

**MARKUP OF 119TH CONGRESS
OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORIZATION PLAN**

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

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MARKUP OF 119TH CONGRESS OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORIZATION PLAN

February 25, 2025

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C.**

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Bryan Steil [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Steil, Loudermilk, Griffith, Murphy, Bice, Carey, Lee, Miller, Morelle, Sewell, Torres, and Johnson.

Staff present: Rachel Collins, Deputy General Counsel and Parliamentarian; Kristen Monterroso, Director of Operations and Legislative Clerk; Marissa Mullen, Deputy Director of Member Services; Michael Platt, Staff Director; Elliot Smith, Director of Oversight; Jordan Wilson, Director of Member Services; Khalil Abboud, Minority Deputy Staff Director; Jamie Fleet, Minority Staff Director; and Owen Reilly, Minority Professional Staff.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BRYAN STEIL, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, A U.S. REP- RESENTATIVE FROM WISCONSIN

Chairman STEIL. The Committee on House Administration will come to order. I note that a quorum is present as Mr. Murphy arrives.

Without objection, the chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

Today, the Committee on House Administration will consider the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress.

The Committee's jurisdiction includes House operations, Capitol security, and legislative branch oversight.

Our goals for the 119th Congress are to improve Member and campus security and to increase legislative branch independence, capacity, and efficiency. Our goals include cutting costs, eliminating burdensome regulations, and promoting American ingenuity across the legislative branch.

We know this is an ambitious agenda, but the Committee is ready to get to work and provide robust oversight of the legislative branch.

Ensuring the safety and security of our visitors, staff, and Members on our campus is a top priority. In recent months, we have seen several critical breaches that raise concerns in the community about the Capitol Police, access to campus, and the correspondence to

threats. We have also seen threats to Members off campus through instances of swatting and cybersecurity threats.

In the 119th Congress, we will continue our efforts to mitigate threats as well as direct the House Sergeant at Arms to conduct a comprehensive review of House security.

In addition, the Committee remains committed to providing the House with the resources needed to serve the American people effectively. This requires us to empower legislative branch inspectors general to pursue efforts to detect waste, fraud, and abuse while holding agencies accountable to implement outstanding recommendations.

We will also encourage the use of emerging technologies to assist offices. By doing this, we can equip offices with tools to provide services effectively and efficiently.

As stewards of the people's House, we must take steps to detect waste, fraud, and abuse while eliminating burdensome regulations. Many of the regulations, systems, and processes that govern the House have been in place for decades. These regulations do not receive proper attention or consideration.

During the 119th Congress, we will look at ways to improve efficiencies, reduce unnecessary requirements, and cut costs.

According to this oversight plan, we will also conduct effective oversight of legislative branch entities by reestablishing regular budget hearings. Additionally, we will promote the acquisition of American-made products and services across the legislative branch.

The Chief Administrative Officer adheres to guidelines for procurement of goods and services for the House to ensure the most effective use of resources. While frequently updated, the guidelines should be re-examined to ensure they are meeting our current needs and utilizing the ingenuity of companies and their products that are 'Made in the USA.'

We have an obligation to the American people to conduct this critical oversight of our legislative branch.

I am here to discuss all of these and many other important matters today. I look forward to a thoughtful discussion on the oversight plan before us today.

I yield back.

I will now recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, for 5 minutes for the purpose of offering an opening statement.

[The prepared statement of Chairman Steil follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION BRYAN STEIL

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We have an obligation to the American people to conduct this critical oversight of our legislative branch. I am here to discuss all of these and many other important matters today. I look forward to a thoughtful discussion on the oversight plan before us today.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH MORELLE, RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK

Mr. MORELLE. Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Steil and all my colleagues, for being here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this meeting to consider the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan and for providing the opportunity to submit our minority views.

While we do have some major disagreements with one another, we likely agree on a great deal more. I am looking forward to continuing to work in a productive, bipartisan manner to bolster and modernize the House so we can effectively assert the article I authority vested in us by the Constitution.

As congressional committees go, the Committee on House Administration may be small, but we punch way above our weight. We are stewards of this institution and oversee virtually every aspect of congressional operations.

Every day—and you alluded to this—we make decisions on how to best safeguard Congress with the Capitol Police and Sergeant at Arms, facilitate a productive workplace with the Chief Administrative Officer, consider legislation with the Clerk and Legislative Counsel, administer elections with the Election Assistance Commission, and so much more with the broad array of agencies and offices that reside within the legislative branch.

We can also have a profound impact on how the House and, as a result, our Nation addresses our most challenging issues, but we cannot do that without the work of what I consider one of Congress' greatest assets, our nonpartisan institutional staff.

In my 2 years as Ranking Member of this Committee, I have had the good fortune of getting to know the institutional staff that includes Capitol Police officers, skilled craftspersons, cybersecurity

experts, auditors, food service staff, tour guides, just to name a few. I want to make sure these public servants who work so hard behind the scenes know that they are appreciated and valued here.

The plan we are considering today serves as a roadmap to help us ensure these institutional staffers, along with all of us that make up the congressional community, are both put in a position to succeed and held to the standards befitting the U.S. Congress.

Once again, I want to thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing us to submit our minority views and for convening this meeting.

With that, I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Ranking Member Morelle follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION JOSEPH MORELLE

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The plan we are considering today serves as a roadmap to help us ensure these institutional staffers, along with all of us that make up the congressional community, are both put in a position to succeed and held to the standards befitting the U.S. Congress.

Chairman STEIL. The gentleman yields back.

I now call up Committee Resolution 119-9, the Oversight and Authorization Plan for the 119th Congress.

The clerk will please report the resolution.

