NOTE: This analysis is based on current projections for the most statistically likely 2020 election outcomes—a new Biden Administration, a Republican-controlled Senate, and a Democratic-controlled House. It may be weeks before legal challenges are resolved regarding the Presidential race and control of the Senate will likely be determined by the winners of the two Georgia special elections in January. However, Lewis-Burke believes it is prudent to plan based on the currently forecasted, most likely outcome and understand the implications for research, education, and academic medicine federal programs. Lewis-Burke will update its analysis as necessary in the event of a different electoral outcome.
After a contested and unpredictable presidential election, Democratic nominee Joe Biden defeated President Trump to become the forty-sixth President of the United States in January 2021. Despite predictions of a congressional "blue wave", the Senate will likely remain in Republican control and Democrats are likely to maintain control of the House with a diminished majority. This would usher in at least two years of divided government. In some cases, divided government would cause gridlock and prevent President-elect Joe Biden from advancing his more ambitious campaign promises, such as sweeping climate change legislation or creating a public option for healthcare. In other cases, there would be opportunities for compromise, such as addressing pandemic preparedness, making infrastructure investments, and advancing Industries of the Future.

With a divided Congress, President-elect Biden is expected to use executive authorities, when feasible, to advance his priorities, such as rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement to tackle global climate change and extending immigration protections to Dreamers, as well as reverse many of the Trump Administration’s executive orders, such as on immigration, the First Amendment, the federal workforce and “race and sex stereotyping.” President-elect Biden has also made restoring the federal workforce a top priority to more effectively execute federal programs and strengthen federal oversight and enforcement, but the specific nominees may reflect more moderate positions based on the makeup of the Senate. President-elect Biden plans to move quickly to fill critical Cabinet and other federal positions. Of particular note, President-elect Biden has stated that he plans to put science at the forefront of policymaking, especially to address the coronavirus, future pandemics and laying the groundwork for a path to net zero carbon emissions economy wide by 2050 to mitigate climate change.
A Biden Administration will have an opportunity to present its first budget request to Congress for the first time in 10 years without budget caps and legally mandated defense and non-defense funding splits. While campaigning, President-elect Biden stated that he has no plans to propose significant cuts to defense spending, but boosting nondefense spending, especially for research and development, healthcare, and infrastructure, are top priorities. However, a Republican-controlled Senate would likely to push back against major discretionary funding increases and will point to growing deficits.

Before presidential and congressional changes, President Trump and the current Congress have a long list of outstanding legislation to finish during the December "lame duck" session of Congress, including a coronavirus aid package, all 12 annual FY 2021 appropriations bills, the annual defense policy bill, and potentially an energy innovation package. While there is a commitment to complete these legislative items by the end of the year, there are still many unresolved issues and the two parties remain far apart on funding and policy priorities. Reaching a budget agreement to advance annual appropriations and a more ambitious coronavirus aid package will be one of the Biden Administration's first challenges if not resolved during the lame duck.

This document outlines the most likely election results and what they may mean for the research and higher education communities.
# Table of Contents

Executive Summary.........................................................3

Biden Administration Priorities........................................6

Lame Duck........................................................................11

117th Congressional Priorities.................................13

Congressional Committee Forecasting..................17
President-elect Biden will come to office having proposed an ambitious platform to address the COVID-19 pandemic, promote economic recovery and boost American competitiveness, fight climate change, expand the social safety net including through expanded college accessibility and a public healthcare insurance option, and restore American standing around the World, among other goals. Without control of the Senate many of these items will go unfulfilled as Republicans are highly unlikely to support sweeping healthcare, climate change, or college access legislation. However, there are many ways a Biden Administration can use the power of the Presidency and control of federal agencies to make progress on these goals. These likely include bringing a new approach to managing the COVID-19 response, a major effort to restore the power and focus of federal regulatory agencies, and boosting engagement with allies around the World. As former President Obama did during the final years of his presidency, President-elect Biden will likely need to navigate a thorny relationship with a Republican-led Senate, find bipartisan consensus where possible, and use his executive authority to advance more partisan Democratic priorities.

The campaign will now shift focus to a transition team to identify new agency leadership and other key Administration personnel. Many of these positions require Senate confirmation, so the Biden team will need to seek consensus personnel that can be confirmed by a likely Republican-led Senate. Once inaugurated, President Biden will turn immediate attention to the COVID-19 pandemic. He will also move to reverse many Trump era executive orders and regulations, including those on immigration, diversity, the federal civil service, and the environment.
BIDEN ADMINISTRATION
PRIORITIES

FIRST 100 DAYS

• Pandemic relief: nationwide mask mandate, free and widespread COVID-19 testing, boost U.S. medical equipment manufacturing, and free vaccines for all Americans

• Coronavirus Aid package: Another $1-$2 trillion to address COVID-19 impacts

• Stay in the World Health Organization

• Rebuild the federal workforce, including quickly nominating heads of federal agencies and critical White House advisors that are needed to address, science, education and health issues

• Rejoin the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

• Convene a climate summit with the world’s leading polluters to make carbon emissions reduction pledges

• Introduce a climate change plan to achieve net zero emissions economy-wide by 2050

• Reverse the Trump Administration’s rollbacks of environmental regulations

• Reverse the Trump Administration’s Executive Orders on diversity, immigration, civil service, free speech, and other areas

• Appoint a bipartisan national commission to propose reforms to the judicial system

• Criminal justice reform: His plans include a grant program that encourages states to reduce incarceration and crime, ensuring housing for formerly incarcerated individuals, and strategies to reduce repeat offenses

• Rescind travel bans that prohibit foreign nationals from several majority Muslim countries from entering the U.S.

• Executive Order to let Dreamers legally stay in the U.S. and take steps toward U.S. citizenship

• Propose strengthening the Voting Rights Act and make it easier to exercise the right to vote
BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will likely experience a veritable 180-degree shift in its approach to education when compared to ED under President Trump. A Biden ED will seek to increase funding for education, emphasize public education, expand support for Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and address student loan debt and college affordability. Higher education regulations will also see significant changes, especially Title IX compliance rules. A Biden ED would likely modify the Trump Administration’s recent proposals related to the First Amendment, faith-based organizations, and foreign gift reporting. Other regulatory reversals or issues that could receive increased attention include gainful employment, borrower defense, and oversight of for-profit institutions.

Workforce development will also be a Biden priority, especially as the labor market continues to recover from COVID-related job losses. Potential workforce topics that could see attention under a Biden Administration include clean energy-related industries, advanced manufacturing, and extending unemployment insurance benefits for the duration of training, upskilling, and reskilling programs.

In terms of international students and scholars, a Biden Administration would likely move to rescind or drastically modify the restrictive immigration policies advanced by the Trump Administration, including the J and F visa duration of status proposed rule and H-1B visa related changes. A Biden Administration would also quickly move to reinstate and expand Obama-era DACA policies for undocumented youth. While comprehensive immigration reforms may be sought by a Biden Administration and congressional Democrats, more substantial immigration policy changes are not likely under a divided government.

Education, workforce, and immigration priorities for a Biden Administration could include:

- Aid for higher education to respond and recover from COVID-19;
- Increased funding and support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions;
- Increased support for community colleges via tuition-free programs and support for registered apprenticeships and community college training partnerships;
- Maintain protection for DACA students, expand eligibility to additional Dreamers, and reverse Trump Administration’s international students and scholar regulations;
- New Title IX regulations that will seek to undo the significant changes made under Secretary of Education DeVos; and
- Student loan relief via some form of debt cancellation.
The Biden campaign has articulated a range of policies to expand federal R&D investment as described in the Made in All of America plan, which aims to increase support for manufacturing and innovation. President-elect Biden will support increased funding broadly for a range of federal research agencies as well as the creation of a new Health Advanced Research Projects Agency (HARPA) and Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate (ARPA-C). However, these efforts may not be realized under a Republican-led Senate. Consistent with the Trump Administration's priorities, President-elect Biden will also support the development of new breakthrough technology R&D programs to advance U.S. competitiveness in areas including 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), advanced materials, and biotechnology. The Biden Administration will also continue to support and expand public-private partnerships and prize competitions to leverage federal investments. In contrast, the Biden Administration will increase U.S. commitment to climate and environmental research as well as clean energy and clean vehicle research and innovation.

