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ELECTIONS 2024

Implications for Research, Higher Education,
and Academic Medicine

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Executive Summary

After a close fought election and tumultuous campaign season, Republicans are projected to win unified control of government although the House of Representatives has not yet been called. President Trump will come into office with substantial power and Congressional backing to drive forward his agenda. Republicans won at least 53 seats in the Senate for majority control, and House Republicans are on track currently to win a narrow majority. Republican control of both the executive and legislative branches of government would allow Trump and his Republican allies to more easily advance their highest priorities including tax cuts, deregulation, immigration reform, energy independence, trade, and changes to the federal civil service. The first orders of business will be making political appointments across a host of agencies and advisory positions, signing executive orders to roll back Biden initiatives and advance new policies on immigration and other issues, and beginning the reconciliation process to enable the passage of a tax package with Republican votes alone.

However, even with this red wave, there will be opportunities for compromise. Outside of tax reform and potential student loan changes through reconciliation, passing legislation, such as appropriations bills and the National Defense Authorization Act, will require Democratic support and there is still the 60-vote threshold to overcome a filibuster in the Senate. There is also longstanding bipartisan support to outcompete China in science and emerging technologies, including quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology. Many campaign proposals such as those to eliminate the Department of Education or repeal the CHIPS and Science Act will be difficult to accomplish given bipartisan support and the impact on many constituencies.

Overall, the Trump Administration and Republican Congress is expected to prioritize discretionary funding for defense and national security as well as emerging technology areas. A Republican Congress is also likely to prioritize more fundamental and early-stage research and development and shift funding away from demonstration and deployment activities. In the first Trump Administration many non-defense discretionary programs with bipartisan support did relatively well in appropriations but it is unclear at this time if that dynamic will reemerge or the Administration will be more successful this time in making major cuts to many programs. Other significant challenges for research organizations, institutions of higher education, and academic medicine include the potential for more research security requirements; expansion of endowment taxes; eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; eliminating or reducing federal student aid programs and U.S. Department of Education discretionary grant programs; reducing benefits under Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act; and reforming public health agencies.

Before a new Congress convenes in January, President Biden and the current Congress have a long list of outstanding legislation to finish during the lame duck, including a spending package to finalize FY 2025 appropriations before the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 20, a supplemental disaster relief spending package, the annual defense policy bill which may also include quantum and AI legislation, the Farm Bill, and healthcare extenders such as avoiding major cuts in Medicare payments to physicians. It is still unclear whether Republicans will agree to finish FY 2025 appropriations this year or punt into the new Congress. For other issues, there is little incentive to finalize major legislation with the exception of the annual defense policy bill. Democrats in the Senate will be focused on finalizing as many confirmations as possible while Congress will likely punt most other decisions to the new Congress and Administration.

This document outlines the most likely election results and what they may mean for the research, education, and academic medicine communities. Individual state-specific congressional delegations for the 119th Congress may be attached separately.

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Trump Administration Priorities

The Trump Administration comes into office with a mandate to advance conservative priorities and reshape federal agencies. The Administration will look to reverse many Biden-era policies and push its vision through executive orders, budget requests, regulatory changes, and economic and foreign policy levers. President-elect Trump is likely to focus early efforts on securing the border and changing immigration regulations as well as trade policy such as reinstating tariffs on Chinese and other international goods. President-elect Trump has proposed major changes to the federal government, including bringing federal employees back to in person work, dramatically reducing the federal workforce, and limiting the number of career civil servants in favor of political appointees. Compared to the first Trump Administration, Trump 2.0 should be able to move faster in making changes with a better understanding of how to manage federal agencies and policy processes, especially in a unified government, but it is unlikely that Trump will be able to dramatically dismantle individual agencies and programs which have strong bipartisan support.

The Trump campaign and Vice-President elect, J.D. Vance, are closely connected with Silicon Valley technology leaders who could be involved in driving and shaping policy in the Trump Administration and artificial intelligence and other emerging technology areas are likely to be priorities. While there are some uncertainties around President-elect Trump's priorities related to research and higher education, we can expect many of the focus areas for his first Administration to continue. Priorities for the first Trump Administration included tax cuts and deregulation with the aim of encouraging more private sector investment to drive economic growth, an "America first" trade policy; national security; energy independence; and space. Priorities for the second Trump Administration are expected to additionally include a major focus on scrutiny of higher education and attempts to limit DEI activities and better combat antisemitism on university campuses. In terms of R&D, the second Trump Administration will likely continue to focus on U.S. competitiveness and defense, including support for R&D in emerging technologies, but may push more aggressively to reduce spending in unfavored areas such as racial equity and combatting climate change.

Below is more information on expected Administration priorities and activities in science, technology, economic development, education, and healthcare.

Research and Development

The previous Trump Administration was focused on R&D investments that were rooted in maintaining U.S. global competitiveness. Most closely aligned with that ambition was the Administration's focus on defense and national security to maintain and advance U.S. technological and military superiority. For national security R&D, funding will likely continue to be shifted from basic research to applied and prototype programs and procurement of weapons systems. Research investment in critical and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, quantum, advanced computing, advanced communications, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology, are expected to be emphasized. The Trump Administration's broader economic strategy focused on tax cuts and deregulation, with the aim of encouraging more private sector investment in R&D. A second Trump Administration will likely continue this competitiveness and defense focus and will push more aggressively to reduce spending in unfavored areas.

In a departure from the Biden Administration's focus on combatting climate change and advancing clean energy, the Trump Administration will be more focused on support for early-stage research—leaving it to industry to drive innovation and implementation—and more investments in oil and gas extraction as part of an "energy independence" strategy. The Trump Administration will also continue their previous efforts to roll back various environmental regulations and policies. During the last Trump Administration, major cuts for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were proposed and officials repeatedly challenged the scientific consensus on climate change. However, the first Trump Administration did include "Earth system predictability across multiple phenomena, time, and space scales" in its final agency R&D guidance memo.

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Under the Biden Administration, fostering use-inspired research and place-based innovation have been major focus areas for the National Science Foundation (NSF), including the launch of the new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate and its flagship Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program. President-elect Trump may try to roll back the focus on TIP given its role as a signature Biden policy but may be challenged to do so given the strong bipartisan support that TIP and the NSF Engines enjoy in Congress. Although there could be some cuts based on budgetary constraints and potential shifts in underlying priorities, a total elimination of TIP is unlikely.

While Trump signed several executive orders and initiatives in support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) during his first Administration, this may not continue in a second Trump Administration. Following the Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions*, there have been increasing calls from conservative organizations questioning federal support of demographic threshold-based minority-serving designations and programming. However, programs to support regional diversity, such as the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) are expected to continue.

In contrast to President Biden's health R&D focus on the Cancer Moonshot and women's health, Trump's health R&D priorities are broader, covering a range of diseases and conditions. However, the bioeconomy, relating to biomedicine and biotechnology, have transcended both the first Trump Administration and the Biden Administration and will likely persist in the next Trump Administration. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has faced significantly more partisan scrutiny in recent years, in areas such as infectious disease research, and the second Trump Administration will aim to reorganize or shift NIH priorities.

Finally, the Trump Administration will continue to advance and coordinate agency efforts on research security to address the potential threat of the theft of U.S. intellectual property (IP); these efforts began during the first Trump presidency and continued through the Biden Administration. Trump could renew a more punitive approach to research security such as restarting the Department of Justice's China Initiative that sought to prosecute bad actors. It is unclear whether further measures would be taken to limit international collaboration or restrict Chinese students. Such efforts were considered in the first Trump Administration but ultimately not pursued.

Economic Development and Commercialization

As with the Biden Administration, President-elect Trump's policy platform calls for the onshoring of manufacturing and development of emerging industries. However, unlike the Biden Administration that prioritized federal funding for new lab-to-market and place-based economic development programming, the Trump campaign's economic agenda would be led by deregulation, tariffs, and tax reform.

The sentiment in Washington has changed around these areas since the previous Trump Administration, including a bipartisan wave of bills focused on bolstering domestic and global competitiveness. As such, the level of support within the Administration for major federal innovation and economic development initiatives launched through the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act remains unclear. It's possible that the Trump Administration could actively support some recent regional development and commercialization programs, given their aligned intentions, and call for the elimination of others, while occasionally being rebuffed by Congress along the way.

There was a push-pull between President-elect Trump and the Republican Congress throughout his first term around policies in this space that could reemerge. For instance, President Trump would release budget requests that called for the elimination of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) or reduced funding for the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E). In response, Congress increased funding for both programs.

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This dynamic played out in the weeks leading to the election, when President-elect Trump criticized industry subsidies in the CHIPS and Science Act, prompting Republican House Members to note their support for the measure. This was a reminder that Republican states have also benefitted from many innovation initiatives authorized in President Biden's signature laws, including the Commerce-led Regional Technology Hubs and NSF's Regional Innovation Engines. Given the wide bipartisan, any wholesale elimination of this programming is unlikely.

Also as mentioned above, the first Trump Administration prioritized tax incentives over community-based investments to stimulate economic growth. This included the creation of Opportunity Zones, which intended to provide favorable tax benefits for investments in real estate and businesses in various census tracts determined by state governors. This was championed by the previous Trump Administration as their top economic development priority before COVID. The Opportunity Zones program expires in 2026 and could be revitalized. There could be a willingness in the new Administration to back potential new tax provisions to advance place-based innovation.

Finally, it should be noted that there is potentially room for an incoming Trump Administration to support new pathways for industry growth to bolster the defense industrial base, as called out in his agenda, or build upon COVID era programming that sought to improve the transition of new cures and diagnostics from lab to market that were launched at the end of his first term. Any movement in these and other areas will be shaped by his future cabinet and advisors in the weeks and months ahead.

Education and Workforce Development

The incoming Trump Administration could bring considerable changes to the status quo of education in the United States. During his first term, President-elect Trump pursued policies that had or proposed significant impacts on higher education, including restrictions on international students; efforts to enact federal restrictions on programs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education; and proposed elimination or consolidations of federal student aid programs and U.S. Department of Education discretionary grant programs, such as the Minority-Serving Institutions programs. It is expected that President-elect Trump will continue to promote these policies in his second administration. In addition, President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Senator JD Vance (R-OH) will likely continue to promote higher education policies highlighted during the campaign, including calling for increased scrutiny over institutions of higher education's endowments, tax-exempt status, security of federally funded research, and incidences of antisemitism on college campuses. Republican control of both congressional chambers could see attempts to address these topics through tax legislation. Finally, there may be efforts to change the system of accreditation for institutions of higher education, with the 2024 Republican party platform calling out accreditors on diversity. Education research could also see significant changes if duties currently under the purview of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) are moved to other agencies.

In the K-12 education policy space, President-elect Trump is expected to continue his support for school vouchers and parents' rights as it relates to education. Other topics that could be addressed include the perceived use of critical race theory in schools and the participation of transgender students in sports. During the 2024 campaign, President-elect Trump supported proposals to cut funding for Head Start and to turn federal funding programs that support the education of low-income students and students with disabilities into block grants that are sent directly to State Departments of Education.

The U.S. Department of Education will have to navigate continued bipartisan criticism of its rollout of the updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and it is expected the Department will revoke many of the regulations promulgated by Secretary Miguel Cardona and the Biden Administration, including the new rules related to Title IX. Despite resigning from the first Trump Administration after the riots on January 6, 2021, former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has indicated willingness to serve in a second Trump Administration, as has Moms for Liberty co-founder Tiffany

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Justice. Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) and Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters are also rumored to also be in consideration for the role.

Issues related to workforce development are likely to remain bipartisan during a Trump Administration, especially related to mechanisms to use workforce development to increase the competitiveness of the United States, increased support for work-based learning programs, and pathways to get students into well-paying careers directly out of high schools. Specifically, mechanisms such as apprenticeships and expansion of the Pell Grant to short-term training programs are likely to receive support from the Trump Administration. President-elect Trump is unlikely to be supportive of labor unions and is expected to undo many of the Biden Administration's regulations related to organized labor. Mayor of Pinehurst, North Carolina and previous Acting Secretary of Labor Patrick Pizzella (R) and Virginia Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater (R) are rumored to be under consideration for the Secretary of Labor role.

Health and Biomedical Policy

The incoming Trump Administration has already identified key health and biomedical policy issues, outlining proposals that build on initiatives from the first term and set the stage for the second term. In the healthcare sector, the Trump campaign has proposed to reform the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by introducing a risk pool model to reduce costs for certain plans, expanding short-term health plan options, and easing regulatory requirements for insurers. Lowering drug prices was a shared priority for both the Biden and Trump Administrations, however it remains uncertain whether President-Elect Trump will preserve the Biden-Harris Administration's landmark initiative passed in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices. At the very least, President-Elect Trump is expected to respond to GOP leadership's calls for greater transparency in the drug pricing process, with a focus on tackling pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) as a central priority within his agenda to lower drug prices. Other, more specific, healthcare priorities likely to emerge early in a second Trump Administration include proposals to bar gender-affirming care, policies related to abortion access, and tackling the ongoing opioid epidemic. Addressing mental health issues, accelerating translational research, and improving rural health remain strong bipartisan health topic priorities and could rise as leading topics in a Trump Administration health agenda.

