

Committee on House Administration: Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress

House Officers and Operations, Generally

Rebuilding a House that is:

- **Accountable:**
 - o Partner with House Officers to implement more cost effective and efficient operations within the House.
 - o Hold accountable the Architect of the Capitol, United States Capitol Police, House Sergeant at Arms, the Capitol Police Board, and other Legislative Branch entities.
 - o Implement plans that enhance the security of the Capitol campus for the House community, Members, and visitors of the Capitol.
 - o Coordinate the reauthorization of House entities with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations to ensure transparency and accountability in House operations.
 - o Coordinate more effective and wholistic oversight of the Legislative Branch through better partnership with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations.
 - o Conduct thorough oversight of the resources dedicated to post-January 6th security improvements across the Capitol campus to ensure accountability and increase transparency regarding the use of taxpayer dollars.
 - o Partner with House Officers and entities across the Legislative Branch to identify and implement actions that increase effectiveness and reduce costs.

- **Open, Accessible, and Transparent:**
 - o Partner with House Officers and officials to fully return the House to pre-COVID-19 pandemic operations, including ensuring that the House buildings are open and accessible to the American people.
 - o Coordinate with the Speaker and Officers of the House to facilitate more opportunities for Americans to engage with Congress.
 - o Oversee the implementation of the House Officers' strategic plans to increase Legislative Branch entities' efforts to recruit and retain a professional, skilled workforce.

- **Professional:**
 - o Examine proposals to increase the recruitment and retention of Americans from across the United States to work in Congress.
 - o Partner with entities across the Legislative Branch to continue the development of training programs to ensure the highest level of service to American people.
 - o Coordinate the development and implementation of the House Officers' and officials' strategic plans for the financial and administrative wellbeing of the House.
 - o Empower and support entities across the legislative branch in implementing recommendations made by their relevant Inspector General.

- Modern:
 - o Support the continued coordination among Legislative Branch entities to offer modern, effective support services to build a comprehensive district office support program, including IT, security, and administrative services.
 - o Coordinate support for implementing best practices regarding the adoption, review, testing, and improvement of IT security policies and services across all Legislative Branch entities.
 - o Oversee the coordination of services across the House entities to ensure Committees may host field hearings across the country and U.S. territories safely and effectively.

- Resilient:
 - o Partner with House Officers and Officials to establish courses of action to address all outstanding Inspector General recommendations, management advisories, and initiatives.
 - o Strengthen the cybersecurity of the House through close coordination with the House Officers' and other Legislative Branch entities through continued development of defensive measures, including adoption of programs, IT security policies, training initiatives, and best practices.
 - o Continue coordination with House Officers to develop predictable, realistic financial and administrative goals with clear paths for implementation both in the short- and long-term.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

- Continue support of the CAO's "One CAO" vision to increase the coordination of support offices across the entity to best serve the House and American people.
- Continue coordination with the CAO to ensure that products offered meet the needs of the House's modern workforce, and that communication of available resources reaches all levels of the House community, including in D.C. and district offices.
- Partner with CAO to prioritize the implementation of recommendations from the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.
- Continue to support the development of the House Digital Service.
- Oversee the development and implementation of a committee calendar system to help committees plan and deconflict hearings and business meetings.
- Encourage CAO to explore options to enter into enterprise-wide agreements that save money and increase efficiencies across the House.
- The Congressional Staff Academy, CAO Coach Program, and Congressional Excellence Program have demonstrated that the CAO is listening to the House workforce to meet professional development needs. House Administration will continue to be engaged with the CAO to ensure that course and service offerings further adapt to the modern House.
- Continue oversight of modernization initiatives that streamline data and identify access management, including the continued rollout of My Expenses and further technology upgrades to the House financial management system.
- Further partner with CAO to expand admissions, reduce the waitlist, and improve the quality of the offerings of the House Childcare Center so that the full expansion of the Center can be utilized by the House community in the immediate future.
- Further ensure that CAO is proactive in combating cybersecurity threats, providing training, and implementing failsafe procedures to guarantee continuity of operations.

- Continue coordination on the review of the House Disaster Recovery Program to identify further advancements the House can undertake to remain secure.