In terms of biomedical research, President-elect Biden is personally committed to cancer research, data sharing, and infectious disease and pandemic preparedness. President-elect Biden supports increased investment in infrastructure for educational institutions as well as the creation of new Technology Hubs in both urban and rural areas building on the Manufacturing USA model. The Biden-Harris campaign stated its commitment to broadening participation in federally supported research to “women and communities of color,” and high-poverty areas. President-elect Biden will invest in talent and building research capacity at Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI); and has proposed requiring any federal R&D award to universities with an endowment greater than $1 billion to form a “meaningful partnership” with, and provide at least a 10 percent subcontract to, an HBCU, TCU or MSI.

The Biden Administration is expected to continue the current Administration’s focus on Science and Security to address the potential threat of the theft of U.S. intellectual property (IP). More broadly, the role of science in policy making and the role of scientists in federal agencies will increase under the Biden Administration, specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic and environmental regulation. For example the campaign has stated that the Biden Administration will ensure that “public health decisions are informed by public health professionals” and has already named a COVID-19 Transition Advisory Board as one of its first transition actions.
President-elect Biden has vocalized his plans for a new federal approach to address the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly through stronger investments in the nation's public health infrastructure. The Biden-Harris transition team has already announced the formation of a Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will be led by top public health and scientific experts and is charged with advising on pandemic response activities. The Biden Administration will seek to enhance national testing and vaccination distribution strategies, increase coordination with states and localities, and potentially enforce a national mask mandate. While additional COVID-19 relief is certain, if a pandemic stimulus package does not advance during the lame duck session, a future relief package would rely heavily on President-elect Biden's ability to work across the aisle with Senate Republicans. Bipartisan agreement on the bill's scope and structure is expected to be the main sticking point.

President-elect Biden is also likely to strengthen or pursue an expansion of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), possibly through the creation of a “public option” or increased tax credits to lower premiums. However, any action on the ACA will be significantly more difficult under a divided government and pending a Supreme Court decision on the healthcare law, which is likely to be released in June. If the Supreme Court strikes down the ACA, President-elect Biden will have to work with Congress on a replacement plan to restore health insurance for millions of Americans. In the meantime, President-elect Biden may also use executive powers to ensure more protections for individuals by rescinding actions taken by the previous administration, such as stripping down coverage requirements offered by healthcare plans.

Additional areas of focus for the Biden Administration include boosting efforts in the biomedical research arena, especially given President-elect Biden's role in spearheading the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot initiative; addressing health disparities for urban and rural populations; and expanding mental health and substance abuse services. President-elect Biden is also expected to roll back harmful regulatory actions impacting hospitals that were put in place by the Trump Administration, such as stricter provider reporting requirements and the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule (MFAR). Under the Biden Administration, priorities within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will likely include promoting approaches to find efficiencies within the healthcare system, through new payment and delivery models. The CMS Innovation Center is also expected to play an important role in exploring alternative care models, especially with the ACA's fate in flux.
LAME DUCK
CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES

Congress has a long to-do list of unfinished business during the "lame duck" session. A complicating factor is that Congress will be in session for only 13 days in between the 2020 November elections and the new year.

**FY 2021 Appropriations**

FY 2021 Appropriations will be the highest priority when Congress returns to a lame duck session. Congress has passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) that lasts until December 11. Following the election, Congress must decide how to finalize appropriations, or enact another CR which could last as long as March 2021.

**Coronavirus (COVID) Relief**

A fourth relief package could have price tag of around $1.5 trillion. While there is general agreement on the categories of funding, such as relief for institutions of higher education and support for hospitals, the two parties remain far apart on the overall price tag and scope of funding. Congress may punt until January with a new biden Administration if a deal cannot be reached by the end of the year.

**Energy Innovation Package**

Congress is considering an energy innovation package that would create new research and development programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) for the first time since 2005. In late September, the House passed their version, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (H.R. 4447). The Senate has been considering the American Energy Innovation Act (AEIA) (S.2657) since April.

**National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

The House and Senate are conferencing a final version of the NDAA, which will likely pass before the end of the year. The NDAA, an annual authorizing legislation for the Department of Defense (DOD), has been passed consistently for the last 70 years. A major sticking point includes an amendment to rename military bases named after Confederate leaders, a provision the Trump administration has threatened to veto the entire bill over. The bill includes a major new 10-year initiative for Artificial Intelligence across major federal research agencies.
The outlook for the final months of the Trump Administration are not yet clear as the President has so far refused to concede to President-elect Biden. It remains to be seen how much Trump Administration officials will cooperate with the Biden transition team and whether President Trump will continue to push for another COVID-19 relief package. The Trump Administration is expected to release additional executive orders and issue final regulations in the areas of immigration, science and security, and environment. For example, the Joint Committee on Research Environments (JCORE) has finished its work drafting new science and security regulations which are currently under final review. In previous transitions, political officials have sought to change status so as to remain as career officials at Federal agencies. It remains to be seen if the Trump Administration will use this tactic.
Based on current projections, Democrats will retain control of the U.S. House of Representatives while control of the Senate will likely be decided by two run-off elections in Georgia that will take place in early January. The Senate will be composed of at least 48 Republicans and 48 Democrats (including two Independents who caucus with Democrats), but the final outcome rests on the final results in North Carolina and Alaska, which have not yet been called, and the two runoff races in Georgia on January 5. Given Republican advantages in North Carolina, Alaska, and Georgia, the Senate is projected to be composed of 52 Republicans and 48 Democrats. However, the 117th Congress will start with no clear majority for either party. Assuming Republicans do win the two Georgia run-off races and hold their majority, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will return as the Majority Leader while Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will retain his position as Minority Leader.

Democrats are projected to have a diminished majority in the House, going from a 32-seat advantage to one in the low 20s or high teens depending on how a number of outstanding races are called. This is likely to complicate efforts to maintain party unity as more moderate Democrats lost re-election and progressive members feel emboldened. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is expected to retain her role as Majority Leader and Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is likely to remain Minority Leader. House Democrats plan to move quickly to fill leadership positions. Speaker Pelosi has announced Committee chairmanship elections November 30. The three committees with leadership contests for new chairs include Appropriations, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs.

Even with a divided Congress, there are opportunities for compromise and to advance critical legislation. Likely areas of compromise include:

- additional COVID pandemic relief until there is a widely available vaccine, including support for state, local governments, and institutions of higher education, hospital reimbursements and support, and research relief,
- infrastructure and economic stimulus measures to help with economic recovery, including science infrastructure,
- science and technology investments to maintain U.S. competitiveness, including clean energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, engineering biology, 5G/advanced communications, microelectronics, biomedical research, and pandemic preparedness,
- workforce development, including upskilling and retraining opportunities, and
- tax extenders, especially those related to energy, retirement savings, and middle class tax cuts set to expire in 2025.
With Democrats retaining control of the House and Republicans favored to control the Senate, education priorities in the 117th Congress will likely focus on school and higher education recovery from COVID-19, educational delivery challenges, STEM education, and workforce restart efforts. The long-overdue reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) is not likely to fall into a “first 100 days” agenda and passage of a HEA reauthorization through a split Congress would be difficult. K-12 education will continue to be a priority for the House Committee on Education and Labor and Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA). Chairman Scott is also likely to focus much of the Education and Labor Committee’s initial activities on labor and healthcare issues.

With the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee slated to have a new Chair in the 117th Congress, an HEA reauthorization may be pushed aside for other priorities or face a new deliberative review process, including new rounds of hearings, on higher education issues. An incoming Chair is likely to have a significantly different agenda and approach from retiring Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), who focused on FAFSA simplification towards the end of his tenure.

With divided government, Congress is unlikely to pass sweeping legislation related to the Biden Administration’s top research priorities, including climate change, sustainable energy, and environmental research. Senate Republicans will also likely push back on any major spending increases given rising concerns over deficits and may push for new spending control mechanisms as sequestration expires after FY 2021.

There remains bipartisan support for investing in research on the Industries of the Future—AI; quantum; advanced computing; advanced materials; and biotechnology. Some or all of these topics are likely to be themes seen in the variety of research agency reauthorization bills the next Congress is likely to consider. These include reauthorizations for NSF, NASA, DOE, and DOT. In addition, a Biden Administration is likely to emphasize biomedical research, with pandemic preparedness; infectious disease; cancer; health disparities; mental health; and data and computation as priority areas. Some of these topics may be included in a so-called “Cures 2.0,” or the reauthorization of the 21st Century Cures Act, which passed in 2016 and it set to expire in September 2026.
With regards to policy, Congress will continue to prioritize issues related to science and security and the need to protect US intellectual property, but with the Biden Administration taking a different approach on immigration issues, we are likely to see a relaxing of restrictions on visas for international students and scholars and high-skilled workers. Finally, while Democrats in both chambers will continue to focus on environment and climate-related research, opportunities to advance these priorities through legislation will need to link to packages with bipartisan support, including for example the Energy Innovation Act or infrastructure legislation.

