



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

AUGUST 8, 2019

Change in the House

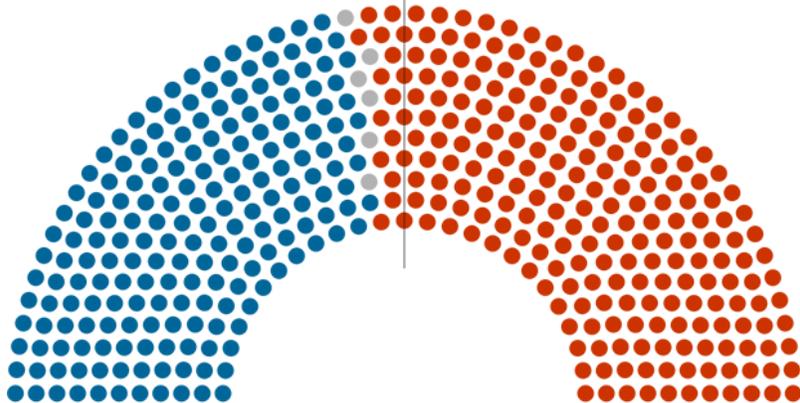
115TH CONGRESS

2017-2018

218 seats for majority

193

235



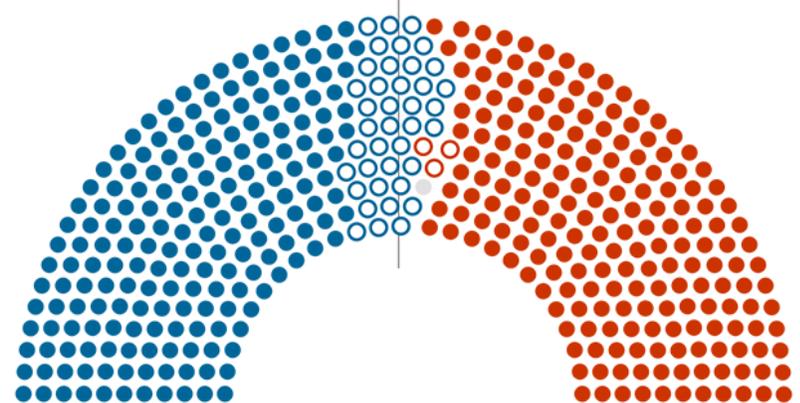
116TH CONGRESS

2019-2020

218 seats for majority

234

200



○ Seats flipped R to D (39) ○ Seats flipped D to R (3)

Committees

- ▶ **One of only a handful of Members on 4 Committees**
- ▶ **Education & Labor**
 - ▶ Ensure that Americans' needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy
- ▶ **Transportation & Infrastructure**
 - ▶ Maintain and improve the transportation and infrastructure in our country to best ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, and ideas
- ▶ **Oversight & Reform**
 - ▶ Main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ▶ **Rules**
 - ▶ Power over which bills are considered on the floor and influence over procedure

Congressional Agenda in the Majority

Democrats' First Priorities in the New Congress:

▶ Passed in the House

- ▶ **For the People Act (H.R. 1)** – Most comprehensive voting rights and election protection legislation in decades
- ▶ **Equality Act (H.R. 5)** – Extends civil rights protections to individuals on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation
- ▶ **American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)** – Creates a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and TPS holders
- ▶ **Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7)** – Seeks to ensure women and men are paid equally
- ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** - Expands background checks for private firearms sales
- ▶ **Climate Action Now Act (H.R. 9)** – Recommits the U.S. to the Paris Climate Agreement

Congressional Agenda in the Majority

- ▶ **Introduced in the House**
 - ▶ **Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)** – Restores federal oversight of changes to voting procedures that could restrict rights
- ▶ **Awaiting Introduction**
 - ▶ **H.R. 2** – Comprehensive infrastructure plan
 - ▶ **H.R. 3** – Prescription drug cost-lowering bill

Snapshot of Efforts Passed by Congressman DeSaulnier Since January

- ▶ **Amendment to the NDAA**: Calls for the exonerations of the Port Chicago 50
- ▶ **Amendment to H.R. 9**: Study of the impacts of withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement on our global economic competitiveness
- ▶ **Amendment to H.R. 1500**: Would hold student loan companies accountable to borrowers and the government, and increase industry transparency