The CLERK. Resolution establishing the Oversight—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the resolution is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the resolution shall be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[The Committee Resolution follows:]

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 119-9
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
119th CONGRESS
A RESOLUTION
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 119-9

Resolution Establishing the Oversight and Authorization Plan for the 119th Congress

Be it resolved, that the Oversight and Authorization Plan for the Committee on House Administration for the 119th Congress is hereby adopted, as follows:

Oversight & Authorization Plan for the 119th Congress

House Officers and Operations, Generally

- ***Increase Member and Campus Security***
 - *Undertake efforts to mitigate threats against Members of Congress.*
 - *Realign the U.S. Capitol Police's mission to the National Capitol Region and bolster efforts to increase coordination with local law enforcement.*
 - *Explore the potential of emerging technologies that can bolster the missions of the House Sergeant at Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police*
 - *Prioritize proactive and thorough penetration testing of IT systems for House Offices and Legislative Branch entities.*

- ***Increase Legislative Branch Independence, Capacity, and Efficiency***
 - *Empower Legislative Branch IGs to detect waste, fraud, and abuse while proactively implementing their recommendations.*
 - *Collaborate with the U.S. Government Accountability Office to improve efficiency and reduce costs within the Legislative Branch.*
 - *Leverage existing and emerging technologies to optimize congressional and staff operations.*
 - *Ensure the Copyright Office remains responsive to stakeholders navigating rapid technological changes.*

- ***Cut Costs and Eliminate Burdensome Regulations***
 - *Eliminate unnecessary printing requirements for the Government Publishing Office.*
 - *Streamline and modernize the Federal Depository Library Program.*
 - *Focus on the Copyright Royalty Board & efficiency in royalty distributions.*
 - *Enhance IT and HR system efficiency within Legislative Branch.*
 - *Re-establish regular budget hearings with major agencies.*
 - *Identify and eliminate redundant or outdated Offices and agencies.*
- ***Promote 'Made in the USA' for the Legislative Branch***
 - *Examine House Procurement Guidelines to ensure they meet the needs of Congress*
 - *Require House Vendors to disclose foreign ownership interests at time of their contract award and throughout performance of contract*
 - *Encourage CAO to work with tech partners to create internal AI environments for testing innovative products*

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

- Implement outstanding recommendations from the House Inspector General to CAO.
- Strengthen internal controls in IT procurement to prevent foreign ownership and influence over House software systems.
- Ensure CAO proactively combats cybersecurity threats, provides training, and implements failsafe procedures to maintain operational continuity.
- Collaborate on reviewing the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Program to enhance House security and resilience.
- Encourage CAO to explore enterprise-wide agreements that reduce costs and improve efficiency across the House.
- Coordinate with CAO to ensure House-offered products align with workforce needs and that resource availability is effectively communicated across D.C. and district offices.
- Support the continued development of House Digital Services and the AI Center of Excellence.
- Refine the House's AI policy as legislation evolves, the vendor landscape shifts, and Member and staff expertise grows.
- Engage with CAO to establish enterprise-level AI tools for widespread use by House staff in the near term.

- Continue oversight of modernization initiatives including CaseCompass, SalarySense, LegiDex, and FlagTrack while also working collaboratively on new innovation ideas and platforms.
- Work with CAO to establish additional collaborative staff workspaces and to develop processes for managing and monitoring reservable rooms.
- Capitalize on the innovative approach taken with the House's food services contract renewal to improve the dining experience, pricing, and offerings for visitors, members and staff.
- Capitalize on innovative approach taken with the House's food services contract renewal to address how the House structures procurements and contracts.

Clerk of the House

- Continue collaborating with the Clerk to oversee, support, and implement policy and modernization initiatives that ensure congressional continuity, improve efficiency, strengthen cybersecurity, and enhance workplace health.
- Support the continued adoption of the e-Hopper and the Comparative Print Tool, two key initiatives that assist Members and staff in legislative activities.
- Support efforts to expand Electronic Voting Stations (EVS) on the House floor.
- Support the Clerk's ongoing work to build a committee portal to better manage committee memberships, vote tallying, and hearing-related material.
- Support the continued efforts of the Congressional Data Task Force and the Bicameral Legislative Systems Forum.
- Standardize formatting and data-sharing practices to improve public access to House legislative resources.
- Partner with the Clerk to identify administrative functions that could be more effectively managed by other House entities, increasing the Clerk's operational capacity and effectiveness.

House Sergeant at Arms (HSAA)

- Direct the HSAA and CAO to review potential operational disruptions that could be caused from emerging technologies and provide recommendations for mitigation.
- Collaborate with the HSAA to identify and implement innovative technologies that modernize services, enhance campus and Member security, and better the House complex.
- Continue fostering cultural changes that promote honor, accountability, retention, and professionalism within the organization.

- Maintain close coordination with the Sergeant at Arms to ensure accountability and transparency in the Capitol Police Board's actions.

House Inspector General

- Explore Memoranda of Understanding between the House Inspector General and other Legislative Branch IGs to improve IT audit support and oversight of interconnected software systems.
- Continue coordinating with the House Inspector General to strengthen accountability across the House.
- Establish priorities for the House Inspector General, including the focus and scope of management advisories.
- Ensure management advisories, audits, and investigations align with risk assessments to protect House operations.

Legislative Branch and Other Entities

Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

- Support the new Architect of the Capitol in re-establishing a culture built on accountability and excellence in the work of AOC.
- Continue oversight of the Cannon House Office Building renovation.
- Ensure that future Capitol Construction projects are undertaken with a firm commitment to adopt lessons learned from prior construction projects.
- Align AOC with best practices regarding contracting, building code compliance, ADA accessibility, historic preservation standards, and strategic planning to address deferred maintenance.
- Coordinate with the Senate Rules Committee of increase the bicameral and bipartisan oversight of AOC's full scope of activities across its jurisdiction.
- Coordinate the beginning stages of the Rayburn Renovation Program scope and expectations while incorporating the lessons learned from the Cannon Renewal Project.
- Continue working with AOC to improve campus accessibility.
- Work collaboratively with AOC and Senate Rules to modernize and improve the transparency and accountability of the Dome Tour Reservation program.

Government Publishing Office (GPO)

- Overhaul outdated government printing and binding regulations.

- Oversee GPO's efforts to digitize the Federal Depository Library Program.
- Support GPO's tradesmen apprenticeship program to enhance workforce recruitment, development, and retention.
- Collaborate with GPO on modernization initiatives to streamline the legislative posting process while considering all stakeholders.
- Oversee GPO operations, including those of the Superintendent of Documents.
- Reduce printed material distribution to congressional offices and promote more accessible, cost-effective digital alternatives.

Library of Congress (LOC)

- Ensure LOC remains focused on its core mission as Congress' Library, providing enduring knowledge to Congress and the American public.
- Support LOC's strategic shift into the digital age, ensuring nationwide access to its 176 million physical items and expanding access to its digital collections.
- Collaborate with the Library to secure, modernize, and optimize large IT systems like USCO's E-Copyright System and CRS's IRIS System, to ensure these systems are trusted by users and responsive to current needs.
- Ensure USCO releases AI reports promptly to aid congressional understanding and continues monitoring AI advancements and the copyright implications of emerging technologies.
- Address structural inefficiencies in the Copyright Royalty Board's authority and improve the timeliness of some components of the royalty rate setting processes.
- Oversee the Visitor Experience Initiative to prevent cost overruns and delays, facilitating coordination between LOC and AOC to keep the project on track.
- Monitor LOC's strategic plans and operations, with a focus on the USCO, Law Library, CRS, NLS, and international initiatives.