HEALTH

With a congressional makeup similar to the 116th Congress, the new Congress would face just as much—if not more—partisan gridlock in the healthcare realm. Senate Republicans are highly unlikely to support any expansion of the ACA and should they maintain control Democrats will have to shelve many of their priorities related to a new public insurance option. If not completed in the lame duck session of Congress, a COVID-19 stimulus package will remain the first item of business and a bipartisan priority, although House Democrats would have to pull back on their original and sweeping proposal to something smaller in scale and more palatable to a Republican-controlled Senate in order for speedy passage of COVID-19 relief legislation.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) will again be on the legislative agenda, with Republicans pushing to scale back the law and Democrats pushing to enhance provisions and add a public health insurance option. Under divided government, any piece of ACA-related legislation would almost certainly become a messaging bill for either party. However, the ACA could become the signature issue of the next Congress if the Supreme Court strikes down the ACA in the case of California v. Texas, which could set off a chain reaction in Congress. If the law is struck down, roughly 12 million Americans would lose coverage, and protections against pre-existing conditions would evaporate. In this scenario, a bitter partisan battle would likely mark the 117th Congress and could frustrate any attempts of legislating on other healthcare issues.

There are several bipartisan priorities in the 116th Congress that are expected to continue into the new Congress: lowering prescription drug prices and stopping surprise medical billing. Both the House and Senate held hearings and worked on bills related to these issues, and President-elect Biden will most likely sign any pertinent legislation that reaches his desk. Democrats are expected to introduce legislation around addressing health disparities and social determinants of health, while Republican Senators will want to focus more on rural health issues.
There is also the potential for bipartisan legislation focused on expanding telehealth use, something Republicans favor for rural areas and Democrats want to apply in urban ones. Congress will also continue broad support for biomedical research although continued spending increases may be challenging if there is a renewed push to limit discretionary spending over deficit concerns.
There will be significant changes to key Committee leadership positions in the 117th Congress. There will be new Committee Chairs and/or Ranking Members for six House Committees and seven Senate Committees, 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.

### Likely 117th Congress U.S. Senate Committee Chairs and Ranking Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Likely Chair</th>
<th>Likely Ranking Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture*</td>
<td>John Boozman (R-AR)</td>
<td>Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>Richard Shelby (R-AL)</td>
<td>Patrick Leahy (D-VT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armed Services</td>
<td>James Inhofe (R-OK)</td>
<td>Jack Reed (D-RI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget*</td>
<td>Lindsey Graham (R-SC)</td>
<td>Bernie Sanders (I-VT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce, Science, and Transportation</td>
<td>Roger Wicker (R-MS)</td>
<td>Maria Cantwell (D-WA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy and Natural Resources*</td>
<td>John Barrasso (R-WY)</td>
<td>Joe Manchin (D-WV)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mike Lee (R-UT)</td>
<td>Tom Carper (D-DE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James Risch (R-ID)</td>
<td>Ben Cardin (D-MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and Public Works*</td>
<td>John Barrasso (R-WY)</td>
<td>Tom Carper (D-DE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)</td>
<td>Ben Cardin (D-MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance*</td>
<td>Mike Crapo (R-IN)</td>
<td>Ron Wyden (D-OR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*</td>
<td>Richard Burr (R-NC)</td>
<td>Patty Murray (D-WA)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rand Paul (R-KY)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susan Collins (R-ME)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*</td>
<td>Rob Portman (R-OH)</td>
<td>Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judiciary*</td>
<td>Chuck Grassley (R-IA)</td>
<td>Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)</td>
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</table>

*Change in leadership; italics means contenders for new leadership position*
### Likely 117th Congress U.S. House of Representatives Committee Chairs and Ranking Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Likely Chair</th>
<th>Likely Ranking Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture*</td>
<td>David Scott (D-GA)</td>
<td>Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Costa (D-CA)</td>
<td>Austin Scott (R-GA)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcia Fudge (D-OH)</td>
<td>Rick Crawford (R-AR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriations*</td>
<td>Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)</td>
<td>Kay Granger (R-TX)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armed Services*</td>
<td>Adam Smith (D-WA)</td>
<td>Mike Turner (R-OH)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mike Rogers (R-AL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Joe Wilson (R-SC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget*</td>
<td>John Yarmuth (D-KY)</td>
<td>Bill Johnson (R-OH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Labor</td>
<td>Bobby Scott (D-VA)</td>
<td>Virginia Foxx (R-NC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Commerce*</td>
<td>Frank Pallone (D-NJ)</td>
<td>Michael Burgess (R-TX)</td>
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<td>Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)</td>
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<td>Robert Latta (R-OH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
<td>Bennie Thompson (D-MS)</td>
<td>Mike Rogers (R-AL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>Jerry Nadler (D-NY)</td>
<td>Jim Jordan (D-OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources*</td>
<td>Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)</td>
<td>Bruce Westerman (R-AR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Gosar (R-AZ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversight and Government Reform</td>
<td>Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)</td>
<td>James Comer (R-KY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Space, and Technology</td>
<td>Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)</td>
<td>Frank Lucas (R-OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Infrastructure</td>
<td>Peter DeFazio (D-OR)</td>
<td>Sam Graves (R-MO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Richard Neal (D-MA)</td>
<td>Kevin Brady (R-TX)</td>
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</table>

*Change in leadership; italics means contenders for new leadership position*
With the current House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) retiring, there is a three way race to win the gavel between Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), with Rep. DeLauro having the advantage. Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) is likely to remain Ranking Member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Majority Leadership</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)</td>
<td>The current Chairwoman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, she has the closest relationship with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), has strong support among progressives, and is second in seniority on the Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)</td>
<td>Often clashes with Republican leadership, who may seek to block her from taking the role of Chair. The current Chairwoman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, she has the most seniority on the Committee and is considered a capable leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)</td>
<td>The current Chairwoman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, she is the former chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee and has been the biggest fundraiser.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Minority Leadership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kay Granger (R-TX)</td>
<td>She is currently Ranking Member of the full Committee and no challengers have come forward.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## POTENTIAL HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

### Completing FY 2021 Appropriations:
The top priority for the current Appropriations Committees is to finalize FY 2021 appropriations. The Appropriations Committees are trying to negotiate a final "omnibus" package that includes all 12 bills before the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 11. However, if Congress and the White House cannot reach agreement on a final package, Congress may need to pass another Continuing Resolution that extends funding into February or March.

### Coronavirus Aid Packages and Stimulus:
The Appropriations Committees will continue to play a pivotal role in drafting, negotiating, and passing future coronavirus aid and economic stimulus packages. Congress will likely pass another coronavirus aid package during the lame duck based on a deal between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Democrats are also preparing for an economic stimulus package to help the economy recover from the coronavirus in the next Congress.

### FY 2022-FY 2023 Appropriations:
While the Budget Committees will set the top line discretionary funding levels, the Appropriations Committees will be free from budget caps and defense-nondefense funding splits for the first time in 10 years with the expiration of the Budget Control Act of 2011. The House Appropriations Committee under Democratic control will likely propose significant boosts in funding for non-defense programs, especially in healthcare, education, transportation, and research. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee under Republican control would continue to favor defense spending and constrained growth in nondefense spending to address growing deficits.

### Earmarks:
There is growing interest in revisiting the earmark ban which has been in effect since 2011. In October, the bipartisan House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress proposed restoring “congressional directed spending,” but with greater transparency and new guardrails against abuse, such as disclosure of any proposed earmarks on a government website and review by an inspector general. However, with Republican control of the Senate, restoring earmarks is highly unlikely.

### Potential Majority Leadership
- **Richard Shelby (R-AL)**
  - Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members.

### Potential Minority Leadership
- **Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**
  - Current Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members.
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. With the end of budget caps and sequestration for the first time in a decade, these committees will grow in influence and importance in shaping future spending 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 a 302(a), that is then used by the Appropriations Committees to make annual spending decisions. In addition, the committee can initiate the reconciliation process, which requires only a majority vote rather than a filibuster-proof majority (60 votes) in the Senate, to consider and pass major spending, revenue, and entitlement legislation. Reconciliation was used by Democrats in 2010 to pass the ACA and Republicans in 2017 for tax reform, but is unlikely to be used under divided government.

Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY) is expected to remain as the Chairman, while Rep. Bill Johnson (D-OH) is likely to replace Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) as the Ranking Member. Rep. Yarmuth will be responsible for proposing a budget resolution setting spending priorities and top line funding levels for appropriations for the first time without sequestration in a decade. Democrats are likely to push for major increases in spending without the constraint of budget caps. However, with a smaller majority, it may be difficult to gain the full support of both progressive Democratic members and more centrist members to pass a blueprint for tax and spending. Progressive Democrats want to significantly cut defense spending and increase nondefense spending while more centrist members want to maintain more balance and have more concerns about the deficit. Republicans will oppose any major discretionary funding increases or increases in taxes and are likely to call for major spending cuts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Majority Leadership</th>
<th>Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Yarmuth (D-KY)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Minority Leadership</th>
<th>Currently Vice Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Johnson (R-OH)</td>
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</table>
With the retirement of the current Chairman, Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) is expected to become the next Chairman. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is expected to remain the Ranking Member. Senator Graham would be responsible for negotiating a potential budget agreement with House Chairman Yarmuth to set a top line discretionary funding level for FY 2022 appropriations and advance a competing blueprint for tax and spending priorities that would significantly differ from a House budget resolution. While some form of budget agreement is necessary to complete appropriations, passage of a budget resolution is not likely because it would require compromise between House Democrats and Senate Republicans to agree on tax and spend priorities over 10 years. Over the last 30 years, budget resolutions have been passed only when one party controlled both chambers of Congress.

Potential Majority Leadership

| Lindsey Graham (R-SC) | Senator Graham is the most senior Republican with a stated interest in assuming the chairmanship. |

Potential Minority Leadership

| Bernie Sanders (I-VT) | Current Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members. |

Potential Committee Priorities

- **Overall Spending Levels**: For the first time since 2011 with the passage of the Budget Control Act, there are no legally binding budget caps and automatic budget cuts looming over annual appropriations bills. The Budget Committees will have to negotiate new top line discretionary spending, known as a 302(a), that is then used by the Appropriations Committees to make annual spending decisions.

- **Budget Resolution**: Annual budget resolutions are typically political documents that reflect the fiscal priorities of the majority party. House Democrats will likely advance their plan and Senate Republicans will advance a competing plan, but expectations are low for a compromise and final fiscal blueprint passing Congress.
**Budget Reform:** There is bipartisan interest in reforming the budget process. The most likely change, based on a recommendation from a special congressional committee tasked with reforming the budget process is to adopt two-year budget resolutions or agreements rather than annual ones. Congress would still advance annual appropriations but have two-year budgets with top line funding to guide annual discretionary funding.
The House Education and Labor Committee has jurisdiction over the 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 is expected to remain the same, with Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC) both easily winning re-election. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **COVID-relief HEA Reauthorization**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Labor Issues**

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bobby Scott (D-VA)</th>
<th>Representative Scott is the current Chairman and is expected to maintain his leadership role.</th>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia Foxx (R-NC)</th>
<th>Representative Foxx is the current Ranking Member and is expected to maintain her leadership role.</th>
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</table>

### POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- **COVID-relief**: The Education and Labor Committee will likely continue efforts to ensure COVID-19 relief for K-12 and higher education. This includes emergency funding for students, teachers, schools, and institutions of higher education. The Committee is likely to continue efforts to support paid leave, continued access to school nutrition programs, and funding for childcare providers in a future COVID-relief bill.

- **HEA Reauthorization**: The College Affordability Act (CAA), Chairman Scott’s comprehensive HEA reauthorization bill from the 116th Congress will likely serve as a blueprint for any HEA efforts in the 117th Congress. Highlights of the CAA include a proposed federal-state partnership to support tuition-free access to community colleges, elimination of student loan origination fees, and expansion of the Pell Grant program to support short-term programs and graduate education. The pandemic may increase more attention to supporting students, institutions, remote learning, and wrap-around services.
• **Workforce Development:** Efforts to modernize the apprenticeship system and address the impacts of automation and the future of work, will be a priority. The committee is likely to take up reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and modernize the apprenticeship system. The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, which the Committee approved will be a template for apprenticeships efforts in the 117th Congress.

• **Labor Issues:** The Committee will look to undue many of the labor provisions taken by the Department of Labor under President Trump.
The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has jurisdiction over higher education, healthcare and medicine, workforce development, and a litany of other policy issues relevant to institutions of higher education and research organizations. With current Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) retiring at the end of the year, Republicans will be selecting a new HELP Committee Chair. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Higher Education Act**
- **Drug Pricing**
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Burr (R-NC)</td>
<td>Next in committee seniority, but ethics investigations into insider trading allegations may keep him from taking the Chairmanship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rand Paul (R-KY)</td>
<td>Often clashes with Republican leadership, who may seek to block him from taking the role of Chairman.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Collins (R-ME)</td>
<td>Seen as a pragmatic moderate who will likely continue to work in a bipartisan manner.</td>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

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<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patty Murray (D-WA)</td>
<td>Senator Murray is expected to continue her role as the lead Democratic Senator on the committee.</td>
</tr>
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### COVID-19 Stimulus

Congress is set to examine putting together a large stimulus package aimed at restoring the nation's economy, workforce, and healthcare system following the COVID-19 pandemic. Such legislation would include issues across many committees, but the HELP Committee specifically may seek to push provisions relating to support for healthcare providers, testing and vaccine distribution plans, lowering costs of testing and treatment for consumers, improving distance education and closing the homework gap, and potentially funding for job retraining and workforce development programs. As former Chairwoman of the Senate Select Committee on Aging, a potential Chairwoman Collins may focus on support for nursing homes, expansion of telehealth, and increased funding for biomedical research.
Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization: Despite repeated attempts by outgoing Chairman Alexander to reauthorize the HEA during the 116th Congress, the HELP Committee failed to reach a deal between Committee Republicans and Democrats. The HELP Committee will likely start anew on this priority in the 117th Congress, though efforts have a higher chance of success if the bipartisan-thinking Senator Collins is serving as Chair than if Senator Paul, an opponent of government intervention in education, takes the gavel.

Workforce Development: This major workforce development and employment package is due for a reauthorization this year. With the House Education and Labor Committee likely to move forward on a reauthorization bill of their own, the Senate HELP Committee will be pushed to move forward a bill. Due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, we anticipate a focus on up-skilling/re-skilling, as well as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) and apprenticeship programs.

Drug Pricing and Healthcare Costs: A major topic of focus for the HELP Committee prior to the emergence of COVID-19, the Committee is expected to return its attention to these long-standing issues. Specifically, the Committee hopes to address the generic pharmaceutical pipeline, surprise medical billing, drug price negotiation, and other related topics. Democrats will continue to push allowing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical companies, while Republicans will shift the conversation towards more measured responses. If the Supreme Court strikes down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) as a result of the legal challenges to the law, the HELP Committee may play an important role in reaching compromise on a replacement plan.
The House Committee on Energy and Commerce (E&C) has jurisdiction over federal policies related to biomedical research, healthcare programs, food and drug safety, public health, environmental protections, and the supply and delivery of energy. 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 117th Congress may include:

- **Public Health and Pandemic Preparedness**
- **Access to Care and Healthcare Costs**
- **Addressing Health Disparities**
- **Climate Change**

### Potential Majority Leadership

| Frank Pallone (D-NJ) | Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members. |

### Potential Minority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michael Burgess (R-TX)</th>
<th>Current Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) is retiring, which will open up this leadership position. Rep. Burgess currently serves as Ranking Member on the Health Subcommittee.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)</td>
<td>Rep. McMorris Rodgers is the current Ranking Member on the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, and a former Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Latta (R-OH)</td>
<td>Currently the Ranking Member of the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, Rep. Latta is seen as a longshot to take over the leadership role.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Public Health and Pandemic Preparedness: There are likely to be additional legislative proposals related to future pandemic preparedness, which may include funding for public health infrastructure, vaccine development pipelines, and research in infectious disease modeling and prediction, among other issues. Some of these topics may be included in another COVID-19 stimulus package, but also in other vehicles spearheaded by the Committee such as the reauthorization of the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures), which last passed in 2016. Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Fred Upton (R-MI), Committee members who authored Cures, will likely push to reconsider this hallmark legislation several years after its passage to reflect new, emerging priorities.

