Committee Changes in the 115th Congress

Senate Committees

Agriculture

All members of the Agriculture Committee will be returning to the 115th Congress. Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) are both expected to retain their leadership positions.

Appropriations

Only two Senators on the Appropriations Committee will be departing Congress: Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and current Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.). Chairman Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) will remain chair in the 115th Congress, but the Ranking Member position is open and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) will take over the top Democratic spot. It is believed the current Transportation, Housing and Urban Development leadership of Chairwoman Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI) will keep their jobs, though that could change if there is shifting between committees or subcommittees.

Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

The Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee has only two members leaving Congress: Sen. Mark Kirk and Sen. David Vitter (R-La.). The current Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) is term-limited, so Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) is likely to take the top spot. Current Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) will probably remain in his position. Unless the Housing, Transportation, and Community Development Subcommittee Chairman Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Ranking Member Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) shift to other subcommittees, they are likely to stay.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

All members of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation will be returning to Congress. Current Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) are expected to retain their position.

Energy and Natural Resources

All members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee will be returning to Congress and both the Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) intend to retain their positions.

Environment and Public Works

Though there are only two members of the committee who are leaving Congress, both leadership positions are up for grabs. The current Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) is term limited and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) retired. Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) is expected to take the gavel. Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) will take over the Ranking Member position.
House Committees

Agriculture

The Agriculture Committee will lose six members in total to loss or retirement, five Republicans and one Democrat. Chair Mike Conway (R-Texas) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) are both expected to retain their positions.

Appropriations

In total, there will be six members of the Appropriations Committee leaving Congress, split evenly between the parties. The three Republicans are: David Jolly (R-Fla.), Scott Rigell (R-Va.), and Ander Crenshaw (R-Fla.). The three departing Democrats are: Sam Farr (D-Calif.), Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.; technically he left Congress over the summer), and Steve Israel (D-N.Y.). Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) made it clear months ago that he has no intention of asking for a term-limit waiver to keep his top spot on the committee, and conventional wisdom is that Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J) will take over. Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) is likely to stay on in her position.

Energy and Commerce

With the retirement of current Chair Fred Upton (R-Mich.), there is a battle to fill the top position. Rep. John Shimkus (R-III.), Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), and Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) are all vying to become chair. Current Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) is expected to retain his position. In total, four members of the committee are leaving Congress at the end of the year, three Republicans and one Democrat. There is also one pre-existing Republican vacancy.

Financial Services

Between retirements and election losses, there will be significant turnover on the Financial Services Committee, largely from the majority. Republicans will see eight members leave the committee: Scott Garrett (R-N.J.), Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas), Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.), Robert Hurt (R-Va.), Stephen Fincher (R-Tenn.), Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.), and Frank Guinta (R-N.H.). Democrats only have three members leaving Congress: Ruben Hinojosa (D-Texas), John Carney (D-Del.), and Patrick Murphy (D-Fla.). Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) and Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) will likely remain in their positions. Hensarling’s name has appeared on the short-list for Secretary Treasury. Though he very quickly expressed strong disinterest in the Treasury Secretary position, it is possible he will have a position within the Trump administration. It’s also believed that Housing and Insurance Chair Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-Mo.) and Ranking Member Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) are likely to keep their positions.

Natural Resources

Both Chair Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Ranking Member Raul Grijalva (D-N.M.) are expected to retain their positions. The committee will have four exiting members of Congress, including three Republicans and one Democrat.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Both Chair Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) will stay on in their positions in the 115th Congress. There are several members of the committee leaving Congress at the end of the year, eight in total, split evenly between Democrats and Republicans.

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