



OUTLOOK FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

JANUARY 2007

Blank Rome Government Relations LLC

600 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20037

(202) 772-5800

www.BlankRomeGR.com

Table of Contents

	Page Number
Introduction	2
Democratic Priorities	2
Appropriations	3
Defense	5
Energy and Environment.....	5
Financial Services	7
Healthcare.....	8
Homeland Security.....	8
Labor	9
Telecommunications.....	9
Transportation.....	10

Introduction

The November 7 election significantly changed the congressional outlook for 2007 by returning Democrats to power in both chambers for the first time in 12 years. Senate Democrats picked up six seats and will hold a 51-49 majority in the 110th Congress. In the House, Democrats picked up 30 seats and now hold a 233-202 majority. In the 109th Congress, Republicans controlled the Senate 55-45 and the House 232-203.

The change in leadership puts a whole new set of issues on the congressional agenda and will reshape the last two years of the Bush presidency. This document provides a brief overview of how the 2007-2008 outlook on key issues has changed with the Democratic takeover of Congress.

Democratic Priorities

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi laid out a broad, unified agenda in June when they launched their “Six for ‘06” campaign, which included six broad themes they highlighted as Democratic priorities. Below is how the Democrats summarized these goals in a press release:

- **Make Health Care More Affordable:** Fix the prescription drug program by putting people ahead of drug companies and HMOs, eliminating wasteful subsidies, negotiating lower drug prices and ensuring the program works for all seniors; invest in stem cell and other medical research.
- **Lower Gas Prices and Achieve Energy Independence:** Crack down on price gouging; eliminate billions in subsidies for oil and gas companies and use the savings to provide consumer relief and develop American alternatives, including biofuels; promote energy efficient technology.
- **Help Working Families:** Raise the minimum wage; repeal tax giveaways that encourage companies to move jobs overseas.
- **Cut College Costs:** Make college tuition deductible from taxes; expand Pell grants and slash student loan costs.
- **Ensure Dignified Retirement:** Prevent the privatization of Social Security; expand savings incentives; and ensure pension fairness.
- **Require Fiscal Responsibility:** Restore the budget discipline of the 1990s that helped eliminate deficits and spur record economic growth.

More recently, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has pushed a more specific plan to make progress on six high-priority areas in the Democrats’ first 100 legislative hours in power in January:

- Restore civility to the operations of the House and pass lobbying reform.
- Pass all the recommendations made by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.
- Raise the minimum wage.
- Broaden college opportunity and cut the interest rate in half on student loans.

- Make health care more affordable, promote stem cell research, and allow the government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare patients.
- Roll back the multi-billion dollar subsidies for big oil companies and invest in energy independence.

Rep. Pelosi plans to hit the ground running and move this agenda through the House before President Bush gives his State of the Union Address on January 23. Senator Reid has indicated that the top items on the Senate's agenda will be strengthening lobbying and ethics rules, raising the minimum wage, and providing increased funds for stem cell research.

Both Senator Reid and Rep. Pelosi intend to keep Congress in session significantly more in 2007 than it has been in recent years. Both chambers have fewer and shorter recesses scheduled in 2007, and Sen. Reid has stated his intention to keep the Senate in session with votes five days a week. The House is also planning longer work weeks with votes on Mondays and Fridays.

Appropriations

The 109th Congress was able to enact only two of the eleven fiscal 2007 appropriations bills—Defense and Homeland Security—before adjourning on December 9, 2006. The Congress passed, and President Bush signed, a third continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal agencies and programs included in the remaining FY07 bills through February 15, 2007. It is now the responsibility of the incoming Democratic majority to complete these measures before the February 15 deadline.

On December 11, 2006, incoming Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV) and incoming House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-OH) issued a statement outlining their plan to complete the unfinished FY07 spending bills. Instead of attempting to rewrite and pass each bill, they have decided to adopt a year-long joint resolution funding all bills through the end of FY07. Under the current CR, agencies are funded at the lowest of three levels—that approved by the House or the Senate or the FY06 level. Chairmen Byrd and Obey indicated that they would seek adjustments in these spending levels to satisfy Democrats and moderate Republicans who were upset by the strict funding bills passed by the House Appropriations Committee. The resolution would, however, hold spending within the \$873 billion limit set by lawmakers earlier in the year.

