



Hart Health
Strategies Inc.

2020 Political/Elections Overview

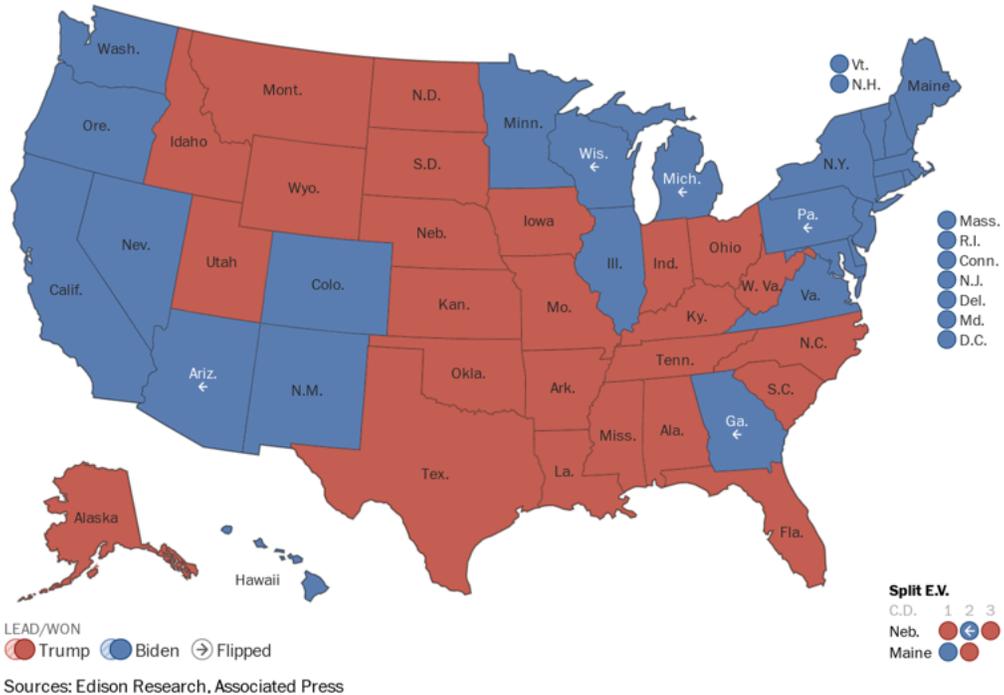
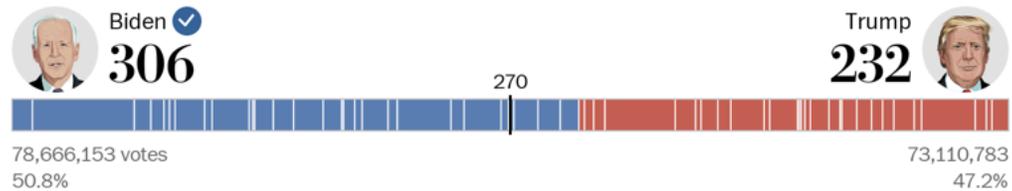
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Presidential Election Results

The Associated Press announced on November 7 that **former Vice President Joe Biden** had reached the 270 electoral votes needed to win the 2020 presidential election.

The Washington Post



Candidate Biographies

[Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.](#), was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Delaware and Syracuse Law School and served on the New Castle County Council. At age 29, he became one of the youngest people ever elected to the United States Senate. As a Senator from Delaware, Vice President Biden served as Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years and was widely recognized for his work on criminal justice issues. He also served as Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 12 years, where he worked to shape U.S. foreign policy. During his time as the 47th Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden worked to reduce gun violence, address violence against women, and launch the Cancer

Moonshot Research Initiative. Vice President Biden is married to Jill Biden, a life-long educator, and has five grandchildren: Naomi, Finnegan, Roberta Mabel ("Maisy"), Natalie, and Robert Hunter.

[Kamala D. Harris](#) was sworn in as a United States Senator for California in 2017, the second African-American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history. She serves on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on the Budget. After earning an undergraduate degree from Howard University and a law degree from the University of California, Hastings, she began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. In 2003, Kamala became the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. Having completed two terms as the District Attorney of San Francisco, Harris was elected to serve as California's Attorney General. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Doug Emhoff, and is stepmother to Ella and Cole Emhoff.

2020 Democratic Platform

The [2020 Democratic Party Platform](#) outlines the following health care related-policies to **protect Americans and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic** (page 8):

- Make COVID-19 testing widely available, convenient, and free to everyone;
- Expand funding for state and local health departments;
- Make COVID-19 treatment and any eventual vaccine free to everyone;
- Provide direct, increased support to states to enroll eligible adults in Medicaid, have the federal government cover a higher percentage of program costs, and add incentives for states which have not yet expanded Medicaid to do so;
- Cover 100 percent of the cost of COBRA insurance, reopen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces and expand marketplace coverage subsidies, and make available a public option administered through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- Dramatically scale up the United States' domestic manufacturing capacity for both personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medicines;
- Aggressively enforce non-discrimination protections in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other civil rights laws, improve oversight and expand protections for residents and staff at nursing homes, and expand support for telemedicine;
- Stand up a comprehensive, national public health surveillance program for COVID-19 and future infectious diseases, and recruit at least 100,000 contact tracers; and
- Substantially increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and support medical and public health research grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).

The Democratic platform also includes an extensive set of policies aimed at **achieving universal, affordable, quality health care** (page 26).

[Public Option](#) (page 28). The party supports a public option offered through the ACA marketplace that will provide at least one plan choice without deductibles, administered by CMS, which covers all primary care without any co-payments and controls costs for other treatments by negotiating prices with doctors and hospitals. The platform also endorses automatic enrollment of the lowest-income Americans residing in states that have not expanded their Medicaid programs in the public option without premiums, with the option to opt out, as well as expanded funding for the ACA outreach and enrollment programs. It would enable older workers to choose between their employer-provided health plans, the public option, or enrolling in Medicare when they turn 60 (instead of 65) and empower states to use ACA innovation

waivers to experiment with statewide universal health care approaches. Democrats also support a doubling of investments in community health centers and rural health clinics in underserved urban and rural areas, increased support for mobile health clinics, and expansion of the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program.

[Pharmaceutical Prices \(page 29\)](#). The platform would empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices for all public and private purchasers, prevent the price of brand-name and outlier generic drugs from rising faster than inflation, cap out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors, and ensure that effective treatments for chronic health conditions are available at little or no cost. Democrats would also crack down on anti-competitive efforts to manipulate the patent system or collude on prices and eliminate tax breaks for prescription drug advertisements.