Access to Care and Healthcare Costs: The Committee is positioned to prioritize legislation to enhance access to healthcare for Americans. This includes revisiting policy discussions around the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, especially in light of a Supreme Court decision that could strike down the law. While the House was successful in advancing ACA-related legislation this year, new proposals may need to be considered to ensure full passage under a divided Congress. The question remains if ACA legislation will advance before or after a Supreme Court decision. Additionally, with COVID-19 shining a light on inequities within the nation’s healthcare system and the need for strengthening access to care for underserved and rural populations, policies around enhancing telehealth during a public health emergency and beyond is anticipated to be a focus for the Committee. These proposals may include both extending current telehealth flexibilities for healthcare providers, as well as investing further in programs to develop best practices for telehealth use and training. Surprise medical billing also remains a bipartisan issue that may be revisited by the Committee, especially if it is not addressed during the lame duck session. However, disagreement over the various legislative approaches to end surprise medical bills may delay movement of legislation.

Addressing Health Disparities: The Committee is expected to bolster activities around mitigating health disparities and addressing social determinants of health, most likely to be spearheaded by the Committee’s Racial Disparities Working Group, which launched earlier this summer. This endeavor will likely be accomplished through a comprehensive legislative package encompassing a wide range of new and existing proposals linked to the issue, such as the Social Determinants Accelerator Act.

Climate Change: The Committee will be instrumental in drafting a climate change package. Priorities include new programs to help make homes, public buildings, and industries more energy efficient; establishing and expanding policies and programs to support the deployment and commercial applications of clean energy technologies and U.S. manufacturing; growth of clean-energy jobs; and environmental justice efforts, such as requiring federal agencies to identify and mitigate the adverse human health or environmental impacts that federal programs or activities have on minorities and low-income communities. With a Republican-controlled Senate, the Committee will have to find common ground to have a chance of advancing major legislation beyond the House.
The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) 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, and oversight over the National Parks, recreation areas and historic sites. Potential priorities in the 117th Congress include: An energy innovation package focused on DOE applied programs; DOE Office of Science reauthorization; and Energy-related portions of an economic stimulus measure. Current Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) can no longer serve as Chair or Ranking Member based on Republican rules so this Committee will have a new top Republican in the 117th Congress.

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Role and Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Barrasso (R-WY)</td>
<td>Next in committee seniority but is already chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. He will have to choose between them. If he assumes leadership of ENR, he would likely focus on coal mining, which is a major industry in Wyoming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Lee (R-UT)</td>
<td>Senator Lee has expressed an interest in leading ENR. He currently chairs the ENR Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, and would likely bring a strong focus on uranium mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Risch (R-ID)</td>
<td>Senator Risch is second in seniority behind Senator Barrasso, but he will likely chair the Foreign Relations Committee. Notably, he is the only Republican in contention for the ENR gavel who has a National Laboratory in his state.</td>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

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<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Role and Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Manchin (D-WV)</td>
<td>Senator Manchin is expected to continue his role as the lead Democrat on ENR.</td>
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</table>
**Energy Innovation Package:** Congress is moving forward with an energy package that would update and create new research and development programs at DOE for the first time since 2005. The House has already passed the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (H.R. 4447), and negotiations are now underway to resolve differences with the Senate’s American Energy Innovation Act (S. 2657). In addition to updating and expanding research and development programs in renewable energy technologies, carbon capture and utilization, grid modernization and security, energy critical materials, advanced nuclear energy, and energy storage, new programs authorized in the current legislation would include industrial emissions reduction technologies for the manufacturing sector, such as cement, steel, and the chemicals industry; regional clean energy innovation centers; and a clean energy technology university prize competition. If this bill does not pass before the end of the year, it will be a top priority for ENR early in the 117th Congress.

**Office of Science Authorization:** This summer, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology issued a draft bill that would provide guidance on future research directions and major science infrastructure investments for the DOE Office of Science. This bill is unlikely to pass before the end of the year, but its contents will likely form the basis of a measure to be reintroduced in the 117th Congress. ENR has not driven this effort in the 116th Congress and that is unlikely to change next year, but the Committee will remain an important partner in seeing the bill ultimately enacted.

**Economic Stimulus/Infrastructure Investment:** DOE is a major funder of extramural research and development and a manager of a nationwide complex of scientific and national security facilities. As such, ENR would be centrally involved in any comprehensive infrastructure investment designed to stimulate economic growth in the wake of the downturn caused by COVID-19.
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. The full Committee leadership is expected to remain the same, but two science champions are departing from the membership, retiring Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) and Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), who lost his re-election bid. Sen. Gardner currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather and is a champion of NSF- and NOAA-sponsored research, as well as growing federal investments in “Industries of the Future.” Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Aviation**
- **Space, Science, and Exploration**
- **Highway Legislation**
- **Industries of the Future**

### Potential Majority Leadership

| Roger Wicker (R-MS) | Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members. |

### Potential Minority Leadership

| Maria Cantwell (D-WA) | Senator Cantwell will remain the Committee’s Ranking Member based on her seniority and the Committee’s jurisdiction over issues important to her constituents. |

### POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- **Aviation**: Both Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell have voiced strong support for continued relief for airlines and aircraft manufacturers in response to COVID-19’s severe impact on the aviation industry. It’s expected Committee leadership and members will push for expanded funding in future COVID-19 relief packages for aircraft manufacturers, airlines, and their employees. The Committee is also expected to continue airline safety work from the 116th Congress in response to the two major Boeing 737-Max commercial airline crashes last year.
**Space Science and Exploration:** It's likely the Committee will accelerate efforts to craft legislation that protects the current trajectory of NASA's human exploration activities given their likely lower priority in a Biden Administration relative to the strong support received under President Trump. Expect increased attempts by Committee Republicans to negotiate compromise NASA legislation in the lame duck or early in the 117th aimed at maintaining the architecture of NASA's ambitious Artemis program.

**Highway Legislation:** The Committee is responsible for shaping surface transportation policy, including the nearly $400 million in annual research conducted by the relevant DOT modal administration. The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in September also included an extension of the current surface transportation authorization through FY 2021. Look for the Committee to begin considering legislation approved by the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee last year, and especially the addition of important provisions related to popular transportation R&D programs.

**Industries of the Future:** Competitiveness and critical technologies have had some focus in the 116th Congress and will remain salient in the 117th given their likely prioritization with the Biden Administration and competition with China. However, with the loss of science champion Cory Garner (R-CO), it is unclear the extent to which the Committee will prioritize science issues going forward. There has been strong congressional interest from Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and others in the Endless Frontier Act and greatly increasing NSF’s role in critical technologies. Democrats are on board with this effort, but it has not yet found broad support among Committee Republicans.
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, DOT, and NOAA, among others. The committee leadership is expected to stay the same, continuing an era of bipartisanship under the helm of Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK). There will likely be several new faces as some prominent members lost re-election and other junior committee members are likely to move on to new more sought-after committee assignments. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Industries of the Future**
- **Climate and Energy**
- **Diversity and STEM**
- **Resilience**
- **Space**

### Potential Majority Leadership
Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Chairwoman Johnson, the longtime top Democrat on the committee is a major champion for science, STEM, and diversity.

### Potential Minority Leadership
Frank Lucas (R-OK)
Ranking Member Lucas has brought a radically different style to the committee from the previous Chairman, Lamar Smith (R-TX). He is a strong supporter of federal investments in research.

### Potential Committee Priorities

- **Industries of the Future**: The Committee is deeply concerned with scientific progress and US competitiveness in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum, and engineering biology. NSF authorization is the likely vehicle for new efforts related to these areas in the 117th Congress. There is bipartisan agreement that NSF should play a major role in advancing these priorities and should see a large boost in funding. However, the Committee is still considering whether NSF should have a new directorate focused on key technologies as in the Endless Frontiers Act or with a slightly different focus in convergence research or technology translation.

- **Climate and Energy**: The Committee is likely to continue its attention on restoring federal environmental regulatory science capacity at EPA and NOAA. If Democrats pursue major climate legislation, the Committee is also likely to have a role in drafting any research components. In the energy space, the Committee plans to introduce its DOE Office of Science reauthorization bill, which it started this year and will work with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to advance the legislation.
**Diversity and STEM:** Chairwoman Johnson is deeply passionate about diversity and STEM issues. The committee is looking to examine racism in academia and continue its push to broaden NSF focus on underrepresented minority faculty through a new ADVANCE-style program. The Committee is also interested in science ethics, rural education, and developing a workforce that can enhance our national competitiveness.

**Resilience:** COVID-19 has had major impacts on the research enterprise and the Committee has had limited success so far in getting its priorities for research relief and new science and technology investments included in COVID-19 relief packages. Look for the Committee to continue to push for these investments as well as turn its attention to lessons learned for the future of science as the pandemic is brought under control.

