



November 9, 2016

TFG SPECIAL REPORT

Post-Election Review

TABLE OF CONTENTS

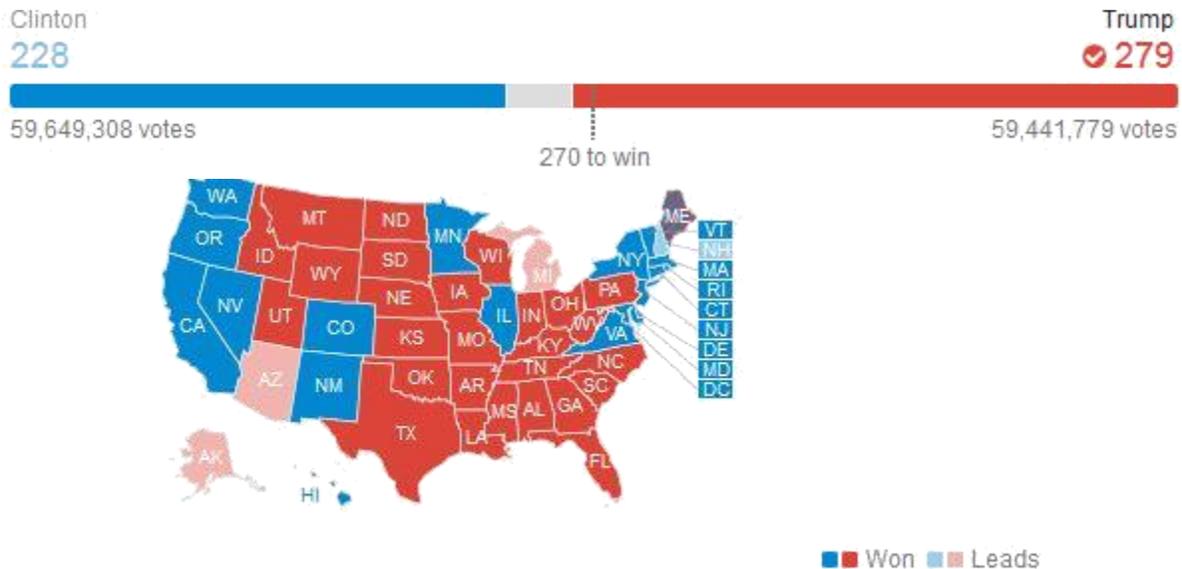
Introduction	2
The Administration	3
The House	12
The Senate	14
Congressional Leadership and Committee Races	16

INTRODUCTION

This TFG Special Report provides an initial overview of the November 8 elections and its impact on the Senate, the House, congressional leadership and key committee leadership races. It provides a starting point for assessing the coming changes in the Administration and House and Senate committees. TFG will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the selection of key Cabinet, policy priorities and direction of the new Administration, and congressional leadership positions. We will also continue to provide additional updates on lame duck session activities between now and when Congress expects to adjourn on December 16.



The Administration



On November 8, Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States. Trump exceeded the 270 electoral vote threshold needed to win the presidency after earning 10 electoral votes from Wisconsin in the early morning hours of November 9. Trump's Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton, however, marginally won the popular vote. Clinton has earned a spot in history for not only being the first woman to secure a major party nomination for president, but also for becoming the fifth U.S. presidential candidate to win the popular vote but lose the election.

THE TRANSITION

President Obama will meet with President-elect Trump on November 10 to discuss a "smooth transition of power," according to a White House press statement. In reality, the transition of power started when Trump secured the Republican nomination for President. The Trump transition team has been working for months to ensure that there is a seamless succession of power come January 20, 2017. Transition teams are official, government-recognized groups that work separately from the campaign. They are formed shortly after the two major party Presidential nominees are selected. The Trump transition team, and all transition teams, focus on the following tasks:

➤ **Developing short lists of candidates for Administration positions**

The transition team has been working to develop short lists of candidates for key Cabinet positions for several weeks so President-elect Trump can move forward with nomination announcements shortly after Election Day. Official announcements for key Cabinet positions

could start to trickle out as early as next week. In addition to making appointments to key Cabinet positions, Trump will be tasked with making more than 4,000 political appointments to the Executive Branch.

➤ **Turning campaign goals into actionable policies and legislative proposals**

Shortly after taking office, Trump must deliver his first speech to a joint session of Congress, present a budget for FY 2018, and provide an actionable agenda for making campaign promises a reality. Transition team staff will continue to build a full policy platform, which includes the preparation of legislative proposals, executive actions, a management agenda, a budget proposal, regulatory policies, and a 100- to 200-day plan for executing the policies presented by the President-elect during the campaign to ensure the Administration gets off to a quick start.