[Health Care Cost and Quality \(page 29\)](#). Democrats express support for outlawing the practice of surprise medical billing, increasing price transparency in the health care system across all payers, reducing paperwork through uniform medical billing, and vigorously using antitrust laws to fight against mega-mergers in the hospital, insurance, and pharmaceutical industries. Democrats will invest in training and hiring of more mental health providers, substance use disorder counselors, and peer support counselors by expanding funding for health clinics, especially in rural areas, and increasing access to these services through Medicaid. The platform also supports increased training for health care professionals, educators, social workers, and other care workers in trauma-informed care and practices. It would require publicly supported health clinics to offer medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction and approved treatments for other substance use disorders. The platform aims to eliminate waiting lists for home and community-based care and the institutional bias within Medicaid. It would create a tax credit for informal and family caregivers and increase the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Democrats express support for policies that would improve nursing home staffing and quality standards, strengthen accreditation processes, and combat corporate abuses in nursing homes and independent living facilities.

[Health Inequities \(page 31\)](#). Democrats intend to launch a sustained, government-wide effort to eliminate racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic gaps in insurance rates, access to quality care, and health outcomes and to ensure that federal data collection and analysis is adequately funded and designed to allow for disaggregation by race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geography, disability status, and national origin. They would extend ACA coverage to recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and lift the five-year waiting period for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility for low-income, lawfully present immigrants. The platform expresses support for investments under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the Minority HIV/AIDS Fund. Democrats propose expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage to a full year after giving birth, investing in rural maternal health, promoting a diverse perinatal workforce, and implementing implicit bias training for health professionals. The platform also includes policies to protect Native American health; secure reproductive health, rights, and justice, and protect LGBTQ+ health; and condemns the Trump administration's actions to allow doctors, hospitals, and insurance companies to discriminate against patients based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

[Health Care Workforce \(page 33\)](#). Democrats pledge to invest in community health worker care-forces proven to prevent, manage, and better treat chronic illnesses and to empower first-time mothers with home visiting. The platform aims to close provider gaps and increase diversity in the health care profession, and to increase opportunities for community health workers to come from the communities they serve.

Health Science and Research (page 34). Democrats support increased and sustainable funding for health and medical research and federal grants across agencies. The platform would increase federal investment in research and development for new medications through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and make sure that there is a return on that investment for taxpayers. Democrats also support increasing funding for research into health disparities by race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, geographic area, and socioeconomic status, with a particular focus on how the social determinants of health contribute to differences in health outcomes. Democrats promise to take steps to increase the diversity of principal investigators receiving federal grants as well as of participants in federally supported clinical trials, and to improve the quality and applicability of medical research for women and people of color. Democrats also vow to protect the independence and intellectual freedom of scientists and to take steps to shield scientific research agencies from future political interference.

Where Biden Stands on the Health Issues

	President Donald Trump	President-Elect Joe Biden
Affordable Care Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes the Affordable Care Act (ACA) • Expanded the availability of short-term and association health plans • Reduced funding for marketplace outreach and enrollment • Supports a Supreme Court challenge to the law • Repeatedly touts a yet unreleased plan to replace the ACA and provide “insurance for everybody.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledged to defend the ACA from legal challenges and to “build on” the law if he is elected president • Supports expanding premium subsidies on the ACA exchanges • Would restore funding for marketplace outreach and enrollment • Supports the creation of a public option that would be available on the ACA exchanges • Would expand ACA coverage to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and allow undocumented immigrants to purchase plans on the marketplace.
Medicare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports lowering the age of eligibility to age 60 • Would make coverage of dental, vision, and hearing standard
Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports state waivers that would impose spending caps and work requirements • “Public charge” regulation, which currently faces legal challenges, would restrict entry of individuals who are likely to use public programs, including Medicaid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports expanded federal support for state Medicaid programs during the current public health emergency (PHE) • Supports the reversal of the public charge rule • Public option proposal would provide zero-premium coverage to poor adults in Medicaid expansion holdout states
COVID-19 response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegated many aspects of coronavirus response to the states • Extended COBRA benefits without government subsidies • Signed legislation eliminating out-of-pocket costs for coronavirus testing • Launched \$12 billion Operation Warp Speed (OWS) to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports generous federal stimulus to support businesses, individuals, hospitals, and schools • Supports more robust use of the Defense Production Act (DPA) for the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) • Would provide full federal subsidies for COBRA premiums during the PHE • Supports increased availability of free testing and the creation of at-home and instant tests, and has called for the performance of 100 million tests per month

