

Addiction
Medicine
Advocacy
Conference
2021

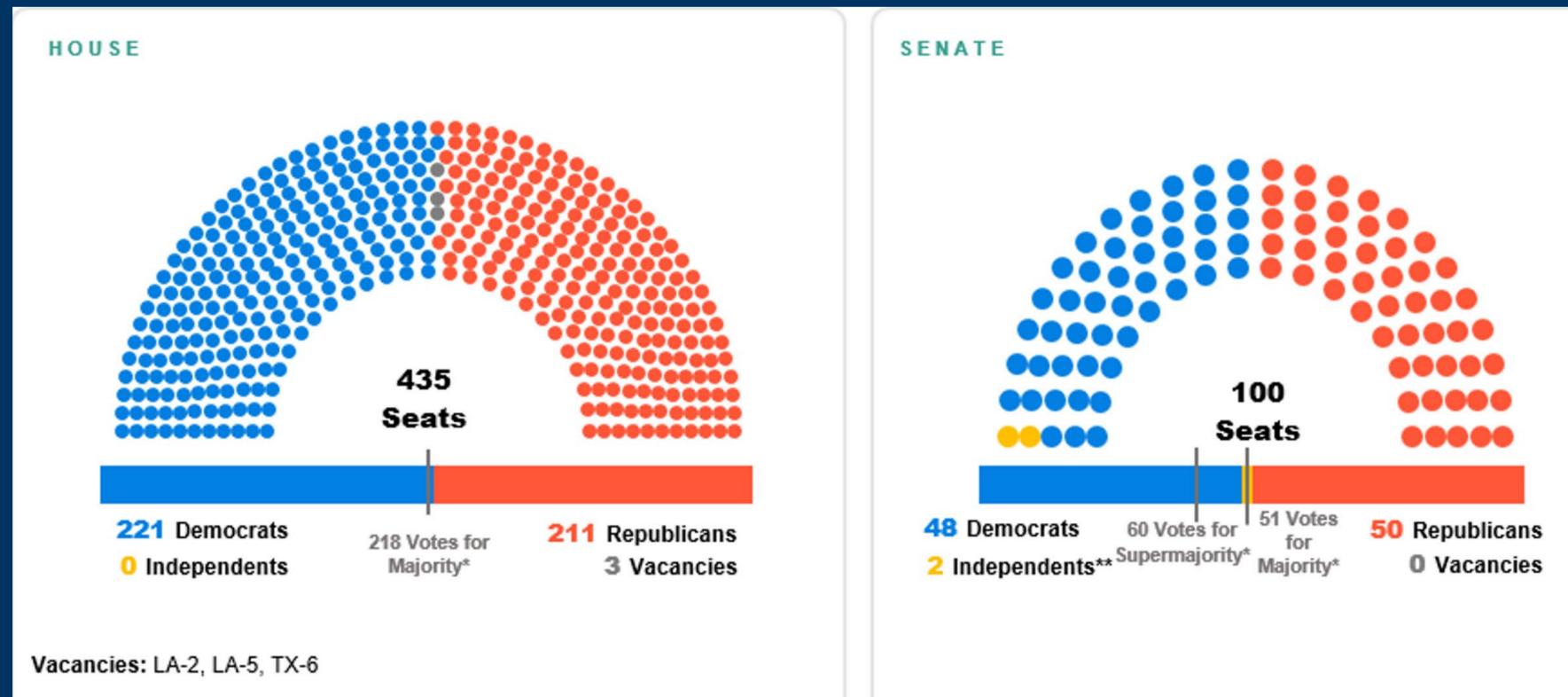


Overview of the New Congress and Tips for Meetings with Your Members of Congress AMAC 2021



Democrats Control Congress, But Just Barely

The 117th Congress



Congressional Leadership

House



Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Speaker of the House



Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
House Republican Leader



Steny Hoyer (D-NY)
House Majority Whip



Steve Scalise (R-LA)
House Minority Whip

Senate



Chuck Schumer (NY)
Senate Majority Leader



Mitch McConnell (KY)
Senate Minority Leader



Dick Durbin (IL)
Senate Majority Whip



John Thune (SD)
Senate Minority Whip

House Committee Chairs & Ranking Members

Ranking Members

Chairs

Kevin Brady (TX)	Ways & Means	Richard Neal (MA)
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (OR)	Energy & Commerce	Frank Pallone (NJ)
Kay Granger (TX)	Appropriations	Rosa L. DeLauro (CT)
Jason Smith (MO)	Budget	John Yarmuth (KY)



