

Robert E. Primus

Robert E. Primus was sworn in as a Member of the Surface Transportation Board on January 7, 2021, following his confirmation by the U.S. Senate on September 16, 2020. Mr. Primus was subsequently named Vice Chairman of the Board on February 1, 2021.

For the past thirty years, Robert Primus has been involved in various aspects of the United States Congress and the Federal legislative process. In 1991, he began his government service with the late Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. In 1993, he moved to the House of Representatives to join the legislative staff of former Representative Carrie Meek of Florida. Mr. Primus joined the staff of former Representative Mel Reynolds of Illinois in early 1994 and remained there as the Congressman's principal legislative assistant until the end of that year.

In 1995, Mr. Primus transitioned from the Hill to the lobbying firm of Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. where, for four years, he represented and advised firm clients on budgetary, appropriations, transportation, and national security matters. Mr. Primus returned to Capitol Hill in 1999 as Legislative Director to former Representative Michael Capuano of Massachusetts. In 2002, Representative Capuano promoted Mr. Primus to the position of Chief of Staff, a post he held until December of 2018, when Representative Capuano departed Congress. In addition to his Chief of Staff duties, Mr. Primus advised Rep. Capuano on national security, health care, transportation and Coast Guard-related matters.

In January of 2019, Mr. Primus joined the office of Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán of California as her Chief of Staff. In October of 2019, he departed Representative Barragán's office and joined the office of former Presidential candidate and current Congressman Tim Ryan of Ohio as his Senior Advisor. He served with Congressman Ryan until February 2020, when Mr. Primus joined the office of Congressman Tony Cárdenas, first as his Senior Advisor and then as Chief of Staff.

Mr. Primus is a native of Madison, New Jersey. He graduated with honors from Hampton University in 1991, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. Additionally, Mr. Primus received a certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2007 for his participation in the school's Executive Education Program. He is happily married and enjoys the daily challenges associated with raising three adventurous young boys.