U.S. Capitol Police (USCP)

- Collaborate with congressional stakeholders to identify and mitigate emerging technologies that pose physical threats to the Capitol and Congressional community.
- Work with USCP to address rising threats against Members of Congress and improve coordination with local law enforcement in Members' districts.
- Ensure the Department fulfills all outstanding recommendations.
- Advocate for greater independence of the USCP Inspector General from the Capitol Police Board.
- Urge the Department to prioritize long-term strategic planning, particularly in implementing its Concept of Operations Plan.

- Encourage the Department to enhance training initiatives and establish accountability structures to ensure mandated training is effectively executed.
- Require the Department to submit semi-annual reports on operations and structure to Congress and publicly release detailed, structured arrest data.
- Maintain oversight of the Department through regular engagement with its leadership.

Smithsonian Institution

- Engage the Smithsonian Institution on its initiatives related to *America 250*.
- Address storage capacity concerns and deferred maintenance with the Smithsonian Institution.
- Increase accountability in site selection for the future National Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino, ensuring realistic and appropriate recommendations.
- Reinforce the Smithsonian's responsibility to be accountable and responsive to congressional oversight.
- Ensure proper inventory management across all Smithsonian collections.
- Ensure the Smithsonian meets public expectations in preserving and communicating America's history and telling the American story.
- Work with Smithsonian to ensure a full return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic policies.
- Review appointments to the Board of Regents as needed.

Congressional Office of International Leadership (COIL)

- Institute regular standing oversight meetings with COIL leadership, ensuring Congressional insight into its operations.
- Require regular reporting on COIL's programming to ensure its program adequately portray Congress, its values, and priorities.
- Explore and implement reforms to COIL's Board of Trustees to ensure the organization's operations properly reflect its status as a Congressional office.

Office of the Attending Physician (OAP)

- Review OAP's operations and determine the necessary authorities for the office's operations that ensure accountability and efficacy.
- Make strides to modernize OAP fee payment structure to streamline accounting and improve customer experience.

Office of Congressional Accessibility Services (OCAS)

- Oversee the management and operations of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services in conjunction with Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Continue coordination regarding the needs of the office to accomplish long-term strategic plans that increase Americans' accessibility of the Capitol Campus and events.
- Continue to build connections between OCAS and AOC to ensure that construction activities and future building upgrades are undertaken in an accessibility conscious way.
- Continue to utilize new and emerging technologies and platforms to increase accessibility offerings around the campus.

Other Offices

- Evaluate current recommendations from NAPA and civil society around the Office of Technology Assessment and assess de-authorization.

Advice and Guidance, Member Services

Members Services

- Continue to consistently engage in a timely and customer service-focused manner on Member, Committee, Leadership, and staff requests.
- To continue to work across the institution to support Members and their constituents.
- To be agile and effective at communicating all of the resources and development opportunities the House offers to Members, Committees, and staff to improve institutional knowledge, expertise, and capacity.

Members' Representational Allowance

- Oversee Members' Representational Allowance (MRA), including amounts, structure, regulations and calculations to ensure that all Members have sufficient resources to effectively represent their constituents.
- Oversee the timely processing of vouchers and direct payments, including those for payroll.
- Continue to monitor the implementation of My Expenses and other advancement that streamline operations while increasing accountability.

- Ensure that the Members' Congressional Handbook sets clear, effective guidance for the appropriate use of the Members' Representational Allowance.

Official Communications

- Continue close oversight and compliance enforcement of all official communications submitted to the Commission for review; ensuring all actions align in accordance with House Rules, Commission Rules, and the Communications Standards Manual.
- The Communications Standards Commission staff will continue meeting with Member offices and Committee Staff to provide advice and guidance on all items related to official communications standards and rules. The end goal being to increase transparency and accountability of all mass communications sent using the Congressional Frank and all other official resources.

New Member Orientation

- Proactively plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation program for newly elected Members of Congress. Ensure that programming emphasizes bipartisanship and communicates relevant information that adequately prepares new members to hit the ground running.
- Review the management and planning of the Congressional Research Service's New Member Issues Seminar.

Intern Program

- Continue and expand the Gregg and Livingston Harper congressional internship program for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Continue oversight of the House Paid Internship program, including oversight of paid interns in district offices.
- In coordination with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, organize, administer, and oversee the intern lecture series.

Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

- Conduct general oversight of the Office of Workplace Rights, Office House Employment Counsel, Office of Employee Assistance, and the Office of Employee Advocacy.
- Evaluate resources available to OCWR and House employing offices to facilitate implementation of the Congressional Accountability Act.

- Monitor the development and deployment of the biannual climate survey.

Federal Election Law and Procedures

- Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to strengthen election integrity.
- Consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.
- Examine the role and impact of political organizations and non-profit organizations on federal elections.
- Review all aspects of registration and voting practices in federal elections. Monitor allegations of fraud and misconduct during all phases of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.
- Review federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including presidential and congressional public financing, and consider potential reforms.
- Review operations of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).
- Review operations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC's budget.
- Protect federalism and constitutional principles that instruct that States play the primary role in determining the "the Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives", as provided for in Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution.
- Investigate and monitor HAVA waste, fraud, and abuse (including, but not limited to, allegations of official funds going toward partisan "get-out-the-vote" efforts, lack of transparency in the contract bidding process, and *ex parte* communications between vendors and state contracting officials).
- Investigate how states and localities that allow non-citizens to vote ensure that federal funds are not used to facilitate non-citizen voting.
- Review and strengthen methods to improve the enforcement of existing federal law that requires States to maintain their voter registration lists to improve the accuracy and integrity of the elections process.
- Review and examine the 2024 election with a focus on ensuring all lawful ballots in congressional races were counted fairly, accurately, and according to law.
- Review and examine the 2024 Congressional Election Observer Program, which helped the House and Senate gather evidence to fulfill their constitutional responsibility to "be the judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own Members" as provided for by Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution.

- Restore voter confidence in our elections by highlighting states and localities that are administering elections in an open, fair, and transparent way.