➤ **Operations and support**

Operations and support consists of basic administrative tasks, such as legal counsel, human resources, IT support, congressional outreach, budget and financial planning.

➤ **Agency review**

The transition team must devise a plan for how the President-elect and his appointees will lead each of the more than 100 agencies within the federal government. The team will also analyze how the President-elect's priorities will fit into each agency's work and the type of expertise needed to fulfill his vision.

Key Transition Milestones (2016-2017)

	MILESTONE	COMPLETION DATE
PHASE I Pre-election "planning"	Identify transition chair, executive director and other top leadership	Early spring
	Establish strategic priorities and work plan	May
	Develop budget and fundraising plan	May
	Set time targets for presidential appointments and identify priority positions	June
	Coordinate with GSA to plan for office space, IT, financial resources	June/July
	Create standardized agency review report format	July
	Catalog key campaign promises and identify policy priorities	July-October
	Submit security clearances for key transition personnel who will require access to classified briefings post-election	August/September
	Vet and finalize shortlists for top priority presidential appointments	August-October
PHASE II Post-election "transition"	Launch agency review teams	Early November
	Select top 50 Cabinet appointees and key White House personnel	Pre-Thanksgiving
	Develop policy implementation plan, budget and management agenda; send intended Cabinet agency appointments to Senate	November/December
	Submit agency review reports and brief incoming agency heads	January
	Prepare Cabinet orientation/retreat	January
PHASE III Post-Inauguration "handover"	Fill top 100 Senate-confirmed positions	End of April
	Fill remaining 300-400 presidential appointments	August congressional recess

Source: "Presidential Transition Guide." Partnership for Public Service's Center for Presidential Transition.

THE BUDGET

The Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 requires the president's budget to be submitted not later than the first Monday in February. The past three outgoing administrations submitted to Congress transition budgets to help with the next administration's budget submission. However, the incoming administration must still have a budget team with significant experience to properly develop a budget in a very short period of time.

After the election, the Trump transition team will be able to work directly with the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is responsible for the federal budget and ensuring agencies are in alignment with the president's priorities and statutory direction, to translate the President-elect's priorities into the new budget. It should be noted that the past several administrations have not met the February statutory budget submission deadline. The budget is typically not late enough to cause significant delays in the congressional appropriations process.

POTENTIAL CABINET APPOINTMENTS

President-elect Trump does not plan to have a traditional Cabinet. Trump started his search by mandating to hire from the private sector whenever possible; a promise that is reflected in his short lists for key Cabinet position. However, according to media sources in touch with the Trump team, there is concern that it will be difficult for Trump to not only attract top talent to his Cabinet, but also women due to his divisive and often controversial campaign rhetoric.

The campaign has declined to confirm any speculation about Cabinet appointments; however, the following names have been circulating in the media:

➤ **Secretary of State**

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Republican Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), the current chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, are potential candidates for Secretary of State. It is reported that Trump is also considering former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton.

➤ **Treasury Secretary**

Trump's finance chair Steven Mnuchin, formerly of Goldman Sachs and current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dune Capital Management, is the most likely candidate for Treasury Secretary.

➤ **Secretary of Defense**

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL), former National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, Representative Duncan Hunter (R-CA), and former Senator Jim Talent (R-MO) have been mentioned as potential candidates. Lt. General Mike Flynn, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, has been a Trump defense advisor throughout the campaign. He

would need a waiver from Congress to become Defense Secretary, but he is more likely to end up serving in a senior administration post, such as National Security Adviser.

➤ **Attorney General**

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi are rumored to be Trump's Attorney General picks.

➤ **Secretary of the Interior**

Forrest Lucas, the 74-year-old co-founder of Lucas Oil, is seen as a top contender for Interior Secretary. Trump's transition team is also considering venture capitalist Robert Grady, a George H. W. Bush White House official. Trump's son, Donald Trump, Jr., and former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin are said to be interested in the job. Other possible candidates include former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, Wyoming Representative Cynthia Lummis, and Oklahoma oil businessman Harold Hamm.

➤ **Secretary of Agriculture**

There are many speculated picks for Secretary of Agriculture. Sid Miller, the current Secretary of Agriculture in Texas, is a top contender for the position. Other names include: Kansas Governor Sam Brownback; Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman; former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue; former Texas Governor Rick Perry; Charles Herbster, Republican donor and agribusiness leader; Mike McCloskey, a, Indiana dairy executive; Bruce Rastetter, a key Republican donor in Iowa; Kip Tom, a farmer who ran for Congress in Indiana this year but was defeated in the primary; Chuck Connor, President and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; Don Villwock, President of the Indiana Farm Bureau; and Ted McKinney, the current Director of the Indiana Department of Agriculture in the Pence Administration.