Clerk of the House

- Continue coordination with the Clerk to oversee, support, and implement policy and modernization needs to ensure continuity of Congress, increase efficiencies, boost cyber security, and improve workforce health.
- Help craft and implement solutions to increase the bandwidth of Legislative Counsel through recruitment and retention policy reforms.
- Modernize technologies utilized in the legislative drafting process.
- Continue support of the House's adoption of the e-Hopper and the Comparative Print Tool, two key initiatives that greatly aid Members and staff in undertaking legislative activities.
- Partner with the Clerk to identify functions and administrative operations under the Clerk's jurisdiction that would be better coordinated under another House entity to increase the Clerk's operational bandwidth and effectiveness.
- Standardize format and data-sharing practices, increase public access to the House Legislative Resource Center's resources, and support the continued efforts of the Congressional Data Task Force and the Bicameral Legislative Systems Forum.

House Inspector General

- Continue the Committee's coordination with the Office of the Inspector General to increase accountability across the House.
- Identify improvements to the functions and administrative operations of the Office of the Inspector General.
- Establish priorities for the Inspector General, including, but not limited to, the focus and scope of management advisories.
- Ensure that management advisories, audits, and investigations are prioritized in alignment with the assessment of risk to the operations of the House.

House Office of Whistleblower Ombuds

- Continue close coordination with the Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds to ensure resources, guidance, and policies are authorized in alignment with the office's core function of promulgating best practices for whistleblower intake for offices of the House.

Sergeant at Arms (HSAA)

- Continue to identify and implement cultural changes to increase honor, accountability, retention, and professionalism within the organization.
- Closely coordinate with the Sergeant at Arms regarding his role on the Capitol Police Board to ensure there is accountability and transparency of the Board and its actions.

- Shift the Sergeant at Arms toward a more traditional oversight entity with thorough oversight of the security operations across the House campus and in district offices.
- Encourage more member services initiatives and bipartisanship in the HSAA office. This includes efforts to further partner with the HSAA to independently empower security experts, not politicians, to make security related decisions.
- Explore a modernized campus badging system to streamline the visitor experience and increase awareness of building densities in case of an evacuation-based emergency.
- Review the functions and administrative operations assigned to the HSAA to identify solutions and streamline operations as they relate to the other campus security entities.
- Oversee the implementation of recommendations made by various reviews of the Capitol following the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.
- Oversee dedicated efforts by the HSAA to increase customer service and availability for Members and staff.
- Ensure HSAA continues to implement a comprehensive district office and home security program to further ensure the safety of Members, their families, and staff. This includes the HSAA's implementation of the law enforcement coordinator program, enterprise-wide security system contract, and processes for mail sent to the district offices. Ensure that this program is managed according to its intent and that the HSAA is held accountable for the quality of services provided to Members and District offices across the country.
- Further partner with HSAA to develop and implement emergency preparedness and training of all Members, staff, and employees, including when home in their districts.
- Review annual reporting requirements to ensure adequate accountability and transparency.
- Continue to increase customer service and experience with the House Parking Office.

Legislative Branch and Other Entities

Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

- Support the Acting Architect of the Capitol in re-establishing a culture built on accountability and excellence in the work of the 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 to increase the bicameral and bipartisan oversight of the AOC's full scope of activities across its jurisdictions.
- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations to explore alternative funding models to better match AOC construction resource management. This includes researching opportunities in which long-term projects can be better insulated against market price fluctuations, inflation, and supply shortages.
- Ensure the prioritization and implementation of recommendations made by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, including but not limited to, improvement of wayfinding technology, evaluating the future of work, developing a portal for using and reserving available "shared" office space, and use of space considerations. This includes the continued build out of former Health and Human Service space in the O'Neill Building.

- Develop and enforce a clear House Office Building Hallway Policy.
- Continue oversight of the AOC's day-to-day maintenance of House Buildings and the House side of the Capitol.
- Continue thorough oversight of the Hearing Room Renovation Plan and increase accountability for the AOC to deliver those rooms on time and on budget. Ensure the AOC and other House support entities provide continued business operation in the House by providing adequate, alternative hearing room locations for committees and subcommittees to gather.
- Increase communication and expedited service as it relates to the National Statuary Hall Collection in coordination with the Joint Committee on the Library.
- Review the internal operational effectiveness of the Capitol Visitor Center to ensure that the services provided are of a level appropriate for visitors who are touring the Capitol of the United States of America. Ensure that CVC continues to modernize the visitor experience in a way that welcomes all Americans.