MINORITY VIEWS**Committee on House Administration****Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress****Minority Views****Legislative Branch Oversight*****Introduction***

On February 21, 2025, former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio was arrested and charged with assaulting a woman on Capitol grounds.¹ Tarrio had previously been convicted of seditious conspiracy for orchestrating the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and was sentenced to 22 years in prison. However, he was released by President Donald Trump—along with every other violent criminal who attacked the Capitol that day. The security implications for the country, the Congress, and the Committee on House Administration are extremely dangerous and without precedent.

One of the Committee’s most critical responsibilities is to oversee Capitol security and ensure the safety of Members, staff, and visitors. Member offices—both in Washington, D.C. and in districts around the country—have become increasingly threatening environments. Since 2016, threats against Members have increased over 1,000 percent, with investigations by the United States Capitol Police (USCP) Threat Assessment Section (TAS) increasing from 902 cases in 2016 to 9,474 cases in 2024.

This situation was exacerbated on January 20, 2025, when President Donald Trump pardoned or otherwise granted clemency to every individual charged or convicted for their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, including those convicted of violently assaulting police officers. Many individuals released from prison have returned to the Capitol since their release. For example, Stewart Rhodes, founder of the far-right extremist group the Oath Keepers, had been serving an eighteen-year sentence for seditious conspiracy related to his role in planning the attack. He returned to the Capitol on January 22, 2025, held an impromptu press availability in the Longworth House Office Building basement,² and participated in a press conference at the Capitol with Enrique Tarrio on February 21, 2025, the day Tarrio was arrested by USCP for allegedly striking a woman.

¹ Kyle Cheney, *Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio arrested at Capitol after scuffle with protester*, POLITICO, (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/21/proud-boys-leader-enrique-tarrio-arrested-00205513>.

² Michael Kunzelman and Lisa Mascaro, *Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes visits Capitol Hill after Trump clemency*, A.P., (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/capitol-riot-pardons-trump-2e2275ff164550de29c34de8d12886ab>.

President Trump's actions make the Congressional community less safe by undermining the rule of law, encouraging future attacks, and emboldening violent extremists. It also re-traumatizes Members and staff of both parties, along with nonpartisan institutional staff. It is incumbent on this Committee to provide rigorous oversight of and work with USCP and the House Sergeant at Arms to ensure the threat is adequately mitigated and Members and staff can perform their duties free of intimidation or threats of violence. The Committee Minority hopes the Majority will join in these efforts.

The oversight and authorization activities of the Committee on House Administration also extend beyond Capitol security to all Legislative Branch operations. While there are policy issues in which the Minority ardently disagrees with the Majority, the Minority appreciates the Majority's partnership in efforts to both strengthen and modernize the House, particularly through the Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation. We are grateful that the Majority is continuing the practice started by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in the 116th and 117th Congresses and continued by the Subcommittee on Modernization in the 118th Congress to treat the Subcommittee as a bipartisan entity with an even number of Majority and Minority Members.

Due, in large part, to recent actions taken by both the Executive and Judicial Branches, these efforts are occurring at a critical moment for the House. The Trump Administration has, over the course of its first month in office, improperly frozen Congressionally appropriated funds and dismantled Congressionally authorized federal agencies. Under Article I of the U.S. Constitution, the Congress is the only authorizer and appropriator of federal dollars, and it is imperative that the House continue to expand and reinforce the tools at its disposal to assert its authority.

In addition, the Supreme Court in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*³ overruled the *Chevron* doctrine, which, for nearly four decades, required federal courts to defer to a federal agency's reasonable interpretation of ambiguous statutory provisions the agency administers. As a result, Congress now must draft legislation with more specificity and make policy at a more granular level. This will require increased capacity in the House, including continued development of advanced drafting tools and the addition of supplementary subject matter experts to House offices.

The Minority looks forward to working with the Majority to ensure Members of the House have the resources needed to carry out their Constitutional duties, including conducting oversight of the Executive Branch, drafting sufficiently detailed legislation, appropriating federal funds, authorizing federal programs and agencies, and providing constituent services.

³ *Loper Bright Enterprises, et al. v. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce, et al.; Relentless, Inc. et al. v. Department of Commerce, et al.*, 603 U.S. ____ (2024).

House Officers and Operations**Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)**

The Chief Administrative Officer provides vital administrative, operational, and technical support to House offices. It is staffed by a wide range of professionals, including skilled craftsmen, cybersecurity experts, accountants, audio/visual experts, and more. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's CAO oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Oversee the CAO's new Human Capital Office, including its efforts to diversify the House workforce to better reflect the demographic makeup of the nation, facilitate diversity working groups and mentoring programs, and follow through on its commitment to perform the duties formerly within the purview of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Oversee after action reviews of the 119th Congressional transition—including New Member Orientation—and plan the 120th Congressional transition, implementing lessons learned.
- Oversee services provided to district offices, including the implementation of enterprise-wide district office WiFi.
- Oversee and provide direction on the House's continued development of its Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy and use cases, with a particular focus on: the impact on the legal rights currently protecting Member and constituent data; Speech or Debate protection implications; the importance of data quality and integrity; transparency and ethics; and prevention of so-called "Habsburg AI," a phenomenon wherein outputs become less accurate and more biased over time.
- Continue oversight of vendor compliance with the House's AI Policy (HITPOL 8), particularly regarding the safeguarding of sensitive data.
- Oversee the continued rollout of the updated HouseNet website, including ensuring URLs are correct and the search function is improved.
- Oversee the House's relationship with the General Services Administration (GSA) and ensure Members can effectively serve their constituents through district offices in GSA-owned buildings while controlling for relevant separation of powers issues.
- Oversee operations of the House Child Care Center, including continued efforts to expand access, reduce wait list times, and identify efficiencies to mitigate the need for tuition increases.
- Expand the Congressional Staff Academy and CAO Coach Program, including by adding coaches and classes tailored to committee staff and administration/management of Congressional offices.
- Oversee award and implementation of new food services contract(s).
- Continue efforts to improve customer service and communications across all CAO functions and business units.