**Space Science and Exploration:** The agenda of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics will be significantly altered given Chairwoman Kendra Horn’s defeat and Chairwoman Johnson’s aversion to pre-empting a Biden Administration’s space policy formulation. Expect the Committee to match the Biden White House’s emphasis on promoting NASA’s role in combating climate change.
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 the lead House Committee responsible for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) is expected to continue as Chairman and will most likely call for a more comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to national security, especially in light of nontraditional military threats such as climate change and COVID-19. The greatest change is that longtime Congressman and HASC Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-TX) did not run for re-election and will retire at the end of the year. Rep. Thornberry has long championed reforming the “Fourth Estate,” a group of DOD support agencies separate from the three Service Branches ranging from the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Thornberry’s successor may continue some of these efforts, but prioritization and to what extent is unclear. Thornberry’s proposals received pushback from some Republicans and Democrats whose districts would have been impacted by proposed cuts or changes to DOD organizations. Priorities in the 117th Congress, which will be reflected in the NDAA, may include:

- Debates over topline defense spending
- Preparing and reorganizing the military for threats from China and Russia, as seen in the recent bipartisan
- Future of Defense Task Force report
- Strengthening the defense industrial base’s domestic supply chain
- Ensuring U.S. leadership in AI, cyber, 5G, and other critical technologies
- Nuclear weapons strategy and modernization

### Potential Majority Leadership

| Adam Smith (D-WA) | Currently Chairman and is not being challenged by any other Member. |
With HASC Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA) maintaining his chairmanship, a Biden Administration will create a new dynamic between the White House and Capitol Hill. Multiple reports have indicated that Biden and other democratic leaders favor reducing spending on legacy weapon systems to offset increasing federal funding R&D efforts for artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, and advanced manufacturing. While progressive Democrats have called for significant reductions in defense spending to shift resources to other domestic priorities, a divided Congress will take away any momentum to significantly reduce defense spending. More likely, the Committee may take a more balanced approach led by Chairman Smith, who has stated his support in recent hearings for DOD’s efforts to scrutinize and prioritize its resources in light of budget constraints while noting the need to protect the Department’s most critical national security efforts. Also, he recognizes the impact and return on investment from defense spending in areas such as S&T for other domestic and civil priorities.

### Potential Minority Leadership

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Turner (R-OH)</td>
<td>Currently Ranking Member for the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, he is seen as one of the front runners, receiving public endorsements from former Members of Congress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Rogers (R-AL)</td>
<td>Rogers is also seen as a competitive candidate for HASC leadership and was an early champion of establishing the U.S. Space Force.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Wilson (R-SC)</td>
<td>Wilson will be the most senior HASC Republican in the next Congress.</td>
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</table>
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). Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) is likely to remain Chairman and will continue to support robust defense spending. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) will likely remain Ranking Member and may emphasize a more comprehensive approach to national security beyond just defense spending, supporting efforts around diplomacy, international development, and science and technology investments to address new threats such as climate change and COVID-19. Reed may push back against other efforts such as Nuclear Modernization. Priorities in the 117th Congress, which will be reflected in the NDAA, may include:

- Debates over topline defense spending
- Threats from China and Russia
- Strengthening the defense industrial base’s domestic supply chain
- U.S. leadership in AI, cyber, 5G, and other critical technologies

**Potential Majority Leadership**

James Inhofe (R-OK)
The current Chairman and not being challenged by another Member.

**Potential Minority Leadership**

Jack Reed (D-RI)
The current Ranking Member and not being challenged by another Member.

**Potential Committee Priorities**

While the Committee may maintain its bipartisan demeanor, SASC Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK) may focus on oversight or criticize the Biden Administration’s national security decisions, a similar dynamic seen today with HASC Chairman Adam Smith and the Trump Administration. Inhofe has noted his priority of ensuring that modernization, acquisition, and readiness policies and budget investments are aligned with the National Defense Strategy (NDS). However, this may change depending how the Biden Administration approaches the development of its National Security Strategy and NDS. Republicans may have significant objections to some of the Biden Administration’s national security approaches and efforts, particularly if he shifts defense spending priorities. SASC will continue to call for robust defense spending and focus on ensuring DOD’s efforts to prepare for competition with China and Russia are successful.
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 sub-agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Customs and Border Patrol and more. The Senate Committee also has oversight over federal operations. Priorities for both committees in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Cybersecurity**
- **Immigration**
- **Disaster/Pandemic Response**
- **Terrorism**

### Potential Majority Leadership

- **Bennie Thompson (D-MS)**
  - Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members.

### Potential Minority Leadership

- **Mike Rogers (R-AL)**
  - Currently Ranking Member but may pursue a leadership position on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC).

- **John Katko (R-NY)**
  - Currently Ranking Member of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation Subcommittee. Could become Ranking Member should Rep. Rogers leave for HASC.

- **Clay Higgins (R-LA)**
  - Currently Ranking Member of the Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations Subcommittee. Could become Ranking Member should Rep. Rogers leave for HASC.
There have been indications that Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) will replace Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) as Chair and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) will remain Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC). Under Chairman Portman, HSGAC will likely prioritize leveraging their jurisdiction over the federal government to conduct extensive oversight over the Biden Administration, as well as issues pertaining to science, and security, cybersecurity, coronavirus relief, and human trafficking.

**Potential Majority Leadership**

| Rob Portman (R-OH) | Current Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. |

**Potential Minority Leadership**

| Gary Peters (D-MI) | Current Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members. |

**Potential Committee Priorities**

- **Immigration:** This will likely remain one of the most contentious issues within the committees’ respective purviews. However, there is a chance that non-starters for bipartisan agreement like President Trump’s proposed border wall would not be as strongly prioritized by Republicans. This could lead to some momentum for incremental reforms, including protections for “Dreamers,” or immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

- **Cybersecurity:** In 2020, the bipartisan Cyberspace Solarium Commission (CSC), a group of experts and policymakers convened to develop a more robust national cyberdefense strategy, released a report that will be influential in guiding future committee priorities in cybersecurity. The CSC report included a wide range of suggestions on how to reform the cyber ecosystem and culture and promote cyber hygiene to support national resilience in the event of cyber attacks. Other elements also include cybersecurity education and literacy, workforce development, legislation proposals, how to strengthen public-private partnerships, and plans to bolster cyber accountability. Both the House and Senate Committees held hearings on the report’s findings.

- **Disaster/Pandemic Response:** The Homeland Committees play a strong role in disaster management through their oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Early committee activities could include further exploring the response to COVID-19, assessing what state and local governments need to withstand similar events, and seeking improvements. Also, in recent years, there has been particular stress on FEMA due to an increase in intense weather events brought by climate change. A new Congress could look into enhanced disaster preparedness capabilities at the agency to address these threats.

- **Terrorism:** Terrorist threats have changed significantly since the creation of DHS. For instance, the 2019 DHS Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence identified white supremacism and other domestic activities as major terrorism threats. There could be enhanced action on this front as this threat continues to become evident, including seeking to provide resources to combat it and research support.
The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is the primary investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representative, with the responsibility to oversee the federal government including regulatory processes as well as procurement and spending systems. In addition, they also have jurisdiction over federal regulatory processes and District of Columbia municipal affairs. We expect Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) to continue in her role as the Chairwoman, with Representative James Comer (R-KY) remaining in his role as Ranking Member. Many committee members will continue in their roles; however, the current Chair of the Subcommittee on Environment, Rep. Harley Rouda (D-CA), did not win re-election. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **COVID-19 Accountability**
- **Green Investments**
- **Environmental Oversight**
- **Preserving Democracy**

**Potential Majority Leadership**

| Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) | Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members. |

**Potential Minority Leadership**

| James Comer (R-KY) | Current Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members. |

**POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

- **COVID-19 Accountability**: The Committee will continue to prioritize investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse of government funds provided through emergency COVID-19 relief and investigations regarding the Trump Administration’s COVID-19 response. We expect these investigations to lead to Committee action to enhance government accountability and improve future COVID-19 related recovery and pandemic response. The Committee will also continue to investigate instances of political interference in the federal public health response under the Trump Administration and will make efforts to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics are distributed and deployed equitably and safely.