They also said they would not include earmarks in the FY07 joint resolution, thus killing all that were pending in the unfinished spending bills. They noted that they would place a moratorium on all earmarks until reform to the process is enacted. The chairmen stated that earmarks included in FY07 House and Senate bills will be eligible for consideration in the FY 2008 process, subject to new standards for transparency and accountability. Earmarks will clearly receive greater scrutiny in the new Congress. Last year, Rep. Obey supported a Democratic proposal to require that Members declare if they stand to benefit from any earmarks they are seeking. The requirement was part of a broad lobbying package that Democrats tried to pass, but the Republican leadership did not allow it to come to a vote. The Democratic earmark proposal now being developed would apply to appropriations, authorization, and tax bills and require Members requesting an earmark to certify that neither the Member nor their spouse has a financial interest in the earmark. It would also require the requesting Member to submit to the relevant committee specific information on the request, which would be available for public inspection. An earmark would be defined as any Member-requested provision in a bill or accompanying report language that directs funding to an entity or locality and is

not awarded through a statutory, agency-created, or competitive grant process. In the case of tax or tariff provision, an earmark would be a provision that affects 10 or fewer beneficiaries.

Appropriators hope to finish work on the FY07 joint resolution by the beginning of February, when President Bush is expected to submit his fiscal 2008 budget proposal.

Once last year's bills have been dispensed with, Chairmen Byrd and Obey will push for timely completion of the fiscal 2008 appropriations bills. However, Democratic control of both the House and the Senate will create a likely showdown between Congress and President Bush over domestic spending. Democrats have been critical of President Bush's spending priorities and believe the Republicans have under-funded a variety of domestic programs. Once they assume control of the Appropriations Committees, they will almost certainly seek to increase funding for these programs, as well as certain homeland security issues, including port and transportation security grants and first-responder funding. Democrats will have to carefully balance their desire for increased domestic funding with the continued need for defense spending and their stated desire to restore fiscal responsibility to Washington.

Given the activity in the 109th Congress, it is clear where Democrats would like to increase funding. Last year, Rep. Obey attempted to add \$13 billion for domestic and homeland security accounts, offset by rolling back the tax cuts on people making more than \$1 million. Proposed increases included \$4.7 billion for Labor-HHS-Education programs, \$2 billion for Homeland Security, \$1.7 billion for Transportation-Treasury-Housing activities, and \$1 billion for Energy and Water. Senate Democrats, meanwhile, have consistently tried to boost funding for veterans' medical care and homeland security programs. In order to fulfill these priorities, Democrats will likely try to increase total domestic discretionary spending beyond the level that Bush proposes in his fiscal 2008 budget.

However, the White House will likely continue to insist on cuts in overall domestic spending. They will be bolstered by conservative Republicans, who have been pushing for balanced budgets, and even some Democrats. The Blue Dog Democrats in the House, who represent the more fiscally moderate and conservative wing, gained many new members through the elections and will number at least 44—about 20 percent of the new House Democratic majority. President Bush will also retain his advantage with the ability to veto spending bills, and, given the narrow Democratic majorities, it will be difficult for Congress to find the two-thirds vote needed to override any veto.

The work of the Democratic Congress will be complicated by the enormous war supplemental that is expected early next year. Democrats are likely to push for the cost of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan to be counted as part of the Defense Department's regular spending, rather than as continuing emergency supplemental appropriations.

The Democrats are expected to revise the appropriations subcommittee structure so that the corresponding House and Senate subcommittee jurisdictions match. The House currently has 10 subcommittees, while the Senate has 12, causing a mismatch between some of their jurisdictions and making conferencing bills difficult. The restructuring is expected to split the unwieldy Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (TTHUD) subcommittee into two panels, a Transportation-Housing subcommittee and a Financial Services subcommittee. The Financial Services subcommittee would have jurisdiction over funding for the Department of the Treasury, the judiciary, the District of Columbia, and the White House (transferred from the previous TTHUD jurisdiction), plus funding for the SBA, SEC, FTC, and FCC (transferred from the previous

Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee). The House Science-State-Justice-Commerce subcommittee would be renamed the Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee, to match the Senate's name for the subcommittee.