- Continue oversight of House technology upgrades, including MyExpenses and MyDelivery.
- Support the transition of the per diem pilot program into a permanent support program for official travel.
- Review proposed reforms to the Office of Finance and Payroll and Benefits, including potential implementation of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommendation to shift to bimonthly pay periods.
- Oversee the House Retention through Educational Advancement Program (REAP) (formerly known as the Student Loan Repayment Program), including implementation of new reimbursable expenses, such as educational/professional development expenses, credentialing, and certain private student loans.
- Facilitate implementation of open House Office of Inspector General recommendations.
- Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources (HIR), including the Technology Partner Program and IT support for international travel.
- Continue oversight of Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery and failsafe procedures to guarantee continuity of operations.
- Continue oversight of House cybersecurity practices, including network security and threat prevention.
- Provide oversight of the House Disaster Recovery Program.
- Oversee web services activities, including new Member website development, with a focus on accessibility, particularly of external vendor-managed websites, which lag significantly behind House managed websites.
- Oversee continued efforts to move toward cloud computing.
- Work with the Office of Cyber Security, law enforcement partners, and the House's IT vendors to stay apprised of and defend against emerging threats to the House network.
- Collaborate with CAO Vendor Management and other relevant teams to improve transparency, efficiency, and effective communication between stakeholders in the House's acquisitions and contract negotiation processes.
- Collaborate with the CAO to train institutional staff on unique needs of Member and committee offices.

House Sergeant at Arms (HSAA)

The House Sergeant at Arms is the chief law enforcement official and protocol officer in the House. They are responsible for maintaining security on the House floor and the House side of the Capitol. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's House Sergeant at Arms oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Oversee continued implementation of the Residential Security Program initiated during the 117th Congress, including potential expansion thereof to account for rising costs of home security systems, monitoring services, and installation of security features recommended by USCP.
- Advocate for substantial expansion of the Residential Security Program's \$1,000 cybersecurity allocation, focusing on enhanced data privacy protection and dark web monitoring capabilities for Members and their families.
- Support enhancement of the Law Enforcement Coordination program to improve real-time communication between Capitol Police, local law enforcement, and Members' offices during district events and public appearances.
- Support expanded District Office Security Program funding to support enhanced visitor screening equipment and protocols.
- Continue to review the effectiveness of the District Office Security and Law Enforcement Coordinator Programs and recommend reforms based on lessons learned.
- Review the HSAA role on the Capitol Police Board and study potential reforms to the Board.
- Partner with the HSAA to identify, pilot, and procure new technologies that enhance security and modernize service offerings.
- Monitor implementation of security recommendations made by various security experts in the aftermath of the January 6, 2021, attack, including those made by Lt. General Russel Honoré's task force, the USCP Office of Inspector General, Government Accountability Office, and Architect of the Capitol Office of Inspector General.
- Oversee efforts to improve emergency preparedness training for Members and staff, both in Washington, DC and in their respective districts.

Clerk of the House

The Clerk of the House has many responsibilities related to the legislative process in the House, including calling Members-elect to order at the beginning of a Congress, certifying the passage of all bills and joint resolutions, receive messages from the President and Senate, and more. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's Clerk oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Monitor the development and implementation of the Committee Votes Portal to ensure it captures comprehensive markup data, hearing transcripts, and amendment processes while maintaining accessibility for both Congressional staff and the public.
- Advocate for expanded integration between House and Senate legislative systems, focusing on standardizing data formats and improving the efficiency of concurrent resolution processing between chambers.
- Support the continued development and use of the Comparative Print Suite.
- Review the Clerk's current IT configuration and redundancy posture.
- Oversee the House Document Repository.
- Oversee the House Office of Employment Counsel (OHEC).
- Oversee lobbying disclosure process, including ways to make data more easily accessible for the general public.
- Review standards for the electronic exchange of legislative information among the chambers of congress and Legislative Branch agencies.
- Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board and the Capitol Preservation Board.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.
- Continue efforts to increase legislative capacity within the Office of the Clerk, along with other relevant institutional offices.
- Oversee installation of additional electronic voting stations on the House Floor.
- Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review the printing needs of the Clerk to evaluate the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Review the application programming interface incorporated in the Clerk's website.
- Oversee preparation of congressionally authorized publications.
- Oversee participation in the Congressional Data Task Force.
- Continued oversight of official reporter participation in field hearings.

The House Office of Inspector General provides recommendations for improving House financial, administrative, and technology operations by performing independent and nonpartisan audit, advisory, and investigative services. The Committee Minority agrees, in general, with the Committee Majority's oversight priorities for the House Office of Inspector General and looks forward to providing direction on audits and management advisories on a bipartisan basis. The Minority also looks forward to selecting a new permanent House Inspector General.

Office of Whistleblower Ombuds

The Office of Whistleblower Ombuds is a nonpartisan office that promulgates best practices and provides training for whistleblower intake in House offices. The Committee Minority looks forward to overseeing this important office established during the previous Democratic Majority and encourages the House community to engage with it for trainings and best practices in working with whistleblowers.

New Member Orientation

The Committee looks forward to planning orientation for Members-elect on a bipartisan basis so that newly elected Members can perform their constitutional duties immediately upon taking their oath of office.

Legislative Branch Agencies

Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

The Architect of the Capitol is responsible for maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds that make up the Capitol complex, along with the Supreme Court. The AOC also plays a role in the physical security of the Capitol and sits on the Capitol Police Board. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's AOC oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Oversee the newly appointed Architect's efforts to reform the agency culture and build out his senior leadership team.
- Oversee AOC hiring practices, with an emphasis on improving diversity across the AOC, including the C-Suite.
- Oversee continued restoration, repairs and security improvements necessitated by the January 6, 2021, attack at the Capitol.

- Review AOC efforts to improve discipline program and accountability systems, including those applicable to exempt personnel.
- Maintain rigorous oversight of the final phase of the Cannon House Office Building renovation.
- Continue planning for the Rayburn House Office Building renovation, including identifying potential swing space.
- Review plans and proposals for future projects in the House Office Buildings and on the House side of the Capitol.
- Oversee implementation of utility system upgrades for food service facilities, including renovations to the Capitol Carryout and Members' Dining Room.
- Continue oversight of life safety measures and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings.
- Continue to improve the accessibility of the Capitol Campus for individuals with disabilities.
- Review workplace safety and health efforts.
- Oversee the pest management practices of the AOC, including in the Capitol, House Office Buildings and House Child Care Center.
- Ensure the existence of a professional workplace culture.
- Oversee the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC), including labor agreements, security concerns set forth by Guides, and Exhibition Hall and any changes to exhibit content.
- Oversee improvements to the visitor experience at the CVC, including tour and Exhibition Hall updates.
- Oversee the United States Botanic Garden, including potential security upgrades.
- Advocate for increased resources to support AOC's comprehensive data center modernization program, including the migration to tier III secured facilities and implementation of enhanced disaster recovery protocols.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. Its collection includes millions of books, films, audio recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts. The Library is also home to the Congressional Research Service—the main research arm of Congress—and the U.S. Copyright Office. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's Library of Congress oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Continue detailed oversight of the Copyright Office:
 - Review the use of technology generally in Copyright Office operations, and specifically its modernization efforts. This includes continued oversight of the development and implementation of the Enterprise Copyright System, including the recordation and registration systems, updated application process and updated user experience platform.