During the campaign, President-Elect Trump pledged not to alter Medicare but remained silent on the future of Medicaid. Conservatives that have been looking to reform the program have been waiting for the correct moment to use the budget tool known as reconciliation, which would allow reforms to pass the Senate with only 51 votes, to reform the program. Reconciliation can also be used to reform Medicare and make changes to the IRA.

There has been a great deal of attention given to the President-Elect's suggestions that former Presidential rival Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. will play a significant role in health policy in the new Administration. Although the role is not well-defined, Kennedy himself has suggested it might include broad authorities over vaccine, food, pharmaceutical, and environmental policies, and would likely be part of the White House Executive Office of the President, rather than within a federal agency. Specific policy ideas floated by Kennedy in recent weeks have included eliminating fluoride from drinking water and removing some vaccines from the marketplace. It is worth noting that many of the ideas raised in the context of Trump and Kennedy's "Make America Healthy Again" agenda would require significant statutory and administrative actions to move forward. However, one potential priority which may have resonance in a GOP controlled Congress is reformation of public health agencies, like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), whose guidance on public health measures during the COVID-19 response evoked frustration from both the President-Elect and Republicans in Congress.

Former CDC Director, Dr. Robert Redfield, who has supported Kennedy and the President-Elect's skepticism on vaccines and the functions of the CDC, is a Trump appointee who could potentially return in a second Trump Administration. Other health policy leaders, who have served as key advisors to President-Elect Trump and who could serve key roles in the next Administration include former Louisiana governor, Bobby Jindal and former Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy

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Secretary Eric Hargan. The Paragon Health Institute, a conservative health care think tank which has helped shaped the Trump health policy agenda, may also serve as a source of former officials looking to return for a second term, including Joe Grogan, who served on Trump's Domestic Policy Council, Brian Blase, a former White House economic advisor, and Paul Mango, who served as deputy chief of staff at HHS.

The Trump campaign has focused less on priorities in biomedical research but may resurface policy ideas that emerged during the President-Elect's first term of office. These include limitations on the use of human fetal tissue in research, term limits for the directors of the Institutes and Centers (ICs) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), elimination of ICs ranging from the Fogarty International Center (FIC) to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and limitations on reimbursement of facility and administrative (F&A) costs for research. The Project 2025 chapter on the HHS, which was authored by Trump Administration HHS Office of Civil Rights leader, Roger Severino, proposes a number of policy changes for NIH, some of which are likely to happen – such as the rollback of initiatives related to diversity, inclusion, or gender-based research. Other proposed policy changes, which would require action from Congress, include shifting to a state-based block grant model of research funding, rather than using peer review. As stated above, NIH has been the target of partisan scrutiny related to infectious disease research and concerns over the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic and that may be exacerbated under a second term Trump Administration and GOP-led Senate. Many of NIH's long-standing research investments – from cancer to Alzheimer's disease – continue to be bipartisan priorities and will continue as priorities into the next Administration.

There has been little speculation of who might be appointed to run NIH in a second Trump Administration, which could include the scenario of retaining current Director, Dr. Monica Bertagnolli. However, given the higher priority health agency leaders needed to accomplish the Trump health policy agenda, it may be some time before a new leader emerges. Names associated with NIH leadership during the first Trump Administration include Dr. Ned Sharpless, who led the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as a political appointee during the first Trump Administration; Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), who as new chair of the House Freedom Caucus seems unlikely to seek the position; and Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, a wealthy physician and owner of the Los Angeles Times whose name appeared in recent headlines related to the newspaper's decision not to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris in the Presidential election.

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With control of both the House and the Senate, as well as the White House, Republicans will be emboldened to advance their top legislative priorities. With unified government, Republicans plan to use a procedural tool known as reconciliation to pass their highest priority—a tax package—with a simple majority vote in both the House and Senate. In the minority, Democrats will use every procedural tool to slow down and block partisan legislation. With an anticipated narrow Republican majority in the House and the 60-vote threshold in the Senate to advance other major legislation, compromise will still be essential. There will also be continued bipartisan support for several issues, such as competition with China, maintaining U.S. leadership in emerging technologies, energy resiliency, and reducing the cost of prescription drugs. Top legislative priorities for the 119th Congress will include:

- Raising the debt ceiling to avoid a default on debt, which was suspended only through January 2, 2025
- A major tax package to extend tax provisions in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed under the Trump Administration set to expire by the end of 2025, as well as new tax provisions
- Annual spending bills for fiscal years (FY) 2026 and 2027, and possibly completing FY 2025 appropriations if Congress does not finalize a spending package by the end of this year
- Annual National Defense Authorization Acts for FY 2026 and FY 2027
- The Energy Act, which Congress takes up every five years, to authorize energy research and development programs
- The surface transportation bill which Congress also uses to reauthorize major highway, highway safety, transit and transportation research and development programs every five years
- Reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs
- The Farm Bill, if not passed by the end of this year

While not time-sensitive, Congress is also likely to advance other important legislation such as a NASA Reauthorization, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and additional AI and emerging technology-focused bills.

With these opportunities also come significant challenges. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and President-elect Trump have announced their intent to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act and unspent funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and the CHIPS and Science Act. If accomplished, this would impact planned clean energy pilot and demonstration projects as well as semiconductor research and development projects. Republicans will also seek to significantly curtail non-defense discretionary spending in an effort to find offsets and savings to pay for a tax package. A budget constrained environment will impact major science, education, and healthcare programs. Republicans have proposed more stringent research security requirements, including potential bans on collaborations and access to federal funds and facilities if individuals from countries of concern are involved. A Republican Congress also brings increased scrutiny of higher education, especially on issues related to campus climate, university endowments, DEI activities, antisemitism, and college costs.

Most top congressional leadership positions are expected to stay the same with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) as the new Minority Leader all continuing to serve. The biggest change will be a new Senate Majority Leader. After 18 years as Senate Majority or Minority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) decided to step down from his leadership role. Senators John Thune (R-SD), John Cornyn (R-TX) and Rick Scott (R-FL) are running to replace Senator McConnell as Majority Leader. Senator Thune is favored to become the next Majority Leader, but President-elect Trump could sway the vote and potentially back a difference candidate, complicating the selection process. Senate Republicans could also demand rule changes in exchange for their support which could impact governance, such as legislative procedures or how Committee assignments are made.

Overall, the 119th Congress will have up to 14 new Committee Chairs and Ranking Members. New leadership will impact legislative priorities as well as how bipartisan each Committee will function. The biggest change in Committee leadership

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will be with House Republicans. Due to retirements or term limits as Committee chairs, Republicans will be selecting new leadership for major Committees such as Rules, Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce which will be instrumental in drafting new tax provisions; Science, Space and Technology which has oversight over most major federal research and development programs; and Education and Workforce.

Below are outlooks for likely congressional priorities in tax, science and technology, education, and health care.

Research and Development

Republicans come to full control of Congress with a lengthy agenda on research that is partly related to repealing or reforming Biden efforts and partly to address more bipartisan topics that the current Congress has left unfinished. Priorities are likely to include:

- Rolling back major legislative packages passed in the Biden era such as the Inflation Reduction Act and potentially the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The CHIPS and Science Act has also received criticism from President-elect Trump in recent weeks and Speaker Johnson has said the new Congress will likely look to reform it.
- Artificial intelligence legislation that spurs innovation and ensures there are limited regulatory barriers to development and U.S. leadership. While a few AI bills such as the CREATE AI Act may pass in the lame duck, the next Congress will look at the many unexamined issues across sectors.
- Reauthorization for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including potential reorganization of institutes and changes to research administration policies.
- If not concluded this Congress, reauthorization of the Farm Bill which includes the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) programs in research, education, and extension. The Farm Bill expired in September 2023 but was then extended through the end of this year. While some progress has been made and conversations are ongoing, at the time of this writing it is still unclear if there will be enough time to finalize and pass legislation in the lame duck.
- Science and technology investments to maintain U.S. competitiveness and ensure national security and defense, space exploration and Space Force, hypersonics, quantum, and next generation telecommunications.

Along with authorization legislation, a Republican Congress is likely to focus on deficit reduction and constraining non-defense appropriations especially. It remains unclear how Congress will respond to potential Trump Administration attempts to dramatically scale back spending or potentially eliminate certain agencies entirely. Federal programs are difficult to eliminate, and many have bipartisan support. In the first Trump Administration these attempts were blocked and research funding increased for most agencies, but that dynamic is not certain to repeat with new Congressional players.

Tax Reform

One of the first priorities of the 119th Congress will be a tax package, which includes extending expiring Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) provisions as well as new tax provisions. Congressional Republicans have already been planning for a potential unified Congress in 2025, under which they could move major tax legislation via a budget reconciliation process, allowing the Senate to circumvent the filibuster for a simple majority vote. Budget reconciliation bills are somewhat limited in scope but allow for changes to fiscal spending, tax revenues, or the debt limit.

This past year, there has been increasing interest and discussion among House Republican leadership of the relevant tax and education committees and individual Republican Members in both chambers surrounding higher education institutions' tax-exempt status and several legislative proposals to expand the excise tax on private college endowment income. Intertwined with these conversations has been increased congressional scrutiny on college responses to antisemitic activity on campus and foreign influence over colleges and their research and education enterprises. Other tax

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issues to watch in 2025 include a reappearance of proposals floated during the 2017 tax debate, such as treating non-profit name and logo licensing as unrelated business income, modifications to charitable giving, and the removal of tuition remission benefits and student tax benefits, such as graduate student stipend waivers and the student FICA exemption.

Should Congress use the budget reconciliation process to reauthorize the TCJA, it can also pursue changes to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Conservative lawmakers have sought to scale back Medicaid eligibility and reform how the program distributes funding to states. Lawmakers may also attempt to find savings in health care by increasing the scrutiny of the 501(c)(3) status of hospitals. Some members of Congress have pushed hospitals to increase their charity care as a contingency for retaining their non-profit status.

Additionally, tax packages could contain provisions to stimulate economic development and innovation, including reconsideration of Opportunity Zones and other incentives for investment in R&D ecosystems.

Economic Development and Commercialization

Republican support for the federal role in fostering lab to market solutions and regional economic development has improved considerably since the last time there was a GOP trifecta. This has been propelled by bipartisan momentum in Congress in recent years behind translating research into viable companies and solutions, as well as expanding the “geography of innovation” to ensure the nation’s research and development assets and investments are not concentrated in a few well-positioned regions or communities. This interest is expected to continue in the 119th Congress, as leaders from both parties have expressed support for initiatives like Regional Technology Hubs at the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Regional Innovation Engines at the National Science Foundation (NSF), although scaling them could be a challenge in a constrained fiscal environment.

On the authorization front, the Republican led 119th Congress will be tasked with drafting influential authorization bills impacting economic development, innovation, and commercialization, including the authorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, as well as a suite of popular entrepreneurial assistance efforts at federal agencies. Authorization is set to expire in September of 2025. As with the last reauthorization, research security will be a key topic of interest from Republicans.

Congress will likely continue to be supportive of including innovation provisions in science authorization measures to ensure domestic growth and competitiveness. This could include iterations of the Energy Act or NASA Reauthorization. However, there will likely be little momentum around other stand-alone legislation pertaining to economic development. So, if Congress does not pass the pending EDA Reauthorization in the lame duck, it is unlikely to be reconsidered.

Education and Workforce Development

The 119th Congress could see increased activity towards advancing and enacting major education legislation in the 119th Congress, with not much accomplished in the 118th (pending the lame duck). Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) will pass the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Republican gavel onto a new leader, with Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT) or Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) likely to succeed her. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) will continue his leadership of the Committee Democrats (likely continuing his role as Ranking Member if Republicans maintain control of the House of Representatives). If Republicans maintain control of the Committee, expect continued scrutiny of higher education, particularly as it relates to campus climate, university endowments, DEI activities, and college costs.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) will likely be led by Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), with Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) taking over as Ranking Member. Under Chairman Cassidy, HELP is likely to take up

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more education issues, and scrutiny of higher education and research security will be a theme. Senator Cassidy has also been a long-time supporter of the College Transparency Act.

Depending on what legislation gets across the finish line in the 118th Congress, workforce development could remain a priority for the new Congress and one area where bipartisan support may exist. Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and authorization of Pell Grants for short-term or workforce programs could be taken up if they do not get passed this year.

The 119th Congress may also attempt to regulate a college athletic framework. Other topics that could be a priority include the impact of AI on education and workforce development, K-12 innovation and teacher preparation, and oversight of student financial aid and the FAFSA. While there have been previous Republican legislative proposals to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education, aligned with the Project 2025 recommendation, a comprehensive removal would require congressional action and face a difficult legislative path.

Health and Biomedical Policy

With Republicans likely to retain their narrow House majority and the Senate returning to Republican control, Congress now has the alignment it needs to move forward on conservative healthcare priorities. Even with the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including Medicare drug negotiation underway, Republicans likely will work to repeal many of its provisions and continue their efforts to revamp previous healthcare policies passed by the Biden administration. Congress is likely to exhibit bipartisan support for biomedical research, mental health, and extending pandemic-era telehealth flexibilities.