Senate Committee Chairs & Ranking Members

Ranking Members

Chairs

Mike Crapo (ID)	Finance	Ron Wyden (OR)
Richard Burr (NC)	Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP)	Patty Murray (WA)
Tim Scott (SC)	Aging	Bob Casey Jr. (PA)
Richard Shelby (AL)	Appropriations	Patrick Leahy (VT)
Lindsey Graham (SC)	Budget	Bernie Sanders (VT)



2021 Legislative Landscape

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)

- Congress passed and President Biden signed \$1.9 trillion reconciliation bill, including:
 - About \$35 billion in premium subsidy increases for those buying in ACA marketplaces; increases subsidies for those who are eligible and removes the 400% federal poverty level limit on subsidy eligibility
 - Incentives for non-expansion states to expand Medicaid through a 5% increase on their base FMAP rate for two years if they expand
 - Subsidies equal to 100% of COBRA premiums for six months for individuals who lost employment or had reduced hours.
 - Premium subsidies of ACA marketplace coverage for one-year, equivalent to a person earning up to 133% FPL for people who receive unemployment compensation.
 - Option for states to provide one-year of postpartum Medicaid coverage
 - \$8.5 billion for the Provider Relief Fund for rural healthcare providers

2021 Legislative Landscape

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) - Continued

- An enhanced FMAP to incentivize state Medicaid programs to cover mobile crisis intervention services for individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis
- \$3 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Community Mental Health Services block grant programs administered by SAMHSA
- \$420 million for expansion grants for certified community behavioral health clinics
- \$80 million to develop new grant programs at SAMHSA to allow additional entities, such as community-based entities and behavioral health organizations, to receive grants to support mental health and substance use disorder services, including \$30 million for harm reduction interventions
- \$100 million for behavioral health workforce education and training

2021 Legislative Landscape

It will be a partisan year

- Expect “gridlock,” with few bipartisan initiatives.
- A second reconciliation package and the FY 2022 appropriations bills could be two of the few bigger items to make it to the President’s desk.
- Addiction is still a bipartisan concern.

Meeting with Members of Congress and Their Staff

Hill Meeting Basics

- Don't be intimidated!
- Members of Congress and their staff want to hear from you.
- All Hill meetings are remote this year, so you're not alone.
- Remote meetings tend to be shorter (15 minutes).
- Most meetings will be with staff.
- In group meetings, if you're the constituent, you take the lead.

Meeting with Members of Congress and Their Staff

Tips for Virtual Meetings

- Join the video/call a few minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin, to work out any technical issues.
- On the phone, avoid long monologues and try to build in occasional breaks to ask if the staffer has any questions.
 - Since no one's watching, you're free to refer to notes.
- On video, use basic tricks of the trade to present yourself in the best possible way visually:
 - Raise your webcam to eye level.
 - Light your foreground, so your face is not silhouetted.
- Know what you want to say and who will say it.

Meeting with Members of Congress and Their Staff

Introductions

- Thank the staffer for their time.
- Let them know why you're participating in the Addiction Medicine Advocacy Conference organized by ASAM.
- Briefly introduce yourself.
 - If you're in a group, establish your speaking order ahead of time.

Meeting with Members of Congress and Their Staff

Set the Stage

- Ask the staffer if they are familiar with addiction medicine.
- Most staffers will be familiar with the “opioid crisis,” but be prepared to briefly educate about the importance of addiction medicine.
- Make it personal.
 - Explain what you’re seeing in the district or state, or share the story of an affected individual.



Meeting with Members of Congress and Their Staff

Make Your “Asks”

- Before making your ask, give the staffer a chance to ask questions.
- Make the asks.
 - Walk the staffer through the policy requests (to be discussed later today).
 - Pause between each one, to allow for questions.

Meeting with Members of Congress and Their Staff

End the Meeting

- Allow the staffer to ask any outstanding questions.
- Offer to provide additional materials.
- Thank them again for their time!

Questions?