Continue to review the Copyright Office's efforts to communicate its modernization efforts to stakeholders, including the Copyright Public Modernization Committee.
 - Continue to review security measures and processes for e-deposits submitted to the Copyright Office and Library of Congress.
 - Continue to oversee Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC) redesignation.
 - Oversee the Copyright Office's series of publications on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on its operations.
- Oversee the Copyright Royalty Board, including identifying any royalty or licensing fees held by the Library and owed to rights-holders, whether those fees are unreasonably delayed, and whether reforms are necessary to mitigate such delays.
- Continue detailed oversight of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) operations and consider any need to modify management and organizational structure of the service. Areas of focus to include:
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Staff morale and attrition rates
 - Work environment
 - Technology and innovation, including AI-driven analytical tools like TAP 2.0 and streamlined bill summaries and additional data for Congress.gov
 - Potential reauthorization and/or changes to authorizing statute
 - Resource allocation
 - Administrative support for subject matter experts
 - Telework policies
 - Response time to Member requests
- Plan New Member Seminar in conjunction with CRS.

- Oversee the Visitor Experience Master Plan and related projects and facilitate a productive relationship between the Library and Architect of the Capitol.
- Continue oversight of Library IT modernization consistent with the guidance from the Government Accountability Office, including efforts to overhaul records storage, utilize the cloud, stabilize the core IT structure, improve IT governance and develop a more centralized and professional IT workforce.
- Oversee Library storage facilities, including the shelving replacement project in the Law Library.
- Oversee a timely and secure transition from the Library's legacy search and collections database systems to its cloud-based Library Collections Access Platform.
- Continue oversight of the Library's technology hosting environment transition.
- Oversee the operation and security of the Library's various websites, including Congress.gov and Copyright.gov.
- Review and propose changes to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Joint Committee on the Library.
- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
- Continue oversight of Library of Congress operations, including inventory cataloguing systems, preservation efforts and plans to grow collections.
- Continue oversight of Law Library operations.
- Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations, and specifically the ongoing work to centralize technology operations.
- Review reports by Library of Congress Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Library of Congress Inspector General's office.
- Oversight of supervisor and employee conduct, workplace environment and culture, discipline and other human resources matters.
- Oversight of overseas offices.
- Continue oversight of the National Library Service's efforts to provide the most effective service to their library partners, explore ways to increase the number of users under 65.
- Continue oversight of collection development programs and digital collection plans.

- Continue oversight of the Contracts and Grants Directorate, including acquisition workforce training and acquisition planning.
- Continue oversight of Library capital projects.
- Oversee gift shop financial management and accounting.

United States Capitol Police (USCP)

The United States Capitol Police protects and secures the Capitol complex and Members of Congress so that Congress can fulfill its constitutional duties in a safe, secure and open environment. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's USCP oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Continue encouraging USCP to shift from a traditional law enforcement agency to a force protection entity, focusing more acutely on its core mission.
- Oversee efforts to improve security for Members of Congress outside Washington, DC, including in their districts and in transit.
- Support USCP recruitment, with particular emphasis on growing the Dignitary Protection Division to meet increasing threat levels and expanding protective mission requirements.
- Ensure full implementation of the Protective Intelligence Operations Center's capabilities, including enhanced integration of civilian intelligence analysts and expanded access to threat assessment resources.
- Expand integration of the Threat Assessment Section with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to improve intelligence sharing and coordinate protective responses.
- Ensure accountability for lapses at security screening checkpoints and provide oversight of ensuing subsequent to training and related USCP policies.
- Oversee efforts to improve officer wellness, including continued development and operations of the Howard C. Liebengood Center for Wellness.
- Support the training & equipment needs of USCP's new Rapid Response Team, ensuring readiness for large-scale security events and emerging threats to the Capitol complex.
- Continue to oversee the overhaul of the Department Training Services Bureau, including opportunities for in-service training and leadership training, as well as procedures in place for quality control.

- Pursue opportunities to strengthen relationships between Member offices and local law enforcement via the Law Enforcement Coordination Program, including through the hiring and training of additional liaison officers.
- Monitor continued compliance with recommendations made by the Department Office of Inspector General in its series of flash reports issued after the January 6, 2021, attack.
- Oversee the Contract Security Officer program to ensure that all security service providers meet USCP's standards and that the program adequately addresses force strength requirements.
- Oversee efforts to improve recruitment and retention of sworn officers while ensuring adequate sworn to civilian ratios.
- Identify whether legislation is necessary to effectuate USCP's c-UAS program.
- Oversee USCP field offices.
- Oversee implementation of the USCP Concept of Operations (ConOps).

Government Publishing Office (GPO)

The Government Publishing Office creates and distributes information products for all three branches of government, including passports for the Department of State, as well as the official publications of Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's GPO oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Review and adopt legislative proposals to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies and unnecessary printing, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
- Continue efforts to reform title 44, United States Code, particularly provisions related to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).
- Oversee the digitization of the FDLP.
- Review the printing needs of the House of Representatives to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Examine current GPO printing and binding regulations to determine advisability of change.
- Oversee GPO labor practices and compliance with labor agreements.

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. It includes 21 museums, 14 education and research centers, and the National Zoo, and seeks to preserve heritage while discovering and spreading new knowledge. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's Smithsonian Institution oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Collaborate with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and other relevant stakeholders to authorize the construction of the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women's History Museum on the National Mall, as recommended by the Smithsonian Board of Regents.
- Support implementation of H.R. 7764, the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act.
- Ensure the Smithsonian Institution maintains curatorial independence.
- Oversee efforts to protect Smithsonian facilities and collections from the impacts of climate change and associated flooding, including the Smithsonian's 2021 Climate Change Action Plan.
- Oversee the continued renovations to the National Air and Space Museum.
- Continue to monitor the Smithsonian's administration of its return of human remains policy and encourages continued outreach to the ancestors and communities of individuals stored in Smithsonian collections.
- Monitor efforts to strengthen Smithsonian cybersecurity practices.
- Oversee efforts to increase access to the Smithsonian, including through traveling exhibits and digital resources.
- Oversee the Smithsonian Institution Affiliates Program.
- Oversee the operations of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI).

