



American Cotton Shippers Association P (901)525-2272
88 Union Avenue, Suite 1204 F (901)527-8303
Memphis, T N 38103 www.acsa-cotton.org

Democratic Senate Leadership and Observations

Democratic Leadership

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY)

Majority Whip and Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin (IL)

Assistant Leader Patty Murray (WA)

President Pro Tempore Pat Leahy (VT)

Vice Chair of Conference Mark Warner (VA)

Vice Chair of Conference Elizabeth Warren (MA)

Chair of Policy and Communications Committee Debbie Stabenow (MI)

Chair of Steering Committee Amy Klobuchar (MN)

Chair of Outreach Bernie Sanders (VT)

Vice Chair of Outreach Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)

Vice Chair of Policy and Communications Committee Joe Manchin (WV)

Vice Chair of Policy and Communications Committee Cory Booker (CO)

Secretary of Conference Tammy Baldwin (WI)

Committees

Appropriations Committee Chair Pat Leahy (VT)

Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (OR)

Armed Services Committee Chair Jack Reed (RI)

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chair Patty Murray (WA)

Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (WA)

Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Chair Sherrod Brown (OH)

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Joe Manchin (WV)

Environment and Public Works Chair Tom Carper (DE)

Foreign Relations Committee Chair Robert Menendez (NJ)

Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (MI)

Budget Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (VT)

Rules Committee Chair Amy Klobuchar (MN)

Small Business Committee Chair Ben Cardin (MD)

Veterans' Affairs Committee Chair Jon Tester (MT)

Subcommittee chairs may see some noteworthy changes over the last Congress due to recent Democratic Caucus rule changes. With Democrats taking the majority, the Caucus debate over subcommittee chairs may be revisited in coming weeks.

Democrats likely to have one seat advantages at most Committees, perhaps two at key Committees. Resources and staff allocations are likely to be close to 50 – 50 splits.

Hill Observations

Democratic control of the Legislative Branch is a significant change but is likely to be constrained by narrow margins in both the House and Senate. Progressives will get gavels at prominent committees and subcommittees but the path to floor passage of legislation will require bipartisan compromise, particularly in the Senate. Senate Democratic moderates will hold tremendous sway over action at virtually all committees and on the Senate floor. The 50 – 50 Senate will require close collaboration between Senate Democrats and the Biden Administration.

Senate Democrats are likely to advance Biden Administration cabinet and political appointees much quicker than Senate Republicans were expected to do. Democratic control of confirmations and nominees is likely to embolden the Biden Administration to nominate some individuals that might have been rejected by Senate Republicans.

Loss of the Senate Majority and control over Committees will limit the opportunities for Republicans to conduct oversight over the Biden Administration, launch investigations deemed politically motivated by Democrats and highlight competing political and legislative proposals to those expected from the Biden Administration and Hill Democrats. At the same time, Senate Republicans will use Senate rules to limit the power of Senate Democrats.

Senate Democrats are likely to advance additional COVID relief packages in close cooperation with the Biden Administration. Additional funding including for items like State and Local government assistance and other programs/funding levels contained in the 2020 House HEROES Act are likely to be prioritized by Democrats. Transportation and infrastructure funding legislation in a COVID economic relief package are a likely priority for the Biden Administration and Hill Democrats.

Administration Observations

President-elect Biden is a major beneficiary of the Georgia results. Republican opportunities to thwart his agenda from day one is now much more limited. Biden may have an opportunity to pass several key legislative initiatives on COVID or utilizing reconciliation instructions.

The Georgia results and likelihood for Biden appointees to be confirmed by the Senate could impact the final Cabinet selections including for Attorney General and Secretary of Labor. A second tier of confirmations for political appointees may give the Biden Administration an opportunity to make appointments for individuals unlikely to be confirmed under Republican control. Confirmations for cabinet appointees and other political appointees including judicial nominees will move more orderly and quickly under Democratic control.

Progressive Democrats and their allies will perceive the Georgia results as an opportunity to move a more progressive legislative agenda, perhaps creating friction between factions within the Democratic party. The Biden Administration will be placed in a precarious position of navigating narrow Democratic majorities in the House and Senate while being under pressure from progressive Democratic constituencies. Hill Democrats with their narrow majorities and the Biden Administration will be weary of the historical trend for first term presidents to suffer electoral losses in mid-term elections. The 2022 mid-term election and control of the House and Senate will be prioritized by both parties, likely from today forward.

Senate Seats up in 2022 mid-term election

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL)

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ)

Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA)

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Senator Todd Young (R-IN)

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)

Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY)

Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) * Burr has indicated he will not seek re-election in 2022

Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)

Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

Senator James Lankford (R-OK)

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) * Toomey has indicated he will not seek re-election in 2022

Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)

Senator John Thune (R-SD)

Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)

Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)