While President-elect Trump promised not to impact Medicare or Social Security benefits during the campaign, his administration could seek to reform Medicaid and the 340B drug pricing program, as many conservative members of the House and Senate have long sought to do. With a Republican Senate and the House potentially returning to GOP control, the White House and both chambers could enact healthcare reforms through the budget reconciliation process. Regarding the Affordable Care Act's marketplaces, the Biden administration expanded the size and eligibility requirements for advance premium tax credits through the American Rescue Plan. The expanded credits are set to expire in December 2025, and in the absence of Democratic control over either chamber of Congress, they are unlikely to be extended.

Republican healthcare leaders have signaled an intent to increase oversight of federal health agencies that have, in their opinion, been unresponsive to their inquiries over the past two years. Issues likely to be the focus of congressional attention include the allocation of billions of dollars in COVID-19 relief packages by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and others across the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Additional Republican priorities for the new Congress are likely to focus on promoting rural health, combatting fentanyl distribution, and encouraging the federal government and states to crack down on perceived waste in government healthcare programs.

There are several bipartisan issues expected to be taken up in the new Congress. Telehealth legislation extending Medicare's ability to provide reimbursement of virtual doctor visits through 2024 has previously passed the House and is likely to be one of the first bipartisan priorities for the 119th Congress. Bolstering the cybersecurity of federal health agencies and healthcare organizations has also received bipartisan support from both the House and Senate and is a priority of Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) and Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY), who is likely to take over as the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Congress is likely to continue its broad support for biomedical research despite increased oversight of research agencies by House Republicans. Public health and mental health workforce education and training programs will likely continue to receive bipartisan support in reauthorization legislation.

Congressional Committee Forecasting: 119th Congress

There will be significant changes to key Committee leadership positions in the 119th Congress. There will be at least 14 new Committee Chairs and/or Ranking Members, impacting future priorities. The tables below provide a summary of forecasted Committee Chairs and Ranking Members followed by a more in-depth analysis of the changes to and predicted future agendas for individual congressional committees important for the research, higher education, and healthcare communities.

Forecasted 119 th Congress U.S. Senate Committee Leadership		
Committee	Likely Chair	Likely Ranking Member
<i>Agriculture</i>	John Boozman (R-AR)	<i>Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)</i>
Appropriations	Susan Collins (R-ME)	Patty Murray (D-WA)
Armed Services	Roger Wicker (R-MS)	Jack Reed (D-RI)
<i>Budget</i>	<i>Lindsay Graham (R-SC)</i>	<i>Jeff Merkley (D-OR)</i>
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Ted Cruz (R-TX)	Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
<i>Energy and Natural Resources</i>	<i>Mike Lee (R-UT)</i> <i>Steve Daines (R-MT)</i>	<i>Martin Heinrich (D-NM)</i>
<i>Environment and Public Works</i>	Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	<i>Sheldon Whitehouse (D-DE)</i>
Finance	Mike Crapo (R-ID)	Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Bill Cassidy (R-LA)	Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Homeland Security	Rand Paul (R-KY)	Gary Peters (D-MI)
<i>Judiciary</i>	<i>Chuck Grassley (R-IA)</i>	Dick Durbin (D-IL)
<i>Small Business and Entrepreneurship</i>	Joni Ernst (R-IA)	<i>Ed Markey (D-MA)</i>

Note: Italics indicate potential new committee leadership in the 119th Congress.

Congressional Committee Forecasting: 119th Congress

Forecasted 119 th Congress U.S. House Committee Leadership		
Committee	Likely Chair	Likely Ranking Member
Agriculture	Glenn Thompson (R-PA)	David Scott (D-GA)
Appropriations	Tom Cole (R-OK)	Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Armed Services	Mike Rogers (R-AL)	Adam Smith (D-WA)
Budget	Jodey Arrington (R-MO)	Brendan Boyle (D-PA)
<i>Education and Workforce</i>	<i>Tim Walberg (R-MI)</i> <i>Burgess Owens (R-UT)</i>	Bobby Scott (D-VA)
<i>Energy and Commerce</i>	<i>Brett Guthrie (R-KY)</i> <i>Bob Latta (R-OH)</i> <i>Richard Hudson (R-NC)</i>	Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Homeland Security	Clay Higgins (R-LA) Dan Crenshaw (R-TX) Mark Green (R-TN)	Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Judiciary	Jim Jordan (R-OH)	Jerry Nadler (D-NY)
Natural Resources	Bruce Westerman (R-AR)	Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
Oversight and Accountability	James Comer (R-KY)	Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
<i>Science, Space, and Technology</i>	<i>Brian Babin (R-TX)</i>	Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Small Business	Roger Williams (R-TX)	Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)
<i>Transportation and Infrastructure</i>	<i>Sam Graves (R-MO)</i> <i>Rick Crawford (R-AK)</i>	Rick Larsen (D-WA)
Ways and Means	Jason Smith (R-MO)	Richard Neal (D-MA)

Note: Italics indicate potential new committee leadership in the 119th Congress.

Committee Membership Chart Key:

- Italics indicate potential committee leadership in the 119th Congress.
- Strikethrough indicates members who will be leaving the committee/chamber due to retirement, lost reelection, runs for other political office, or committee membership limits.
- Asterisks denote races that have not been called at the time of this writing.

House and Senate Agriculture Committees

The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have the primary responsibility of overseeing the activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This includes developing policies for biotechnology, research, extension, nutrition, commodities, livestock, foreign agriculture, conservation and forestry, and many others. The Committees are also responsible for shaping the highly political Farm Bill, which authorizes and directs most of USDA's programs, including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) research, education, and extension programs.

The current Farm Bill legislation, formally known as the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, expired in September 2023 and was extended through the end of FY 2024. This gave lawmakers the past year to propose new policies, hold additional hearings, and negotiate priorities, both across the aisle and in both chambers. Remarkably, the most significant differences between the Democrats and Republicans stem not from disagreements over what new policies and programs should be, but, rather, where the funding comes from to pay for those programs.

In May, House Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA) released the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, a bill that passed out of Committee with some notable bipartisan support. This bill would authorize and fund a wide range of programs favored by Republicans and Democrats alike, but many Democrats balked at the methods Chairman Thompson used to provide its funding, opposing proposed changes to conservation and nutrition programs. In the Senate, Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) released a "framework" outlining her priorities, but this was never formally introduced as a bill, nor was there a markup, stalling broader negotiations necessary to find compromise within a bill desired by both sides to be budget neutral.

Senator Stabenow announced her upcoming retirement earlier this year. All indicators suggested she wanted to complete the Farm Bill before she left office, but she also appeared willing to hand off this task to her successor, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), rather than negotiate on conservation and nutrition programs. This dynamic may change due to the results of the election, which hand the Senate, White House, and House of Representatives to the Republicans. A Republican sweep practically guarantees her priorities will be downgraded if the Farm Bill is punted into the next Congress, providing a very strong reason for compromises to be made in the coming months.

Even if a deal is reached soon, final legislation would still need to be written, scored, and voted on before the end of the calendar year, an extremely tight deadline. In addition, the Farm Bill is not the only piece of legislation on Congress's plate; a disaster relief package in the wake of two disruptive hurricanes may complicate agricultural priorities, leading to further delays. If Congress cannot pass the Farm Bill this year, another extension would be required.

It is unlikely a 2025 Farm Bill will look drastically different. The Senate may be in the hands of the Republicans, but the GOP's majority is not filibuster-proof, which means Democrat priorities will still be considered. Slim margins for the Republicans in the House means compromise will also be necessary and the House Committee's 2024 proposal was, by many measures, already bipartisan.

While this uncertainty and potential further delay is frustrating, Title VII (known as the Research Title), which authorizes the majority of NIFA programs of interest to research and extension communities, has seen bipartisan support throughout the Farm Bill process. Most notably, for the first time, mandatory funding would be included for the Research Facilities Act (RFA) in the House bill (\$2.5 billion) and the Senate frameworks (Rep. Stabenow: \$100 million; Rep. Boozman: \$1 billion).

House and Senate Agriculture Committees

As of this writing, all but three House Agriculture Committee members and all but one Senator have won their bids for reelection. In past Farm Bill years, powerful lawmakers have jockeyed for position on the Committee solely to influence the Farm Bill, but these shake-ups were more likely to have happened in the last cycle, as Farm Bill negotiations began. Regardless, with a handful of openings, there will be opportunities for important education efforts on Title VII for new members and their staff.

House Agriculture Committee

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Glenn “G.T.” Thompson (R-PA)	Rep. Thompson’s priorities are in rural development and dairy. He has also previously expressed strong support for agriculture research.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. David Scott (D-GA)	Rep. Scott served as Committee Chair in the previous Congress and will likely continue to serve as the Democratic leader of the Committee.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. David Scott (D-GA)	Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA)
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)*	Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK)
Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)	Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)
Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)	Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)
Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)	Rep. Scott Desjarlais (R-TN)
Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)
Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH)	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)
Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS)	Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS)
Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)	Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)
Rep. Yadira Caraveo (D-CO)	Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL)
Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-OR)	Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD)
Rep. Marie Glusenkamp Perez (D-WA)	Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN)
Rep. Don Davis (D-NC)	Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS)
Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI)	Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)
Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)	Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL)
Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL)	Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL)
Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D-NM)	Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL)
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)	Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN)
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)	Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN)
Rep. Jonathan Jackson (D-IL)	Rep. John Rose (R-TN)
Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX)	Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX)

House and Senate Agriculture Committees

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)	Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY)
Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)	Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-TX)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)	Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY)
Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)	Rep. John Duarte (R-CA)
Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)	Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA)
	Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO)
	Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI)
	Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR)*
	Rep. Max Miller (R-OH)

Note: Italics denote potential committee leadership; strikethrough denotes members who are retiring or lost reelection; asterisk denotes elections where results have not yet been determined.

Senate Agriculture Committee

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator John Boozman (R-AR)	Senator John Boozman is the current Ranking Member and will continue to lead the Committee's Republicans.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	Senator Amy Klobuchar will be the senior Democrat on the Committee, replacing the retiring Chair, Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). Senator Klobuchar has been a robust supporter of USDA research and extension and the Research Facilities Act in particular.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	<i>Senator John Boozman (R-AR)</i>
Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
<i>Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)</i>	Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)
Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)	Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
Senator Peter Welch (D-VT)	Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)
Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)	Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA)
Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)	Senator John Thune (R-SD)
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)	Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)

House and Senate Appropriations Committees

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are responsible for funding the federal government each year. The Committees must appropriate more than \$1.7 trillion in discretionary spending across 12 individual spending bills to fund federal agencies, programs, and projects.

House Appropriations Committee

Leadership on this Committee is expected to remain stable. The current Chairman, Tom Cole (R-OK), is expected to continue as the top Republican and the current Ranking Member, Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), is expected to continue as the top Democrat. The two leading appropriators have worked together since April 2024, when Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) stepped down as Chairwoman and the House Republican Conference elected Rep. Cole as the new Chairman. They are expected to continue to work together to try to pass annual spending bills in a bipartisan manner. One of the biggest changes impacting the research community is the election loss of Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), currently the Ranking Member of the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee that funds science agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as well as programs managed by the Department of Commerce, such as Regional Technology Hubs. A new Democrat will be Ranking Member for the CJS Subcommittee in the 119th Congress—potentially a leader of another subcommittee, such as Homeland Security Subcommittee Ranking Member Lauren Underwood (D-IL), or a senior member of the committee without a current leadership role, such as Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY).

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)	He is currently the Chairman of the full Committee, and no challengers have come forward.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	She serves as the current Ranking Member of the full Committee and faces no challenges to her position.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)	Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY)
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)	Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)
Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)	Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)	Rep. Michael Simpson (R-ID)
Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)	Rep. John Carter (R-TX)
Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)	Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)*
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)	Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)	Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)	Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)
Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)	Rep. David Joyce (R-OH)
Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)	Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)
Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)	Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV)
Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)*
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)	Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)*
Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA)	Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)
Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)	Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL)

House and Senate Appropriations Committees

Changes to Committee Membership, continued

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)	Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA)
Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)	Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)
Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)	Rep. Mike Garcia (R-CA)*
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)	Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA)
Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA)*	Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX)
Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA)	Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)
Rep. David Trone (D-MD)	Rep. Micheal Cloud (R-TX)
Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL)	Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS)
Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)	Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)
Rep. Joe Morelle (D-NY)	Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA)
	Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS)
	Rep. Jerry Carl (R-AL)
	Rep. Stephanie Bice (R-OK)
	Rep. Scott Franklin (R-FL)
	Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX)
	Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)*
	Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC)

Senate Appropriations Committee

The Senate Appropriations Committee will also remain stable with continued leadership from the top Republican Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and the top Democratic Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). They will switch roles as Chair and Ranking Member, but this change is unlikely to impact their leadership styles. Over the last two years, Senators Murray and Collins have established a good working relationship and plan to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to advance appropriations bills. The biggest change will be to the Democratic make-up of the Committee with three Democrats retiring or losing election, including Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) who served as the Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee. In the minority, Democrats will be able to nominate at least one new Senator to the Committee. Republican membership is expected to remain stable, and Republicans will be able to nominate at least one new Senator to the Committee. Senators Bill Hagerty (R-TN) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) are exploring Cabinet-level positions to serve in the Trump Administration. If they leave, that will create additional openings for Republican slots on the Committee.