Government Publishing Office (GPO)

- Continue oversight of GPO's efforts to digitize the Federal Deposit Library Program.
- Further support the GPO in establishment of its tradesmen apprenticeship program to increase workforce recruitment, development, and retention.
- Further collaborate with GPO to explore modernization initiatives that can streamline the legislative posting process, recognizing that the process has many stakeholders and collaborators.
- Support the GPO in efforts to appoint a permanent Inspector General and re-establish a productive relationship with that office.
- Continue to oversee operations of the GPO including the Superintendent of Documents.
- Continue collaboration on GPO's production of next generation passports for the US Department of State.

Library of Congress

- Oversee Library activities to ensure that the LOC remains focused on its founding mission of being Congress' Library.
- Continue to support the Library in its efforts to shift toward a library of the modern information age, where Americans can access documents and information regardless of location.
- Continue to support the Library in efforts to digitize and further build its collection.
- Further emphasize the need for the LOC to implement recommendations of its Inspector General, particularly regarding information technology modernization, enterprise-wide strategic planning and coordination, and better controls on internal processes and project management.
- Conduct rigorous oversight of the Congressional Research Service to better meet the needs of a modern Congress, including shorter reports, more variety of products, thorough internal tracking of activities and product delivery rates, and greater efficiency in work product.
- Ensure greater stakeholder participation in decision-making for prestigious appointments.
- Continue oversight of Copyright modernization efforts, the Visitor Experience Initiative, post-COVID-19 Pandemic posture, storage facility efforts, moving NLS headquarters to a closer location to LOC, and Law Library shelving renovation, among others.
- Continue support of LOC's efforts to ensure greater access to the Main Reading Room by visitors and researchers.

- Oversee the strategic plans and operations of the LOC, with particular focus on Copyright Office, Law Library, OIG, CRS, NLS, and overseas initiatives.

Office of the Attending Physician

- Review the Office of the Attending Physician's actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the issuing of inconsistent guidance between the House and the Senate.
- Implement necessary changes to ensure future public health guidance is issued in a non-political manner.
- Make strides to modernize the 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 the OCAS and AOC to ensure that construction activities and future building upgrades are undertaken in an accessibility conscious way.

Smithsonian Institution

- Continue to address storage capacity concerns and deferred maintenance with the Smithsonian Institution.
- Reduce the Smithsonian's reliance on timed-ticketing efforts to improve access and increase accountability for when such efforts are taken advantage of by ticket scalpers or bots.
- Increase accountability for the process of site selection for the future National Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino. Engage with Smithsonian and other stakeholders to ensure that appropriate, realistic recommendations are made regarding site locations.
- Re-establish the expectation that the Smithsonian is accountable and responsive to congressional oversight entities.
- Set expectations with the Smithsonian on future development on the National Mall.
- Ensure adequate inventory management across all collections.
- Ensure that the Smithsonian is meeting the expectations of the American people to preserve and communicate the American story and educate Americans on the uniqueness of our history.
- Work with Smithsonian to ensure a full return to pre-COVID-19 Pandemic policies.
- Review appointments to the Board of Regents as necessary.

United States Capitol Police

- Work with the Department to improve its culture by improving leadership, accountability, transparency, and initiative throughout its operations.

- Support the Department’s efforts to expand their regional offices throughout the country, ramp up recruitment of new officers, address threats to members of Congress, prioritize training and dignitary protection, and continue to rebuild after the January 6th attack on the Capitol.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of USCP to determine the viability of transitioning USCP away from a traditional police force toward a protective force.
- Identify opportunities for reforming the Capitol Police Board structure.
- Work with the Department to ensure all outstanding recommendations made to the Department are fulfilled.
- Review the politicization of the Department in recent years and push the Department to have greater bipartisan responsiveness to members.
- Advocate for greater independence for the USCP Inspector General from the Capitol Police Board.
- Encourage the Department to prioritize long-term, strategic planning.
- Partner with Capitol security stakeholders to establish clear guidance for the deployment of global fencing.
- Encourage the Department to prioritize training initiatives throughout the Department and rework accountability structures to ensure training is not only mandated but executed.
- Require the Department to provide semi-annual reports on operations and structure to Congress and regularly report arrest data publicly in a detailed, structured data-format.
- Develop policies and processes to further discourage unmanned aerial systems (UAS) or “drones” from violating Capitol air space.
- Oversee the Departments operations through regular engagement with Department leadership.