As for the leadership of the committees, in most cases, the ranking Democrat from the 109th Congress will chair his or her subcommittee in the 110th Congress. One important exception is the Energy and Water Subcommittee that had been chaired by Sen. Harry Reid. Sen. Reid left the Appropriations Committee when he assumed the Majority Leader post on January 4 and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) took over as chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) replaced Sen. Dorgan as chair of the Interior Subcommittee, and Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) took over for Sen. Feinstein as chair of the Military Construction Subcommittee. Democrats were able to add three new members to the Appropriations Committee: Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE). Republicans were able to add Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to the committee because of the loss of Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT) and Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH).

Defense

The changes to the leadership in Congress and the Defense Department could bring about new policies, but the extent of these changes is still uncertain. In Congress, Democratic leaders in both the Senate and House have called for lowering the number of troops in Iraq. The difference in opinion is whether this should be done immediately or phased over time. There is agreement that spending bills should not be used to enact policy in Iraq.

Democratic leaders have called for investigations into war profiteering and closer monitoring of how defense contracts are given out by the government. Majority Leader, Sen. Harry Reid, has called for the "first order of business to investigate Iraq."

The new chairmen of both the House and Senate Defense Appropriations subcommittees, Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), have supported many of the Pentagon's new weapons programs. Incoming House Armed Services Committee chairman, Ike Skelton (D-MO), has called for an increase in the size of the Navy and improvements in healthcare and other benefits for military families.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has not defined what a Defense Department under his leadership will look like or what specific changes he would make. He has spoken of his lack of familiarity with Rumsfeld's initiative to transform the army into a more mobile, high-tech fighting force. As a result, the initiative might lose momentum. Gates will be forced to deal with the state of U.S. military preparedness as he is inheriting an Army with 67 percent of its 42 brigades unready to perform their missions and an armed forces that needs improvements to increase readiness levels. There will be huge costs to replace and update equipment for the armed forces.

Energy and Environment

The House Resources Committee is likely to have a dramatically different agenda, and a new name, Natural Resources, in the next Congress with Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) taking the reins from outgoing chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA), a California rancher who has fought to loosen environmental laws. Unlike Pombo, who advocated boosting production of fossil fuels on public

lands—including offshore areas and in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—Rahall wants to enact new legislation that would focus on energy sources beyond fossil fuels. This would include taking a leading role in promoting alternative energy sources, such as wind and biofuels. In addition, he will seek to advance clean-coal technology.

As the first Natural Resources Committee chair from the eastern United States, Rahall said the first order of business will be to overturn a 1995 law that gives royalty relief to deepwater oil and gas companies when prices are low. Rahall said that repealing tax incentives for oil and gas companies and revisiting mining laws will also top the Committee's agenda next year.

The tax incentives overhaul is part of incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "100 hours" agenda, which Democrats would like to complete in the first months of Congress without going through committee. But Rahall said his committee would follow closely behind with an examination of the whole royalty system and incentives included in the two GOP energy bills. He also pledged to probe the Interior Department on its collection of royalties with "very strong" oversight of the Minerals Management Service.

As a West Virginian and former chair of the Mining Subcommittee, Rahall also has a distinct interest in mining and plans to bring it to the fore of the committee. He plans to revisit the 1872 Mining Law and create a royalty system for hardrock mining operations.

Issues that are not on his agenda are changes to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. But Rahall does plan to ramp up some of the committee's oversight, especially over funding issues for key programs. He plans to hold hearings on "underfunding and misplaced priorities" for national parks and endangered species.

Rep. Don Young (R-AK), who chaired the committee from 1995 to 2001, will serve as ranking member in the 110th Congress. Rahall and Young both said that they plan to work together in a bipartisan manner.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-MI) outlined an ambitious 2007 agenda for his panel that includes pushing legislation on alternative fuels, technology, and conservation, as well as oversight of Energy Department programs. Dingell said he would "drive hard" to promote alternative fuels, energy efficiency, and conservation. In particular, he cited a bill sponsored by Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) in the current Congress that would fund research into highly efficient automobiles and increase investment in biofuels. The bill, H.R. 5965, would not establish new fuel efficiency standards for automobiles, a traditional Democratic issue that Dingell has often opposed, as do auto manufacturers in his home state.

In other areas, Dingell said his panel would look into federal implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, uniform appliance standards, the state of the nuclear waste trust fund, and environmental issues such as leaking underground storage tanks, brownfields issues, and Superfund. He is particularly interested in efforts to exempt farms from the Superfund program, which he called an "outrage."

As chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) is poised to take over the Senate energy debate after a year of largely futile activity by GOP leaders. A centrist, Bingaman has a history of bipartisanship that should enable a smooth transition. Bingaman

and former chairman, Pete Domenici (R-NM), have established a solid working relationship over the years. He worked with Domenici to enact a compromise 2005 energy policy overhaul.

The emphasis, however, will shift away from supply-side solutions toward energy efficiency, conservation, and such long-term problems as climate change. Bingaman is expected to introduce a climate change bill in the 110th Congress.

Although Bingaman supports nuclear power, as does Domenici, and many initiatives to boost fossil fuel production, Bingaman opposes drilling in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge and gives great emphasis to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources. A member of the Finance Committee as well, he has helped steer energy-related tax breaks into law.

Few committees will see a more significant change in style and priorities than the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where liberal California Democrat Barbara Boxer is poised to take over from conservative Republican James Inhofe of Oklahoma. Boxer said that she is planning for vigorous oversight and legislation to make sure that the Senate is once again an environmental leader in protecting the health of families and children and addressing pressing concerns like global warming. She intends to make global warming one of her top priorities and characterizes climate change as one of the most serious problems facing the planet, where Inhofe has long contended that the threat of climate change is a hoax, calling it a "Chicken Little" story.

Boxer said that she plans to use California's new global warming law as a model in the drafting of federal climate legislation for the 110th Congress. This summer, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the first statewide cap on heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions, forcing a cut of 25 percent by 2020.

Another issue that will almost certainly re-emerge in the next Congress is the regulation of air pollution from power plants. Boxer has cosponsored an ambitious proposal to cut down on electric utilities' emissions of mercury, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide. However, she may face a fight with some of the panel's Democrats over that plan.

Financial Services

Both the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the House Financial Services Committees will retain their bipartisan working relationship as the chairmanships change in the 110th Congress. The new Senate chairman is Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and the ranking member will be current chairman Richard Shelby of Alabama. In the House, Barney Frank (D-MA) takes over the reins of the committee and the ranking member is Spencer Bachus of Alabama.

The issues that will most likely be at the forefront of the agenda this year for both chambers are whether or not to permanently extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, which expires at the end of next year. Democrats are more interested in extending the Act. Both chambers indicate that there will be oversight of the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the landmark corporate governance law. Housing issues are also a priority of incoming Chairman Frank. Frank would like to provide more low-cost housing units, increase aid for renters and buyers, and create an affordable housing fund financed by mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, both government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs). It is anticipated that "fairly early next year" Congress will move a bill that would tighten regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Another issue that may come under scrutiny in the next Congress is

large investment pools, known as hedge funds. Due to their increasingly prominent role in the securities market, hedge funds are a target of oversight for the committees. No lawmaker has expressed an interest in regulating these funds, but panel members acknowledge the importance and the risk the funds create for the economy.

The Senate is expected to look at Homeland Security issues, such as the possibility of taking up legislation to overhaul the process for government review of foreign investments in the United States. In the House, look for Barney Frank to examine whether or not to allow retailers such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot to establish their own banking operations. This issue is a concern for both sides of the aisle due to a loophole in current legislation.

Healthcare

The Democratic takeover of both the House and Senate is likely to provide a new push for healthcare related legislation in the 110th Congress. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has stated that within the first 100 legislative hours of session, she is planning to introduce two healthcare measures. The first will remove the ban that currently prevents the federal government from negotiating directly with pharmaceutical companies for discounts on prescription drugs under Medicare. The second would expand federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

The committee chairs on both the House and Senate side have already alluded to many of the healthcare related issues their committees will tackle in the 110th Congress. Congressman John Dingell (D-MI), who will take over as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, is set to address what the Democrats consider major flaws in Medicare Part D by streamlining and simplifying the program. He has noted that the program is “too complicated” and “too costly.” Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA), who will chair the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, has said he will seek to pass legislation that will offer a long-term solution to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula currently used to set physician payments. In addition, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA), also on the Ways and Means Committee, said he will introduce a bill early this year to establish an FDA approval process for generic biotech medications. Chairing the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), says his committee will work to confirm a permanent FDA Commissioner. In both the House and the Senate, Democrats are expected to prioritize the expansion of access to affordable health insurance coverage to the uninsured, specifically children. High on the agenda will be a focus on the uninsured children by addressing the funding shortfalls of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, which is up for reauthorization. Democrats will also focus on health information technology, and reform at the National Institutes of Health.