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)	She is the current Ranking Member and will become the Chairwoman. Current Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is leaving his current role and returning to a leadership position on the Senate Appropriations Committee. However, he doesn't plan to challenge Senator Collins for the top position on the Committee, but wants to lead the Defense Subcommittee, which has the largest discretionary spending portfolio. Senator Collins, who also chairs the Defense Subcommittee, could take a leadership position on a different subcommittee and still lead the full Appropriations Committee.
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House and Senate Appropriations Committees

Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)	She is the current Chairwoman and will become the Ranking Member.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)	Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)
Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)
Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)	Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)	Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Senator John Boozman (R-AK)	Senator Christopher Coons (D-DE)
Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)	Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN)	Senator Joe Manchin (I-WV)
Senator Katie Britt (R-AL)	Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)	Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)	Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)
	Senator Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ)

Potential House and Senate Committee Priorities

- Completing FY 2025 Appropriations:** The most immediate issue the Appropriations Committees need to face is whether to complete FY 2025 appropriations before the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 20 or push the deadline into next year. With debt ceiling, budget, and tax issues looming next year, Congress may want to clear the decks and finalize FY 2025 appropriations before a new Administration and Congress take over. However, with little time left to resolve major differences in top line spending and individual spending priorities between the House and Senate bills, combined with an emboldened Republican majority that will have a much stronger negotiating position starting in January, Congress may punt into next year.
- Earmarks:** Earmarks, also known as congressionally directed spending or community project funding, are likely to remain in future appropriations bills. House Republicans have voted several times to allow Republican members to request earmarks in appropriations bills with a majority of House Republicans submitting earmark requests in FY 2025 spending bills. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has allowed individual Members to submit earmarks and House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) is a strong champion of earmarks. The Senate Republican Conference adopted a permanent earmark ban in 2019; however, conference rules are not binding, and Republican Senators have been able to request earmarks over the past four years. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), the incoming new Appropriations Committee Chair, supports earmarks and has publicly stated that the initial ban was a mistake and ceded too much power to the executive branch. About one-third of Republican Senators have requested earmarks over the last several years. President-elect Trump has also supported congressionally directed spending and is not expected to oppose the practice.

House and Senate Appropriations Committees

While all of this points to earmarks being a continued practice going forward, eligibility for individual accounts may change. For example, House Republicans have not allowed earmarks within the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill—a common target for institutions of higher education—since they most recently took control of the chamber. It remains to be seen whether Senate Republicans will use their majority to restrict earmarks within this bill or continue to allow them as has been the case in recent years.

- **Debt Ceiling and Budget Caps:** Raising the debt ceiling is potentially the largest issue facing the new Congress. The debt ceiling was suspended when President Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allowing the government to borrow as much money as needed to meet prior fiscal commitments through January 2, 2025. The government can likely keep borrowing through March 2025 because the Treasury Department can resort to "extraordinary measures" to temporarily finance government expenditures and obligations until a resolution can be reached. However, the new Congress must act to avoid a default with significant economic consequences for the country. Like prior debt ceiling negotiations, Republicans will likely couple debt ceiling discussions with budget caps and limits on discretionary spending. Republicans want to reduce overall federal spending and may use it as a potential means to fund a tax package. If a debt ceiling agreement does impose strict budget caps on federal spending, the bipartisan approach enjoyed by leadership of the Appropriations Committees may break down, with the Chairs and Ranking Members forced to fight more aggressively to protect funding for their individual priorities.

House and Senate Armed Services Committees

House Armed Services Committee

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) has jurisdiction over all programs and policies pertaining to the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as other related national security programs. HASC is also the House Committee largely responsible for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Given the likely Republican majority in the House, HASC leadership is likely to remain the same as last Congress, with Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL) to remain Chairman and Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) to remain Ranking Member.

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)	Rep. Rogers will maintain his position as Chairman of HASC. Rogers ran unopposed in Alabama's 3rd district and is a long-time leader in the House on national security, serving as the HASC Chairman in the 118th Congress and as Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security in the 116th. Rogers is an advocate of bolstering the defense industrial base and innovation.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)	Rep. Smith will maintain his position as Ranking Member. Smith has been on HASC since he started his career in Congress in 1997 and is a long-time advocate for military readiness and personnel.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)	Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)	Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH)
Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ)	Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)	Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)
Rep. Jeff Jackson (D-NC)	Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)
Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D-NM)	Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)
Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA)	Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)	Rep. Scott Desjarlais (R-TN)
Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)	Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS)
Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)	Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL)
Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI)	Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)	Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)
Rep. Bill Keating (D-MA)	Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI)
Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ)	Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL)
Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)	Rep. James Moylan (R-GU)
Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)	Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO)
Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)	Rep. Cory Mills (R-FL)
Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX)	Rep. Richard McCormick (R-GA)
Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME)*	Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)

House and Senate Armed Services Committees

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Donald Davis (D-NC)	Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX)
Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA)	Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX)
Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA)	Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA)
Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA)	Rep. Pat Fallon (R-TX)
Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY)	Rep. Carlos Giménez (R-FL)
Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX)	Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)	Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN)
Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV)	Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL)
	Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX)
	Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY)
	Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Defense Innovation:** As Rep. Rogers and Rep. Smith retain Committee leadership, defense innovation will likely remain a HASC priority in the 119th Congress. The House version of the FY 2025 NDAA underscores the importance of rapidly deploying technologies to the field and avoiding the “Valley of Death” through expanded research partnerships and collaboration with nontraditional partners. For example, the bill would authorize a pilot program through the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to test and evaluate commercially available technology prior to fielding. The Committee also held a hearing to receive input from industry on [ways to better field innovative technologies](#). HASC leadership, along with other HASC members Rep. Bacon (R-NE) and Rep. Khanna (D-CA), wrote a bipartisan opinion in [DefenseNews](#) in October urging lawmakers to streamline the defense innovation process and modernize requirements for acquisition.
- Strengthening U.S. Defense Capabilities Against China:** As tensions rise with China, Rep. Rogers and other House Republicans have stressed the need to increase U.S. defense capabilities. This would include increasing production of munitions and weapons, expanding the country’s nuclear deterrent and missile defenses, and continuing investment in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and hypersonics. Many House Democrats have also expressed support for military technological innovation to compete with China.
- Research Security:** Research security will likely remain a priority for HASC in the next Congress, especially for House Republicans. The FY 2025 House NDAA includes provisions that address research security, academic integrity, and intellectual property (IP) theft, authorizing a \$5 million increase to basic research for a Research Security Consortium. The bill would also create new research security policies to manage risks related to cybersecurity, foreign travel, insider threat awareness, and export controls.

Senate Armed Services Committee

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) has jurisdiction over all programs and policies pertaining to the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as other related national security programs. It is the lead Committee in the Senate responsible for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). With the Senate flip to a Republican majority, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), the current Ranking Member, is positioned to take the top spot as Chairman of the Committee. As Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) is not up for reelection until 2026, he will likely maintain his long-standing leadership on SASC, shifting from Chairman to Ranking Member of the Committee.

House and Senate Armed Services Committees

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Rodger Wicker (R-MS)	Senator Wicker is expected to become Chairman after climbing to his role as Ranking Member in the 118th Congress. As Chairman, Senator Wicker would likely continue his calls for a “generational investment” in defense spending, which would result in substantial increases (billions) in defense authorization levels. Senator Wicker is an advocate for shipbuilding and the Navy, fielding new missile defense systems, and pushing the DOD to improve its modernization efforts.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)	As the Senate majority has flipped from Democratic to Republican, long-time defense policy leader and current SASC Chairman Jack Reed will likely shift to Ranking Member of SASC. Reed is also on the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and will likely support Chairman Wicker in pursuit of increased defense funding to enhance competitiveness and security.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)	Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR)
Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)
Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)
Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)	Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)
Senator Angus King (I-ME)	Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)	Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)	Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)
Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)
Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ)	Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
	Senator Eric Schmidt (R-MS)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Increasing Defense Spending:** SASC leadership often touts its tradition of bipartisanship on national security priorities, such as addressing threats and competition from adversaries and investing in critical and emerging technologies. The Committee will likely continue its push for substantial increases in defense spending, as reflected in the \$25 billion FY 2025 NDAA topline increase, far surpassing limits set by the Fiscal Responsibility Act and FY 2025 House-passed version of its NDAA. Senator Wicker has historically called for aggressive increases for defense spending, as noted in his recent [white paper](#) calling for a “generational” \$55 billion investment in the defense budget to “ensure the national security industrial base.” Senator Wicker hails from the shipbuilding state of Mississippi and has been a longtime champion of expanding the Navy, which will likely be reflected in future

House and Senate Armed Services Committees

authorization levels and spending plans. Senator Wicker's plan also includes calls for significant growth for the U.S. Space Force, especially scaling procurement programs. The next Administration will likely be aligned with Senator Wicker on this push, as the Space Force was established under the first Trump Administration.

- **Bolstering U.S. Leadership in Emerging Technologies:** U.S. competitiveness in emerging technologies will continue to be a priority for SASC leadership. SASC traditionally protects and augments basic research investments, while encouraging innovative mechanisms and programs to rapidly deliver fieldable technologies to the warfighter. Senator Wicker has previously expressed support for increased investments in emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, hypersonics, and domestic semiconductor manufacturing.
- **Addressing the Conflict in Ukraine:** Senator Wicker is a vocal advocate for Ukraine, having urged the Biden Administration to hasten weapon transfers and deliver more vehicles, drones, and unmanned aerial systems to Ukraine in last month's [letter](#) to President Biden. Ukraine will likely be a near-term issue for SASC leadership, as President-elect Trump has expressed urgency to end the war between Russia and Ukraine. In addition to Ukraine, SASC will likely continue its efforts to mitigate looming threats from growing adversaries and strengthen relationships in the Indo-Pacific and within AUKUS.
- **Research Security:** In the vein of protecting against risks posed by China, both SASC and HASC have prioritized additional research security measures. The FY 2025 SASC NDAA includes several provisions related to research security, including requirements related to award compliance, collaboration restrictions, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. While some proposed measures differ between SASC and HASC, there remains mutual agreement that research security must continue to be legislated and refined to protect national competitiveness and intellectual property.

House and Senate Budget Committees

The House and Senate Budget Committees have as their primary responsibility the preparation of an annual budget resolution to outline a fiscal blueprint for the nation in terms of spending, revenues, and entitlement and mandatory programs. The committees have no subcommittees and meet as a full Committee to discuss overall federal priorities. Annual budget resolutions are typically political documents that reflect the fiscal priorities of the majority party. However, budget resolutions determine top line discretionary spending, known as the 302(a) allocation, that is then used by the Appropriations Committees to make annual spending decisions. In addition, the Committees can initiate the reconciliation process which expedites legislation and can pass with a simple majority vote in both the House and Senate, rather than the typical filibuster-proof majority (60 votes) in the Senate. The process has been used several times to consider and pass major spending, revenue, and entitlement legislation, such as the *Inflation Reduction Act* passed by Democrats in August 2022.

House Budget Committee

No major changes are expected to House Budget Committee leadership. The current Chairman, Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX), has been leading the Committee since January 2023 and is expected to remain in his leadership position, and current Ranking Member, Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA), is also similarly expected to remain in his post.

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)	The current Chairman of the Budget Committee and is expected to continue to serve as Chairman.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)	The current Ranking Member and is expected to continue serving in this role

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)	Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)
Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)	Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC)
Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)	Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)
Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)	Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)
Rep. Becca Balint (D-VT)	Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)
Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA)	Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)	Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)	Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI)
Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY)	Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-3)	Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)
Rep. Dan Kitdee (R-MI)	Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)
Rep. Barbara Lee (R-CA)	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)
Rep. Jennifer Wexton (R-VA)	Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS)
Rep. David Trone (R-MD)	Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)
	Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN)
	Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN)

House and Senate Budget Committees

Changes to Committee Membership, continued

Democrats	Republicans
	Rep. Josh Brecheen (R-OK)
	Rep. Chuck Edwards (D-NC)
	Rep. Greg Lopez (R-CO)
	Rep. Bob Good (R-VA)
	Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)
	Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA)

Senate Budget Committee

The Senate Budget Committee is facing major changes with both a new Chairman and Ranking Member. The top Democrat, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), is likely to become the Ranking Member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, opening up the top spot for Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR). The top Republican, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) instead is expected to become Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, opening up the top spot again for Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC).

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Senator Graham is switching roles with Senator Grassley and is expected to be the new Chairman.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Senator Merkley is expected to become the new Ranking Member with Senator Whitehouse expected to take the top Democratic spot on the Environment and Public Works Committee.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
<i>Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)</i>	<i>Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)</i>
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)	Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)
<i>Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)</i>	Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)
Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	<i>Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT)</i>
Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)	Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)	<i>Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)</i>
Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)	Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)
Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)	Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)
Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)	Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)	

House and Senate Budget Committees

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Debt Ceiling:** The Budget Committee will be primarily responsible for leading negotiations in raising the debt ceiling. As mentioned previously, the federal government will reinstate the debt ceiling on January 1, 2025. The Treasury Department will then employ “extraordinary measure” to temporarily keep the government from defaulting on its obligation until Congress enacts legislation to extend or raise the debt ceiling.
- **Budget Agreement and Top Line Spending:** Under regular order, Congress typically passes a budget agreement that sets a top line discretionary spending level and distribution of funding between defense and non-defense spending. This budget blueprint is drafted by the House and Senate Budget Committees with strong guiding input from congressional leadership. As it appears likely that Republicans will have full control of both chambers, the Budget Committees will play a key role during the budget reconciliation process, which is the procedural mechanism of choice for enacting tax policy. The primary advantage of budget reconciliation is that both the budget and subsequent legislation receive expedited review and cannot be filibustered in the Senate, requiring only a majority vote to garner passage.
- **Oversight Priorities:** The House and Senate Budget Committees under Republican control will likely continue to focus on inflation and other economic issues.

