A snapshot of the 115th Congress



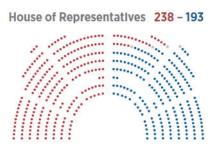
Director of Legislative and Political Affairs Kori Blalock Keller

s the 114th Congress comes to a close following an intense election cycle, we can now glean what the next Congress will look like. When Congress and President-elect Donald Trump are sworn in to office next month, it will be the first time since 2007 that Republicans have controlled the House, Senate, White House, the Supreme Court and the majority of state legislatures and governorships. While the exact details about Republicans' agenda in Washington remains unclear, below

is an overview of the makeup of the 115th Congress.

House of Representatives

The House is welcoming 53 freshmen: 27 Democrats and 26 Republicans. Twelve incumbents were defeated by their opponents. With these changes, the 115th will consist of 238 Republicans and 193 Democrats—a small

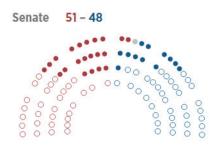


shift in favor of the Democrats from the 114th, where the split was 247 Republicans to 188 Democrats. It is expected that Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) will remain Speaker of the House and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

will continue as minority leader. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which oversees the Postal Service, will continue to see Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) serving as chairman and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) as its ranking member.

Senate

The Senate will see six freshmen in its chamber—five Democrats and one Republican. The Senate will consist of 51 Republicans and 48 Democrats (a run-off in Louisiana this month is expected to yield an additional seat for the



Republicans). The change reflects a nominal shift from the current make-up of 54 Republicans and 46 Democrats (this includes two Independents who caucus with the Democrats).

Former Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) will replace Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), and New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan (D) will take over Sen. Kelly Ayotte's (R-NH) seat. California Attorney General Kamala Harris (D) will replace retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Former Rep. Todd Young (R-IN) will replace Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN). Former Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) will replace retiring Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD). Former Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto (D) will replace retiring Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is expected to remain as majority leader, and Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) will become minority leader, replacing Reid. With regard to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) is expected to remain chairman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) will replace Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) as ranking member.

The White House

President-elect Donald Trump will become the 45th president of the United States on Jan. 20 after winning the Electoral College but losing the popular vote. His transition team is working to identify agency appointments and staff members, a process that will give us a glimpse into what to expect policy-wise from the incoming administration.

The agenda

Now that his campaign has come to a close, President-elect Trump has indicated that his immediate focus will be on immigration, health care and jobs. During the campaign in September, Trump released a "Contract with the American voter" that highlighted the actions he's promised to take within his first 100 days as president. For letter carriers (and all federal employees), this includes a hiring freeze in an attempt to reduce the federal workforce by nearly two-thirds through attrition. If implemented, it's expected to result in more than 15,000 letter carrier vacancies being left unfilled in the first year and would likely stop any conversions to full-time career status for city carrier assistants (CCAs).

Letter carriers should continue working to educate all members of Congress on the importance of a strong Postal Service and the importance of letter carrier jobs—these issues remain non-partisan, and our goal of enacting sensible postal reforms will remain at the top of our agenda, along with protecting all workers' rights.

To help accomplish this, NALC will continue to work to build relationships with all members of Congress, the Trump administration and federal agencies to help ensure that the Postal Service thrives and remains a source of good jobs. Get updates from the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs by downloading the NALC Member App and checking nalc.org.