Homeland Security

The Democratic takeover of Congress portends more aggressive oversight of the almost five year old Department of Homeland Security. Incoming chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Bennie Thompson (D-MS), has already signaled the committee will be busy conducting hearings and investigations and writing reports. One of Speaker Pelosi’s top priorities is to implement the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission. Both the House and Senate homeland committees are likely to be busy with legislation stemming from those recommendations as well as legislation reauthorizing funding for the Department. On the Senate side, incoming Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) works very well with outgoing Chairman Susan Collins (R-ME), so the Senate

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will not see any dramatic change. Democratic leaders in both the House and Senate have stressed the need for increased rail and mass transit security as well as tighter security around chemical plants. In the Senate especially, other committees will continue to play a significant role in homeland security. For example, the Senate Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over the Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Administration, and rail and pipeline transportation security and the Senate Finance Committee has Customs jurisdiction. The pending issues, along with whatever issues emerge from the House's oversight and investigation efforts, promise a busy two years for those working in and around homeland security.

Labor

With the new Democratic majority, labor will be looking for congressional help in passing its priorities. According to the AFL-CIO, those priorities include an increase in the federal minimum wage, allowing negotiated prescription drug prices in Medicare, restoring money for college loans that was reduced in recent years, and creating incentives for companies to keep their jobs in the United States, rather than going abroad. Increasing the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 will likely be one of the first pieces of legislation taken up in the 110th Congress.

In the House, the Education and Workforce Committee will revert back to its former name, the House Education and Labor Committee. Incoming Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and incoming Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Edward Kennedy (D-MA) are expected to focus on altering union organizing rules. Both men pushed legislation (H.R. 1696/S. 842) in the 109th Congress to require employers to recognize unions formed by a majority of employees through a petition process. Another item that unions may push for is reform of the corporate bankruptcy code. If Congress decides to overhaul the corporate bankruptcy system, unions want to ensure that it is not their employees who receive the smallest piece of the pie when a company goes into bankruptcy.

Senator Kennedy has also said he may try to move legislation to prohibit employers from discriminating against workers based on genetic information. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes the legislation but with Democrats setting the agenda, it may get a renewed push during the 110th Congress.

The committee chairs for the 109th Congress, Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), are set to become their respective committee's ranking member.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications issues and legislation will likely take a different path under the new Democratic-led Congress than they did in the 109th Congress. Instead of an all-out push for a comprehensive reform bill, industry observers expect a more targeted approach with an emphasis on individual subject areas. Incoming House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-MI) has listed his telecom priorities as tighter media ownership rules, public safety spectrum availability, universal service reform, and increased oversight of the Federal Communications Commission. Dingell's interests tend toward the committee's other responsibilities such as energy and healthcare, so telecommunications is not as likely to dominate the agenda.

On the Senate side, Sen. Inouye (D-HI) assumed the chairmanship of the Senate Commerce Committee. In the 109th Congress, outgoing Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) reorganized the committee's subcommittees to eliminate the communications panel. The Democratic leadership does not plan to resurrect the Communications Subcommittee; however, some of the newer subcommittees created in the 109th Congress may be consolidated. It is a safe bet to assume universal service reform will be on the agenda as well as media ownership rules, program access rules, broadband penetration rates, multi-channel video competition, and public safety communications interoperability. The committee may continue to examine network neutrality; however, there is enough confusion and disagreement on the issue that few expect much action. Both the House and Senate committees will spend a lot of time conducting oversight in the upcoming two years, and FCC Chairman Kevin Martin can expect to headline a lot of hearings.

Transportation

The new chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN), is well regarded as a transportation expert and had a very good relationship with the former chairman, Don Young (R-AK). However, John Mica (R-FL) will replace Rep. Young as the top Republican on the committee and that could test the bipartisan nature of the committee as Oberstar and Mica disagree on several key issues, including FAA consolidation and Amtrak.

At the top of the committee's agenda in 2007 is the reauthorization of funding for the Federal Aviation Administration. The future funding mechanism of the Aviation Trust Fund will be a controversial issue, and Mary Peters, the new Secretary of Transportation, is expected to put forth an administration proposal to restructure FAA's funding system that may not be well received by Democrats on the panel. Rep. Oberstar is a long-time supporter of passenger rail and will also likely make Amtrak reauthorization legislation a high priority. In addition, the committee will take up the annual Coast Guard authorization bill.