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee has jurisdiction over multiple key research agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and certain modal administrations within the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Committee also has jurisdiction over communications, broadband, and college athletics.

Lead Republican Ted Cruz (R-TX) and lead Democrat Maria Cantwell (D-WA) are expected to swap roles as Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee given Republican takeover of the Senate. Senator Cruz is expected to bring a dramatically different focus to the Committee as the two have regularly clashed. These differences include approaches to artificial intelligence, scrutiny of DEI activities at federal research agencies, the emphasis on research security, and increased attention to human spaceflight.

The Committee's membership will be slightly affected by the results of the 2024 election. Of note, Senator Sinema, Chair of the Space and Science Subcommittee, is retiring. Other Senators departing the Committee include Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) and Senator J.D. Vance (R-OH), who will be assuming his role as Vice President.

Potential Republican Leadership	
Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)	Senator Cruz is expected to become the Committee's Chairman based on his seniority and involvement in policy matters that will come before the Committee during the 119 th Congress.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	Senator Cantwell is expected to re-assume her role as Ranking Member based on her seniority and for the Committee's jurisdiction over issues important to her constituents.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)
Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	Senator John Thune (R-SD)
Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)	Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)	Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)
Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)	Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)	Senator Todd Young (R-IN)
Senator Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ)	Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)
Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	Senator Eric Schmitt (R-MO)
Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)	Senator JD Vance (R-OH)
Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO)	Senator Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)
Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA)	Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
Senator Peter Welch (D-VT)	

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation:** The Senate Commerce Committee will most likely make Congressional action on AI a priority. In 2024, the Senate Bipartisan AI Working Group released their AI roadmap to provide direction for Congressional Committees in shaping AI legislation, in which they proposed to invest \$32 billion in AI R&D. The Senate Commerce Committee played a significant role in introducing a variety of AI related legislation, most notably several bills geared towards fostering innovation at several federal agencies. AI legislation is seen as an area for bipartisan cooperation as evidenced by numerous pieces of legislation being co-sponsored by both sides of the aisle in 2024. Senator Cruz has noted his disagreements with much of the legislation approved by the Committee this Congress and would likely take a different approach that emphasizes innovation and rolls back Biden-era safety and regulatory initiatives.
- **Research Security and Scrutiny of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts:** Senator Cruz has noted his concern with research security and will likely look for ways to strengthen protections. In addition, his committee staff recently released a report outlining what they said was excessive DEI funding by the National Science Foundation. Senator Cruz may look to curtail these investments or take away funding from perceived bad actors. For example he has proposed making no NSF funding available to any university that is under Title VI investigation over their campus climate and antisemitism.
- **Oversight of Infrastructure/Chips & Science:** Senator Cruz will most likely use the platform as an opportunity to highlight perceived wasteful spending and harmful policies resulting from major landmark legislation passed in the Biden Administration or may seek to modify the legislation.
- **NASA and Commercial Space:** Senator Cruz has always maintained a strong interest in NASA with human spaceflight and Texas' Johnson Space Center as his top priorities and these are likely to continue in the 119th Congress. Senator Cruz is also interested in rolling back government regulations for commercial space activities. Senator Cantwell also maintains an interest in civil and commercial space; this joint interest lends itself to the possibility that NASA and space related authorizing legislation may be introduced.
- **Online Privacy & Technology:** With jurisdiction over the Department of Commerce and the Federal Communications Commission, the Committee is central to both parties' increased scrutiny of the technology sector and social media platforms. Previous legislative proposals intended to safeguard the online privacy of children and combat harassment will most likely be debated in the next Congress.
- **College Athletics:** Senator Cruz has been a proponent for and championed legislation to add a federal framework to guide college athletics rules and codify student athlete name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights.
- **Other Priorities:** The Committee will also examine domestic spectrum policy and its impact national security and the research community. The Committee is likely to resume work on a broad wildfire prevention and response bill, as passage of current proposals in the Senate are unlikely to see a final vote in the lame duck. The Committee could also examine the role of government research and development for quantum computing.

House Education and Workforce Committee

House Education and the Workforce Committee has jurisdiction over the federal education and workforce programs, in addition to exercising oversight over worker health and safety, employment-related health and retirement security, and school lunch and child nutrition programs, among other issues.

Leadership of the committee will change despite anticipated Republican control of the House, as current Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) is term limited in her leadership role. Representatives Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Burgess Owens (R-UT) are the top contenders to replace Congresswoman Foxx as the leader of the Committee. Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) will remain in his Ranking Member role.

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)	Representative Walberg is the more senior of the two contenders to replace Congresswoman Foxx (R-NC). He has served on the Education and the Workforce Committee his entire tenure in Congress and openly challenged Congresswoman Foxx for the leadership role after the 2022 midterm elections.
Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT)	Representative Owens is the current chair of the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development. He is relying on his leadership of that subcommittee and its oversight efforts related to campus climate at institutions of higher education in his leadership bid.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)	Representative Scott is the current Ranking Member and is expected to maintain his leadership role as the top Democrat on the committee.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)	Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)	Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)	Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT)
Det. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sabtan (D-Northern Mariana Islands)	Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)
Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)	Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)	Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)
Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)	Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)	Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)	Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)
Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ)	Rep. James Comer (R-KY)
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)	Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)
Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)	Rep. Bob Good (R-VA)
Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)	Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)
Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)	Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL)

House Education and Workforce Committee

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)	Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA)*
Rep. Kathy Manning (D-NC)	Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS)
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)	Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)
Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM)	Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA)
Rep. Frank Mrvan (D-IN)	Rep. Aaron Bean (R-FL)
Rep. Jamaat Bowman (D-NY)	Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO)
	Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX)
	Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR)
	Rep. Brandon Williams (R-NY)
	Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN)
	Rep. Michael Rulli (R-OH)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Workforce Development:** Workforce development is expected to be an on-going area of bipartisan interest. The committee is likely to continue efforts to reauthorize the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)* and modernize the apprenticeship system. There is strong support for efforts to closer align education and workforce development efforts and extend some eligibility of some federal financial aid programs to high-quality workforce development programs.
- Oversight of Higher Education:** Concerns related to affordability of higher education, student loan debt, campus climate issues and student safety, university endowments and their uses, research security, and implications of unionization of student athletes and graduate students are going to continue to be of interest. Members in the majority may also explore mechanisms to alter the non-profit status of institutions of higher education and expand the existing university endowment tax through efforts related to anticipated tax legislation in the 119th Congress.
- Emerging Technologies and Innovation in Education:** The committee is expected to continue to examine the potential positive and negative impacts of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence in the K-12 and postsecondary education spaces. Mechanisms to increase student achievement through the innovative application of emerging technologies in classrooms will be of interest.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce (E&C) has jurisdiction over national policies related to biomedical research, healthcare programs, food and drug safety, public health, environmental protections, the supply and delivery of energy, and college athletics. The Committee also oversees several federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration. Priorities in the 119th Congress may include:

- Continued Oversight of Public Health Agencies
- Pharmacy Benefit Managers
- Healthcare Workforce and Substance Use Disorder
- Energy Competitiveness and Oversight
- College Athletics

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)	Current Chair of the Health Subcommittee and likely frontrunner for the top Republican spot.
Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)	Current Chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee.
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)	Leads the National Republican Congressional Committee.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)	Current Ranking Member and will remain the top Democrat on the Committee.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)	Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)	Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)	Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)
Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)	Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)	Rep. H. Morgan Griffith (R-VA)
Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)	Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL)
Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)	Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)	Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)	Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA)	Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)
Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA)	Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC)
Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL)
Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL)
Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX)	Rep. John R. Curtis (R-UT)
Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH)	Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ)
Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL)	Rep. Greg Pence (R-IN)

House Energy and Commerce Committee

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA)	Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	Rep. John Joyce (R-PA)
Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)	Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)	Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX)
Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA)	Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)
Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)	Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH)
Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)	Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID)
	Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)
	Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN)
	Rep. Marianne Miller-Meeks (R-IA)*
	Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL)
	Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA)
	Rep. John James (R-MI)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Continued Oversight of Public Health Agencies:** The Committee is expected to continue its oversight and investigations into emergency funds provided for the COVID-19 public health emergency, inquiries into the origins of COVID-19, and scrutiny of career agency officials. Some public health agencies, including the CDC and FDA may be further targeted for additional oversight and reform.
- NIH Reauthorization:** While outgoing Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) spearheaded efforts to dramatically restructure NIH in the 118th Congress, it is likely that her Republican colleagues remaining on the Committee will continue to pursue NIH reform to some degree in the future.
- Pharmacy Benefit Managers:** The Committee is likely to take up legislation to reform the practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). PBMs operate as middlemen who manage prescription drug benefits. Over the years, PBMs have operated without much transparency over their business practices and have profited from the rebates they negotiate. Some of these organizations have sought to capture higher payments from insurance companies than they pay retail pharmacies, a practice known as spread pricing. These actions have been shown to drive up the cost of prescription drugs for consumers. Reforming PBM practices has become a bipartisan issue.
- Healthcare Workforce and Substance Use Disorder:** Congress reauthorized several mental and behavioral health professions training and education programs through fiscal year (FY) 2027 as part of the *Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022* signed into law through the FY 2023 appropriations bill. However, additional healthcare professions training and education grants are set to expire before the end of the 118th Congress and will need to be reauthorized before the end of the calendar year. In addition, programs that address the behavioral healthcare workforce shortage have received bipartisan support and the Committee is likely to move on legislation addressing the substance use disorder crisis, fentanyl in particular.
- Energy:** The Committee is likely to focus on many energy priorities, including preparing for the Energy Policy Act of 2025, federal permitting reform, repealing provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, and expanding investments and incentives for domestic oil and natural gas production. Strengthening American nuclear competitiveness,

House Energy and Commerce Committee

ensuring energy security, reliability, and affordability are also likely to be top priorities for the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A Republican-controlled Committee will also work alongside the Trump Administration to focus on repeal and reform of some energy and climate incentives designed to boost clean energy investments from the *Inflation Reduction Act*.

- **College Athletics:** As part of the Committee's interstate commerce and consumer protection jurisdiction, the Committee may try to advance a federal framework for the accelerating student athlete name, image, and likeness compensation market in the 119th Congress. This issue has bipartisan appeal, but setting a federal standard may be difficult given state laws and complex challenges of the regulatory and enforcement landscape. This issue may become a larger priority following the finalization of the *House v. NCAA* settlement in the spring of 2024. The settlement is likely to result in a collegiate athletics revenue sharing model that many institutions would like to see codified into law that protects them from future litigation and maintains competitive equity.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee has jurisdiction over national energy policies, including Department of Energy (DOE) research and development programs, DOE National Lab management, the use of public lands for energy extraction, water resources management, and oversight over the U.S. Forest Service, National Parks, recreation areas, and historic sites. Potential priorities in the 119th Congress include:

- The *Energy Act of 2025*
- DOE artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum legislation, if not passed by the end of the year as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA)
- Federal energy permitting reform, if not included in an end-of-year package
- Wildfire preparedness, mitigation, resilience, and response
- Oversight of clean energy development and deployment

This Committee will go through the most significant leadership change in the Senate, with both a new Chairman and Ranking Member. With the current Chairman, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), retiring at the end of 2024, Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) is expected to become the lead Democrat on the Committee. New Mexico is home to two DOE National Labs and is a prominent energy producing state. As current Ranking Member Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) is running for Republican Whip, he will relinquish his top position on the Committee and open the position to Senator Mike Lee (R-UT). If Senator Lee chooses to pursue a Cabinet-level position with the Trump Administration, it would open up the position to Senator Steve Daines (R-MT).

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)	Senator Lee is expected to chair the Committee, but is exploring a Cabinet-level position in the Trump Administration.
Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)	Senator Daines would be the next-most senior Member without competing Committee assignments and would likely take the position if Senator Lee leaves the Committee.

Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Senator Heinrich is the most senior member on the Committee with no other competing Committee assignments.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)	Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)
Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)
Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	Senator James Risch (R-ID)
Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)
Senator Angus King (I-ME)	Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO)	Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)	

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Energy Act of 2025:** Congress typically advances the *Energy Act* every five years and the last major legislation was in 2020. The *Energy Act* will set major energy policy and research and development priorities for the next five years and will reauthorize primarily DOE applied energy programs such as renewables, energy efficiency, advanced nuclear, fossil energy, energy storage, grid reliability, and workforce development. The legislation is also likely to include expansion of entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and commercialization activities.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning:** As DOE's role in AI research and development continues to grow, this field will remain a key priority for the Committee, with a particular focus on the energy efficiency and energy consumption of AI, as well as the construction and ownership of data centers that house this information. The Committee will look to further expand program activities to include specific applications and coordination with the applied energy programs. If Congress does not pass the *DOE AI Act* by the end of the year, which focuses on innovation and trustworthy AI programs, it will likely be reintroduced in the new Congress.
- **Quantum Science and Technology:** Senator Daines co-sponsored the *DOE Quantum Leadership Act*, which would authorize \$775 million over five years to continue and further expand DOE quantum science and technology research and development activities. If Congress does not pass this legislation by the end of the year, the Committee will reintroduce the legislation in the new Congress. The Committee will likely continue to take an active role in overseeing the Department's role in quantum information science.
- **Permitting Reform and Resource Management:** A priority for Republican leadership is permitting reform for energy and mineral projects in the United States. The goal is to streamline, accelerate, and reduce the cost of building new energy projects. The Committee will also continue to advance legislation focused on restoring U.S. production of critical minerals and materials. Other topics of interest are likely to include forestry and wildlife management in coordination with the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee.
- **Oversight of Clean Energy Deployment and Demonstration:** Another major priority for the Committee will be overseeing the implementation of \$50 billion in funding DOE received for clean energy demonstration projects, such as Hydrogen Hubs and energy storage supply chain manufacturing facilities, in the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL). The Committee will also review the implementation of tax provisions for clean energy projects in the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA). Unspent funds are likely to be rescinded and used to pay for the tax package.
- **Wildland Fires:** Improving forest management and mitigation, resilience, and wildfire response has been a bipartisan priority in the 118th Congress and is expected to continue to gain attention from the Committee in 2025, including as it relates to forest products and partnerships between the federal government and state and local entities.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) oversees seven federal agencies including the Department of Interior (DOI), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Committee's leadership and members have remained relatively stable over the last two Congresses, but the retirement of Chairman Carper (D-DE) will bring a shakeup to leadership. Senator Carper and future Chairwoman Shelley Moore Capito enjoyed a productive working relationship but should a staunch climate Democrat such as Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) take over, the divide between the two could become more partisan. Committee membership on the Democratic side is expected to have more change due to retirements and shifting to the minority.

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Senator Lee is expected to chair the Committee but is exploring a Cabinet-level position in the Trump Administration.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Shelton Whitehouse (D-RI)	Senator Sheldon Whitehouse is the current Chair of the Senate Budget Committee and has not yet committed if he will be willing to give up that seat for EPW. If Senator Whitehouse stays on Budget, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) would become Chair of EPW.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	Senator Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)
Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)	Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)	Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	Senator John Boozman (R-AR)
Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)	Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE)
Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ)	Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
Senator John Fetterman (D-PA)	

Potential Committee Priorities

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act Oversight:** Incoming Chairwoman Capito will likely use the Committee to oversee implementation of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and *Inflation Reduction Act*. This may involve critiques of ongoing spending, the use and dissemination of funds, and climate projects. Some priorities may include ensuring building in rural areas, buying American made materials, and energy infrastructure.
- Hazardous Chemicals and Water Regulation Oversight:** The Committee oversees matters pertaining to toxic chemicals, hazardous waste, and water infrastructure. The Biden Administration's prioritization of PFAS

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

abatement, lead pipe replacement, and other public health-related investments and regulations are likely to be a focus of the Committee. With a Republican majority, there may be a focus on the burden of new regulations and the need for new or updated rulemaking and attention to improving national security of the U.S. water infrastructure. In addition, the Committee may also wish to take up action considering the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this past summer to overturn the Chevron Doctrine. Now that federal courts are no longer required to defer to executive agencies' "reasonable interpretation" of ambiguous statutes, we can anticipate EPW holding hearings to highlight instances of executive overreach especially by EPA and NOAA and to introduce legislation to provide greater specificity on agency regulatory authorities – including on hazardous chemicals.

- **Surface Transportation:** EPW will have some oversight over surface transportation reauthorization when it comes up in the next Congress including over infrastructure projects and the Federal Highway Administration. This jurisdiction will include the Highway Administration's research center and research programs.

Senate Finance Committee

With Republicans taking control of the committee, the Senate Finance committee will likely be spending most of 2025 focused on the reauthorization of the TCJA, and health policy reforms. The Committee oversees a number of vital federal offices and agencies, including the Treasury Department, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the Social Security Administration.

Potential Republican Leadership

Mike Crapo (R-ID)	Senator Crapo is expected to become Chairman of the Committee.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Senator Wyden is expected to become the Ranking Member of the Committee.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)	<i>Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)</i>
Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)
Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)	Senator John Thune (R-SD)
Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)	Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)
Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)	Senator James Lankford (R-OK)
Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)	Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)
Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)	Senator Todd Young (R-IN)
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)
Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)
Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)	Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Senator George Helmy (D-NJ)	

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Tax Reauthorization and Reform:** The Finance Committee will be at the center of negotiations over the reauthorization of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (TCJA), the tax cuts enacted during the first Trump administration. Should the administration seek to expand the current tax policy or seek ways to offset the cost of a reauthorization package, the Finance Committee will take lead in drafting legislation.
- **Prescription Drug Price Negotiation:** The Committee successfully worked with the House Ways and Means Committee and White House to pass prescription drug price negotiation in Medicare. The committee under Republican leadership may seek to modify the prescription drug negotiation program in the IRA during the 119th Congress.
- **Trade Policy:** The committee will be the first place to debate Trump's campaign promise to impose stricter tariffs on trade partners, particularly China. In addition to holding confirmation hearings for the next United States Trade

Senate Finance Committee

Representative (USTR), the committee will oversee the enactment of trade policies and enforcement actions by the administration at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other venues.

- **Medicare Advantage:** The committee could seek to reform the Medicare Advantage (MA) program under Republican leadership. Senators from both parties have been concerned about payments to insurance plans, but members could be eyeing savings generated in MA for tax reform in the 119th Congress
- **Medicaid:** The committee will be coordinating with the House Ways and Means committee if the administration were to pursue reforms in the Medicaid program. Some conservatives in Congress, and potential Trump nominees for positions at HHS, have sought to enact stricter eligibility requirements and financing options for the program.
- **Higher Education Tax Policy:** Tax issues being closely watched by higher education include threats to tax-exempt status, growing congressional interest in expanding the private college endowment excise tax, and a revisiting of 2017 proposals to limit tuition remission, tax student benefits, and broaden taxability of non-profit activities.

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee has jurisdiction over higher education, healthcare, workforce development, and a litany of other policy issues relevant to institutions of higher education and research organizations.

Current Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), is expected to take control of the Committee. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is likely to remain the Democratic leader of the Senate HELP Committee as Ranking Member.

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) is expected to take over as Chairman of the HELP Committee. He is currently serving as the committee's Ranking Member.

Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Senator Sanders is expected to remain the Democratic leader of the HELP Committee and assume the Ranking Member role.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)	Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)
Senator Robert Casey (D-PA)	Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)	Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)
Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)	Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)
Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT)
Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)	Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)	Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO)	Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)
Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)	

Potential Committee Priorities

- Oversight of Higher Education:** While a comprehensive reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act* is unlikely, the HELP Committee is expected to continue efforts to increase oversight of the higher education sector and the Department of Education, including through bills that were introduced in previous Congresses, such as the *College Transparency Act* and the *College Cost Reduction Act*. There is expected to be continued bipartisan interest in issues related to research security and oversight of the Department of Education's rollout of the updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
- Workforce Development:** The HELP Committee began work in earnest on the reauthorization of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) this Congress and workforce development maintains bipartisan support on the committee. If the HELP Committee is not able to get WIOA across the finish line in the lame duck, it is expected to remain a top bipartisan area of interest in the 119th Congress, as is general support for

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

apprenticeships and the expansion of the Pell Grant to high-quality workforce development programs. Health workforce priorities such as health professional shortages, telehealth and technology, and mental health services will remain on the agenda for the committee on both sides of the aisle.

- **Healthcare and Biomedical Research:** As the Administration transitions, a major priority for the HELP Committee in the healthcare and biomedical research space will be appointing and confirming a number of HHS officials. Other issues that could come up before the committee include reauthorizing the *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act* (PAHPA), reforming requirements for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), advancing health professions workforce training, and negotiating drug prices.
- **NIH Reauthorization:** Reforming NIH has been a longstanding priority for potential Chairman Bill Cassidy (R-LA). Earlier this year, Senator Cassidy released a [white paper](#) with several proposals influenced by relevant stakeholders that highlighted opportunities for improvement across the agency. This issue is likely to remain of interest in the 119th Congress.

House Homeland Security & Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees

The House and Senate Homeland Security Committees have wide jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) whose mission includes domestic border security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, disaster relief, and transportation security. This includes oversight on the DHS subagencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), United States Secret Service (USSS), Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and more. Additionally, the Senate Committee has responsibility and oversight over federal operations.

House Committee on Homeland Security

Although Representative Mark Green (R-TN) initially announced he intended to retire from Congress, he reversed his decision and went on to win re-election. He is expected to retain his position as Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, while Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS) is likely to remain the top Democrat on the committee.

The effectiveness of both the House and Senate Homeland Security Committees is somewhat constrained by their shared jurisdiction over some or all parts of the agency with numerous other congressional committees and subcommittees. Despite this, the House Committee and Subcommittee Chairs will face no shortage of pressing issues to address in the upcoming 119th Congress. With House Republicans maintaining their majority, it is likely that the House Homeland Security Committee will focus their efforts on conservative immigration initiatives and legislation, spurred by President-elect Donald Trump's return to the White House in January 2025.

In the weeks leading up to the election, many Republicans called for the resignation of the Secretary of Homeland Security and expressed dissatisfaction with the Biden Administration's handling of the border crisis. However, there may still be opportunities for bipartisan collaboration, particularly in areas such as bolstering cyber & critical infrastructure security, enhancing the nation's preparedness for natural and man-made disasters, and combating violent extremism.

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Mark Green (R-TN)	Sitting Chairman of the House Homeland Committee, Dr. Green is expected to retain his position as Chair.
Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA)	Aside from former Chairman Mark Green, Representative Higgins is the next most senior Member of the Committee, currently serving as Ranking Member of the Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations Subcommittee. Of the three names floated for potential Committee Chairmanship, Representative Higgins is arguably the most outspoken critic of the Biden Administration and the only Member currently sitting on the Committee.
Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)	A former Member of the House Homeland Committee and a current Member in a border state, Rep Crenshaw has been a steady critic of the Biden Administration's border policies.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS)	Current committee Ranking Member; not subject to term limits and not being challenged by other Members.

House Homeland Security & Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS)	Rep. Mark Green (R-TN)
Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI)	Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)
Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA)	Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA)
Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA)	Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS)
Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)	Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC)
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)	Rep. Carlos Gimenez (R-FL)
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)	Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)
Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI)	Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)
Rep. Glen Ivey (D-MD)	Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)
Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY)	Rep. Tony Gonzalez (R-TX)
Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA)	Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY)
Rep. Delia Ramirez (D-IL)	Rep. Mike Ezell (R-MS)
Rep. Rob Menendez Jr. (D-NJ)	Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (D-NY)
Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY)	Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL)

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Following Senate Republicans reclaiming control of the upper chamber, outspoken Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) is expected to become Chairman of HSGAC. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) will most likely stay on the committee in the role of ranking member. With Republicans taking control of the White House, House of Representatives, and Senate, it can be expected that President-elect Donald Trump will attempt to utilize the new majorities on the committee in his favor to exercise his immigration and security policy goals. Senator Paul has improved his relationship with the President-elect in recent weeks, likely in attempt to secure executive support for committee activities exploring and scrutinizing high-risk biological research and passing conservative immigration measures.

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)	Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) is the most Senior member of the Committee in the 118 th Congress and is expected to become the chairman of the committee in the 119 th now that Senate Republicans reclaimed the majority.
Senator James Lankford (R-OK)	Current Ranking Member of the Government Operations and Border Management Subcommittee. Former Chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management.

Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)	Current Chairman and not being challenged by other Members.
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House Homeland Security & Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
<i>Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-MI)</i>	<i>Chairman Rand Paul (R-KY)</i>
Senator Krysten Sinema (-AZ)	Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)
Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)
Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)	<i>Senator James Lankford (R-OK)</i>
Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)
Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)
Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA)	<i>Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT)</i>
Senator Laphonza Butler (D-GA)	

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Government Oversight:** The Senator Paul-led Committee will be a key avenue for President-elect Trump to advance his priority of reducing the size and strength of the federal government. The Committee is likely to examine ways to downsize federal agencies, reduce the number of federal employees, and potentially support the moving of federal agencies outside of the Washington, D.C. metro region. The oversight agenda will also likely continue with intense scrutiny of the U.S. Secret Service following two failed assassination attempts on then-candidate Donald Trump during the election cycle.
- **Cybersecurity/Cyber-Defense:** With emerging cyber and digital threats from a range of foreign adversaries, HSGAC will continue to focus on the need to bolster domestic cybersecurity and cyberinfrastructure capabilities and posture across the federal landscape. The Committee will serve as the lead Congressional voice for Trump Administration efforts to expand cyber-defense capacity and bolster cyber resilience in the event of cyberattacks.
- **Disaster Response:** The Homeland Committees play a strong role in disaster management through their oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Another avenue of interest to the Committee will be intense weather events, and the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to safeguard US infrastructure against the threat of weather-related disasters. A new Congress could explore enhanced disaster preparedness capabilities at the agency.
- **Risky Research and Biological Threats:** Senator Rand Paul has been a main proponent of efforts to impose additional oversight on health and biomedical research agencies in order to crack down on funded research deemed risky. Senator Paul has also scrutinized federal agencies and individuals he suspects of obfuscating information about the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. In his new role as Chairman, Senator Paul is likely to continue his push for legislation to institute new restrictions or requirements on federally-funded biomedical research.
- **Violent Extremists:** The US Government's interest in violent extremism has only increased over the years since the creation of DHS. HSGAC is expected to continue investigating the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to counter violent extremism. With President-elect Donald Trump returning to the White House and the GOP controlling the Senate, there is potential that groups investigated and targeted under these efforts are realigned to better meet Trump's administration and GOP-controlled Senate priorities.
- **Immigration:** Senator Paul shares many of President-elect Donald Trump's hardliner positions on immigration, making him a key ally for the President-elect's immigration policy agenda. Under Senator Paul's leadership, it is likely that the committee will pursue conservative immigration legislation throughout the next Congress, including border wall funding, increased immigration enforcement officers and resources, and asylum policy changes.

House and Senate Judiciary Committees

The Senate and House Judiciary Committees oversee a variety of issues, including certain immigration provisions, patent and intellectual property reform, and law enforcement. Additionally,, the Senate Judiciary Committee is responsible for holding confirmation hearings for the President’s federal judicial nominees.

House Judiciary Committee

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) is expected to continue serving as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) will continue to lead Democrats on the Committee as Ranking Member. Rep. Jordan, a close ally of President-elect Trump, and is expected to aggressively pursue his agenda of advancing more restrictive immigration policies and oversight of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Specifically, President-elect Trump has accused the DOJ and the FBI of becoming politicized and being used by prior Democratic presidential administrations to investigate him as a political opponent. Under GOP control, the House Judiciary Committee may seek to hold combative hearings with former DOJ leaders and current career employees. Regarding immigration, an emboldened conservative wing will likely resist any concessions to Democrats, including protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and expansion/reform of STEM work visas. However, it’s unclear if Republicans will have the votes to advance an immigration reform package without the bipartisan provisions.

Potential Republican Leadership	
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)	Rep. Jordan, a close ally of President-elect Trump, will likely continue to serve as Chairman.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)	Rep. Nadler is expected to continue serving as Ranking Member.

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)	Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA)
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)	Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL)
Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA)	Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ)
Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)
Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)	Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-WI)
Rep. Luis Correa (D-CA)	Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)	Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)	Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC)
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)	Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN)
Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)	Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI)
Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)	Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR)
Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)	Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA)
Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX)	Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND)
Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC)	Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX)
Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO)	Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ)

House and Senate Judiciary Committees

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD)	Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL)
Rep. Becca Balint (D-VA)	Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX)
	Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC)
	Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY)
	Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX)
	Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA)
	Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL)
	Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX)

Senate Judiciary Committee

With Republicans taking control of the chamber, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) is expected to return to the Judiciary Committee as Chairman, retaking the role as lead Republican. He had previously ceded the top spot to Senator Lindsey Graham, who is currently serving as Ranking Member, when he took control of the Senate Budget Committee. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) will continue to lead the committee Democrats as Ranking Member.

Under Republican control, the Senate Judiciary Committee will be heavily focused on immigration policy reform. President-elect Trump has made restricting both legal and illegal immigration a priority, and Republicans on the Judiciary Committee are likely to push for many of his proposals. Senator Grassley is known as an immigration hardliner, and will likely support many of President-elect Trump's policy goals. Democrats on the committee will push for inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented individuals that arrived in the United States as children, currently protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. While this has been a bipartisan effort in past years, it may struggle to find support from Senator Grassley and immigration hardliners within the White House. Instead, the Judiciary Committee will likely focus on reducing the arrival of migrants applying for asylum and more easily deporting undocumented individuals. The Committee will also be the site of high-profile judicial confirmations, including potential Supreme Court Justices.

Potential Republican Leadership	
Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	Senator Grassley is expected to shift from the Budget Committee to the Judiciary Committee and take the Chairmanship role.
Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	In the event Senator Grassley chooses to lead the Budget Committee, Senator Graham will likely become Chairman. He has taken a more bipartisan approach to immigration reform.
Potential Democratic Leadership	
Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)	Senator Durbin is expected to remain the leading Democrat on the committee.

House and Senate Judiciary Committees

Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)	Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)
Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)	Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)
Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)
Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)	Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR)
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)
Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA)	Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)
Senator Peter Welch (D-VT)	Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA)	

Potential Committee Priorities

- Immigration:** Immigration is one of the most contentious issues heading into the 119th Congress. President-elect Trump has made cracking down on illegal immigration and restricting admission of asylum seekers key policy priorities, and the Judiciary Committees are expected to be responsive to those priorities. Without a supermajority, the Senate will need to work in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation. Likely Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) shares President-elect Trump's goals of cracking down on illegal immigration, reducing the flow of migrants seeking asylum into the country, and restricting opportunities for legal immigration. However, the need to work with Democrats to pass an immigration package may lead them to pair GOP priorities with protection for DACA recipients and reforms to H-1B work visas allowing for more high-skilled, STEM immigration.
- Oversight:** During the Biden Administration, the Republican-led House Judiciary Committee launched multiple investigations into federal appointees, members of the Biden family, and other high-profile Democrats. While some of this attention is likely to subside with President-elect Trump in the White House, Chairman Jordan will likely continue to use the Committee to investigate potential Biden Administration holdovers, such as Federal Trade Commissioner Lina Khan. Other targets of potential oversight and investigation from the House Judiciary Committee include institutions of higher education and technology companies accused of violating free speech protections, research organizations employing or coordinating with Chinese nationals, and any government entities seen as being partisan or biased towards Democrats.
- Judicial Nominations:** As has been the case across the past two presidential administrations, the Trump Administration is expected to aggressively pursue the nomination and confirmation of young, conservative judges to federal courts. These nominations will take up a considerable amount of the attention, effort, and time of the Senate Judiciary Committee, potentially reducing the amount of focus on other priorities.

House Natural Resources Committee

The House Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the Department of the Interior (DOI), parts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), research programs at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as general oceanography, mining, and water issues, including offshore wind energy. We anticipate Committee leadership will remain the same in the 119th Congress, with Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) continuing as the Committee Chair and Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) as the Ranking Member. This will be Ranking Member Grijalva’s last term in Congress, so some Committee Democrats, most notably Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), will be positioning themselves over the next two years to take over Democratic leadership on the Committee in the next session

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)	Rep. Westerman is likely to continue in his leadership role as Committee Chair. We expect that he will continue prioritizing oversight and reform efforts pertaining to environmental regulations, as well as promoting conservation and forestry initiatives
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)	Rep. Grijalva will likely continue his leadership within the House Natural Resources Committee as Ranking Member in his last term in Congress. Rep. Grijalva has long been a champion for environmental justice, environmental protection, and Tribal communities. We expect that he will continue to advocate for the needs of disadvantaged populations in his last session in Committee leadership.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)	Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)
Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)	Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Delegate Gregorio Sabtan (D-Northern Mariana Islands)	Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)
Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)
Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)
Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)
Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)	Del. Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa)
Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)*	Rep. Dan Webster (R-FL)
Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA)	Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico)
Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM)	Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID)
Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM)	Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)
Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)	Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-WI)
Rep. Mary Peltola (D-AK)*	Rep. Jerry Carl (R-AL)
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)	Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT)
Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-CA)	Rep. Jenn Kiggans (R-VA)

House Natural Resources Committee

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Val Hoyle (D-OR)	Rep. Jim Moylan (R-Guam)
Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA)	Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)
Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI)	Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX)
Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)	Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA)
	Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL)
	Rep. John Curtis (R-UT)
	Rep. John Duarte (R-CA)*
	Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY)
	Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Oversight and Reform:** Throughout the 118th Congress, the Committee was very active in conducting oversight over a wide variety of agencies and issues within their jurisdiction under Rep. Westerman’s leadership. The Committee is likely to continue that priority, particularly resulting from the Supreme Court overturning the *Chevron* Doctrine in June 2024. Rep. Westerman will likely continue and scale up his efforts to ensure that federal agencies comply with new rulemaking guidance post-*Chevron*, which Rep. Westerman stated had “unleashed decades of federal agency overreach.” Rep. Westerman had also initiated activities to reform the *Endangered Species Act*, the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA), and other cornerstone environmental regulatory legislation, and could be more successful in advancing these reforms through a like-minded Senate and White House.
- Permitting:** Aligned with oversight and reform efforts, House Republicans will likely seek to make targeted reforms to streamline and expand permitting for infrastructure projects that might otherwise be interrupted due to environmental concerns. Rep. Westerman and other Committee Republicans will specifically seek to support increased production and transportation of oil, natural gas, and critical minerals, as well as greater support generally for geothermal energy projects
- Conservation and Wildlife Protection:** The Committee is expected to maintain interest in conservation, coastal resilience, and wildlife habitat protection legislation during the 119th Congress. These issues are largely bipartisan and we expect additional action on legislation that is supportive of conservation projects in the next Congress. Bills such as the *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* and the *Trillion Trees Act*, which previously had momentum and bipartisan support under the first Trump Administration, but did not see further activity in the 118th Congress, could be among those re-introduced in 2025, along with others that passed the House in 2024 if they do not become enacted through an end-of-year legislative package. Rep. Westerman additionally introduced his own bill, the *America’s Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act*, demonstrating interest in these issues from Committee leadership.
- Forestry and Wildfires:** The Natural Resources Committee advanced several bills in the 118th Congress focused on promoting forest management and prevention, recovery, and resilience to wildland fires, including provisions to support additional wildfire-related research and development. After years of record extreme heat and destructive wildfires, many of the Republican-led House fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills explicitly provided greater support and directives for federal agencies to address the increasing threats posed by wildland fires, indicating an appetite from Republicans in Congress to advance legislative solutions to protect American forests from wildfires.

House Oversight and Accountability Committee

The House Oversight and Accountability Committee has legislative authority to oversee the federal civil service, the District of Columbia, the US. Postal Service, and overall efficiency of government operations, to include accounting, procurement, regulatory processes and spending systems. Additionally, the Oversight Committee considers itself to be the primary investigative body in the U.S. House of Representatives, with broad authority granted under House Rule X, permitting the Committee to investigate *any* matter, regardless of other standing House Committees' jurisdictions. Both parties traditionally select their most firebrand and outspoken members in safe districts to sit on this Committee.

The Committee is less likely to spend significant time investigating potential malfeasance by White House officials with one party in control of both the Legislative and Executive Branches. Instead, the Committee will likely hold hearings on perceived fraud, waste, bias, and abuse within federal agencies, as well as other activities to support President-elect Trump's goals to remake the federal workforce and operations. This will be especially relevant as the Trump campaign made several promises to focus on administrative reform, removing career bureaucrats that don't effectively carry out the administration's plans and replacing them with more political appointees.

We expect Representative James Comer (R-KY) to continue to serve as Chairman in the 119th Congress and Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) to continue as Ranking Member.

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. James Comer (R-KY)	Rep. Comer was Chair in the last Congress.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)	Rep. Raskin was the Ranking Member in the last congress.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)	Rep. James Comer (R-KY)
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)	Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)
Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)	Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH)
Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)	Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD)	Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)	Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)	Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL)
Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY)	Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL)
Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA)	Rep. Michael Cloud (R-TX)
Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)	Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX)
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)	Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA)
Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)	Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ)
Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH)	Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS)
Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM)	Rep. Pat Fallon (R-TX)

House Oversight and Accountability Committee

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA)	Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL)
Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL)	Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA)
Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA)	Rep. William Timmons (R-SC)
Rep. Greg Casar (D-CA)	Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN)
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)	Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)
Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO)	Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)	Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)
	Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC)
	Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL)
	Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY)
	Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO)
	Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Federal Workforce:** The Trump campaign had declared sweeping changes to federal workforce, including the relocating thousands of workers across the country, as well as efforts to fire “rouge bureaucrats” and classify others as outside of civil service protections. The Administration would be able to do most of these actions without Congress but the Committee could have hearings in support and offer congressional authority when needed. These actions could have a disruptive impact across the federal government and potentially effect the implementation of regulations and other agency operations. This may also be a home for considering the relocation of federal agencies outside of the DC metro area, another Trump campaign priority.
- Waste, Fraud, and Abuse:** The Trump campaign also pledged a new task force aimed at cutting federal programs and investigating other drastic reforms. The commission was suggested by Tesla founder Elon Musk and President-elect Trump agreed to allow him to lead it. The goals would be to eliminate perceived fraud and improper payments. The scope and scale of the commission’s actions are unknown. Any major restructuring efforts could require action from the committee.

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

The House Science, Space, and Technology Committee has jurisdiction over non-defense federal scientific research, development, and STEM education at NSF, DOE, NASA, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), EPA, Department of Transportation (DOT), and NOAA, among others. Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX) is expected to take over as Chairman of the Committee for Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK) who has reached his term limit. There will likely be several new faces as some prominent members retired or lost re-election and other junior committee members are likely to move on to new more sought-after committee assignments. While Rep. Babin has in the past acted in a bipartisan manner, he will be bringing new priorities to the committee and it is not yet clear if the committee will operate in the bipartisan way it did under Rep. Lucas or whether he will take a more combative approach.