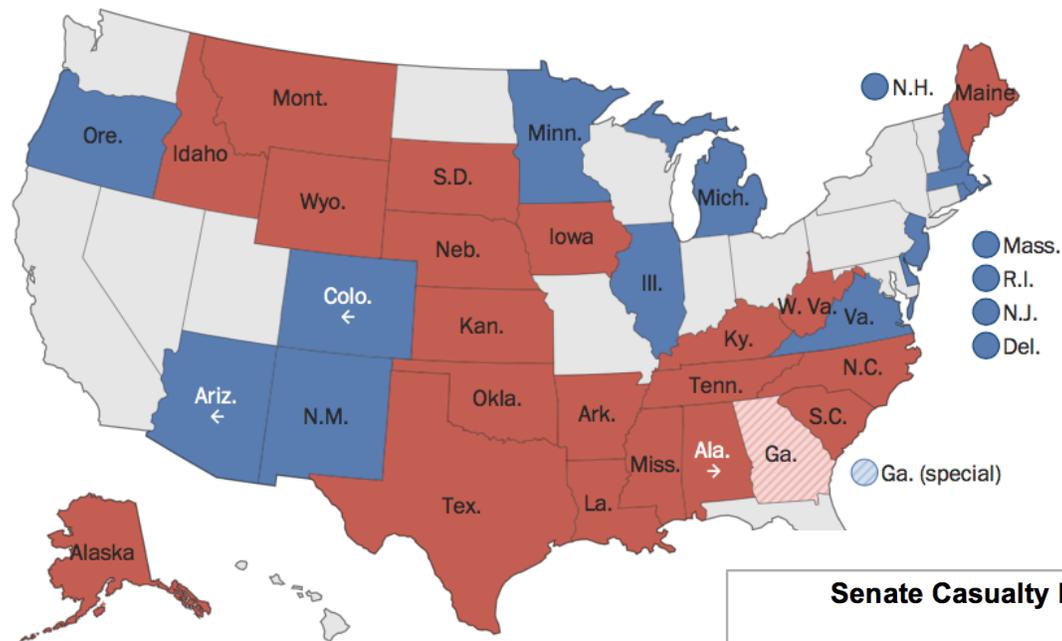
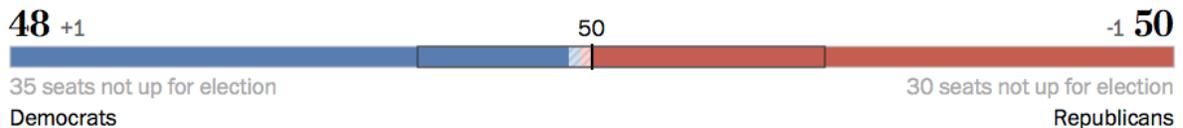
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally withdrew the U.S. from the World Health Organization (WHO) 	<p>alongside the creation of a Pandemic Testing Board to increase the supply of tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would create a U.S. public health jobs corps to mobilize 100,000 contact tracers Supports investment of \$25 billion in a vaccine and manufacturing distribution plan Would have U.S. rejoin WHO Exploring the enforceability of a national mask mandate Has promised to elevate the voices of scientists and physicians Proposed the appointment of a national “supply chain commander” for the manufacturing and distribution of PPE and test kits
Health care costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports ban on surprise billing without details Issued regulations to increase price transparency for hospitals and health insurers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports ban on surprise billing without details Proposed public option that would be used to negotiate prices with health providers and hospitals
Drug costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports international reference pricing Supports allowing importation of prescription drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would authorize the federal government to negotiate drug prices for Medicare Supports allowing importation of prescription drugs
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal to increase access to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services Pushed to prosecute pharmaceutical companies in relation to the opioid epidemic Proposal to establish a permanent Infectious Disease Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force Promotes suicide prevention, specifically for veterans and LGBTQ youth Supports expansion of the mental health workforce

Senate Balance of Power

The election saw the 100-member Senate split with Republicans controlling 50 seats and Democrats controlling 48. Democrats were able to add two seats into their column in by defeating incumbent Senators Martha McSally in Arizona and Corey Gardner in Colorado. However, the Democrats failed to flip any other contested race as Republican incumbents prevailed in Maine, South Carolina, Iowa, Montana, North Carolina, and Alaska. Control of the Senate will be determined in Georgia with a pair of **run-off elections on January 5** to fill the remaining two years on former Sen. Johnny Isakson's (R-Ga.) term, between incumbent Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R) and Raphael Warnock (D), and to determine the outcome of the race between incumbent Sen. David Perdue (R) and challenger Jon Ossoff (D). While **Democrats' chance of retaking control of the Senate have diminished**, if the chamber eventually splits 50/50, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will hold the tie-breaking vote.

Republicans held **23** of the seats up for reelection, and Democrats held **12**.

Washington Post



Senate Casualty List

Resigned

- Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) resigned Dec. 31, 2019; Kelly Loeffler (R) appointed until special election

Not Seeking Re-election

- Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.)
- Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.)
- Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)
- Tom Udall (D-N.M.)
- Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) won't seek re-election in 2022

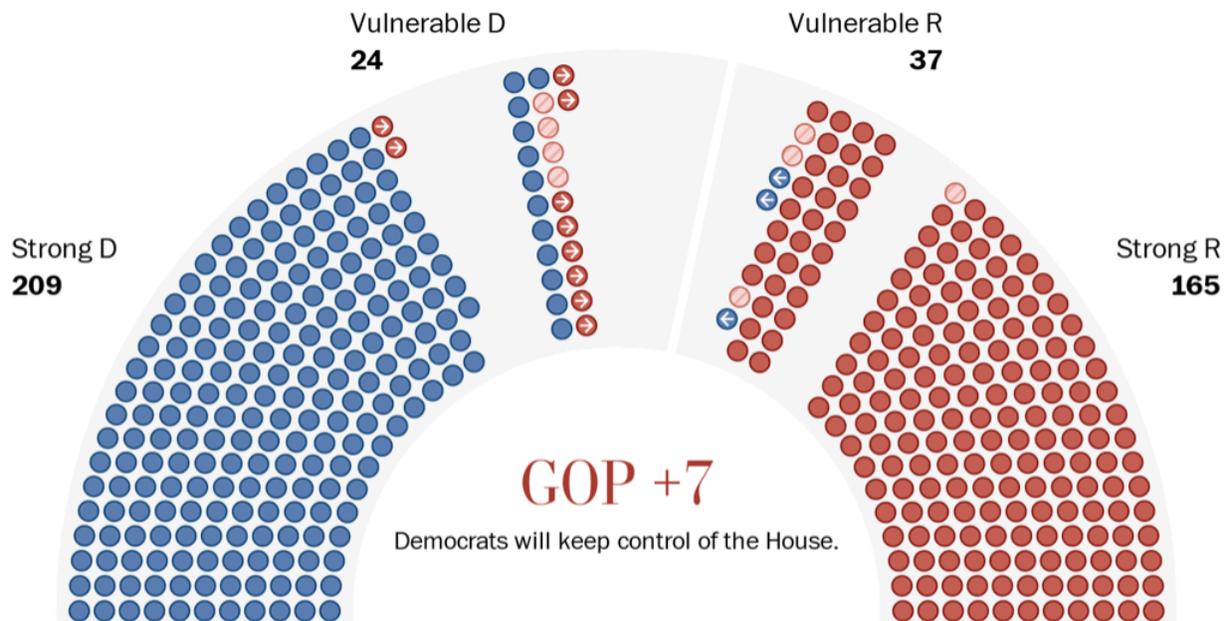
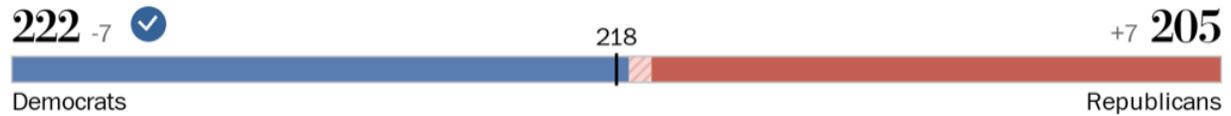
Bloomberg Government

December 20, 2020

House Balance of Power

Democrats will maintain control of the House of Representatives, but the party will hold fewer seats under the 117th Congress than under the 116th. It is also important to note that no House Republican who ran for re-election lost their race.