On the Senate side, transportation jurisdiction is split between three committees. The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, chaired by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), has jurisdiction over aviation, rail, and maritime issues, as well as highway and pipeline safety. Sen. Inouye and the former chairman, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK), have a strong working relationship and are expected to take up FAA and Amtrak reauthorization and work to strengthen rail security.

With the retirement of former ranking member Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-VT), the Committee on Environment and Public Works will be chaired by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) will remain on as the top Republican. The EPW Committee has jurisdiction over federal highway programs and will begin the long process of developing a new surface transportation bill to succeed the SAFETEA-LU law upon its expiration at the end of FY 2009.

Finally, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs oversees federal transit programs. The incoming chairman, Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), will take over on the Democratic side for retiring Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD). Current Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) will remain on as the ranking Republican.

Outlook for the 110th Congress
Senate Committee Chairmen/Ranking Members

Committee	Chairman	Ranking Member
Agriculture	Tom Harkin (IA)	Saxby Chambliss (GA)
Appropriations	Robert Byrd (WV)	Thad Cochran (MS)
Armed Services	Carl Levin (MI)	John McCain (AZ)
Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs	Christopher Dodd (CT)	Richard Shelby (AL)
Budget	Kent Conrad (ND)	Judd Gregg (NH)
Commerce, Science & Transportation	Daniel Inouye (HI)	Ted Stevens (AK)
Energy & Natural Resources	Jeff Bingaman (NM)	Pete Domenici (NM)
Environment & Public Works	Barbara Boxer (CA)	James Inhofe (OK)
Finance	Max Baucus (MT)	Charles Grassley (IA)
Foreign Relations	Joe Biden (DE)	Richard Lugar (IN)
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions	Edward Kennedy (MA)	Mike Enzi (WY)
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs	Joe Lieberman (CT)	Susan Collins (ME)
Judiciary	Patrick Leahy (VT)	Arlen Specter (PA)
Rules & Administration	Dianne Feinstein (CA)	Bob Bennett (UT)
Small Business & Entrepreneurship	John Kerry (MA)	Olympia Snowe (ME)
Veterans Affairs	Daniel Akaka (HI)	Larry Craig (ID)
Indian Affairs	Byron Dorgan (ND)	Craig Thomas (WY)
Select Committee on Ethics	Tim Johnson (SD)	John Cornyn (TX)
Select Committee on Intelligence	John Rockefeller (WV)	Christopher Bond (MO)
Select Committee on Aging	Herb Kohl (WI)	Gordon Smith (OR)

Outlook for the 110th Congress

House Committee Chairmen/Ranking Members

Committee	Chairman	Ranking Member
Agriculture	Collin Peterson (MN)	Bob Goodlatte (VA)
Appropriations	David Obey (WI)	Jerry Lewis (CA)
Armed Services	Ike Skelton (MO)	Duncan Hunter (CA)
Budget	John Spratt (SC)	Paul Ryan (WI)
Education & Labor	George Miller (CA)	Howard McKeon (CA)
Energy & Commerce	John Dingell (MI)	Joe Barton (TX)
Financial Services	Barney Frank (MA)	Spencer Bachus (AL)
Oversight & Government Reform	Henry Waxman (CA)	Tom Davis (VA)
Homeland Security	Bennie Thompson (MS)	Peter King (NY)
House Administration	Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA)	Vernon Ehlers (MI)
International Relations	Tom Lantos (CA)	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL)
Judiciary	John Conyers (MI)	Lamar Smith (TX)
Natural Resources	Nick Rahall (WV)	Don Young (AK)
Rules	Louise Slaughter (NY)	David Dreier (CA)
Science & Technology	Bart Gordon (TN)	Ralph Hall (TX)
Select Committee on Intelligence	Silvestre Reyes (TX)	Peter Hoekstra (MI)
Small Business	Nydia Velazquez (NY)	Steve Chabot (OH)
Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics)	Stephanie Tubbs- Jones (OH)	Doc Hastings (WA)
Transportation & Infrastructure	James Oberstar (MN)	John Mica (FL)
Veterans Affairs	Bob Filner (CA)	Steve Buyer (IN)
Ways & Means	Charles Rangel (NY)	Jim McCrery (LA)