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# Broadband Legislation in the Next Congress

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Grow2Gig+ Webinar #17  
Broadband Legislation

# SPEAKERS

- *Moderator:* **John Windhausen**, Executive Director, SHLB Coalition
- **Kim Bayliss**, Principal, Perry Bayliss Government Relations
- **Shawn Chang**, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

# Midterm Recap

## Senate

- Republicans retain Senate
  - High turnout in rural areas
- 52 R seats v. 47 D seats
  - FL race undecided as of 11/13

## House

- Democrats win House
  - Gains in suburbs
- 198 R seats v. 223 D seats
  - 14 seats undecided as of 11/13

# Finishing Up the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Government Funding:
  - Will there be a government shutdown on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>?
  - Will there be funding for “The Wall”?
- Farm bill:
  - Will the differences between the Senate and House be worked out?
  - What happens to the broadband funding provision?

# Expected Leadership

## Senate

- Majority Leader: [Mitch McConnell \(R-KY\)](#)
- Majority Whip: [John Cornyn \(R-TX\)](#)
- Minority Leader: [Chuck Schumer \(D-NY\)](#)
- Minority Whip: [Dick Durbin \(D-IL\)](#)

## House

- Speaker: [Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#)
- Majority Leader: [Steny Hoyer \(D-MD\)](#)
- Majority Whip: [James Clyburn \(D-SC\)](#)
- Minority Leader: [Kevin McCarthy \(R-CA\)](#)
- Minority Whip: [Stephen Scalise \(R-LA\)](#)

Timing: Senate and House will vote on Leadership in November/December

# Commerce Committee Leadership

## Senate

- Chair: [Roger Wicker \(R-MS\)](#)
- Subcommittee Chair: ?
- Ranking Dem. Committee: [Bill Nelson \(D-FL\)](#)/[Maria Cantwell \(D-WA\)](#)/[Amy Klobuchar \(D-MN\)](#)
- Ranking Dem. Subcommittee: [Brian Schatz \(D-HI\)](#)

## House

- Chair: [Frank Pallone \(D-NJ\)](#)
- Subcommittee Chair: [Mike Doyle \(D-PA\)](#)
- Ranking Rep. Committee: [Greg Walden \(R-OR\)](#)
- Ranking Rep. Subcommittee: [Latta \(R-OH\)?](#)

Changes to majority/minority ratio means addition of new Democratic House members to the Committees, and departure of GOP House members.

# Implications for the 116th Congress

- Aggressive House oversight of Administration activities
- Unilateral subpoena power greatly expanded under GOP control in 2015. Will Democrats follow suit?
- New House priorities:
  - Campaign finance & ethics reform
  - Prescription drug costs & protecting ACA
  - Gun control
  - Immigration
  - Reforming Tax Reform
  - Infrastructure



# Telecom and Tech Priorities

- Broadband infrastructure/rural broadband
- Privacy
- Net neutrality
- Race to 5G
- Satellite reauthorization
- FCC oversight/USAC oversight
- Mergers:
  - Sprint/T-Mobile
  - AT&T/Time Warner
- EBS
- Rural Health Care Program

# Connect with the Experts



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