3Washington Post



LEAD/WON
 ● Democrat ● Republican → Flipped
 Sources: Edison Research

Party Flips and Uncalled Races

- Republican Maria Elvira Salazar beat freshman **Rep. Donna Shalala** (D-FL), former secretary of Health and Human Services, in a rematch of their 2018 race.
- **Two House races remain undecided, and one is headed for a runoff:**
 - IA 02: Open seat to replace retiring Rep. Tom Loabsack (D), Rita Hart (D) is leading Mariannette Miller Meeks (R)
 - NY 22: Challenger Claudia Tenney (R) is leading incumbent Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D)
 - LA 05: Open seat race to replace Rep. Ralph Abraham (R), Luke Letlow (R) will run-off against Lance Harris (R) or Sandra Christophe (D)

Record Gains for Republican Women

Female candidates accounted for most of the seats that the GOP took from Democrats this election cycle, with GOP women expected to set a new record for the most number of Republican women elected to the House. Two dozen have already won their races, and an additional seven are awaiting the results of their race. The current high for Republican women elected to the House is 25, which took place in 2004. Only 13 Republican women were elected to the 2019-2020 House.

House Casualty List

Not Seeking Re-Election

AL-02 – Martha Roby (R)
CA-53 – Susan Davis (D)
FL-03 – Ted Yoho (R)
FL-19 – Francis Rooney (R)
GA-07 – Rob Woodall (R)
HI-02 – Tulsi Gabbard (D)
IA-02 – Dave Loebsack (D)
IL-15 – John Shimkus (R)
IN-01 – Pete Visclosky (D)
IN-05 – Susan Brooks (R)
LA-05 – Ralph Abraham (R)
MI-03 – Justin Amash (L)
MI-10 – Paul Mitchell (R)
NC-02 – George Holding (R)
NC-06 – Mark Walker (R)
NY-02 – Peter King (R)
NY-15 – José Serrano (D)
NY-17 – Nita Lowey (D)
OR-02 – Greg Walden (R)
TN-01 – Phil Roe (R)
TX-11 – Michael Conaway (R)
TX-13 – Mac Thornberry (R)
TX-17 – Bill Flores (R)
TX-22 – Pete Olson (R)
TX-23 – Will Hurd (R)
TX-24 – Kenny Marchant (R)
WI-05 – Jim Sensenbrenner (R)

Defeated in Primary

CO-03 – Scott Tipton (R)
FL-15 – Ross Spano (R)
IA-04 – Steve King (R)
IL-03 – Dan Lipinski (D)
KS-02 – Steve Watkins (R)
MO-01 – Lacy Clay (D)
NY-16 – Eliot Engel (D)
VA-05 – Denver Riggleman (R)

Seeking Other Office

AL-01 – Bradley Byrne (R), lost Senate primary
CA-08 – Paul Cook (R), elected in March to San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
GA-09 – Doug Collins (R), seeking Senate seat in special election
KS-01 – Roger Marshall (R), won Senate primary
MA-04 – Joe Kennedy (D), lost Senate primary
MT-AL – Greg Gianforte (R), won governor primary
NM-03 – Ben Ray Lujan (D), won Senate primary
UT-01 – Rob Bishop (R), lost primary for lieutenant governor
WA-10 – Denny Heck (D), running for lieutenant governor

Resignations, Deaths & Special Elections

CA-25 – Katie Hill (D) resigned Nov. 3, 2019; Mike Garcia (R) elected May 12, 2020
CA-50 – Duncan Hunter (R) resigned Jan. 13, 2020; no special election
GA-05 – John Lewis (D) died July 17, 2020; runoff special election Dec. 1, 2020
GA-14 – Tom Graves (R) resigned Oct. 4, 2020; no special election scheduled
MD-07 – Elijah Cummings (D) died Oct. 17, 2019; Kweisi Mfume (D) elected April 28, 2020
NC-03 – Walter Jones (R) died Feb. 10, 2019; Greg Murphy (R) elected Sept. 10, 2019
NC-09 – Dan Bishop (R) elected Sept. 10, 2019 after seat wasn't filled in 2018 election
NC-11 – Mark Meadows (R) resigned March 30, 2020; no special election scheduled
NY-27 – Chris Collins (R) resigned Sept. 30, 2019; Chris Jacobs (R) elected June 23, 2020
PA-12 – Tom Marino (R) resigned Jan. 23, 2019; Fred Keller (R) elected May 21, 2019
TX-04 – John Ratcliffe (R) resigned May 22, 2020; no special election scheduled
WI-07 – Sean Duffy (R) resigned Sept. 23, 2019; Tom Tiffany (R) elected May 12, 2020

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Health Professionals Serving in the 117th Congress (new Members in bold)

Member of Congress	Profession
UNITED STATES SENATE	
Sen. John Barrasso, MD (R-WY)	Orthopaedic Surgeon
Sen. John Boozman, OD (R-AR)	Optometrist
Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA)	Gastroenterologist/Heptalogist
Sen. Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS)	OB/GYN
Sen. Rand Paul, MD (R-KY)	Ophthalmologist
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
Rep. Brian Babin, DDS (R-TX-36)	Dentist
Rep. Karen Bass, PA, MSW (D-CA-37)	Nurse/Physician Assistant
Rep. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA-07)	Internal Medicine Physician
Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN-08)	Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Rep. Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX-26)	Obstetrician
Rep. Buddy Carter, BSPHarm (R-GA-01)	Pharmacist
Rep. Scott DesJarlais, MD (R-TN-04)	General Medicine
Rep. Neal Dunn, MD (R-FL-02)	Urologist
Rep. Drew Ferguson, IV, DMD, PC (R-GA-03)	Dentist
Rep. Paul Gosar, DDS (R-AZ-04)	Dentist
Rep. Mark Green, MD (R-TN-07)	Emergency Physician
Rep. Andy Harris, MD (R-MD-01)	Obstetric Anesthesiologist
Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN-01)	Pharmacist
Rep. Ronny Jackson, MD (R-TX-13)	Emergency Physician
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, RN (D-TX-30)	Registered Nurse
Rep. John Joyce, MD, FAAD, FACP (R-PA-13)	Dermatologist
Rep. Alan Lowenthal, PhD (D-CA-47)	Psychologist
Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC-03)	Urologist
Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD, MPP, MPH (D-CA-36)	Emergency Physician
Rep. Kurt Schrader, DVM (D-OR-05)	Veterinarian
Rep. Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA-08)	Pediatrician
Rep. Mike Simpson, DMD (R-ID-02)	Dentist
Rep. Glenn Thompson, MEd (R-PA-15)	Rehabilitation Therapist
Rep. Lauren Underwood, RN (D-IL-14)	Registered Nurse
Rep. Jeff Van Drew, DDS (R-NJ-02)	Dentist
Rep. Brad Wenstrup, DPM (R-OH-02)	Podiatrist