Office of Congressional Accessibility Services (OCAS)

The Office of Congressional Accessibility Services provides adaptive tours, sign language interpreting services, wheelchair loans, and other services for individuals with disabilities. The Committee Minority believes strongly in improving accessibility at the Capitol complex, and looks forward to collaborating with the Majority to continue making it easier for all Americans to visit their elected officials.

Federal Election Law and Procedures

Under the authority of clause 1(k)(12) of House Rule X, the Committee is responsible for oversight of federal elections, including the “[e]lection of the President, Vice President, Members, Senators, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner; corrupt practices; contested elections; credentials and qualifications; and Federal elections generally.” *Id.*

Congress, and by extension the Committee, pursuant to Rule X, has broad authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of congressional elections under the Elections Clause of the Constitution, article I, section 4, clause 1.⁴ The Supreme Court has affirmed that the “substantive scope” of the Elections Clause is “broad”; that “Times, Places, and Manner” are “comprehensive words which embrace authority to provide for a complete code for congressional elections”; and “[t]he power of Congress over the Times, Places and Manner of congressional elections is paramount, and may be exercised at any time, and to any extent which it deems expedient; and so far as it is exercised, and no farther, the regulations effected supersede those of the State which are inconsistent therewith.” *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*, 570 U.S. 1, 8–9 (2013) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted); *see also* “The Elections Clause: Constitutional Interpretation and Congressional Exercise,” Hearing Before Comm. on House Administration, 117th Cong. (2021), written testimony of Vice Dean Franita Tolson.

Indeed, “Congress has plenary and paramount jurisdiction over the whole subject” of congressional elections, *Ex parte Siebold*, 100 U.S. (10 Otto) 371, 388 (1879), and this power “may be exercised as and when Congress sees fit,” and “so far as it extends and conflicts with the regulations of the State, necessarily supersedes them.” *Id.* at 384. Among other things, the Elections Clause was intended to “vindicate the people’s right to equality of representation in the House.” *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 16 (1964).

Congress also has broad authority pursuant to Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to enforce, through legislation, the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, including its protections of the right to vote and the democratic process. Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right to vote, which is “of the most fundamental significance under our constitutional structure.” *Ill. Bd. of Election v. Socialist Workers Party*, 440 U.S. 173, 184 (1979); *see United States v. Classic*, 313 U.S. 299 (1941) (“Obviously included within the right to choose, secured by the Constitution, is the right of qualified voters within a state to cast their ballots and have them counted . . .”). As the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed, the right to vote is “preservative of all rights.” *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886). Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment also protects the right to vote, granting Congress additional authority to reduce a State’s representation in Congress when the right to vote is abridged or denied. Congress also has authority to legislate to eliminate racial discrimination in voting and the democratic process pursuant to both Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment, which grants equal protection of the laws, and Section 2 of the Fifteenth Amendment, which explicitly bars denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Furthermore, Congress has the power to protect the right to vote from denial or abridgment on account of sex, age, or ability to pay a poll tax or other tax pursuant to the Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.

Congress has both the authority and responsibility, as the legislative body for the United States, to fulfill the promise of article IV, section 4, of the Constitution, which states: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government[.]” U.S. Const. art. IV, § 4. Congress’s authority and responsibility to enforce the Guarantee Clause is clear given that Federal courts have not enforced this clause because they understood that its enforcement is committed to Congress by the Constitution.

Finally, Congress has an obligation to fulfill a central aim of the United States Constitution, ensuring meaningful self-governance by citizens in our representative democracy. *See* Stephen Breyer, *Our Democratic Constitution*, 77 N.Y.U. L. REV. 245, 247 (2002) (“[T]he Constitution, considered as a whole,

⁴ The Elections Clause, in its entirety, provides: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing [sic] Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

creates a framework for a certain kind of government. Its general objectives can be described abstractly as including . . . democratic self-government.”).

In its campaign finance decisions, the Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged the connection between political transparency and democratic self-governance. *Buckley* recognized that disclosure “provides the electorate with information as to where political campaign money comes from and how it is spent by the candidate in order to aid the voters in evaluating those who seek federal office.” *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 66 (1976) (footnote and quotations omitted). Similarly, *Citizens United* described how disclosure promotes self-governance by supplying information that “enables the electorate to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages.” *Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm'n*, 558 U.S. 310, 371 (2010). Importantly, the Supreme Court has credited the value of disclosure by candidates and by independent sources of political speech, both of which “help[] voters to define more of the candidates’ constituencies” and “promote[] informed choices in the political marketplace.” *Id.* at 369; *Buckley*, 424 U.S. at 81.

Oversight Activities

Committee Democrats intend to further these constitutional prerogatives through federal election-related oversight. This oversight is especially vital at a time when the current President has upended longstanding practice and precedent regarding the independence of various federal agencies, including those overseen by the Committee. Oversight activities will include various forms of Committee activity, including, but not limited to, regular oversight meetings with Committee staff, Member-level meetings, briefings, events, correspondence, studies, reports, and cooperation with relevant inspectors general, as well as federal, state, and local election officials.

General elections oversight

The Committee’s Minority plans to build upon the extensive oversight of the federal elections process conducted during the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses. Over the past six years, examining all facets of the voting experience, the Committee and Subcommittee on Elections held numerous hearings and sent oversight letters gathering critical information on the U.S. election process.

During the 119th Congress, Committee Democrats plan to engage in the following oversight activities:

- Exercise the Committee’s oversight authorities and obligations to monitor partisan manipulation at the independent agencies under the Committee’s jurisdiction—the FEC and the EAC.
- Use authority under Article 1, Section 4 of the United States Constitution to provide free, fair, equitable, and secure opportunities for all voters to participate in federal elections.
- Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to improve and strengthen election integrity, and bolster security, both cyber and physical, to protect election workers, poll workers, and elected officials.
- Continue examining the proliferation of election-related mis-, dis-, and malinformation to ensure voters have access to accurate information.
- Examine the impact of amendments made by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.
- Review state and federal activities under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to identify potential improvements to voter registration and education programs and reductions to the costs of compliance for state and local governments.