➤ **Secretary of Commerce**

Billionaire investor Wilbur Ross and CEO of Nucor Corp Dan DiMicco, Trump's economic and trade advisers, respectively, are potential picks. Others rumored names include Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

➤ **Secretary of Labor**

Victoria Lipnic, Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since 2010 who also served as an Assistant Secretary of Labor for employment standards from 2002 until 2009, is the most likely pick for Secretary of Labor.

➤ **Secretary of Health and Human Services**

Top contenders for the Secretary of Health and Human Services position include: Florida Governor Rick Scott, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and former GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson.

➤ **Secretary of Energy**

Continental Resources CEO Harold is among the leading candidates for Secretary of Energy. Venture capitalist Robert Grady is also seen as a top candidate, though there are rumors he is in line for the Secretary of Interior spot as well.

➤ **Secretary of Education**

Ben Carson is also rumored as Trump's most likely pick for Secretary of Education. Another possible candidate is William Evers, who worked on education issues for the Trump transition team, and formerly served at the Education Department during the Bush Administration.

➤ **Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

The most rumored name for Veterans Affairs Secretary is House Veterans Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL), who is retiring from the House.

➤ **Secretary of Homeland Security**

David Clarke, Sheriff of Milwaukee County, WI, and Chris Christie and seen as possible picks for the Homeland Security Secretary position.

➤ **Environmental Protection Agency administrator**

Myron Ebell, a climate skeptic who is running the EPA working group on Trump's transition team, is seen as a top candidate. Venture capitalist Robert Grady is also a contender. Other potential candidates include: Joe Aiello, the Director of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Environmental Safety and Quality Assurance; Carol Comer, the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management; and Leslie Rutledge, the Attorney General of Arkansas.

[Politico and Bloomberg Government were the main sources for information on potential Cabinet candidates.]

FIRST 100 DAYS

President-elect Trump released his plan for the first 100 days of his Administration in October. Although there will be more to learn about his policies and priorities, this plan give us some indication of his overall direction:

“What follows is my 100-day action plan to Make America Great Again. It is a contract between myself and the American voter — and begins with restoring honesty, accountability and change to Washington

Therefore, on the first day of my term of office, my administration will immediately pursue the following six measures to clean up the corruption and special interest collusion in Washington, DC:

- * FIRST, propose a Constitutional Amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress;
- * SECOND, a hiring freeze on all federal employees to reduce federal workforce through attrition (exempting military, public safety, and public health);
- * THIRD, a requirement that for every new federal regulation, two existing regulations must be eliminated;

- * FOURTH, a 5 year-ban on White House and Congressional officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government service;
- * FIFTH, a lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign government;
- * SIXTH, a complete ban on foreign lobbyists raising money for American elections.

On the same day, I will begin taking the following 7 actions to protect American workers:

- * FIRST, I will announce my intention to renegotiate NAFTA or withdraw from the deal under Article 2205
- * SECOND, I will announce our withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership
- * THIRD, I will direct my Secretary of the Treasury to label China a currency manipulator
- * FOURTH, I will direct the Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative to identify all foreign trading abuses that unfairly impact American workers and direct them to use every tool under American and international law to end those abuses immediately
- * FIFTH, I will lift the restrictions on the production of \$50 trillion dollars' worth of job-producing American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas and clean coal.
- * SIXTH, lift the Obama-Clinton roadblocks and allow vital energy infrastructure projects, like the Keystone Pipeline, to move forward
- * SEVENTH, cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs and use the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure

Additionally, on the first day, I will take the following five actions to restore security and the constitutional rule of law:

- * FIRST, cancel every unconstitutional executive action, memorandum and order issued by President Obama
- * SECOND, begin the process of selecting a replacement for Justice Scalia from one of the 20 judges on my list, who will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States
- * THIRD, cancel all federal funding to Sanctuary Cities
- * FOURTH, begin removing the more than 2 million criminal illegal immigrants from the country and cancel visas to foreign countries that won't take them back
- * FIFTH, suspend immigration from terror-prone regions where vetting cannot safely occur. All vetting of people coming into our country will be considered extreme vetting.