Congressional Leadership

Senate

Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** was reelected to lead Senate Republicans during the 117th session of Congress, while **Chuck Schumer (D-NY)** will remain as the top Democrat in the chamber. Republican Whip **John Thune (R-SD)**, Republican Conference Chair **John Barrasso (R-WY)**, Policy Committee Chair **Roy Blunt (R-MO)**, and Conference Vice Chair **Joni Ernst (R-IA)** will return to their leadership positions, with the addition of **Rick Scott (R-FL)** who will serve as chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Democratic Senate leadership will also remain the same, with party Whip **Dick Durbin (D-IL)**, Assistant Democratic Leader **Patty Murray (D-WA)**, Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC) Chair **Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)**, and Conference Vice Chairs **Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)** and **Mark Warner (D-VA)**. Other returning leaders include Steering Committee Chair **Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**, Outreach Chair **Bernie Sanders (I-VT)**, DPCC Vice Chair **Joe Manchin (D-WV)**, and Conference Secretary **Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)**. **Cory Booker (D-NJ)** will serve as Vice Chair of the DPCC and **Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)** will serve as Vice Chair of Outreach.

House

House Democrats have nominated current Speaker **Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** to continue to lead the party for another two years. Her selection took place by voice vote. To secure the position of speaker during the 117th Congress, she will need the support of the majority of the full House come January. Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer (D-MD)**, Majority Whip **Jim Clyburn (D-SC)**, and House Democratic Caucus Chairman **Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)** were also reelected to their leadership posts. Rep. **Katherine Clark (D-MA)** defeated Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) in the race for assistant Speaker. Rep. **Pete Aguilar (D-CA)** will serve as Caucus Vice Chairman. Rep. **Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)** was chosen as chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Reps. **Matt Cartwright (D-PA)**, **Debbie Dingell (D-MI)**, and **Ted Lieu (D-CA)** will serve a second term as Democratic Policy and Communications Committee co-chairs; they will be joined by Rep. **Joe Neguse (D-CO)**. Rep. **Colin Allred (D-TX)** will serve as Caucus Leadership Representative.

The top four leaders and the National Republican Campaign Committee (NRCC) chair will return in the 117th Congress: Minority Leader **Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)**, Minority Whip **Steve Scalise (R-LA)**, Conference Chair **Liz Cheney (R-WY)**, Policy Committee Chair **Gary Palmer (R-AL)**, and NRCC Chair **Tom Emmer (R-MN)**. Rep. **Mike Johnson (R-LA)** will serve as conference vice chair and Rep. **Rich Hudson (R-NC)** will serve as conference secretary.

Congressional Schedule

House

House Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)** released the schedule for the House of Representatives for the first session of the 117th Congress. The schedule continues the use of committee work days, which were created earlier this year to facilitate the House's work during the pandemic. The House is scheduled to have 101 voting days and 59 committee work days. On the first day of each week, votes will occur in the House at 6:30 p.m. The last votes of the week will not occur after 3:00 p.m. The House is scheduled to convene on January 3, 2021. View the schedule for the U.S. House of Representatives for calendar year 2021 [here](#).

House Democrats and Republicans have selected their committee [chairs](#) and [ranking members](#) for the 117th Congress. The positions were ratified by the full party conferences following recommendations from each respective steering committee. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has [announced](#) the nominated appointments from the House Democratic Steering Committee to the House Appropriations Committee, Energy and Commerce Committee, Financial Services Committee and Ways and Means Committee. The nominations will now go to the full Democratic Caucus for approval. Formal decisions regarding committee membership and leadership **will not take place until the 117th Congress convenes** in January.

House Health Committee Membership

Energy and Commerce (Health Subcommittee in **bold**)

Democrats, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress	Republicans, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress
Frank Pallone (NJ), Chair		Greg Walden (OR) , Ranking Member	retiring; McMorris Rodgers to take top Republican spot
Bobby Rush (IL)		Fred Upton (MI)	
Anna Eshoo (CA)		John Shimkus (IL)	retiring
Eliot Engel (NY)	defeated in primary	Michael C. Burgess (TX)	
Diana DeGette (CO)		Steve Scalise (LA)	
Mike Doyle (PA)		Bob Latta (OH)	
Jan Schakowsky (IL)		Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)	
G. K. Butterfield (NC)		Brett Guthrie (KY)	
Doris Matsui (CA)		Pete Olson (TX)	retiring
Kathy Castor (FL)		David McKinley (WV)	
John Sarbanes (MD)		Adam Kinzinger (IL)	
Jerry McNeerney (CA)		Morgan Griffith (VA)	
Peter Welch (VT)		Gus Bilirakis (FL)	
Ben Ray Lujan (NM)	seeking other office	Bill Johnson (OH)	
Paul Tonko (NY)		Billy Long (MO)	
Yvette Clarke (NY) Vice Chair		Larry Bucshon (IN)	
Dave Loebsack (IA)	retiring	Bill Flores (TX)	retiring
Kurt Schrader (OR)		Susan Brooks (IN)	retiring
Joe Kennedy III (MA)	retiring	Markwayne Mullin (OK)	
Tony Cárdenas (CA)		Richard Hudson (NC)	
Raul Ruiz (CA)		Tim Walberg (MI)	
Scott Peters (CA)		Buddy Carter (GA)	
Debbie Dingell (MI)		Jeff Duncan (SC)	
Marc Veasey (TX)		Greg Gianforte (MT)	seeking other office
Ann McLane Kuster (NH)			
Robin Kelly (IL)			
Nanette Barragán (CA)			
Donald McEachin (VA)			
Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE)			

Darren Soto (FL)			
Tom O'Halleran (AZ)			

Energy and Commerce's health care agenda is not expected to drastically change between the 116th and 117th congresses, with **strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA), lowering drug prices, increasing funding for public health and research, and protecting consumers' data privacy** likely to remain the main focus of the panel. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) is expected to remain as the chair of the Health Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee Ranking Member position is likely to be filled by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY).