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)	Rep. Babin is expected to replace the current chair, Rep. Lucas, who reached his term limit. As the former Space subcommittee Chair he may prioritize space, in addition to other republican priorities in basic research and technology development.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Rep. Lofgren is expected to continue as the Ranking Member of the committee.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)	Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK)
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)	Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)
Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)	Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX)
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)	Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH)
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)	Rep. Carlos Giménez (R-FL)
Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC)	Rep. Mike Garcia (R-CA)*
Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL)	Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX)
Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-OR)	Rep. Stephanie Bice (R-OK)
Rep. Valerie Foushee (D-NC)	Rep. Young Kim (R-CA)
Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-CA)	Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)
Rep. Jeff Jackson (D-NC)	Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS)
Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-OH)	Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA)
Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL)	Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)
Rep. Yadira Caraveo (D-GO)	Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA)
Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA)	Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)
Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA)	Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI)	Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)	Rep. Scott Franklin (R-FL)
	Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL)
	Rep. Max Miller (R-OH)

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
	Rep. Rich McCormick (R-GA)
	Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA)
	Rep. Brandon Williams (R-NY)
	Rep. Thomas Kean Jr. (R-NJ)
	Rep. Greg Lopez (R-CO)
	Rep. Vince Fong (R-CA)

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Oversight:** Under the last Trump Administration Republicans increased scrutiny of science agencies, with a specific focus on diversity and climate change related programs. This will include an increased focus on research security and foreign influence.
- **Energy Technologies:** The Committee is likely to shift its focus away from climate change to focus on the development of new energy technologies. This will include areas such as hydrogen, AI and Quantum, and the Committee will introduce a reauthorization of the Energy Act next year.
- **Space:** Republicans have shown interest in passing legislation authorizing and regulating the commercial space industry and NASA. This will include building off legislation the Committee approved in the 118th Congress.

House and Senate Small Business Committees

The House and Senate Small Business Committees are responsible for providing authorizations of programs within the Small Business Administration (SBA), overseeing protections and policies around small businesses, and providing oversight of SBA's management and federal programming.

House Small Business Committee

Leadership on this Committee is expected to remain stable. With Republican control of the House, the current Chairman, Roger Williams (R-TX), and current Ranking Member, Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), will remain in their leadership positions. Over the past two years, Chairman Roger Williams has led the charge on increasing oversight of SBA's federal programming, use of COVID-19 programs, and general accountability of the leadership. In the upcoming year, they will be expected to work in a bipartisan manner to advance the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs and potentially other legislation surrounding the reauthorization of the SBA.

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX)	The current Chair of the full Committee who will likely remain in leadership.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)	The current Ranking Member of the full Committee who will likely remain in leadership.
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Changes to House Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)	Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX)
Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN)	Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)
Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME)*	Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)
Rep. Greg Landsman (D-OH)	Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA)
Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY)	Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX)
Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)	Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL)
Rep. Hillary Scholten (D-MI)	Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS)
Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI)	Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)	Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY)
Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS)	Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO)
Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH)	Rep. Eli Crane (R-AZ)
Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV)	Rep. Aaron Bean (R-FL)
	Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX)
	Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY)
	Rep. Celeste Maloy (R-UT)

House and Senate Small Business Committees

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

The Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE) Committee will see some leadership change as well as a flip in the majority. The current Chairwoman, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), is poised to be Ranking Member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, opening up a spot in SBE leadership that will likely be filled by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA). Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) is expected to remain in leadership and become the Chairwoman of the Committee. The Senate is expected to lead on drafting SBA reauthorization legislation as Senator Ernst and previous Democratic leadership have worked on related issues in a bipartisan fashion in the past.

Potential Republican Leadership

Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)	Senator Ernst (R-IA) is the current Ranking Member and is likely poised to remain in leadership and take over as the Chairman of the Senate Committee.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)	Senator Markey (D-MA) is poised to take over as the Ranking Member of the Committee leadership.
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Changes to Senate Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	<i>Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)</i>
<i>Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)</i>	<i>Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)</i>
<i>Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)</i>	<i>Senator James Risch (R-ID)</i>
<i>Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)</i>	Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)	<i>Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)</i>
Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)	Senator Todd Young (R-IN)
Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)
Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)
Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)
Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO)	

House and Senate Small Business Committees

Potential Committee Priorities

- **SBIR/STTR Reauthorization:** The Small Business Committees have oversight over the authorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, which require more frequent reauthorization than the SBA writ large. In 2022, the Committee passed a [three-year reauthorization](#) of SBIR/STTR to avoid its expiration at the end of the year. This authorization is set to expire again in September of 2025. Also reauthorized in 2022 were popular pilot programs at federal agencies to stimulate innovation and commercialization activities. The reauthorization was very contentious due to opposition from then-Ranking Member Rand Paul (R-KY), but is not expected to face as much pushback from new Republican committee leadership. The main changes to the program and provisions to watch for in next year's legislative process include:
 - Provisions to address connections between small business awardees and China, specifically requiring applicants to disclose if their company has ties to "any foreign country of concern, including the People's Republic of China"
 - Federal agencies are prohibited from making awards to small businesses that have an owner or covered individual that is a part of a malign foreign talent recruitment program
 - Additional performance benchmarks required for Phase I and Phase II awardees
 - Creation of a Program on Innovation Open Topics at the Department of Defense (DOD) to encourage greater transition of commercial technology; grow the nontraditional industrial base of small businesses; increase the rate of commercialization from DOD investments; and create more flexibility for small businesses to propose solutions to the technology needs of DOD.
- **Small Business Administration Reauthorization:** The Small Business Administration (SBA) has not been formally reauthorized in roughly two decades; however, SBA leadership over the past several years has expressed interest in Congress moving on SBA reauthorization. Senator Ernst has stated that she is not interested in a reauthorization that would contain much new programming given the fiscally constrained environment, but the committee has demonstrated interest in improving and expanding existing programs like Small Business Development Centers, I-Corps, and Veterans' entrepreneurship. The changes to Democratic committee leadership has led to stalled momentum and shifting priorities, but it is likely the Senate will restart markups to hear from members and stakeholders on issues of importance to them in the 119th Congress.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has primary jurisdiction over modal administrations within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Committee is under the leadership of Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO). While Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) is seeking a waiver to remain Committee chair in the 119th Congress, the next highest ranking Republican, Rep. Rick Crawford (R-ARK), is seeking the top spot.

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)	Rep. Graves is currently the Chair and will potentially seek a waiver to maintain his role in the 119 th Congress.
Rep. Rick Crawford (R-ARK)	Rep. Crawford is the Chairman of the Highways Subcommittee and has expressed interest in the top spot.

Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)	Rep. Larsen is expected to continue as the Ranking Member.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)	Rep. Sam Graves (MO)
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)	Rep. Rick Crawford (AR)
Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)	Rep. Garret Graves (LA)
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)	Rep. Daniel Webster (FL)
Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)	Rep. Thomas Massie (KY)
Rep. Henry C. Johnson, Jr. (D-GA)	Rep. Scott Perry (PA)
Rep. André Carson (D-IN)	Rep. Brian Babin (TX)
Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)	Rep. David Rouzer (NC)
Rep. Jared Huffman (CA)	Rep. Mike Bost (IL)
Rep. Julia Brownley (CA)	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA)
Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (FL)	Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR)
Rep. Mark DeSautnier (CA)	Rep. Brian Mast (FL)
Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA)	Rep. Jennifer Gonzalez (PR)
Rep. Greg Stanton (AZ)	Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA)
Rep. Colin Allred (TX)	Rep. Pete Stauber (MN)
Rep. Sharice Davids (KS)	Rep. Troy Balderson (OH)
Rep. Jesús García (IL)	Rep. Pete Stauber (MN)
Rep. Chris Pappas (NH)	Rep. Tim Burchett (TN)
Rep. Seth Moulton (MA)	Rep. Dusty Johnson (SD)
Rep. Jake Auchincloss (MA)	Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (NJ)
Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA)	Rep. Lance Gooden (TX)
Rep. Troy Carter (LA)	Rep. Tracey Mann (KS)

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Changes to Committee Membership (continued)

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Pat Ryan (NY-18)	Rep. Burgess Owens (UT-04)
Rep. Mary Petota (AK-01)	Rep. Rudy Yakym (IN-02)
Rep. Rob Menendez (NJ-08)	Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-05)
Rep. Val Hoyle (OR-04)	Rep. Thomas Kean Jr. (NJ-21)
Rep. Emilia Sykes (OH-13)	Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (NY-4)
Rep. Hillary Scholten (MI-03)	Rep. Eric Burlison (MO-07)
Rep. Valerie Foushee (NC – 04)	Rep. John James (MI-10)
	Rep. Derrick Van Orden (WI-03)
	Rep. Brandon Williams (NY-22)
	Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19)
	Rep. Mike Collins (GA-10)
	Rep. Mike Ezell (MS-4)
	Rep. John Duarte (CA-13)
	Rep. Aaron Bean (FL-4)
	Rep. Celeste Maloy (UT-2)
	Rep. Kevin Kiley (CA-03)
	Rep. Vince Fong (CA-32)

Potential Committee Priorities

- Surface Transportation Reauthorization:** In the 119th Congress, the Committee will begin the process for the Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act. The bill is a 5-year reauthorization that invests in America's roads, bridges, highways, and authorizes program at DOT that are relevant to research institutions, like the University Transportation Centers.
- Infrastructure Law Oversight:** The Committee's jurisdiction over DOT – and the roughly \$350 billion in funding within the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* – guarantees that T&I will exercise its full oversight authority to highlight perceived wasteful spending and harmful policies resulting from the law. Receiving special scrutiny will be the IIJA's focus on curbing emissions in the transportation sector, funding for climate resilient infrastructure projects, and DOT's contributions to the Biden Administration's environmental justice and transportation equity emphases. Of T&I's current Republican roster, three Members (Reps. Fitzpatrick, Van Drew, and Malliotakis) voted for the IIJA.

House Ways and Means Committee

The House Ways and Means Committee has jurisdiction over tax issues, Medicare and Medicaid programs, Social Security, and other revenue-raising programs and social services. Representative Jason Smith (R-NE) is expected to remain as the leader of Republicans on the committee following his first term as Chair in the 118th Congress. Representative Richard Neal (D-MA) is expected to continue leading committee Democrats.

Potential Republican Leadership

Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)	Rep. Smith is expected to remain the Chair of the Committee.
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Potential Democratic Leadership

Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)	Rep. Neal is expected to remain the Ranking Member of the Committee.
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Changes to Committee Membership

Democrats	Republicans
Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)	Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)	Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)
Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)	Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ)*
Rep. John Larson (D-CT)	Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)
Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)	Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)	Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)
Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)	Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV)
Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)	Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN)
Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL)	Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL)
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)	Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN)
Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)	Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA)*
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)	Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)
Rep. Dan Kitdee (D-WA)	Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH)
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)	Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-MI)	Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-CA)	Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL)
Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV)	Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)	Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS)
	Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK)
	Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC)
	Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
	Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
	Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)
	Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX)
	Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)

House Ways and Means Committee

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Tax Reauthorization and Reform:** A major priority of the Ways and Means Committee, in coordination with the Senate Finance Committee, will be developing major tax legislation following the sunset of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (TCJA) passed in 2017. Earlier this year, Committee Chairman, Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO), announced the [formation](#) of 10 “tax teams,” comprised of Republicans on the committee, to study provisions of the TCJA and prepare for the development of major tax legislation in 2025. Under the direction of a Trump Administration, it is likely that the committee will prioritize and potentially look to expand on the individual and corporate tax policies included in the TCJA. With the expiring provisions of the TCJA most recently projected to [cost](#) \$4.6 trillion over the ten-year budget window, the committee will likely look to develop new tax policy that can help mitigate increased federal outlays. The committee will also be tasked to find ways to save money if the Trump administration seeks to further expand existing tax cuts or if Congress pursues the budget reconciliation process.
- **Higher Education and Nonprofit Tax Policy Changes:** Republicans on the committee may look to university and non-profit tax status as well as the taxing of university endowments as one of many options to find savings or generate revenue to mitigate the cost of reauthorizing TCJA. Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in this Congress focused on increasing the existing endowment tax and lowering its threshold as a response to some lawmakers’ concerns around activity on college campuses and the increasing costs of higher education. The committee is likely to continue and expand these efforts while also potentially looking at other revenue generating entities within some universities, such as athletic departments, as avenues for federal revenue growth through the tax code.
- **Healthcare:** The committee is likely to advance legislation focused on the Medicare program as part of a larger tax package or extenders provisions attached to other legislation. If it is not addressed fully in lame duck legislation at the end of this Congress, there is bipartisan interest in extending COVID-19 era telehealth flexibilities for providers. In addition, advance premium tax credits (APTC) that subsidize payments for health insurance plans from the public marketplace expire in December 2025, with Democrats on the committee likely to heavily support their extension. The committee is also likely to consider legislation reforming the physician fee schedule (PFS) and mitigating recent payment cuts to physicians, site neutral payment policies, and providing additional oversight to pharmacy benefit managers (PBM), among other healthcare issues.