Appropriations Victories

- ▶ **25** of Mark's priority submissions have been approved by the Appropriations Committee so far, including the below efforts he led:
 - ▶ \$15 million for Statewide Family Engagement Centers (\$5 million increase);
 - ▶ \$30 million for Parent Information Centers (\$2.6 million increase);
 - ▶ \$298 million for Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor (\$69 million increase); and
 - ▶ An additional \$5 million to provide school-based mental health services

Mark's Actions Since Coming to Congress

22 initiatives enacted into law, including efforts to:

- ▶ Expand John Muir National Historic Site
- ▶ Rename post office in Richmond after the site's first African American postmaster
- ▶ Empower pharmacists to fight the opioid crisis
- ▶ Create and fund statewide family engagement centers to help families participate in their children's education

21 legislative efforts passed the House and Committee including efforts to:

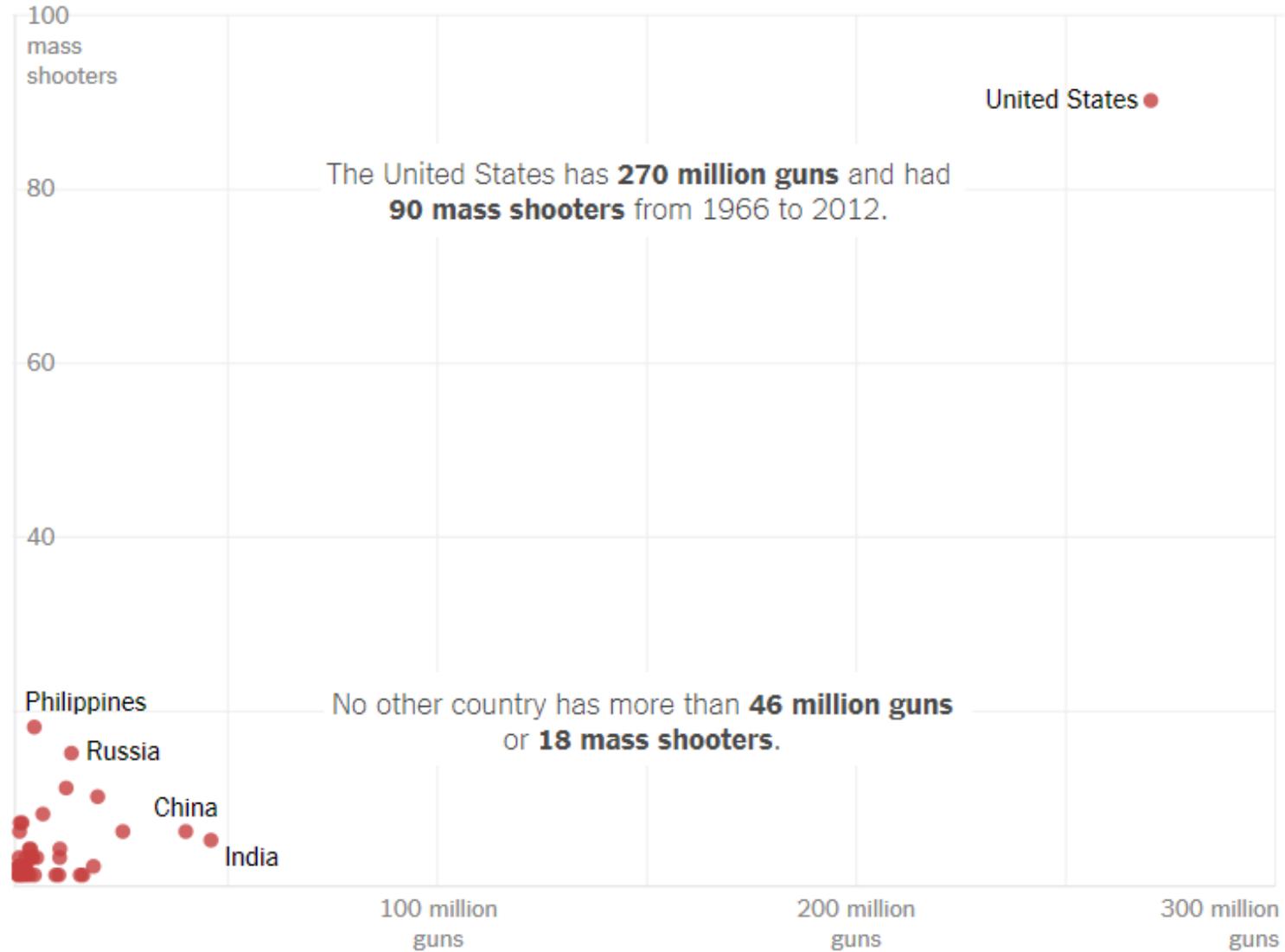
- ▶ Instructing the Navy to exonerate the Port Chicago 50
- ▶ Require that prescription drug monitoring programs becoming interoperable between states