Advice and Guidance, Member Services

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

- Coordinate with the Clerk of the House and CAO to identify and implement new applications, resources, and procedures for the House to be more transparent, accountable, and accessible, and to meet Member and Committee office’s obligations related to official communications.
- Implement approved procedures to increase transparency and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.

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

- Oversee the establishment of the Intern Resource Office.
- 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 Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Office of House Employment Counsel, and Office of Employee Assistance.
- Explore advantages of transferring the development and administration of the annual mandatory Workplace Rights and Responsibilities training in-house.
- 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.
- Oversee the Office of Employee Advocacy.

Federal Election Law and Procedures

- Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to strengthen election integrity.
- Examine the impact of amendments made by HAVA and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).
- 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.
- Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the committee; monitor any disputed election counts.
- 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 2022 election with a focus on ensuring all lawful ballots in congressional races were counted fairly, accurately, and according to law.
- Strengthen the Congressional Election Observer Program that helps 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.
- Strengthen and develop our Faith in Elections Program that consists of four primary principles: (1) States have the primary role in establishing election law and administering elections, (2) All eligible voters must be able to vote, and all lawful votes must be counted according to the law, (3) Political speech is protected speech, and (4) Redistricting should be used as a tool to strengthen democracy.
- Restore voter confidence in our elections by highlighting states and localities that are administering elections in an open, fair, and transparent way.

MINORITY VIEWS

Legislative Branch Oversight

Introduction

The oversight and authorization activities of the Committee on House Administration are key to the operations of the Legislative Branch. During the 116th and 117th Congresses, Committee Democrats guided the House through several generational challenges, ensuring continuity of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the aftermath of the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. Even in the face of these historic obstacles, the Committee made unprecedented improvements to House operations, particularly with respect to human capital and institutional capacity.

According to Demand Progress, a nonpartisan, non-governmental organization focused on strengthening democracy, the House "improve[d] the working conditions for its staff in the 117th Congress than Congress has

over the last three decades combined.”¹ These reforms improved the ability for the House to recruit and retain top talent and provided Members and staff with tools to perform their jobs more effectively, strengthening the institution. Advances included, among others: creating the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion and House Office of Whistleblower Ombuds; imposing a \$45,000.00 pay floor for full-time House staff; decoupling of Member and staff pay; raising the staff pay cap; increasing the lifetime maximum for the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and exempting SLRP payments from the pay cap; adoption of regulations recommended by the nonpartisan Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) providing for unionization and collective bargaining for House staff who choose to exercise such rights; adoption of regulations recommended by OCWR relating to application of rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act and Fair Labor Standards Act for House staff; extending the House Paid Internship Program to committees; raising the maximum allowable compensation for interns; growing committee capacity by increasing committee funding; expanding the Congressional Staff Academy; launching the CAO Coach Program; creating the House Human Resources Hub; and enlarging the House Child Care Center; and increasing the capacity of the Office of Employee Assistance.

The accomplishments of Committee Democrats in the 116th and 117th Congresses led *Axios* to declare that the Committee, “once seen as a bureaucratic backwater is now at the center of some of the biggest policy fights in Congress.”² In addition to the reforms discussed above, Committee Democrats took a leading role on issues related to election administration and the assault on voting rights; disinformation surrounding U.S. elections; both physical and cyber security; and the removal of white supremacist and Confederate statuary and art from places of honor in the Capitol. The Committee also drove the authorization of two new Smithsonian museums: the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women’s History Museum.

The Committee Minority looks forward to working with the new Committee Majority to further strengthen the institution. In particular, the Committee Minority appreciates the Committee Majority’s establishment of the Subcommittee on the Modernization of Congress, and the fact that the Majority agreed to an even split among Democratic and Republican Members. The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, established by House Rules packages in both the 116th and 117th Congress made many recommendations to improve the institution, and while the Committee implemented or partially implemented more than 130 such recommendations in the previous Congresses, additional implementation work remains.

The Committee Minority is committed to working in a bipartisan fashion in its oversight of the Legislative Branch. However, there will inevitably be matters in which the Committee Minority will disagree with the Committee Majority. For example, the Committee Minority is deeply troubled by public reporting that the Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy made a deal with Fox News personality Tucker Carlson, who has referred

¹ Demand Progress, Statement on House Unionization Vote + Establishment of Minimum Wage) May 7, 2022 <https://demandprogress.org/statement-on-house-unionization-vote-establishment-of-minimum-wage/>.

