. 58% of Republicans have a very unfavorable impression of the Dem Party.
Party Makeup of the 115th Congress
Composition of 115th Congress

Senate

Democrats Gained 2 Seats

46

52

Independents 2
Every state with a 2016 Senate race voted for the same party in both the Senate and presidential contest – a first ever.
2018 Senate Map

Most Democratic seats in 50 years

25 Democrats*  9 Republicans
Trump States: Margin over 10%
Trump States: Margin under 10%
Composition of 115th Congress

1/3 House Dems come from 3 states: California, Massachusetts & New York
2018 Landscape: House

- **5 Open Seats**
- **10 Highly Vulnerable MOCs**
- **2 Vulnerable MOCs**
- **15 Potentially Vulnerable MOCs**
- **32 Seats**

- **8 Open Seats**
- **10 Highly Vulnerable MOCs**
- **11 Vulnerable MOCs**
- **12 Potentially Vulnerable MOCs**
- **42 Seats**
Six 2018 House races are already considered ‘toss ups’

Democrats need to pick up 24 seats to win the House.

Likely Democrat
- Crist (FL-13)
- Schneider (IL-10)
- Bustos (IL-17)
- Loeb (IA-2)
- Peterson (MN-7)
- Kuster (NH-2)
- Suozzi (NY-3)
- Maloney (NY-18)
- Schrader (OR-5)
- Cartwright (PA-17)
- Kind (WI-3)

Lean Democrat
- O'Halleran (AZ-1)
- Bera (CA-7)
- Carbajal (CA-24)
- Murphy (FL-7)
- Nolan (MN-8)
- Kihuen (NV-40)
- Gottheimer (NJ-5)

Toss up
- Issa (CA-49)
- Price (GA-6)
- Comstock (VA-10)
- Shea-Porter (NH-1)
- Rosen (NV-3)
- Walz (MN-1)*

Lean Republican
- Denham (CA-10)
- Knight (CA-25)
- Coffman (CO-6)
- Curbelo (FL-26)
- Blum (IA-1)
- Lewis (MN-2)
- Bacon (NE-2)
- Faso (NY-19)
- Fitzpatrick (PA-8)
- Hurd (TX-23)

Likely Republican
- McSally (AZ-2)
- Valadao (CA-21)
- Royce (CA-39)
- Walters (CA-45)
- Rohrabacher (CA-48)
- Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27)
- Roskam (IL-60)
- Bost (IL-12)
- Young (IA-3)
- Yoder (KS-3)
- Poliquin (ME-2)
- Trott (MI-11)
- Paulsen (MN-3)
- Zinke (MT-AL)
- Lance (NJ-7)
- Frelinghuysen (NJ-11)
- Tenney (NY-22)
- Katko (NY-24)
- Renacci (OH-16)*
- Costello (PA-6)
- Meehan (PA-7)
- Smucker (PA-16)
- Culberson (TX-7)
- Sessions (TX-32)
- Reichert (WA-8)

Democrats need to pick up 24 seats to win the House.

Circled districts have special elections in 2017; Special elections not listed:
- KS-4
- CA-34
- SC-5

*Not seeking reelection

Excludes all seats marked as 'Solid Democrat' or 'Solid Republican'
How well the president’s party’s candidate does in the special election depends on the president’s popularity at the moment the election was held.
QUESTIONS?

• Remember, this is one of several touches, not the only meeting with your Member for the year.
• An effective advocacy organization will correspond with congressional members and staff on a routine basis about legislation affecting their issue areas, but also will remain in steady contact, regardless of whether an immediate issue exists.
• Let the Member or Staffer know that you expect another touch/meeting in August

FEEDBACK, FEEDBACK, FEEDBACK

• NULWB will reach out to for feedback from every meeting
• Need you to get into the habit of providing feedback after any and all meetings with Members/staff