Appropriations (HHS Subcommittee in **bold**, FDA Subcommittee in *italics*)

Democrats, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress	Republicans, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress
Nita Lowey (NY) , Chair	retiring; DeLauro to take top Democratic spot	Kay Granger (TX) , Ranking Member	has met term limit as Ranking Member
Marcy Kaptur (OH)		Hal Rogers (KY)	
Pete Visclosky (IN)	retiring	<i>Robert Aderholt (AL)</i>	
José E. Serrano (NY)	retiring	Mike Simpson (ID)	
Rosa DeLauro (CT)		John Carter (TX)	
David Price (NC)		Ken Calvert (CA)	
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)		Tom Cole (OK) , Vice Ranking Member	has met term limit as HHS Subc. Ranking Member
<i>Sanford Bishop (GA)</i>		Mario Díaz-Balart (FL)	
Barbara Lee (CA)		Tom Graves (GA)	
<i>Betty McCollum (MN)</i>		Steve Womack (AR)	
Tim Ryan (OH)		<i>Jeff Fortenberry (NE)</i>	has met term limit as FDA Subc. Ranking Member
Dutch Ruppersberger (MD)		Chuck Fleischmann (TN)	
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)		Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA)	
<i>Henry Cuellar (TX)</i>		David Joyce (OH)	
<i>Chellie Pingree (ME)</i>		Andy Harris (MD)	
Mike Quigley (IL)		Martha Roby (AL)	retiring
Derek Kilmer (WA)		Mark Amodei (NV)	
Matt Cartwright (PA)		Chris Stewart (UT)	
Grace Meng (NY)		Steven Palazzo (MI)	
Mark Pocan (WI)		Dan Newhouse (WA)	
Katherine Clark (MA)		John Moolenaar (MI)	
Pete Aguilar (CA), Vice Chair		John Rutherford (FL)	
Lois Frankel (FL)		Will Hurd (TX)	retiring
Cheri Bustos (IL)			
Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ)			
Brenda Lawrence (MI)			
Norma Torres (CA)			
Charlie Crist (FL)			

Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ)			
Ed Case (HI)			

Senate Health Committee Membership

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

Republicans, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress	Democrats, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress
Lamar Alexander (TN), Chairman	retiring; recent investigations into Burr's stock trades could preclude his taking the top Republican spot	Patty Murray (WA) Ranking Member	
Mike Enzi (WY)	retiring	Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	
Richard Burr (NC)		Bob Casey, Jr. (PA)	
Rand Paul (KY)		Tammy Baldwin (WI)	
Susan Collins (ME)		Chris Murphy (CT)	
Bill Cassidy (LA)		Elizabeth Warren (MA)	
Pat Roberts (KS)	retiring	Tim Kaine (VA)	
Lisa Murkowski (AK)		Maggie Hassan (NH)	
Tim Scott (SC)		Tina Smith (MN)	
Mitt Romney (UT)		Doug Jones (AL)	
Mike Braun (IN)		Jacky Rosen (NV)	
Kelly Loeffler (GA)			

Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) was slated to replace retiring Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) as the top Republican on the HELP Committee, but an investigation into his stock sales just prior to the pandemic resulted in his decision to step aside as the leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee and could also preclude his leadership on HELP. The next senior Republican, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), has not given any indication of what his priorities would be should he become the Republican HELP leader. Over the course of the 116th Congress, HELP focused on surprise medical bills and drug pricing, though this could change in the coming year along with membership changes on the committee. While Sen. Burr has been active in pursuing a surprise billing fix and lowering drug prices, Sen. Paul has pushed to expand health savings accounts and to reduce the role of the federal government in the provision of health care. Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) will remain the top Democrat on the committee and is expected to continue her push for COVID-19 response oversight, government procurement of medical supplies, and expansion of testing regimes.

Finance

Republicans, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress	Democrats, 116 th Congress	117 th Congress
Chuck Grassley (IA), Chairman	Grassley to serve as top Republican on Judiciary Cmt.; will remain on Finance but likely be replaced by Crapo as top Republican	Ron Wyden (OR), Ranking Member	
Mike Crapo (ID)		Debbie Stabenow (MI)	
Pat Roberts (KS)	retiring	Maria Cantwell (WA)	
Mike Enzi (WY)	retiring	Bob Menendez (NJ)	
John Cornyn (TX)		Tom Carper (DE)	
John Thune (SD)		Ben Cardin (MD)	
Richard Burr (NC)		Sherrod Brown (OH)	
Rob Portman (OH)		Michael Bennet (CO)	
Pat Toomey (PA)		Bob Casey (PA)	
Tim Scott (SC)		Mark Warner (VA)	
Bill Cassidy (LA)		Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)	
James Lankford (OK)			
Steve Daines (MT)			
Todd Young (IN)			
Ben Sasse (NE)			

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) is expected to assume the top Republican spot on the Senate Finance Committee. During the 116th Congress, Sen. Crapo proposed a Republican alternative (*Lower Costs, More Cures Act*) to Chairman Chuck Grassley's (R-IA) bipartisan *Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act*. He has focused on the issue of **privacy** while leading the Senate Banking Committee, a topic which could also be applicable in the health care arena. The issue of **telehealth** may also be of particular interest to Sen. Crapo, given the rural populations present in Idaho. Sen. Crapo was tapped by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to lead **oversight of the CARES Act**. Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) will remain the top Democrat on the panel. Drug pricing, surprise billing, funding for COVID-19 vaccine distribution, and health care access are expected to remain the top health policy priorities for Finance Democrats.

Caucus Leadership and Membership

Congressional caucuses have begun announcing their leadership and members for the 117th Congress, including the [Congressional Hispanic Caucus](#), the [Democratic Women's Caucus](#), and the [Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus](#).

State Health Care Ballot Initiatives

Ballot initiatives are state and local based decisions that are passed on from the legislative process for the electorate to decide directly. In 2020, 129 statewide ballot initiatives were certified in 34 different states, many dealing with health care. Below is a list of state health care-related ballot initiatives and their outcomes from around the country that voters decided on in their respective states.