² Lachlan Markay, *Capitol Hill’s Smallest Committee Takes Center Stage*, *Axios* (May 26, 2022), <https://www.axios.com/2022/05/26/house-administrative-committee-capitol-security>.

to the January 6, 2021, attack as a “false flag operation”³ to provide him—and him alone—with “unfettered access”⁴ to tens of thousands of hours of security footage of the Capitol related to the January 6, 2021, attack.⁵

United States Capitol Police (USCP or Department) leadership has repeatedly stressed the danger of publicly releasing this footage, explaining that it puts the Capitol at significant risk. For example, in July 2022, the USCP Acting Assistant Chief of Police for Uniformed Operations said, in an affidavit made as part of a federal prosecution, “USCP continues to consider any interior footage of the U.S. Capitol to be highly sensitive information, and any access to it should be strictly limited.”⁶

As has been well publicized, in the runup to the January 6, 2021, attack, rioters attempted to gather information about the interior of the Capitol, including tunnels and non-publicly available floor plans. Providing access to hours of footage will result in security vulnerabilities of the Capitol being collected, exposed, and passed on to those who might wish to attack the Capitol again. That the Capitol is open to the public and that video footage of the January 6 attack is widely available does not diminish the need to prevent large swaths of unvetted security footage from being made public. According to a federal judge who issued a protective order related to the footage, “Even if some information about the U.S. Capitol’s layout is available online, USCP’s footage provides far more detailed information, which could raise security concerns if copied and publicized.”⁷ In addition, sophisticated foreign and nonstate actors may be able to use the security camera footage to identify weaknesses in Capitol security, such as potential blind spots and Member evacuation routes. Moreover, release of the footage would cause issues in the prosecutions of January 6 defendants, whose attorneys only have access to security camera footage under a protective order.

The danger associated with these actions is even more significant when considering the individual being provided the footage. Mr. Carlson has a lengthy record of lying and spreading disinformation about the January 6, 2021, attack on his television show in an apparent attempt to rewrite history. According to the *Washington Post*,

“Carlson promoted false and debunked claims about government agents stoking the riot, from the wife of an accused rioter (whom he later interviewed on his show without comment) to elevating evidence-free and obviously flimsy claims about a man named Ray Epps to a national audience. He produced a widely debunked three-part series aimed at reframing the Capitol riot in a way that attributed responsibility to government actors — and slotted the response to the riot in his exhaustingly simplistic us-vs.-them narrative. When the House select committee investigating the riot first aired a hearing in prime time,

³ Meryl Kornfield and Jacqueline Alemany, *McCarthy gives Tucker Carlson exclusive access to Jan. 6 riot video*, The Washington Post (Feb. 21, 2023), <http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/02/21/tucker-carlson-kevin-mccarthy-jan-6-insurrection/>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Mike Allen, *Exclusive: McCarthy gives Tucker Carlson access to trove of Jan. 6 riot tape*, Axios (February 20, 2023), <https://www.axios.com/2023/02/20/kevin-mccarthy-tucker-carlson-jan-6-riot-footage>.

⁶ Declaration of Sean P. Gallagher, U.S. v. Egtvedt, No. 1:21-cr-00177 (D.D.C.).

⁷ U.S. v. Cudd, 534 F.Supp. 3d 48, 54 (D.D.C. 2021).

Carlson’s show was an ad-free hour of handing the microphone to riot sympathizers and conspiracy theorists.”⁸

Historically, Mr. Carlson’s conspiracy theories and false claims are so outrageous that attorneys for Fox News have forced to concede in federal court that he should not be considered an objective source of information.⁹

Any attempts by defenders of these actions to create a false equivalence with the work of the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6, 2021, Attack on the Capitol (Select Committee) should be dismissed. During the course of its investigation, the Select Committee worked directly with the Department to ensure the security camera footage that was ultimately released to the public did not pose a security threat. The Select Committee was required to clear all footage it released publicly with the Department. In some cases, the Department did voice such objections, and the Select Committee worked with the Department to address its concerns. In addition, any individual that reviewed security footage signed a user agreement, and their individual actions were tracked so there was a record of who accessed what and when. No such safeguards appear to be in place in the present case, and, according to the *New York Times*, Mr. Carlson has explicitly stated that “he and a large team of staff members [are] looking at the footage.”¹⁰

The Committee Minority intends to conduct robust oversight on this issue and hopes that the Committee Majority will rethink this decision, which, according to security professionals, presents a significant security risk. Among the unknowns the Minority intends to uncover are:

- What footage has Tucker Carlson’s representatives already viewed?
- What conditions did the Speaker’s Office put on the review of that footage?
- Does the Speaker intend to physically transfer video files to Tucker Carlson or anybody else?
- What does Tucker Carlson intend to do with the footage?