- **Green Investment**: Chairwoman Maloney will aim to incentivize green investments. To do this, the Committee may continue to promote legislation, like the Climate Planning, Resilience, and Enhanced Preparedness (Climate PREP) Act, that would require federal government operations to account for climate change and to develop climate adaptation plans. In addition, the committee may consider creating tax incentives to enhance the broad adoption of clean energy technology.
Environmental Regulation: The Subcommittee on Environment will explore enhanced science-based leadership and environmental action by the federal government, with a focus on strengthening regulation and enforcement at the Environmental Protection Agency. Further, the committee will investigate the influence of industry in rolling back numerous environmental regulations under the Trump Administration – and is likely to make recommendations for how to reduce undue influence of Industry on government, including through a strengthening of campaign finance reform.

Preserve Democracy: The Committee will enhance its efforts to increase oversight of the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Census Bureau, both of which are seen by the Committee as critical to preserving democracy and providing essential services to Americans.
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 are likely to remain largely unchanged in the 117th Congress as a result of the election, although an open chairmanship on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee could have implications for the Republican leadership of EPW.

Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Surface Transportation**
- **Endangered Species Act**
- **Infrastructure Stimulus**

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Role and Summary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Barrasso (R-WY)</td>
<td>Senator Barrasso is the current Chair of the Committee. It's likely he will retain the chairmanship in the 117th Congress given EPW's agenda of high-profile legislation. However, he is also next in line to chair the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, so if he pursues that opening, he will need to forgo his chairmanship on EPW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)</td>
<td>Senator Capito would be next in line to chair the Committee should Senator Barrasso pursue other leadership. She currently chairs EPW's Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee.</td>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Role and Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Carper (D-DE)</td>
<td>Senator Carper is the current Ranking Member of the Committee and is expected to continue in this role.</td>
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</table>
**Highway Legislation:** The Committee is responsible for crafting surface transportation legislation, including funding for FHWA-sponsored research and development programs. The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in September included an extension of the current surface transportation authorization through FY 2021, which was set to expire on October 1, 2020. Expect EPW to reintroduce and reconsider its bipartisan America’s Transportation and Infrastructure Act of 2019 (ATIA) approved by the Committee last year and lead negotiations with the House in pursuit of the must-pass legislation.

**Endangered Species Act:** Should he remain Chair, it’s expected Senator Barrasso will continue efforts in the 116th Congress to modernize the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which has not been changed in nearly 30 years. The Committee has held multiple hearings to explore reforms to the law but has yet to advance legislation due to strong opposition among Democrats.

**Infrastructure Stimulus:** House Democrats and President-Elect Biden have embraced the concept of infrastructure stimulus as a component of economic recovery measures in light of COVID-19. However, the scope, scale, timing, and overall likelihood of such a package remains unclear given Republican control of the Senate. Expect EPW to play a significant role in shaping an infrastructure package should Republican leadership signal an openness to negotiate stimulus legislation with congressional Democrats and the White House.
The House Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the Department of the Interior (DOI), parts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and research programs at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as oceanography, mining, and water issues generally, including offshore wind energy. Rep. Raúl Grijalva will likely continue as Committee Chair. Reps. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Paul Gosar (R-AZ) are vying to become ranking member following Rob Bishop’s retirement. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Environmental Justice**
- **Climate Change**
- **Oceans**
- **Oversight**

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ)</th>
<th>Rep. Grijalva will likely continue as Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. However, there are some indications that he may be tapped to fill a senior role in the Biden Administration, such as Secretary of the Interior.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Potential Minority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bruce Westerman (R-AR)</th>
<th>Rep. Westerman, an engineer and forester, wants to be Ranking Member. He is the sponsor of the Trillion Trees Act, a bill to address climate change by planting trees, that has become the key climate-related legislation backed by conservatives.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Gosar (R-AZ)</td>
<td>Rep. Gosar is interested in assuming the Ranking Member position. He has referred to climate change as a hoax and a conspiracy theory, which may complicate work with the majority if he assumes this leadership role. Republican leadership on this Committee has often come from the West, which may give him an advantage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Justice: The Committee will continue to prioritize environmental justice in the next Congress. Chairman Grijalva and Rep. A. Donald McEachin developed the Achieving Environmental Justice for All bill in consultation with community organizations and public input. We expect them to continue stakeholder engagement to further improve the bill, which includes provisions for new environmental justice grant programs. This bill is unlikely to gain traction with a Republican-led Senate, however Senator Kamala Harris is a co-sponsor of the Senate version and these topics will likely have a national profile in a Biden-Harris Administration.

Climate Change: With Rep. Grijalva at the helm, the priorities of this committee reflect his progressive politics that fall farther to the left than the Chairs of the other House Committees with jurisdiction over climate change issues. In the 116th Congress, the Committee held a series of hearings on climate change. We anticipate that climate change considerations will be included across the diverse topics under the committee’s jurisdiction, and that the Committee will continue to advance ambitious climate legislation in the new year.

Oceans: Chairman Grijalva (D-AZ) recently introduced a large legislative package, The Ocean Based Climate Solutions Act (H.R. 3682) focused on oceans and coastal regions and aimed at mitigating climate change and protecting the environment. While we do not expect such a package to gain much traction with a Republican majority in the Senate and there is not yet a Senate companion to this bill, there is bipartisan support for individual provisions and parts of the bill. The Committee will likely re-introduce in the next Congress and hold hearings to grow support for actions to support ocean and coastal communities in the context of climate change, including through ambitious support of research at NOAA and the NSF.

Oversight: The Committee majority has been providing oversight of what they see as Trump Administration corruption and incompetence. The Committee will continue to assess the impacts of the Trump Administration on agencies and departments under their jurisdiction, including DOI and NOAA. In addition, they will support efforts to strengthen capacity and regulatory authority at these agencies with a renewed focus on environmental protection and sustainability.
The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have the primary responsibility for overseeing the activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including: biotechnology, research, nutrition, commodities, livestock, foreign agriculture, conservation and forestry, and more. The committees are also responsible for shaping the highly political Farm Bill which authorizes and directs the majority of USDA's programs, including research and extension. The current legislation, formally known as the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, expires in 2023. Priorities for both committees in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Rural Communities**
- **Nutrition**
- **Climate Change**
- **COVID-19 Relief**

### HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The House Agriculture Committee will have both a new chair and ranking member due to current Chair Collin Peterson (D-MN) losing his reelection bid and Ranking Member Mike Conaway (R-TX) retiring. As noted below the potential leadership changes will result in different emphasis areas, including climate change, diversity, nutrition, and regional specific interests.

#### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>David Scott (D-GA)</strong></th>
<th>Rep. Scott has already signaled his interest in leading the Committee through a Dear Colleague letter in which he references the need to address climate change and inequities in agriculture.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jim Costa (D-CA)</strong></td>
<td>Rep. Costa's district is rich in dairy and specialty crops, with a significant population receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits—areas he would be expected to focus on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marcia Fudge (D-OH)</strong></td>
<td>Rep. Fudge has been a devout advocate for extending SNAP waivers and expanding benefits and is also rumored as a possible Agriculture Secretary in a Biden Administration.</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Potential Minority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA)</strong></th>
<th>Rep. Thompson's priorities are in rural development and dairy.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Austin Scott (R-GA)</strong></td>
<td>Rep. Scott has interests in protecting Georgia's diverse agricultural interests and rural development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rick Crawford (R-AR)</strong></td>
<td>Rep. Crawford also wants to support rural development and sees a ready food supply as a national security issue.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The current Chairman, Pat Roberts (R-KS), is retiring and Senator John Boozman (R-AR) is expected to fill his spot as Chairman. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) will be returning as Ranking Member.

### Potential Majority Leadership

| John Boozman (R-AR) | Senator Boozman will prioritize Arkansas agriculture strengths and opening new markets to sell agricultural products. |

### Potential Minority Leadership

| Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) | Ranking Member Stabenow is a strong supporter of agricultural research and extension programs and specialty crops. She will continue to push to address impacts of climate change on agriculture. |

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**POTENTIAL HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

- **COVID-19 Relief:** COVID-19 has shone a bright spotlight on the numerous vulnerabilities to the U.S. food supply. Both committees are expected to further assess and address the fallout of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector ranging from producer to nutritional needs.

- **Rural Communities:** Aiding rural development, specifically eliminating food deserts, establishing rural broadband, expanding critical infrastructure and rural housing loans are top priorities among the committee.

- **Nutrition:** SNAP and combating childhood obesity will continue to be areas of interest for the Committees.