State	Topic	Ballot Measure	Election	Outcome
AR	Practice of Optometry	Issue 6 - The measure was removed from the ballot by the Arkansas Supreme Court on September 17, 2020.	General	FAILED
CA	Kidney Dialysis	Proposition 23 - Authorizes state regulation of kidney dialysis clinics. Establishes minimum staffing and other requirements.	General	FAILED
CA	Stem Cell Research	Proposition 14 - Issues \$5.5 billion in bonds for state stem cell research institute.	General	
CO	Cigarette/Nicotine Tax	Proposition EE - Increases taxes on tobacco, creates a new tax on nicotine products such as e-cigarettes; dedicates funds to education and health programs.	General	PASSED
CO	Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program	Proposition 118 - Establishes a program for paid medical and family leave.	General	PASSED
ME	Immunization Requirements	Question 1 - Repeals LD 798, which would eliminate religious and philosophical exemptions from vaccination requirements for students to attend schools and colleges and for employees of healthcare facilities.	Primary	FAILED
MO	Medicaid Expansion	Amendment 2 - Expands Medicaid eligibility in Missouri to adults that are between the ages of 19 and 65 whose income is 138% of the federal poverty level or below.	Primary	PASSED
OK	Increase Medicaid Funding	Question 814 - Decreases payments made to the TSET Fund from 75% to 25%, directs the legislature to appropriate money from the fund to secure federal matching funds for the state's Medicaid program.	General	FAILED
OK	Medicaid Expansion	Question 802 - Adds a provision to the state Constitution requiring the state to expand Medicaid coverage to include certain persons in a specified age group who are not already covered.	Primary	PASSED
OR	Cigarette Tax Increase	Measure 108 - Creates an additional tax upon distributions of cigarettes at the rate of 100 mills for each cigarette in the state.	General	PASSED
OR	Psilocybin Program	Measure 109 - Legalizes psilocybin mushrooms (magic mushrooms) for Oregon Psilocybin Services Program under the Oregon Health Authority.	General	PASSED
SD	Marijuana Legalization	Constitutional Amendment A - Legalizes the recreational use of marijuana for individuals over a certain age.	General	PASSED
SD	Medical Marijuana	Initiated Measure 26 - Establishes a medical marijuana program in the state for individuals who have a debilitating medical condition as certified by a physician.	General	PASSED
WA	Long-Term Care Funding	SJR 8212 - Would allow public money held in a fund for long-term care services.	General	

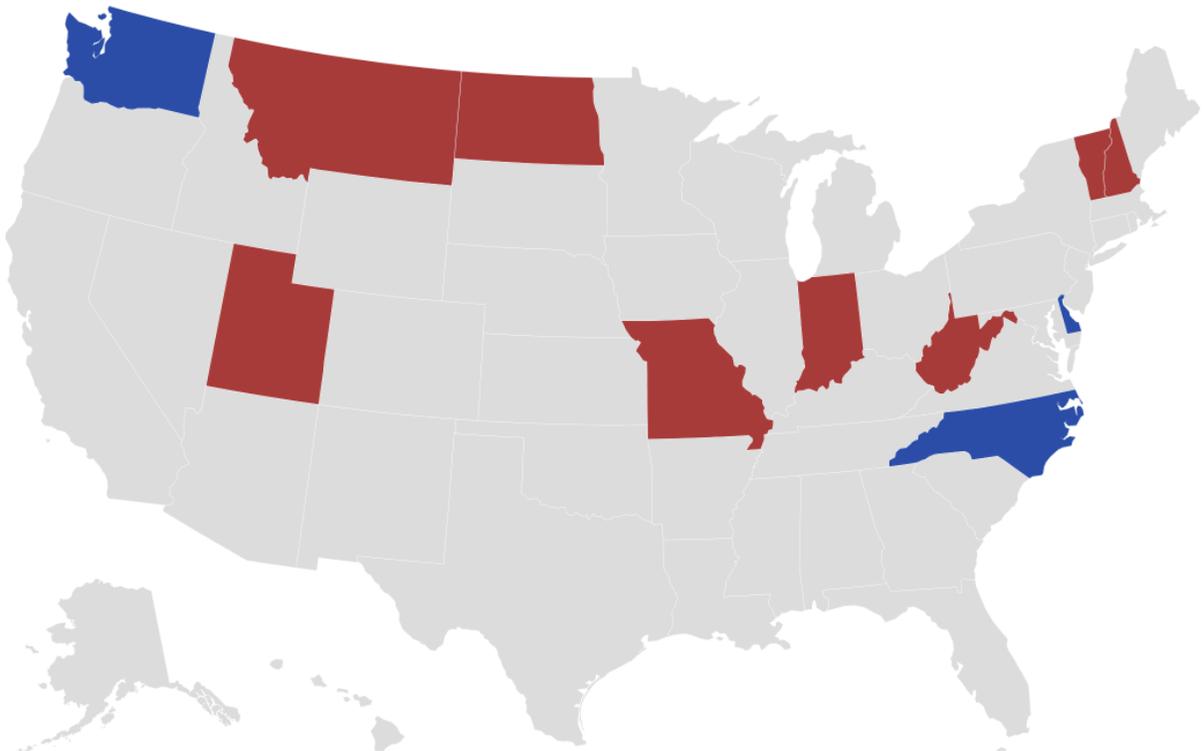
WA	Sex Education	Referendum 90 -Repeals SB 5395 (2020), which requires public schools to provide comprehensive sexual health education for all students and requires students to be excused if requested by their parents.	General	PASSED
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Gubernatorial Races and Statehouse Elections

There were **11 governorships** up in 2020 – 7 held by Republicans; 4 held by Democrats.

Race	Pre-election incumbent	Post-election incumbent
Delaware	John Carney Jr. (D)	John Carney Jr. (D)
Indiana	Eric Holcomb (R)	Eric Holcomb (R)
Missouri	Mike Parson (R)	Mike Parson (R)
Montana	Steve Bullock (D)	Greg Gianforte (R)
New Hampshire	Chris Sununu (R)	Chris Sununu (R)
North Carolina	Roy Cooper (D)	Roy Cooper (D)
North Dakota	Doug Burgum (R)	Doug Burgum (R)
Utah	Gary Herbert (R)	Spencer Cox (R)
Vermont	Phil Scott (R)	Phil Scott (R)
Washington	Jay Inslee (D)	Jay Inslee (D)
West Virginia	Jim Justice (R)	Jim Justice (R)

4Ballotpedia



December 20, 2020

Only **four statehouses saw changes or potential shifts of control**: the New Hampshire House and Senate, which Republicans took back from Democrats, and the Arizona House and Senate, the contests of which are still too close to call.