As part this Authorization and Oversight Plan, the Majority says that it will “empower security experts, not politicians, to make security related decisions.” Yet, the Department has made clear that it views release of security footage as a prodigious security threat.

House Officers and Operations, Generally

⁸ Kornfield, *supra* note 3.

⁹ McDougal v. Fox News Network, LLC, 489 F.Supp. 174 (2020); *see also* David Folkenflik, *You Literally Can’t Believe The Facts Tucker Carlson Tells You. So Say Fox’s Lawyers*, NPR (September 29, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/29/917747123/you-literally-cant-believe-the-facts-tucker-carlson-tells-you-so-say-fox-s-lawyer>.

¹⁰ Luke Broadwater and Jonathan Swan, *In Sharing Video With Fox Host, McCarthy Hits Rewind on Jan. 6*, *N.Y. Times* (Feb. 22, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/22/us/politics/tucker-carlson-jan-6-mccarthy.html>.

The Committee Minority agrees with the Committee Majority that the House should be accountable, open, accessible, transparent, professional, modern and resilient. In particular, the Minority shares the Majority's interest in "facilitat[ing] more opportunities for Americans to engage with Congress." The Minority is therefore disappointed that the new House Majority eliminated the option for hearing witnesses to provide testimony remotely. Remote testimony allows individuals without the financial means to travel to Washington, DC to engage directly with Congress. It also makes it easier for individuals with disabilities, rural Americans, and those with job restrictions to engage with their elected representatives. When Congress limits hearing witnesses to those with enough time, money, child care and job flexibility to travel to Washington for several days, it takes away the voice of millions of Americans who deserve to be heard.

The Committee Majority also expresses a desire to "oversee the coordination of services across the House entities to ensure Committees may host field hearings across the country and U.S. territories safely and effectively." With the assistance of the House Recording Studio the Committee Minority convened nine field hearings, two field roundtables and one field listening session during the 116th and 117th Congresses. The Minority looks forward to continuing to provide oversight of the House Recording Studio's field hearing capabilities by participating in additional proceedings outside Washington, DC.

Chief Administrative Officer

The Committee Minority agrees with the Committee Majority's oversight goals for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). In addition, the Committee Minority intends to:

- Provide vigorous oversight of services provided to district offices, including the concept of enterprise-wide district office WiFi.
- Examine the House's relationship with the General Services Administration (GSA) to ensure Members can effectively serve their constituents through district offices in GSA-owned buildings.
- Review efforts to diversify the CAO workforce, including oversight of CAO diversity working groups and mentoring programs.
- Continue efforts to improve customer service and communications across all CAO functions and business units.
- Continue oversight of House technology upgrades, including MyExpenses.
- 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.
- Continue oversight of the Student Loan Repayment Program.
- Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources (HIR).

- Continue oversight of 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.
- Oversee the Technology Partner Program.
- Oversee continued efforts to move toward cloud computing.

House Sergeant at Arms

The Committee Minority also agrees with the Committee Majority's stated goal of independently empowering security experts, not politicians, to make security related decisions. Unfortunately, this stands in stark contrast with the decision to provide a Fox News personality access to Capitol security camera footage, in direct contravention of the wishes of security experts within USCP.

In addition to many of the priorities noted by the Majority, the Minority intends to:

- Oversee continued implementation of the Residential Security Program initiated during the 117th Congress.
- Continue to review the effectiveness of the district office security center and law enforcement coordinator program.
- Review the HSAA role on the Capitol Police Board and study potential reforms thereto.
- 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 and Architect of the Capitol Office of Inspector General.
- Oversee efforts to improving emergency preparedness training for Members and staff, both in Washington, DC and in their respective districts.
- Monitor efforts to appoint a permanent Sergeant at Arms, including progress of any national search.