Federal Election Commission

Committee Democrats are deeply alarmed by President Trump's actions related to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). President Trump's February 18 Executive Order (EO) "Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies" portends a dangerous impact on the work of the Commission FEC. This Order quickly followed the President's unprecedented firing of Chair Ellen Weintraub and serves as another example of this Administration's disregard for the laws and procedures that ensure independent federal agencies work as Congress intended.

The FEC was created over 50 years ago in the wake of the Watergate Scandal when Congress took steps to weed out political corruption by creating an agency independent of the politicians it would regulate. That the President would fire Chair Weintraub, hampering the efficiency and efficacy of the FEC at a time when the agency is reviewing several open matters against his campaign and his close associates, suggests the President is seeking to disrupt any investigation into his blatantly corrupt campaign finance practices.

Committee Democrats are deeply committed to ensuring the FEC is best positioned to fulfill the mission Congress imparted, "to protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and fairly enforcing and administering federal campaign finance laws." FEC, "Mission and history," available at <https://www.fec.gov/about/mission-and-history/>.

Committee Democrats will continue to conduct oversight of the FEC—including the agency's independence—by, for example, reviewing the operations of the FEC and evaluating possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Committee Democrats will also consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC's budget. And Committee Democrats will examine the role and impact of political organizations and non-profit organizations on federal elections, reviewing federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including presidential and congressional public financing, and considering potential reforms.

Finally, Committee Democrats will be acutely aware of efforts by the Trump Administration to weaponize the FEC for partisan purposes by, *inter alia*, directing the Commission to pursue an enforcement action against a particular candidate, party committee, or other individual or organization

Election Assistance Commission

Likewise, Committee Democrats are alarmed by President Trump's February 18 Executive Order (EO) "Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies" and the impact it may have on the work of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The bipartisan EAC is not a regulatory agency. The EAC was created over 20 years ago in the bipartisan *Help America Vote Act* and was designed to preserve independence from political interference as it serves the officials responsible for administering our elections. Election officials—nonpartisan and across the political spectrum—rely on the helpful assistance and resources that the EAC provides to ensure the secure, fair, and successful administration of elections.

Committee Democrats will continue conducting oversight of the EAC – including the agency's independence—by, for example, reviewing operations of the EAC and evaluating possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the *Help America Vote Act* and related election grant programs.

Election-Related Authorizations

The Committee on House Administration oversees agency budgets for the EAC and the FEC. During the 119th Congress, Committee Democrats remain committed to reviewing the authorizations of agencies

within its jurisdiction to ensure the EAC and FEC receive the budgets necessary to fully carry out their missions. Further, Committee Democrats will be acutely aware of efforts by the Trump administration to exercise the impermissible authority over apportionment purposely granted in the February 18 EO.

The Committee also oversees the expenditure of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant funding. Since 2018, Congress has appropriated more than \$900 million in funding to support federal election administration and improvements. Congress also appropriated \$400 million in elections funding through the CARES Act for conducting elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding appropriated in 2018 was the first time since 2010 that Congress had made resources available through HAVA to support federal elections. More funding is needed.

Election infrastructure was designated as part of the nation's critical infrastructure in January 2017, and it should receive a level of funding commensurate with this designation. President Biden's fiscal year 2022 budget called for an investment of \$10 billion over the next ten years in our nation's elections. Additionally, state, and local election officials have consistently called on Congress to provide a consistent, sustainable stream of funding for elections to assist in administration and allow for more predictable, long-term planning.

Committee Democrats will continue to engage with election officials at the Federal, state, and local level to examine the need for continued funding for federal election administration, election security—both cyber and physical, voting equipment and election technology upgrades and maintenance, and the safety and security of election officials and voters.

Furthermore, Committee Democrats will examine new funding needs, examine ways appropriations language may be revised to allow states and local jurisdictions more flexibility in utilizing HAVA funds. Committee Democrats will also explore options for enacting and authorizing new and innovative programs to better assist election officials and voters, including funding for election administration policies and procedures that allow voters free, fair, equitable, and secure access to the ballot—such as, but not limited to, automatic voter registration systems, same day voter registration, implementation of online voter registration systems, development and implementation of ballot tracking systems, improved voter accessibility, and post-election audits.

In recent years, election officials and election workers have faced an unprecedented number of threats, significant harassment, and a barrage of election-related mis- and disinformation, often directed by political candidates⁵—all of which require additional resources and add new and complex layers to the jobs of election officials. Committee Democrats remain committed to ensuring election officials receive the support and resources they need to ensure the safety of themselves, their staffs, the voters, and election infrastructure.

Finally, Committee Democrats is supportive of efforts to use election-related authorizations for certain other democracy promotion activities. For example, Committee Democrats support authorizations modeled on Title VIII of the *Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act*, which passed the House in January 2022 and would have established a democracy advancement and innovation program to provide states funding to carry out the following activities:

- (1) Activities to promote innovation to improve efficiency and smooth functioning in the administration of elections for Federal office and to secure the infrastructure used in the administration of such elections, including making upgrades to voting equipment and voter registration systems, securing voting locations, expanding polling places and the availability of

⁵ *Campaign of Fear: The Trump world's assault on U.S. election workers*, REUTERS (2021–22), <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/section/campaign-of-fear/>.

early and mail voting, recruiting and training nonpartisan election officials, and promoting cybersecurity.

- (2) Activities to ensure equitable access to democracy, including enabling candidates to receive payments through a small-donor matching system or for a state to operate a democracy credit program.
- (3) Other activities to ensure equitable access to democracy, including a reformed Congressional redistricting process.
- (4) Activities to increase access to voting in elections for Federal office by underserved communities, individuals with disabilities, racial and language minority groups, individuals entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and voters residing in Indian lands.

Funding such activities would empower states to promote free, fair, equitable, and secure elections.

Chairman STEIL. Do any Members seek recognition for amendment or debate?

I will recognize myself for 5 minutes.

I will just be brief. This Committee has worked really well in a bipartisan way on the oversight of our legislative branch entities.

It has been a great working relationship with you, Mr. Morelle. Not that we do not have our disagreements at times, but when it comes to the oversight and the operations of this institution, we have had great cooperation with you and your team over the past 2 years, and I look forward to continuing that in the 119th Congress.

I yield back.

Does any other Member seek recognition?

There being no further amendment or debate, the question now occurs on the resolution.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the resolution is agreed to.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

This concludes all the matters before the Committee, unless any Members have any further comments.

Without objection, the staff is authorized to make necessary technical and conforming changes.

If there is no further business, I want to thank the Members for their participation.

Without objection, the Committee on House Administration stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:11 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

