



### Presidential Results

On November 7, 2020, several media organizations declared that Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris won the election for the President and Vice President of the United States. Biden and Harris will take office on January 20, 2021. Currently, President-elect Biden is leading in the electoral college and popular vote. Votes are still being counted so final electoral college and popular vote counts are not available.

NASTAD will provide transition documents to the incoming Administration, highlighting agency-specific recommendations that pertain to health department HIV and hepatitis programs. Additionally, the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP) and the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP), two coalitions that NASTAD leads, will also submit transition documents stressing actions the next Administration can take relating to the HIV and hepatitis epidemics, respectively.

### House and Senate Results

Several House races are still undecided, but Democrats have kept control of the chamber. Republicans picked up several House districts but did not net the 17 seats they needed to gain the majority. Control of the Senate is still unknown with two uncalled seats (Alaska and North Carolina) and two runoffs in Georgia. The runoff races in Georgia will take place on January 5, 2021, so the Senate make up will not be final until then. While it remains likely that Republicans will remain in control of the Senate, if Democrats win both run off races, they will gain control of the Senate with Vice-President-elect Harris serving as tiebreaker.

	Party	Pre-election	Post-election
Senate***	Democrats	45	46
	Republicans	53	50
	Independent	2*	2**
House****	Democrats	232	219
	Republicans	197	203
	Independent	0	0

*\* Angus King (ME) and Bernie Sanders (VT) caucused with the Democrats.*

*\*\* Bernie Sanders (VT) and Angus King (ME) will continue to caucus with the Democrats.*

\*\*\* In total, there are still two uncalled Senate races in Georgia. On January 5, 2021, there will be two runoff races for the seats -- Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler; Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Senator Perdue.

\*\*\*\* 13 House races have not been called

### **Leadership Races**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12) says that she will run for another term as Speaker since Democrats have kept control of the House. The position of Assistant Speaker is guaranteed to be open as Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3) won his race for Senate. All members of House leadership in both parties won their reelections and are expected to retain their roles. House Democrats will begin holding their leadership races on November 18<sup>th</sup>. House Republicans have yet to announce a formal election date for their leadership races.

Both Democrats and Republicans held their leadership races on November 10<sup>th</sup> that resulted in reelections for both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY). Both of Georgia's Senate races will hold runoffs in January that could result in an increased control for Republicans or a 50-50 split, effectively giving Democrats control of the Senate with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris as tiebreaker. Other prominent Republican leaders are supposed to return to their roles, including Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference Joni Ernst (R-IA) who won her reelection race. The one Republican leadership change is Rick Scott (R-FL), who is expected to take over the role of National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman. Democrats created two new Senate leadership positions. Cory Booker (D-NJ) will serve with Joe Manchin (D-WV) as the vice chair of Democratic Policy and Communications Committee and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NY) will serve as the vice chair of outreach. Senate Democratic Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Vice Chair of Conference Mark Warner (D-VA) won their reelections and are expected to stay in leadership roles.

## **Committee Leadership and Membership**

Leadership for the House Appropriations Committee will change as a result of Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY-17) retiring. Congresswomen Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-9), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-23), and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) have all announced plans to run for the Chair position. Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will change due to Greg Walden (R-OH-2) retiring.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP) will see a shift in leadership as a result of Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) retiring. The Senate Budget Committee will also need a new chair due to Mike Enzi (R-WY) retiring. Committee leadership races will be held as we move closer to the start of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Many of the Committees impacting HIV and hepatitis funding and public health programs will see changes due to retirements and losses. There will be many new Members that will need educating, particularly on Committees of jurisdiction. Some outgoing Members were HIV and hepatitis supporters and bill sponsors. NASTAD will be reaching out to the new Members to provide them with information on our legislative priorities and cultivating champions.

## **House Committees**

The House Appropriations Committee lost the following Members:

- **Retired:** Jose Serrano (D-NY-15), Martha Roby (R-AL-2), Will Hurd (R-TX-23), Nita Lowey (D-NY-17), Peter Visclosky (D-IN-1)
- **Other:** Tom Graves (R-GA-14) stepped down in October

The House Appropriations Committee annually writes the legislation that allocates federal funds to government agencies, departments and organizations. Twelve subcommittees are tasked with drafting legislation to allocate funds to government agencies within their jurisdictions. The House Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) has jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This includes the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which oversees the Ryan White Program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which oversee HIV and hepatitis prevention.