Clerk of the House

The Committee Minority commends the Office of the Clerk for its work during the protracted election for Speaker of the House. The Minority intends to focus its Office of the Clerk-related oversight on the following:

- Review the Clerk’s current IT configuration and redundancy posture.
- Oversee the House document repository.
- 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.
- 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.

House Office of Inspector General

The Committee Minority agrees with the Committee Majority’s oversight priorities for the House Office of Inspector General and looks forward to providing direction on audits management advisories on a bipartisan basis.

Architect of the Capitol

The Committee Minority agrees with many of the Committee Majority’s oversight priorities for the Architect of the Capitol (AOC). In addition to the priorities noted by the Majority, the Minority intends to:

- Review and improve, where it is within the Committee’s jurisdiction to do so, the process by which the Architect of the Capitol and the Deputy Architect are appointed.
- 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.
- Review mechanisms put in place by the AOC to ensure unallowable costs related to the Cannon House Office Building renovation are not reimbursed and that no costs are reimbursed without sufficient documentation.
- Review plans and proposals for future projects in the House Office Buildings and on the House side of the Capitol.
- Continue oversight of life safety measures, accessibility measures, and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings
- Review the AOC office of sustainability's efforts to reduce energy and waste consumption in the Capitol Complex by, for example, use of waterless and low-flow plumbing fixtures in restroom facilities.
- 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, the renovated Exhibition Hall, and the filling of vacancies in its leadership.

Library of Congress

The Committee Minority notes and appreciates the enormous effort put forth by the Library's Congressional Research Service (CRS) staff to plan what would have been an exceptional New Member Seminar (NMS), which was scheduled to take place in Philadelphia, PA in January 2023. Unfortunately, the new House Majority's inability to elect a Speaker of the House within a reasonable timeframe resulted in the cancellation of what would have been an inspiring and productive NMS program. The Minority, though disappointed in the cancellation of such an important program, commends the effort by CRS staff to refresh NMS, particularly its efforts in the more than seven months between the selection of the location and intended commencement of the program.

The Committee Minority intends to focus its Library of Congress-related oversight on the following:

- Continue detailed oversight of 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;
 - Resource allocation; and
 - Administrative support for subject matter experts.
- Continue detailed oversight of the Copyright Office:
 - Review the use of technology generally in Copyright Office operations, and specifically the office's 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.
 - Review the Copyright Office's efforts to communicate its modernization efforts to stakeholders.
 - Review security measures and processes for e-deposits submitted to both the Copyright Office and Library of Congress.
 - Review the Copyright Office's spending authority and its ability to budget for multi-year capital projects.
- 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.
 - Continue oversight of the Library's technology hosting environment transition.
 - Oversee the operation 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.
 - Ensure the continued compilation of educational websites and materials tailored for students going to school remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 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 the Library's Visitor Experience Initiative, including the Thomas Jefferson Building renovations.

- 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.
- 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, review the format and content for those users and move to a new physical headquarters.
- 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.
- Oversight of gift shop financial management and accounting.

United States Capitol Police

The Committee Minority shares many of the Committee Majority's goals with respect to oversight of the Department. In particular, the Minority intends to prioritize improving Department culture as a means of professionalizing the force, improving officer morale and enhancing Department capabilities. The Minority also remains deeply interested in the potential to transition the Department from a traditional law enforcement agency to a force protection organization akin to the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

The Minority remains deeply frustrated with the Department's responses to requests for information pertaining to the October 28, 2022, assassination attempt on then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and the assault of her husband, Paul Pelosi. The Minority will continue to examine this matter and expects to receive sufficiently detailed answers to its requests for information.

In addition, the Minority intends to:

- Oversee efforts to improve security for Members of Congress outside Washington, DC, including in their districts and in transit.
- Review proposals to reorganize the Department and oversee implementation of any potential reorganization.
- 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.
- Monitor continued implementations of 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.
- Oversee efforts to improve recruitment and retention of sworn officers.

Government Publishing Office

The Committee Minority intends to focus its Government Publishing Office-related oversight on the following:

- Monitor progress of the GPO committee print project.
- 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.
- Review use of GPO facilities and other assets to identify possible alternatives enhancing value to the Congress and the public.