Caucuses & Initiatives:

- ▶ **Future of Work Wages and Labor**
- ▶ **Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus**, *Founder & Co-Chair*
- ▶ **Urban Regional Studies Caucus**, *Founder*
- ▶ **Working Group on Saving Local News**

Gun Violence Prevention

- ▶ Gun violence claims over **30,000 lives annually** in the United States
- ▶ The U.S. firearm homicide rate is **20 times higher** than the combined rates of 22 comparable countries
- ▶ Americans make up about **4.4% of the global population**, but own **42% of the world's guns**.
- ▶ Gun industry annual net profit: **\$1.5 billion**
 - ▶ Annual cost of gun violence: **\$290 billion**
- ▶ Since 2003, state and local governments have given more than **\$120 million in tax subsidies** to at least seven major firearms companies



The New York Times | Source: Adam Lankford, The University of Alabama (shooters); Small Arms Survey (guns). Note: Includes countries with more than 10 million people and at least one mass public shooting with four or more victims.

Gun Violence Prevention

- ▶ Since taking control of the House in January, Democrats have passed:
 - ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** - would ensure background checks for all gun sales
 - ▶ Polls show that 90% of Americans support universal background checks
 - ▶ **Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1112)** – would give the FBI 10 days to complete background checks
- ▶ Since taking public office, I have authored bills to:
 - ▶ Require gun owners to immediately report when their firearms are lost or stolen
 - ▶ Enact commonsense safety standards for safe storage of federal law enforcement weapons
 - ▶ Make guns themselves safer by using biometric technology
 - ▶ Currently drafting bill to create a Gun Safety Board to assess proposals to reduce gun violence based on effectiveness

Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1790** – 1790 Naturalization Act – established the country’s first uniform rule for naturalization. Allowed all “free white persons” who resided in the U.S. for 2 years to be granted citizenship.
- ▶ **1882** – Chinese Exclusion Act – suspends immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years. This is the first of many bills restricting or limiting Chinese immigration.
- ▶ **1921** – 1921 Emergency Quota Act – Congress’ first attempt to regulate immigration by setting admission “quotas” based on nationality. It limited the number of immigrants annually to 3 percent of the number of foreign-born persons of that nationality present in the U.S.
- ▶ **1948** – Displaced Persons Act of 1948 – allows over 200,000 individuals displaced from their homelands by Nazi persecution to immigrate to the U.S.

Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1965** – 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act– abolishes the national-origins quota system and replaces it with a family-based and employer-based system.
- ▶ **1980** – Refugee Act of 1980 – establishes a new statutory system for processing and admitting refugees and asylum seekers and broadens the definition of refugee.
- ▶ **1982** – Immigration Reform and Control Act – imposes sanctions on employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants and creates 2 legalization programs, resulting in ~2.7 million people eventually becoming lawful permanent residents.
- ▶ **1990** – 1990 Immigration Act – raises legal admissions on employment-based immigrants and limits the government’s power to deport immigrants for ideological reasons.
- ▶ **1996** – Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrants Responsibility Act – establish “expedited removal,” expands mandatory detention, reduces government benefits available to immigrants, and toughens procedural requirements for asylum seekers.

Modern Immigration Law & Actions

- ▶ **2001** – USA Patriot Act – broadens terrorism grounds for excluding people from entering the U.S.
- ▶ **2002** – Homeland Security Act – creates the Department of Homeland Security.
- ▶ **2005** – REAL ID Act – establishes statutory guidelines for removal cases, expands terrorism-related grounds for deportation and inadmissibility, increases border infrastructure, and requires states to implement REAL ID driver's licenses.
- ▶ **2012** – President Obama creates Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- ▶ **2013** – “Gang of 8” proposal that was never considered in the House.