November 2020 Lame-Duck Agenda

Lame Duck

‘Lame Duck’ refers to the period of time after the November 3, 2020 elections and before the 117th Congress is sworn into office in early January 2021. Currently, the House of Representatives plans to adjourn on December 12, 2020 and the Senate plans to adjourn on December 13, 2020.

Timing

There are approximately 20 working days (i.e., days in which the House plans to be in session or hold votes) to accomplish a number of major policy hurdles waiting for Congress – policies which may be considered “must pass” before the end of the session.

Politics

Lame duck sessions are characterized by the fact that some Members of Congress will be finishing their terms and not returning in January for the 117th Congress. Thus, non-returning Members may not be as beholden to party politics as they might be otherwise. Congress will begin negotiations on key policies and will need to determine whether they can complete negotiations on the bigger issues or address them in the next Congress by passing extensions.

Government Funding

Congress faces a deadline of **December 11** to fund the federal government for the current fiscal year (FY). Both House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) have stated recently that they favor the passage of an omnibus spending bill to complete appropriations for the FY 2021 through next September rather than the use of a short-term continuing resolution (CR). The House has already marked up all 12 of their appropriations bills and passed 10 through the chamber, while the Senate has yet to release a single FY 2021 spending bill. To further complicate negotiations, lawmakers may be incentivized to add coronavirus-related aid to the appropriations bills if a separate deal is not reached. If party leaders and the White House cannot reach an agreement on at least another stopgap spending bill before December 11, a partial government shutdown would begin.

COVID-19 Stimulus

Joe Biden’s presidential victory, coupled with the yet to be determined control of the Senate, have narrowed the chances of a major fiscal stimulus package before January. While Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has called for a targeted relief bill in recent days, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has rejected that idea and is standing firm in her demand for a \$2.2 trillion package – and the White House now has little political incentive to push a deal through the divided Congress. Even if President Trump did wish to pass the White House’s previous \$1.9 trillion proposal, Senate Republicans still have the numbers to block the bill, which many have deemed too robust. Democrats, too, may wish to wait until the Senate runoff races in January to determine whether they retake control of the chamber and are able to pass their own coronavirus package.

Health Care Extenders

Alongside funding the federal government as a must-pass priority before Congress adjourns for the year is a package of health care provisions also set to expire on December 11. These provisions include the Medicare geographic practice cost index (GPCI) floor and a number of health care programs, including community health centers, the National Health Services Corps, Teaching Health Centers, and the Special Diabetes Program. Given the potential cost of this legislation, members may take the opportunity to include legislation to prohibit surprise medical bills as an offset.

Forecast for Health Issues in the 117th Congress

Given the slim margins of power in both the House and Senate, it will be difficult for lawmakers to send any major health care legislation to the president's desk during the 117th Congress. During the 116th Congress, the Democratic-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate found scarce common ground on health care, and there has been no indication from congressional leadership that this dynamic will change during the 117th. Potential areas of bipartisan compromise include **surprise billing and health care cost transparency**.

COVID-19

President-elect Biden is expected to quickly send a deficit-financed economic recovery bill to counter the impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic to Congress. The Biden administration is also expected to intensify the public health push for measures such as mask wearing, social distancing, and contact tracing. President Biden has also said that he is willing to shut down parts of the economy as necessary to control the virus. The work of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in coordination with Operation Warp Speed (OWS) on the development and distribution of a vaccine will continue irrespective of the administration change, though it remains to be seen whether President Biden will appoint a new FDA commissioner to replace Stephen Hahn once he takes office in the midst of the pandemic response. President Biden has also pledged to rejoin the World Health Organization (WHO).

Affordable Care Act

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on November 10. If the 2010 health care law is overturned, the president and Congress will have to respond to the potential of tens of millions of people becoming uninsured and act if they wish to maintain the law's protections for preexisting conditions. Even if the high court does not throw out the entire law in their verdict, however, legislative action may still be necessary in order to short up insurance markets.

The prospect of a Republican-controlled Senate and a divided government will impact President-elect Biden's health reform policy agenda. Without a Democratic majority in the Senate, it would be difficult for President Biden to advance many of his priorities, including lowering the Medicare eligibility age, expanding ACA subsidies, and creating a public option. The Biden administration could still, however, withdraw from lawsuits launched by the Trump administration regarding Medicaid state work requirements and regulations that allow health care providers to decline treatment of LGBTQ individuals, as well as take action to undo regulations that expanded the availability of short-term, limited-duration health plans. The Justice Department under Biden can also be expected to change position to support the Democratic coalition of states supporting the constitutionality of the ACA.

Budget

Lawmakers will face no overall limits on defense and non-defense discretionary spending for fiscal year (FY) 2022. The latest two-year budget deal carried through the final years of the 2011 Budget Control Act, which established caps on how much Congress could spend for the next decade. Levels for FY 2021 are currently set at \$740.5 billion (defense) and \$634.5 billion (non-defense). The expiring caps, which had served as a framework for appropriations legislation, will increase the importance of budget resolutions. If the 117th Congress is divided, however, it will be a challenge for the two chambers to adopt the same budget resolution. Democrats have called for abandoning the approach of equal increases to defense and non-defense spending.

The debt limit on federal borrowing will also have to be addressed in summer 2021. Some Democrats have questioned whether a cap on the nation's borrowing authority is really necessary or whether it could be eliminated altogether.

Should Democrats be successful in retaking the Senate, they aim to make major investments in several policy priorities – including infrastructure, clean energy, and underserved communities – through the use of budget reconciliation. The budget reconciliation process could also be used to expand health care, particularly in the case that the Supreme Court rules the ACA unconstitutional. Under reconciliation procedures, only a simple majority is necessary to pass legislation through the Senate.

Democrats have also signaled their consideration of a return to earmarked spending.

Drug Pricing

A split Congress would lessen the chances of success for a comprehensive drug pricing bill. Furthermore, the Senate Finance Committee will no longer be led Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), who coauthored a bipartisan package that would have curbed drug prices through an inflationary rebate provision. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), who is expected to take over the committee, authored his own Republican drug pricing bill that would cap Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs, allow beneficiaries to spread that cost over the year, and lower the reimbursement rate for hospital-administered drugs to rates for drugs administered in doctors' offices. A Biden administration could take its own executive actions or follow through on Trump administration actions to lower drug costs through means such as international price indexing or importing drugs from abroad.