



News from Washington

Congress repeals WEP and GPO; 119th Congress takes shape

On Dec. 21, in a 76-20 vote, the Senate passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82). Senate passage came after the House overwhelmingly passed the bill on Nov. 12. As this issue was going to press, the bill was being sent to President Joe Biden's desk, where it was expected he would sign it into law.

"This is a massive victory for letter carriers and our fellow public servants," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "For the first time in decades, affected

CSRS retired letter carriers won't have their Social Security benefits unfairly reduced. They, alongside thousands of other public service annuitants, will finally receive justice by receiving the full benefits that they earned.

"I want to congratulate and thank every NALC member who lobbied their members of Congress to get this bill through the House and Senate. Our union has worked for years to repeal the WEP and GPO. Thanks to the unwavering dedication and advocacy of our members, this repeal is finally being signed into law."

The Social Security Fairness Act will repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). These are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduced, or sometimes eliminated, Social Security benefits of certain Civil Service Retirement System federal annuitants, including letter carriers. For letter carriers' long history with WEP and GPO, see page 9.

Looking ahead to the 119th Congress

The 119th Congress was set to convene on Jan. 3, after this issue went to print, with Republicans set to control both chambers. With President-elect Donald Trump scheduled to be sworn in on Jan. 20, Republicans will have a trifecta in Washington for the first time since 2018, controlling the House, Senate and White House.

In the House, the Republican majority will be slim, 217-215, with three vacancies. Former Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) resigned, and Reps. Mike Waltz (R-FL) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) are expected to resign on Jan. 20 for positions in the administration. This tight margin leaves almost zero room for error and disagreement in a Republican Party that has struggled to move legislation

forward even while it controlled the House in the last two years.

Republicans will have a little more breathing room in the Senate with a 53-47 majority. Sen. JD Vance (R-OH) will depart to serve as vice president and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) also is expected to depart to serve in the administration. The Republican governors from both states are expected to appoint Republican replacements to fill these vacancies.

The House will have 63 freshman members: 30 Republicans and 33 Democrats.

Twelve new senators are set to be sworn in—six from each party. The newly elected Republicans are Jim Banks (IN), John Banks (UT), Jim Justice (WV), Dave McCormick (PA), Bernie Moreno (OH) and Tim Sheehy (MT). The six newly elected Democratic senators are Angela Alsobrooks (MD), Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE), Rueben Gallego (AZ), Andy Kim (NJ), Adam Schiff (CA) and Elissa Slotkin (MI).

The House and Senate have also held leadership elections. While many top leaders from the 118th Congress were reelected, the Senate will notably have a new majority leader. With former Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stepping aside from leadership, Republicans elected Sen. John Thune (R-SD) as the new majority leader. The full list of House and Senate leaders can be found on page 8.

As this magazine was going to print, committee assignments were still being finalized. Chairman James Comer (R-KY) will again lead the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. On the Democratic side, Ranking Member Jamie Raskin (D-MD) will be leaving this leadership role to serve as ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee. The caucus elected Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) to replace him as ranking member of the oversight committee.





2025 Congressional Calendar

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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March

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30	31					

April

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27	28	29	30			

May

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June

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29	30					

July

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August

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31						

September

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28	29	30				

October

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November

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30						

December

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

Both chambers in session
 Senate in session
 House in session
 Federal holiday

News from Washington (continued)

In the Senate, current Ranking Member Rand Paul (R-KY) is expected to lead the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) is expected to continue as the top Democrat on the committee and serve as ranking member.

“While a new Congress and administration are sure to present certain chal-

lenges, NALC will continue doing what we do best—working on both sides of the aisle to achieve meaningful results for letter carriers,” President Renfroe said. “I encourage all letter carriers to use the resources in our Legislative Action Center. Know who your members of Congress are, reach out to them about NALC’s issues, and set

up district meetings with them when Congress is in recess.

“Letter carriers’ district-level work is our strongest legislative tool. I urge you to get involved and join us in the fight.”

Check the “Government Affairs” section of nalc.org for the latest updates and visit NALC’s Legislative Action Center at nalc.org/action. **PR**

119th Congress Leadership

House of Representatives

Republicans (majority)

- Speaker: Mike Johnson (LA)*
- Majority Leader: Steve Scalise (LA)
- Majority Whip: Tom Emmer (MN)
- NRCC Chair: Richard Hudson (NC)
- Conference Chair: Lisa McClain (MI)
- Conference Vice Chair: Blake Moore (UT)
- Republican Policy Chair: Kevin Hern (OK)
- Conference Secretary: Erin Houchin (IN)
- Republican Study Chair: August Pfluger (TX)
- Freshman Class President: Brandon Gill (TX)
- Freshman Steering Rep.: Brian Jack (GA)

**The vote for Speaker of the House, in which all representatives are eligible to vote, is scheduled for Jan. 3, after this magazine went to print.*

Democrats (minority)

- Leader: Hakeem Jeffries (NY)
- Minority Whip: Katherine Clark (MA)
- Caucus Chair: Pete Aguilar (CA)
- Vice Chair: Ted Lieu (CA)
- Assistant Minority Leader: Joe Neguse (CO)
- DPCC Chair: Debbie Dingel (MI)
- DPCC Co-Chairs: Maxwell Frost (FL), Lauren Underwood (IL), Lori Trahan (MA)
- Battleground Leadership Representative: Susie Lee (NV)
- Caucus Leadership Representative: Robert Garcia (CA)
- Freshman Class Representative: Luz Rivas (CA)
- Freshman Class President: Yassamin Ansari (AZ)
- Freshman Steering Representative: Johnny Olszewski (MD)

Senate

Republicans (majority)

- Majority Leader: John Thune (SD)
- Assistant Majority Leader: John Barrasso (WY)
- Republican Conference Chair: Tom Cotton (AR)
- Republican Policy Committee Chair: Shelly Moore Capito (WV)
- Republican Conference Vice Chair: James Lankford (OK)
- National Republican Senatorial Committee Chair: Tim Scott (SC)

Democrats (minority)

- Minority Leader: Chuck Schumer (NY)
- Minority Whip: Dick Durbin (IL)
- Steering and Policy Chair: Amy Klobuchar (MN)
- Strategic Communications Committee Chair: Cory Booker (NJ)
- Vice Chair of Conference: Elizabeth Warren (MA)
- Vice Chair of Conference: Mark Warner (VA)
- Chair of Outreach: Bernie Sanders (VT)
- Conference Secretary: Tammy Baldwin (WI)
- Vice Chair of Outreach: Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)
- Deputy Conference Secretary: Brian Schatz (HI)
- Deputy Conference Secretary: Chris Murphy (CT)