Next, I will work with Congress to introduce the following broader legislative measures and fight for their passage within the first 100 days of my Administration:

- Middle Class Tax Relief And Simplification Act. An economic plan designed to grow the economy 4% per year and create at least 25 million new jobs through massive tax reduction and simplification, in combination with trade reform, regulatory relief, and lifting the restrictions on American energy. The largest tax reductions are for the middle class. A middle-class family with 2 children will get a 35% tax cut. The current number of brackets will be reduced from 7 to 3, and tax forms will likewise be greatly simplified. The business



rate will be lowered from 35 to 15 percent, and the trillions of dollars of American corporate money overseas can now be brought back at a 10 percent rate.

- End The Offshoring Act. Establishes tariffs to discourage companies from laying off their workers in order to relocate in other countries and ship their products back to the U.S. tax-free.
- American Energy & Infrastructure Act. Leverages public-private partnerships, and private investments through tax incentives, to spur \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over 10 years. It is revenue neutral.
- School Choice And Education Opportunity Act. Redirects education dollars to give parents the right to send their kid to the public, private, charter, magnet, religious or home school of their choice. Ends common core, brings education supervision to local communities. It expands vocational and technical education, and make 2 and 4-year college more affordable.
- Repeal and Replace Obamacare Act. Fully repeals Obamacare and replaces it with Health Savings Accounts, the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, and lets states manage Medicaid funds. Reforms will also include cutting the red tape at the FDA: there are over 4,000 drugs awaiting approval, and we especially want to speed the approval of life-saving medications.
- Affordable Childcare and Eldercare Act. Allows Americans to deduct childcare and elder care from their taxes, incentivizes employers to provide on-site childcare services, and creates tax-free Dependent Care Savings Accounts for both young and elderly dependents, with matching contributions for low-income families.
- End Illegal Immigration Act Fully-funds the construction of a wall on our southern border with the full understanding that the country Mexico will be reimbursing the United States for the full cost of such wall; establishes a 2-year mandatory minimum federal prison sentence for illegally re-entering the U.S. after a previous deportation, and a 5-year mandatory minimum for illegally re-entering for those with felony convictions, multiple misdemeanor convictions or two or more prior deportations; also reforms visa rules to enhance penalties for overstaying and to ensure open jobs are offered to American workers first.
- Restoring Community Safety Act. Reduces surging crime, drugs and violence by creating a Task Force On Violent Crime and increasing funding for programs that train and assist local police; increases resources for federal law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors to dismantle criminal gangs and put violent offenders behind bars.
- Restoring National Security Act. Rebuilds our military by eliminating the defense sequester and expanding military investment; provides Veterans with the ability to receive public VA treatment or attend the private doctor of their choice; protects our vital infrastructure from cyber-attack; establishes new screening procedures for immigration to ensure those who are admitted to our country support our people and our values
- Clean up Corruption in Washington Act. Enacts new ethics reforms to Drain the Swamp and reduce the corrupting influence of special interests on our politics.

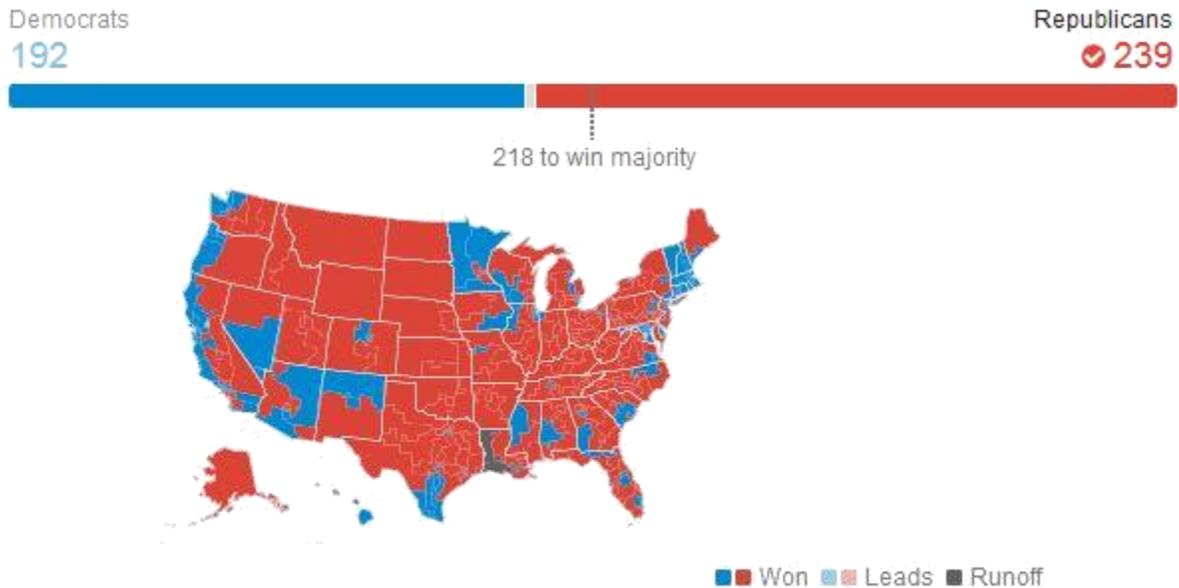
On November 8th, Americans will be voting for this 100-day plan to restore prosperity to our economy, security to our communities, and honesty to our government.