The Many Benefits of Immigration

- ▶ Immigrants added about **\$2 trillion to the U.S. GDP** in 2016
 - ▶ Researchers estimate in California they added between \$4.6 and \$8 billion*
- ▶ In 2010, more than **40% of Fortune 500 companies** were founded by immigrants and their children
- ▶ 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants have higher incomes than their parents
- ▶ Immigration induced a **4% real wage increase** for the average **native worker** between 1990 and 2004
- ▶ The inflow of STEM workers driven by H-1B visas during the period 1990-2010 **explains up to 30% of the productivity growth** in U.S. cities

All statistics from the Center for American Progress with the exception of the one marked with *, which is from the UC Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies

Election Security

- ▶ **Bots Research Act (H.R. 2860)**: Introduced legislation to require the FTC to bring together a group of experts to study the impact of bots on elections and public discourse
- ▶ Supported the **For the People Act (H.R. 1)**, which would shore up state and local election security, expand the ban on foreign spending on U.S. elections, and establish stricter campaign finance reporting requirements
- ▶ Hearing in the Oversight Subcommittee on National Security on **how we can protect our elections** by improving relationships between the government and social media platforms
- ▶ **Meeting with social media companies** to find ways to address misinformation and stop bad actors online
- ▶ **Member of House Committee on Oversight and Reform, which has:**
 - ▶ 20+ ongoing investigations
 - ▶ 70+ requests for documents or other information

State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction

- ▶ In 2017, the Republican Majority passed a partisan tax bill that gave billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, but capped the SALT deduction for working-class homeowners at \$10,000
- ▶ The cap unfairly targets high-cost states like California
- ▶ Before these changes, homeowners in CA-11 had an **average SALT deduction of \$18,672**
- ▶ **More than 43% of tax returns** filed in our district claimed the SALT deduction, which made our district the **38th highest user** of the deduction nationwide
- ▶ An estimated 1 million Californians will pay more federal taxes due to this cap
- ▶ Sponsor the SALT Act (H.R. 1142) to repeal the cap on the SALT deduction

Impeachment

- ▶ Article II, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution allows for the impeachment and removal from office of the President, Vice President, Attorney General, or any civil officer of the United States
- ▶ Any member of the U.S. House of Representatives may introduce a resolution calling for impeachment
- ▶ The House Judiciary Committee has the authority to perform an investigation and pursue articles of impeachment
- ▶ Upon completion of an investigation, the Judiciary Committee reports its findings to the House, and a vote is held with only a simple majority needed to adopt the resolution of impeachment
- ▶ **Impeachment does not automatically remove the individual from office**
- ▶ If the impeachment resolution is adopted, the U.S. Senate must hold a trial to determine removal

Trial by the Senate

- ▶ The Senate conducts a trial with witnesses and evidence from both the defendant and prosecution
- ▶ The Chief Justice of the United States presides, members of the House stand as prosecutors, and all 100 Senators act as the jury
- ▶ When arguments are concluded, all Senators meet in a closed session to discuss a verdict
- ▶ If 2/3 of the Senators vote to find the accused guilty, they are removed from office effective immediately, and possibly barred from holding future office
- ▶ An individual removed from office is still subject to potential criminal investigations brought through the Department of Justice or state prosecutors

House Committee on the Judiciary

- ▶ **Jurisdiction:** Oversight of the Department of Justice, administration of federal courts and administrative bodies, and law enforcement agencies - including the Attorney General and Special Counsel.
Primary jurisdiction of obstruction of justice
- ▶ April 19, 2019: Subpoena to AG Barr for the unredacted Mueller report
- ▶ April 22, 2019: Subpoena for testimony and documents from former White House Counsel Don McGahn
- ▶ May 8, 2019 – Held AG Barr in contempt for refusal to comply with subpoena
- ▶ May 21, 2019 – Former White House Counsel Don McGahn skips hearing about Mueller Report
- ▶ July 24, 2019: Special Counsel Robert Mueller testifies on his investigation and questions of obstruction of justice