The House Budget Committee lost the following Members:

- **Retired:** Rob Woodall (R-GA-7), Bill Flores (R-TX-17), George Holding (R-NC-2)

The House Budget Committee is responsible for drafting Congress' annual budget resolution and monitoring action on the budget for the Federal government.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee lost the following Members:

- **Retired:** Dave Loebsack (D-IA-2), Susan Brooks (R-IN-5), Pete Olson (R-TN-22), John Shimkus (R-IL-15), Bill Flores (R-TX-17), Greg Walden (R-OR-2)
- **Other:** Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3) elected to NM senate, Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA-4) lost Senate primary, Greg Gianforte (R-MT-At-large) won election as MT governor, Eliot Engel (D-NY-16) lost House primary

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has authorizing jurisdiction over the Departments of Energy, HHS, Commerce and Transportation, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Trade Commission, FDA and the Federal Communications Commission. The Subcommittee on Health oversees HHS, National Institutes of Health (NIH), CDC, HRSA, Indian Health Service, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Medicare, and Medicaid. The Energy and Commerce Committee directly oversees the authorization of the Ryan White Program. Its Senate counterpart is the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP).

The House Ways and Means Committee lost the following members:

- **Retired:** Nita Lowey (D-NY-17), Kenny Marchant (R-TX-24), and George Holding (R-NC-13)
- **Not called:** Tom Suozzi (D-NY-03)

The Committee on Ways and Means is the chief tax-writing committee in the House. The Committee has jurisdiction over health programs under the Social Security Act, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund. Its Senate counterpart is the Committee on Finance.

### **Senate Committees**

The Senate Appropriations Committee lost the following Members:

- **Retired:** Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Tom Udall (D-NM)

Like its House counterpart, the Senate Appropriations Committee annually writes the legislation that allocates federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments and organizations. Twelve subcommittees are tasked with drafting legislation to allocate funds to government agencies within their jurisdictions. The Senate Subcommittee on Labor-HHS has jurisdiction over HHS, including HRSA, which

oversees the Ryan White Program and CDC, which oversees HIV and viral hepatitis prevention.

The Senate Budget Committee lost the following Members:

- **Retired:** Mike Enzi (R-WY)
- **Other:** Kamala Harris (D-CA), Vice-President Elect
- **Runoff:** David Perdue (R-GA)

The Senate Budget Committee is responsible for drafting Congress' annual budget resolution and monitoring action on the budget for the federal government.

The Senate HELP Committee lost the following Members:

- **Retired:** Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mike Enzi (R-WY), Pat Roberts (R-KS)
- **Lost election:** Doug Jones (D-AL)
- **Runoff:** Kelly Loeffler (R-GA)

The HELP Committee's jurisdiction covers most of the agencies, institutes and programs of HHS, including the FDA, CDC, HRSA, NIH, SAMHSA and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This means that HELP Committee directly oversees The Ryan White Program and is responsible for its reauthorization. Its House counterpart is the Energy and Commerce Committee

It is important to note that several Democrats and Republicans who have championed HIV and hepatitis issues in the past remain in Congress.

### Governors

Eleven states held gubernatorial elections. Of the eleven states, 1 state went from Democratic to Republican leadership.

	Party	Pre-election	Post-election
Governors	Democrat	24	23
	Republican	26	27
	Independent	0	0

### Jurisdictional Ballot Measures

Oregon voters passed a [ballot measure](#) to decriminalize possession of all current illicit drugs and invest in substance use treatment. The Oregon decriminalization proposal will also remove criminal penalties for low-level drug possession offenses. Those caught possessing a controlled substance will now be subject to a \$100 fine or be required to complete a health assessment within 45 days.

Oregon also joined the District of Columbia in decriminalizing psychedelic mushrooms. Arizona, Montana, New Jersey, and South Dakota voted and passed measures to legalize recreational marijuana, and Mississippi legalized cannabis for medical use.

NASTAD will be reaching out to the new Members of Congress and providing them with information on our legislative agenda. We will continue to monitor election results and provide a more detailed update about what this election means for the 2021 legislative agenda, as we learn more details. NASTAD also encourages you to reach out to new congressional members once they are sworn-in in January by introducing your jurisdiction's programs and offering yourself as a resource.

Please contact [Emily McCloskey](#) or [Mike Weir](#) if you have any questions.