- **Climate Change:** The House Agriculture Committee will continue its oversight of conservation programs to help reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. Senator Stabenow has also made climate change's impacts on agriculture a priority and will work to develop bipartisan support before serious conversations about the next Farm Bill begin.
The Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over taxation, Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and several other health and social programs funded through dedicated taxes. The Committee also oversees a variety of federal agencies and programs, including the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) within USDA, and others. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) will vacate his Chairmanship due to Republican internal term limits and is likely to be replaced by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) in the new Congress. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **COVID-19 Relief**
- **Drug Pricing and Surprise Billing**
- **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

### Potential Majority Leadership

| Mike Crapo (R-IN) | Senator Crapo is expected to take over the gavel from Committee Chairman Grassley, who is term-limited and will most likely take over as the Judiciary Committee Chair. |

### Potential Minority Leadership

| Ron Wyden (D-OR) | Ron Wyden is the current Ranking Member on the Committee is expected to remain in that role in the 117th Congress. |

### POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- **COVID-19 Stimulus**: Although a legislative COVID-19 response package will include issues across many committees, the Finance Committee specifically will be key in determining unemployment insurance benefits and issues relating to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. There may also be a push for expansion of telehealth services by new Chairman Mike Crapo, who hails from Idaho and is likely to support increased access to healthcare services in rural parts of the nation.
Drug Pricing and Healthcare Costs: A major topic of focus for the Finance Committee prior to the emergence of COVID-19, the committee is expected to return its attention to these long-standing issues once a COVID-19 deal has been struck. Although Democrats on the Committee will continue to push for allowing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical companies, Republican committee members have balked at these proposals and prefer approaches to improve the generic pharmaceutical drug pipeline. Both parties have expressed interest in addressing surprise medical billing.

Affordable Care Act: The Finance Committee has jurisdiction over much of the programs and agencies under the ACA, and Republicans will likely look to move legislation that would scale back provisions in the original law. Democrats will push back hard on these efforts, but much is contingent on the impending Supreme Court’s decision on the constitutionality of the law. Should the Supreme Court strike down the ACA, the Finance Committee will be dragged into a partisan fight over a replacement plan to ensure health insurance coverage for millions of Americans.
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. Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) is expected to continue leading the committee in the 117th Congress, while Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) will likely continue his role as well. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Tax Reform**
- **Affordable Care Act**
- **Drug Pricing and Healthcare Costs**

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richard Neal (D-MA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman Neal is expected to continue pushing his healthcare priorities in expanding the ACA and lowering pharmaceutical drug prices.</td>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kevin Brady (R-TX)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranking Member Brady will continue to oppose Democratic proposals on drug pricing, ACA expansion, and tax reform.</td>
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</table>

### POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- **Affordable Care Act**: The Committee will be heavily involved in any attempts to strengthen or expand the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), including potential legislation to establish a public health insurance option or increase tax credits for health insurance premiums. Although some progressives on the committee may push for single-payer healthcare proposals, Democrats overall will continue to rally behind the landmark 2010 law against Republican opposition. Notably, if the ACA is struck down by the Supreme Court, the Ways and Means Committee will be thrust into a partisan battle over how to replace the law and prevent millions of Americans from losing health insurance coverage.

- **Drug Pricing and Healthcare Costs**: Continuing progress made in the last Congress, the Ways and Means Committee will likely push forward legislation aimed at lowering pharmaceutical drug prices, a major priority of Chairman Neal. Such legislation may include bipartisan proposals to bolster the generic drug pipeline, although more partisan proposals to allow the Medicare program to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers will face strong Republican opposition. The Ways and Means Committee is also likely to continue a bipartisan push on ending surprise medical billing; Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady released a joint bill last Congress on the issue.
Tax Reform: Democrats may introduce messaging bills to undo changes included in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). However, tax-related legislation is unlikely to pass through a Republican-controlled Senate. President-elect Biden was expected to push for increased taxes on Americans with incomes over $400,000 and/or corporations to fund expansion of social programs. Other potential tax issues relevant to education and research include restoring the charitable giving deduction, ending the endowment tax, and creating new education and workforce training tax credits.
The Senate and House Judiciary Committees oversee a variety of issues, including immigration, patent and intellectual property reform, and criminal justice policies. In addition, the Senate Judiciary Committee is responsible for holding confirmation hearings for the President’s federal judicial nominees. Priorities for both committees in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Policing Reform**
- **Immigration**
- **Drug Pricing**

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) is expected to remain the Chair and Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) is expected to remain Ranking Member. In the 116th Congress, the committee spent a considerable amount of time on oversight over the Trump Administration, including the President’s impeachment hearing. Party alignment with the White House could lead to less oversight from the majority and more policy hearings and consideration of legislation.

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Nadler (D-NY)</td>
<td>Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members.</td>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Jordan (R-OH)</td>
<td>Currently Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members.</td>
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**SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) is term-limited as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and is expected to take over the leadership of the Senate Judiciary Committee from Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who is expected to take over the Budget Committee. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) will remain Ranking Member. Senator Grassley previously chaired the committee from 2015 to 2019. During the Trump Administration, Senators Grassley and Graham oversaw numerous judicial nominations, including three contentious Supreme Court hearings. In a divided government, the committee will likely shift to extended oversight over actions taken by the Biden Administration in addition to consideration of Vice President Biden’s judicial nominations.
POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- **Policing Reform**: One major outstanding issue from the last Congress is policing reform. Both the House and Senate introduced respective bills in the summer of 2020 but were unable to find common ground on a final measure that would be signed by President Trump. There were some areas of relative agreement between each chambers’ bills and Vice President Biden has indicated his interest in pursuing policing reforms that are more moderate than proposals from some of the most progressive members of his party, which could lead to bipartisan progress on this front in the next Congress.

- **Immigration**: As with the Homeland Security Committees, this will likely remain one of the most contentious issues within the committees’ respective purviews. However, it is uncertain whether Republicans will continue to aggressively pursue non-starters for bipartisan agreement like President Trump’s proposed border wall or enhanced immigration enforcement in certain communities. This could lead to some momentum for incremental changes, including reforms to H-1B temporary visa programs.

- **Drug Pricing**: The Judiciary Committee has jurisdiction over intellectual property and patent abuse, which can be leveraged to address the costs of prescription drugs. In 2019, a series of bicameral hearings led to the introduction of some bipartisan bills to address the high costs of prescription drugs. Several of the bills failed to advance due in part to concerns from Senate leadership. Drug prices have been an area of interest for Senator Grassley and could be an area of common ground between the White House and Congress.
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, under the leadership of Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), was a key contributor to House Democrats’ landmark Moving Forward proposal and eponymous legislation, the Moving Forward Act. Priorities in the 117th Congress may include:

- **Highway Legislation**
- **Aviation Safety**
- **Aviation Industry Relief**
- **Infrastructure**

### Potential Majority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter DeFazio (D-OR)</td>
<td>Current committee Chairman and not being challenged by other Members.</td>
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### Potential Minority Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sam Graves (R-MO)</td>
<td>Current Ranking Member and not being challenged by other Members.</td>
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</table>

### POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- **Highway Legislation**: The Committee is expected to re-introduce major surface transportation legislation in the 117th Congress that was passed by the House of Representatives last summer. The INVEST in America Act would create new and modify existing programs at DOT, including the nearly $400 million in annual research conducted by relevant DOT modal administrations. The bill was included within House Democrats’ larger Moving Forward Act which would heavily promote climate mitigation and resilience in the transportation sector. The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in September included an extension of the current surface transportation authorization through FY 2021.

- **Infrastructure Stimulus**: Chairman DeFazio plans to work with the Biden Administration to introduce an infrastructure stimulus package early in the 117th Congress. The scope, scale, timing, and overall likelihood of passing such a package remains elusive given Republican control of the Senate. Expect the House Democrats' Moving Forward Act, which would invest in clean energy, water infrastructure, 5G deployment, and community and economic development, to serve as a starting point in discussions towards an infrastructure package.
Aviation Industry Relief: The Committee has voiced bipartisan support for continued relief for airlines and aircraft manufacturers in response to COVID-19’s severe impact on the aviation industry. It’s expected Committee leadership and members will seek greater funding for the sector in future COVID-19 relief packages.

Aviation Safety: The Committee is expected to continue work from the 116th Congress in response to the two major Boeing 737-Max commercial airline crashes earlier last year. Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves unveiled bipartisan legislation in September aimed at reforming the FAA’s safety policies and oversight of aircraft manufacturers. Committee leadership is anticipated to seek passage of the bill by the full House during the lame duck. However, the Committee expects that discussions with the Senate towards compromise legislation will carry over into the 117th Congress.