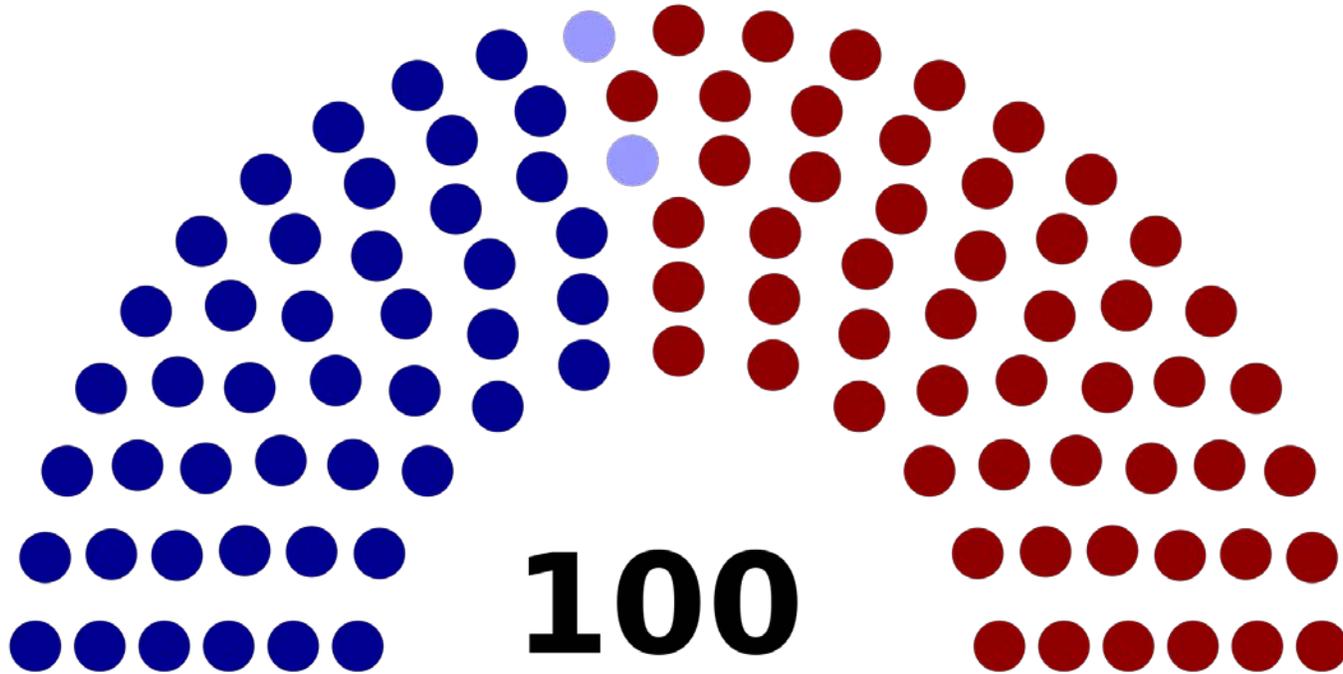
House Select Committee on Intelligence

- ▶ **Jurisdiction:** Oversight of U.S. intelligence community and operations – including efforts to stop foreign influence in the U.S. **Primary jurisdiction of Russian interference in U.S. elections**
- ▶ **April 15, 2019**: *With House Financial Services* – Subpoena for Trump business records related to credit with Deutsche Bank and Capital One
- ▶ **May 8, 2019**: Subpoena to AG Barr for counterintelligence and foreign intelligence materials produced during the Special Counsel's investigation
- ▶ **July 24, 2019**: Special Counsel Robert Mueller testifies on his investigation and questions of foreign interference in our elections

History of Impeachment and Removal

- ▶ 19 federal officials have been impeached by the House including:
 - ▶ 15 judges;
 - ▶ 1 Member of Congress - William Blount of TN (1797);
 - ▶ 1 Secretary of War - William W. Belknap (1876); and
 - ▶ 2 Presidents of the United States – Andrew Johnson (1868) and Bill Clinton (1998)
- ▶ 8 individuals, all federal judges, have been found guilty before the Senate and removed from office
- ▶ Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were impeached but acquitted by the Senate
- ▶ No Member of Congress or President has ever been removed by the Senate

Makeup of the Senate



Republicans – 53

Democrats – 45

Independents – 2

Democracy Awards

- ▶ **Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation Award – 2019 Winner**
 - ▶ *“The office believes Americans deserve an efficient and effective government that works on their behalf each and every day. **In order to build public trust, Congressman DeSaulnier and staff strive to be transparent and accountable to constituents by providing a higher-level of customer service.**” – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation*
- ▶ **Constituent Service Award – 2018 Finalist (1 of 3 Democrats)**
 - ▶ *“**Constituent service has been the hallmark of Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11) and his office since his election in 2015...**To keep constituents informed, Representative DeSaulnier uses Facebook Live to explain hot button issues happening in Washington in real time, and maintains an impressive four-day response time for constituents who send questions or concerns regarding his congressional activity. ” – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation*

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