Smithsonian Institution

The Committee Minority agrees with several of the Committee Majority's stated goals with respect to the Smithsonian Institution. In particular, the Minority will monitor storage capacity concerns and deferred maintenance, and examine whether any authorizations are needed to complete the Pod 6 storage project in Suitland, Maryland. In addition, the Minority will focus on the following priorities:

- Closely examine working conditions at Smithsonian museums, with an emphasis on allegations of sexual harassment and assault at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI).
- 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.
- 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.
- Review efforts to improve diversity and inclusion within the Smithsonian, including, diversity in exhibits/collections and diversity in the workforce, with an emphasis on senior levels of the Smithsonian.
- 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.

Office of Congressional Accessibility Services

The Committee Minority agrees with the Committee Majority's intention to oversee management and operations of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. The Minority looks forward to collaborating with the Majority to continue to improve accessibility at the Capitol Campus. The Committee Minority also intends to closely monitor the process of naming a permanent director for the office.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The Committee Minority continues to prioritize and support the important work of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). The Committee Minority intends to focus its ODI-related oversight on the following:

- Oversee and support efforts to direct and guide House employing offices to recruit, hire, train, develop, advance, promote and retain a diverse workforce, especially in district offices.
- Oversee and support ODI's efforts to perform studies regarding compensation and diversity among House employees and the existing barriers to diversity in the House.
- Oversee and support ODI's efforts to expand the pipeline of diverse potential House interns and employees.

- Oversee and support ODI's efforts to provide requested trainings to Member and Committee offices regarding diversity and unconscious bias in the workplace.
- Oversee and support ODI's efforts to build its brand within the House and develop a national footprint.

Office of Whistleblower Ombuds

The Committee Minority agrees with the Committee Majority's prioritization of the House Office of Whistleblower Ombuds and looks forward to overseeing this important office established during the previous Democratic Majority.

Federal Election Law and Procedures

Under the authority of clause 1(k)(12) of 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 1.¹¹ 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 legislate to enforce 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

¹¹ 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.

(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.

Finally, 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.

Oversight Activities

The Committee Minority intends to further these constitutional prerogatives through federal election-related oversight. 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 and 117th Congresses. Over the past four 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 118th Congress, the Minority plans to engage in the following oversight activities:

- 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.
- Build the congressional record in support of a reauthorized federal Voting Rights Act.

- 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 reducing costs of compliance for state and local governments.
- Work with Executive Branch agencies and partners to ensure the full implementation of the President’s March 2021 Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting (EO 14019).

Election Assistance Commission

The Committee Minority will continue conducting oversight of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) 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.

Federal Election Commission

The Committee Minority will continue conducting oversight of the Federal Election Commission (“FEC”) 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. The Committee Minority will also consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC’s budget. And the Committee Minority 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.

Section 4 of the Twentieth Amendment

Section 4 of the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution states in full that:

“The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.”

Congress has never exercised this authority, which would create dangerous uncertainty if, for example, a presidential candidate was to pass away prior to a contingent House election for president. If that were to occur, there would be a strong argument that in the absence of legislation, the deceased candidate’s party would simply be eliminated from the contingent election, which would be an unacceptable disenfranchisement of untold

millions of voters from either major party (or of independent voters in the case of an independent candidate). The Majority has already expressed a desire to examine this issue,¹² and the Minority agrees that the topic bears examination.

Election-Related Authorizations

The Committee on House Administration oversees agency budgets for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Federal Election Commission (FEC), totaling \$109.6 million. During the 118th Congress, the Committee Minority remains 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.

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 10 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.

The Committee Minority will continue the work of the Committee in the 116th and 117th Congresses 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, the Committee Minority will examine new funding needs, examine ways appropriations language may be revised to allow states and local jurisdictions more flexibility in spending HAVA funds. The Committee Minority 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, all of which require additional resources and add new and complex layers to the jobs of election officials. The Committee Minority remains committed to

¹² See H.R. 8528 (117th Congress). § 172 (establishing panel of constitutional experts to examine this issue).

ensuring election officials receive the support and resources they need to ensure the safety of themselves, their staffs, the voters, and election infrastructure, including working with partner committees to ensure robust funding of partner programs at the Department of Justice and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Finally, the Committee Minority is supportive of efforts to use election-related authorizations for certain other democracy promotion activities. For example, the Committee Minority supports authorizations modeled on Title VIII of the *Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act*, which passed the House in January 2022, which 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 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 administering a ranked-choice voting system and carrying out Congressional redistricting through independent commissions, and
- (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.