This is my pledge to you.

And if we follow these steps, we will once more have a government of, by and for the people.”



The House



Source: Associated Press.

On November 8, Republicans won enough races to retain control of the House of Representatives, but will end up with a slightly diminished majority. In the 114th Congress, Republicans held 247 of the 435 total seats, and it appears that the House GOP majority will very likely end up with a net loss of 5-6 seats, reducing their majority to 241-242 seats in the 115th Congress. The House Democratic minority will very likely increase from 188 seats to 193-194 seats in the 115th Congress, largely missing the 218-seat majority needed to win back the House. The four outstanding House races that have not been officially determined, as of the afternoon of November 9, include those in California's 7th and 49th Congressional Districts, where incumbent Reps. Ami Bera (D-CA) and Darrell Issa (R-CA) currently hold small leads over their opponents, in addition to two House races in Louisiana's 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts, where runoff elections will take place on December 10; Republicans are heavily favored to win both of those races.

Of the 388 House incumbents running for re-election in 2016, only 8 were defeated in their re-election (6 Republicans and 2 Democrats). In addition to the 8 new House freshmen who defeated incumbents, there are 47 incoming House freshmen who are filling open seats of retiring House members, or those who died in office, ushering in a total of 55 new Representatives in the House for the 115th Congress (12.6% of the House). A full list of the winners of all 435 House races may be found [here](#); a list of all retiring current House members may be found [here](#).

Because the Republicans will continue to hold a majority in the House, all of the Chairmanships of all 22 standing Committees will continue to be held by Republicans. As a majoritarian institution, the

policy agenda of the House for the 115th Congress will be controlled by the House GOP majority, through its elected leadership, including the Speaker of the House, House Majority Leader, House Majority Whip, House Majority Chief Deputy Whip, House GOP Conference Chairman, and other leaders. The House Democratic Minority will also select its House Minority Leader, House Minority Whip, etc. These party leaders will be selected by the new House GOP and Democratic conferences for the 115th Congress, respectively, during the week of November 14. While the new House GOP conference will internally decide their pick for Speaker of the House in November 2016, the formal vote for Speaker of the House will take place on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017, on the first day of the 115th Congress, by all 435 members of the House.

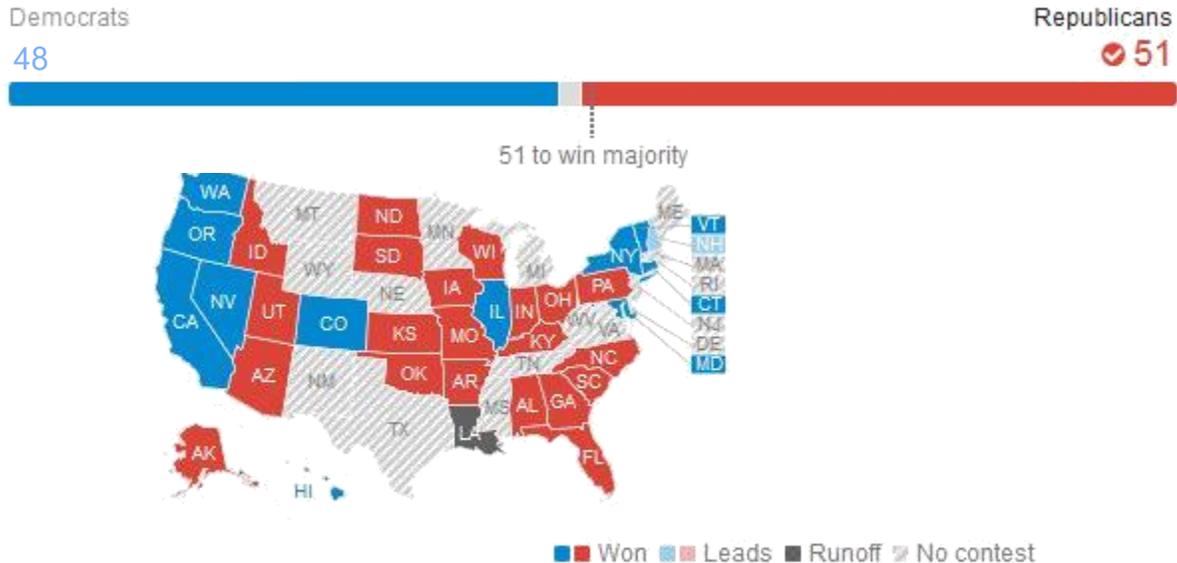
Republican incumbents who lost re-election:

- Frank Guinta (R-NH), defeated by Rep.-elect Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
- Scott Garrett (R-NJ), defeated by Rep.-elect Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
- John Mica (R-FL), defeated by Rep.-elect Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)
- David Jolly (R-FL), defeated by Rep.-elect Charlie Crist (D-FL)
- Bob Dold (R-IL), defeated by Rep.-elect Brad Schneider (D-IL)
- Crescent Hardy (R-NV), defeated by Rep.-elect Ruben Kihuen (D-NV)

Democratic incumbents who lost re-election:

- Brad Ashford (D-NE), defeated by Rep.-elect Don Bacon (R-NE)
- Mike Honda (D-CA), defeated by Rep.-elect Ro Khanna (D-CA)

The Senate



Source: Associated Press.

On November 8, Republicans won enough races to retain control of the Senate, but lost several seats to Democratic opponents. There were 34 Senate seats up for reelection during the 2016 election cycle. Democrats were defending 10 Senate seats while Republicans were fighting to keep 24. Key wins in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina helped Republicans defy a forecasted flip to Democratic control and retain their majority.

The Senate currently has 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats and 2 Independents who caucus with Democrats. After November 8, Republicans are set to control at least 51 seats while Democrats will hold at least 48. There is one outstanding race that could change the tally. In Louisiana, the race is headed to a December 10 runoff election between Republican State Treasurer John Kennedy and Democrat Foster Campbell.

The Republican majority still remains below the 60-vote threshold needed to overcome a filibuster attempt, a procedural blockade the minority uses to prevent the majority from moving legislation. Democrats will surely take advantage of this as it will be one of few tools at their disposal to keep Republicans from having absolute power in Washington. However, Senate rules allow bills to pass with a simple majority if they only relate to spending, and there is a possibility that the Republican majority may move to eliminate the filibuster. In 2013, Democrats used a rare parliamentary move to change the filibuster rules so that federal judicial nominees and executive-office appointments could advance to confirmation votes by a simple majority of senators, rather than the 60-vote supermajority that has been the standard for nearly four decades. This action drew scathing

reviews from Republicans, but the majority party could reconsider their previous opposition, especially if Democrats become too obstructionist in the next session of Congress.

Republican incumbents who won re-election include:

- Rand Paul (KY)
- Tim Scott (SC)
- Richard Shelby in (AL)
- John Boozman in (AR)
- James Lankford in (OK)
- Jerry Moran (KS)
- John Hoeven (ND)
- John Thune (SD)
- Mike Crapo (ID)
- Mike Lee (UT)
- Chuck Grassley (IA)
- Rob Portman (OH)
- Marco Rubio (FL)
- Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- Ron Johnson (WI)
- Pat Toomey (PA)
- John McCain (AZ)
- Johnny Isakson (GA)
- Roy Blunt (MO)
- Richard Burr (NC)

Democratic incumbents who retained their seats include:

- Chuck Schumer (NY), expected to be the Senate Minority Leader
- Patrick Leahy (VT)
- Richard Blumenthal (CT)
- Michael Bennet (CO)
- Patty Murray (WA)
- Ron Wyden (OR)
- Brian Schatz (HI)

New Senators

- Kamala Harris (D-CA), replacing Senator Barbara Boxer (D)
- Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), current House Representative for the 8th district, defeated current Senator Mark Kirk (R)
- Todd Young (R-IL), current House Representative for the 9th district, replacing Senator Dan Coats (R)
- Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), current House Representative for the 8th district, replacing Senator Barbara Mikulski (D)
- Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), replacing Senator Harry Reid (D)
- Maggie Hassan (D-NH), defeated current Senator Kelly Ayotte (R)

Congressional Leadership and Committee Races

House of Representatives:

The House Republican and Democratic party leadership elections for the 115th Congress (2017-2018) are scheduled to take place in November 2016. The House Republican Conference is scheduled to hold its closed-door elections for Speaker, Leader, Whip, Conference chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Policy Committee Chair on Tuesday, November 15. Winners only need to earn a simple majority of the votes cast. Most of the conference's picks are guaranteed to be the leaders for the next Congress, but the Speaker faces the additional hurdle of a floor vote on January 3, 2017 that requires a majority of the entire House, or 218 ayes. The House Democratic Caucus will hold its leadership elections sometime during freshman orientation in November — either the week after the election or the week after Thanksgiving. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), and Conference Chair Catherine McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) are expected to keep their positions for the 115th Congress. Additionally House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and House Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn (D-SC), are all expected to be re-elected to their current positions. Here's a look at the six party leadership positions that are or could be contested:

- ***National Republican Congressional Committee Chair***
This will probably be one of the more high-profile leadership races, with Reps. Steve Stivers of Ohio and Roger Williams of Texas competing to head the House Republicans' campaign arm during a midterm cycle in which the GOP will be looking to make up for expected losses from the 2016 election. The winner will succeed Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, who is seeking the chairmanship of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- ***Republican Conference Vice Chair***
Kansas Rep. Lynn Jenkins, the current Conference Vice Chairwoman, has not said whether she will run again, but if she decides not to — as some are speculating — it will likely create a contested election. A Jenkins spokesman said she is focused on serving her constituents and retaining a strong House majority, and that “there will be plenty of time after the election for leadership races.” Texas Rep. Bill Flores, who is term-limited as the Republican Study Committee chairman, is considering running for Conference Vice Chairman.
- ***Republican Conference Secretary***
The Conference Secretary position will be open since North Carolina Rep. Virginia Foxx is expected to seek the gavel of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. Indiana Rep. Jackie Walorski is considering running for the post. Other candidates may emerge to make this a contested race.
- ***Democratic Caucus Chair***
The current Caucus Vice Chairman, Rep. Joseph Crowley of New York, has his eye on replacing Chairman Xavier Becerra of California, who is prohibited from seeking a third term

under caucus rules. Crowley is not expected to be challenged but has not yet formally announced that he is running.

- ***Democratic Caucus Vice Chair***

The main contested race in the Democratic leadership will be for caucus vice chair. Reps. Barbara Lee and Linda T. Sánchez, two minority women from California, are vying for the position considered to be fifth in the leadership line.

- ***Democratic Policy and Communications Committee Chair***

New York Rep. Steve Israel is retiring, creating an opening for chairman of the Democratic policy and communications committee, a position elected by the caucus upon a nomination by the House Democratic leader. Other members are allowed to nominate someone if they submit a notice signed by five other members. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) created the post for Israel in 2015 after he stepped down as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Most committee chairmen and ranking members are selected by Republican and Democratic steering committees and then approved by the larger party caucuses. The steering committees will meet separately in December 2016 to make committee selections. The structure of the Republican Steering Committee may be tweaked in a Nov. 16 vote on GOP conference rules for the 115th Congress. Committee members will be selected after the rules package is adopted, but the panel is likely to be comprised of party and committee leaders, regional and class representatives, and perhaps, a few at-large members. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee is likely to keep most of its current membership, but there will be at least one opening as defeated Maryland Senate candidate Rep. Donna Edwards leaves Congress. Of the House's 22 standing Committees, there are only 8 Committees with expected leadership changes for the 115th Congress.

- ***House Energy and Commerce Committee:***

Chairman Fred Upton of Michigan is term-limited and not seeking a waiver to continue heading the panel, even though he will continue to serve in Congress. That has created a contest between Oregon's Greg Walden, Illinois Rep. John Shimkus and Texas Rep. Joe L. Barton, the committee's former chairman.

- ***House Appropriations Committee:***

Like Upton, Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) is term-limited, not seeking a waiver and not retiring. The Kentucky Republican has said he would be interested in being chairman of the panel's defense subcommittee next Congress. And there's likely to be an opening, with New Jersey Republican Rodney Frelinghuysen, the current defense subcommittee chairman, seeking the full committee gavel. Frelinghuysen is the most senior Republican appropriator next to Rogers, so he is favored even if another member were to challenge him. But a contest seems unlikely; Alabama Rep. Robert B. Aderholt, the only other member to have discussed running, appears to have backed off.

- ***House Veterans' Affairs Committee:***

Expect contested races for both party leadership positions. Tennessee Rep. Phil Roe is running to succeed retiring Chairman Jeff Miller of Florida, Roe's office confirmed. Committee Vice Chairman Gus Bilirakis of Florida, who is more senior than Roe, is said to be interested as well. Rep. Doug Lamborn, the second-highest ranking Republican on the panel, is also running, his office confirmed. The Democratic Ranking Member slot on the panel is also open since Florida Democratic Rep. Corrine Brown had to step aside after she was indicted. California's Mark Takano has filled the role in an acting capacity and is seeking to make the role permanent. But Takano faces a challenge from Rep. Tim Walz of Minnesota, who has touted being the "highest-ranking enlisted soldier to serve in Congress."

- ***House Education and the Workforce Committee:***

Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina is relinquishing her Republican conference secretary post to run for the chairmanship of the Education and the Workforce Committee, where the term-limited Chairman John Kline of Minnesota is retiring. She is not expected to have a challenger.

- ***House Ethics Committee:***

The Speaker and Minority Leader nominate who leads the House Ethics Committee, whose members have the unpleasant task of sitting in judgment of their colleagues. Chairman Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania is stepping down due to term limits imposed by the panel's guidelines. California's Linda Sánchez, the Ranking Member, is eligible to stay on for one more term but is unlikely to do so if she wins the Democratic caucus vice chairmanship.

- ***House Administration Committee:***

Chairwoman Candice S. Miller opted this year to run for local office in her native Michigan, creating an opening for a position informally considered to be mayor of Capitol Hill. The chair of this low-profile panel, which oversees everything from floor proceedings, security, payroll and office furnishings, is nominated by the speaker and confirmed by the entire conference. Two potential successors have emerged. One is Rep. Gregg Harper of Mississippi, who is considered second-in-command on the panel. His office said the congressman has confidence the speaker will do what is in the best interest of the House. Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis, who is third in line, may be another potential candidate. But all his office would say is that Davis would be interested in continuing to work on the committee in any capacity he is asked to by the speaker.

- ***House Rules Committee:***

As Speaker, Paul Ryan gets to select the chairman of the Rules Committee and the Republican conference will ratify his choice. It is possible Ryan will reappoint Texas Rep. Pete Sessions, who was selected in 2012 to head the panel by former Speaker John A. Boehner. Sessions has been a loyal Ryan ally, but this would be Ryan's first opportunity to choose a Rules Committee chairman, and he could decide to shake things up.

- ***House Budget Committee:***



Since Rep. Chris Van Hollen is running for Senate in Maryland, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi will nominate the next ranking member on the Budget Committee, who will then be voted on by the entire caucus. She's stayed mum on who she considers a favorite, but Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky has expressed interest to fellow members. The position is considered to be a leadership post, albeit one that is the lowest rung on the ladder.

Senate:

The Senate Republican and Democratic party leadership elections for the 115th Congress (2017-2018) are scheduled to take place in November 2016. The Senate Republican Conference will select their Majority Leader, Majority Whip, GOP Conference Chairman, GOP Policy Committee Chairman, and GOP Conference Vice Chairman which will continue to likely be Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), John Cornyn (R-TX), John Thune (R-SD), John Barrasso (R-WY), and Roy Blunt (R-MO), respectively. The Senate Democratic Conference will very likely select Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) as their new Minority Leader, along with re-electing Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Patty Murray (D-WA) as Democratic Whip and Democratic Conference Secretary, respectively. The Senate steering committees will likely meet separately in December 2016 to make committee selections.

Here are the Senate Committee leadership changes that will likely occur in the 115th Congress:

- ***Senate Appropriations Committee:***
Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) is expected to stay on as Chairman, while Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) is likely to become the new Ranking Member, replacing retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).
- ***Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee:***
Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) is term-limited, so Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) is likely to become the new Chairman. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) is very likely to remain the Ranking Member of the Committee.
- ***Senate Budget Committee:***
Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY) is likely to continue as Chairman, while the new Ranking Member may be Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) or Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), replacing Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), who may go on to serve as the new Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee.
- ***Senate Environment and Public Works Committee:***
Current Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) is term-limited, so it appears that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) will become the new Chairman in the 115th Congress, with Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) becoming the new Ranking Member, replacing retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA).
- ***Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee:***
Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is expected to continue on as Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, while current Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) may move on to become Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, since current Ranking

Member Barbara Mikulski is retiring this year. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is likely to become the new Ranking Member of this Committee.

- ***Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee:***

While Chairman Ron Johnson (R-WI) will likely stay on as Chairman, the new Ranking Member may be Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).

- ***Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Committee:***

With Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) taking over the Senate EPW Committee Chairmanship, the new Chair will likely be either Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) or Sen. James Lankford (R-OK). The Ranking Member will likely continue to be Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT).

- ***Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee:***

With Chairman David Vitter (R-LA) retiring, the new Chairman will likely be Sen. Jim Risch (R-ID) or Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL).