

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

OCTOBER 7, 2019



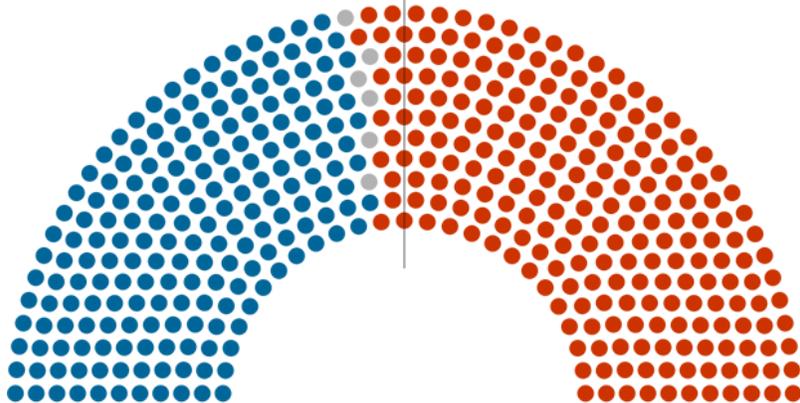
Makeup of the House

115TH CONGRESS

2017-2018

218 seats for majority

193 235

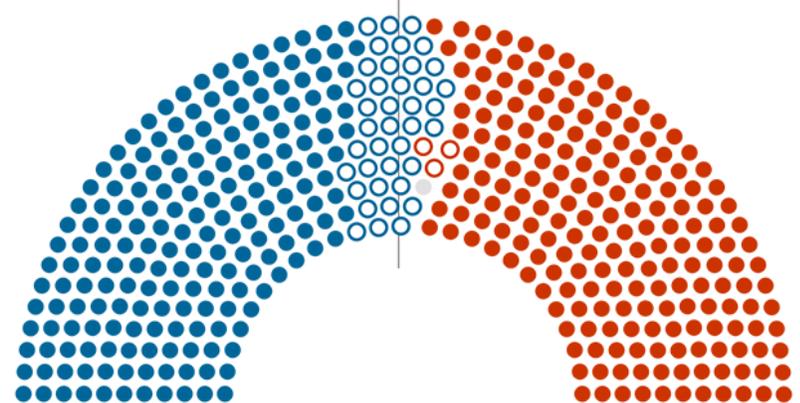


116TH CONGRESS

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' Priorities in 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

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**
- ▶ **Protecting Isabel Bueso** from deportation by saving the deferred action program

Impeachment Inquiry

What Happened: The July 25th Trump-Ukraine Call Summary

- ▶ On July 25, 2019, President Trump spoke with Ukrainian President Zelensky and **sought to blackmail him into influencing our upcoming 2020 election** by investigating his political opponent, Joe Biden

- ▶ During the July 25th phone call, President Trump:

- ▶ Reminds Zelensky how good the U.S. has been to Ukraine and alludes to military aid

(During the time of the phone call, President Trump was withholding \$400 million in Congressionally approved aid to help fend off Russian aggression)

- ▶ President Trump asks Ukraine for a “FAVOR” in the form of an investigation into his political opponent Joe Biden

3 UNCLASSIFIED

~~(S/NP)~~ The President: I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it.

4 UNCLASSIFIED

The other thing, There's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great. Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it... It sounds horrible to me.

The Whistleblower Complaint & Inspector General Letter

- ▶ Whistleblower files a complaint with the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) on August 12, 2019
 - ▶ Implicates Giuliani and Attorney General Barr
- ▶ The ICIG forwards the whistleblower complaint to the Acting Director of National Intelligence (DNI), calling it "**credible**" and "**urgent**"
 - ▶ **What Should Have Happened:** According to the law, the DNI should have reported the whistleblower complaint to Congress within seven days
 - ▶ **Instead:** The DNI made an unprecedented decision to withhold the complaint from Congress, and instead notified the White House about the complaint. The White House then claimed executive privilege
- ▶ Once the Inspector General recognized that the complaint was being withheld, he alerted the Chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees about the existence of the whistleblower complaint
 - ▶ *If not for the courage of the whistleblower and the actions of Inspector General, Congress would never have known about Trump's actions*

Trump's Violations

By actively trying to blackmail a foreign power into digging up dirt on a political rival, just like he did in 2016, President Trump engaged in behavior that undermines the security of our elections, defies his oath of office, and puts our national security at risk

- ▶ **Security of Our Elections:** Foreign leaders and foreign governments cannot interfere in U.S. elections. (52 U.S.C. 30121, 36 U.S.C. 510)
 - ▶ By pressuring the President of Ukraine to interfere in our election, Donald Trump broke federal law. It is illegal to “knowingly solicit, accept, or receive from a foreign national any contribution or donation”
 - ▶ American elections are the beacon of western democracy and actively inviting a foreign power to interfere undermines trust in our democratic institutions
- ▶ **Oath of Office:** President Trump abused the foreign policy powers entrusted to him in Article II of the Constitution by seeking to serve his own political interests rather than the interests of the American people
- ▶ **National Security:** Withholding nearly \$400 million in aid from a country struggling to fight off Russian aggression, keep its citizens safe, and become a democracy undermines American values and delegitimizes the United States on the world stage

Impeachment Process

- ▶ On September 24, 2019, Speaker Pelosi announced the start of an official impeachment inquiry into President Trump
 - ▶ 226 Members of the House support the impeachment inquiry: **Including Justin Amash (I-MI)**
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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 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

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**

Inequality

INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES, 1910-2010



Housing Crisis



Housing Crisis: Legislative Actions

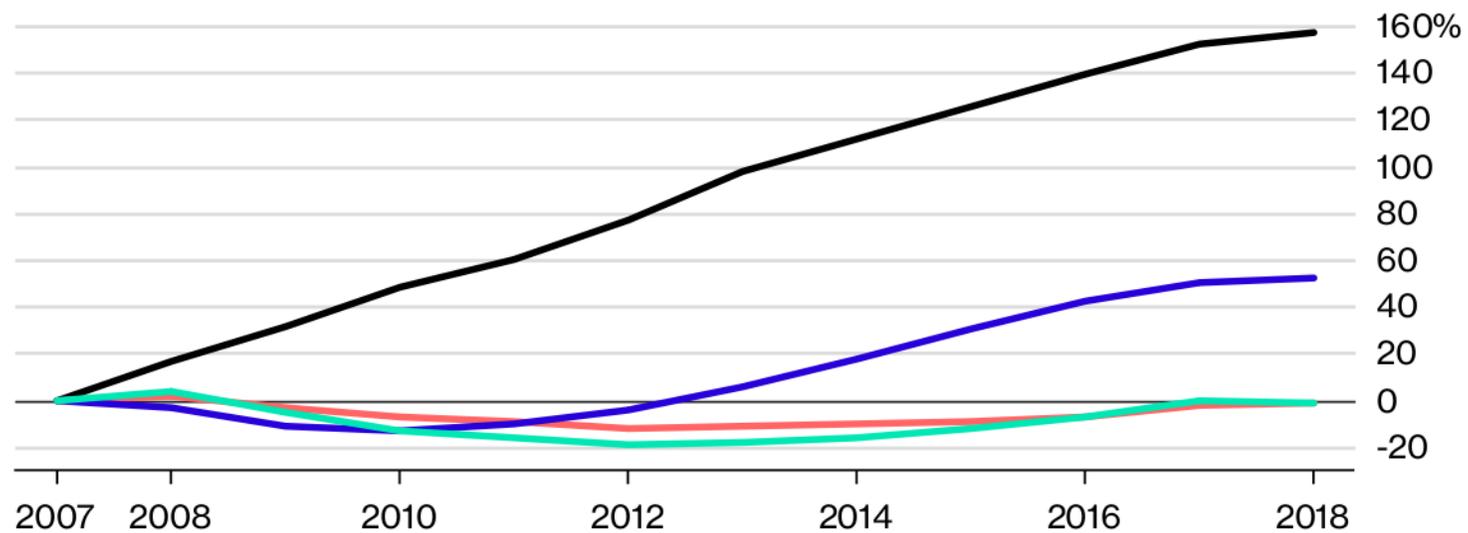
- ▶ Authored the **Housing Innovation Act**, which encourages localities to fund more innovative housing solutions like micro-units, accessory dwellings, and group housing
- ▶ Formed the **Urban Regional Studies Caucus** to examine ways that regional cooperation can improve access to housing and transportation needs
- ▶ **Secured a \$5 million funding increase** for the Section 4 Capacity Building program increase for non-profit organizations working to provide affordable housing for low-income households
- ▶ Supportive of proposals to produce and maintain more housing units, including low-income housing

Student Loans

Student Debt Just Keeps Growing

Student loans are the fastest growing segment of U.S. household debt, seeing almost 157 percent growth since the Great Recession.

Student Loans Mortgages Auto loans Credit card



Source: Bloomberg Data

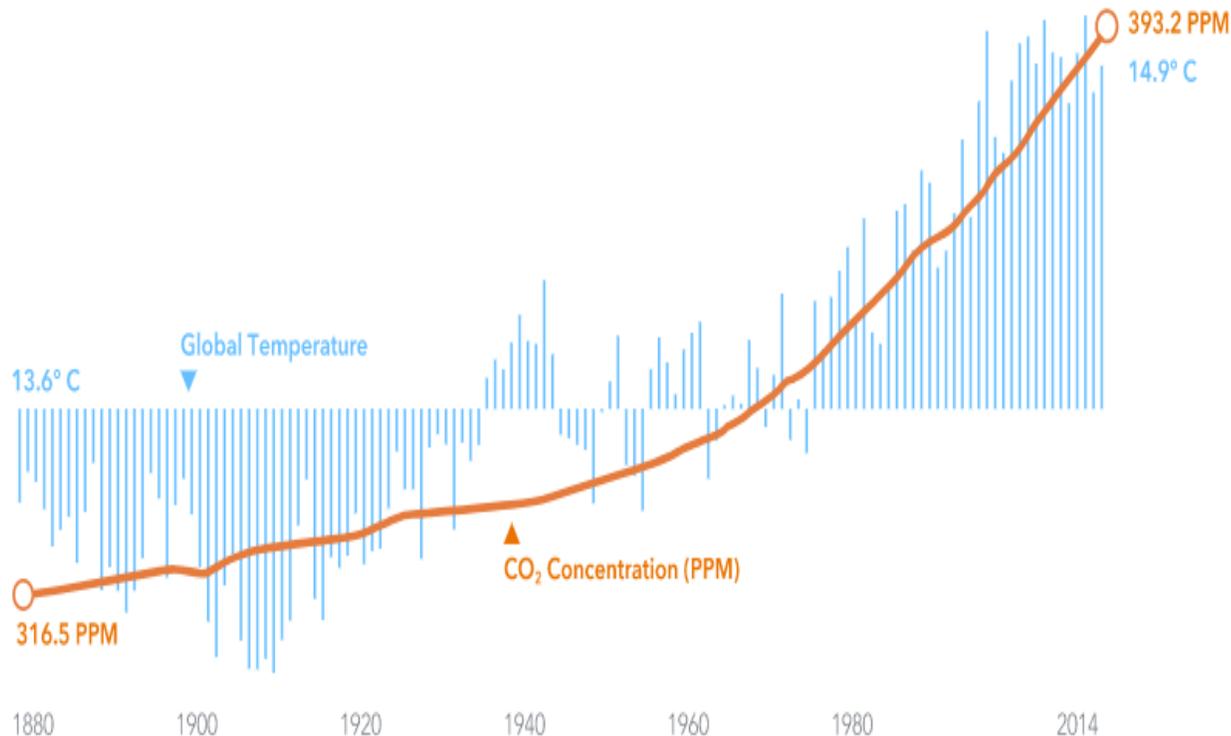
Bloomberg

Student Loans: Legislative Actions

- ▶ Strengthening and expanding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program
 - ▶ Authored the **What You Can Do For Your Country Act (H.R. 2441)**, which expands the types of federal loans and repayment plans that qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), simplifies the PSLF application process, streamlines the program's certification process, and provides better information to participants about their status in the program
 - ▶ Personally questioned the Secretary of Education on the Department's failure to properly implement the PSLF program and what their plan of action to make students whole is
- ▶ Authored the **Pell Grant Flexibility Act (H.R. 3803)**
 - ▶ Allows students to spend their Pell Grant funds on non-tuition expenses to reduce the burden of the cost of college
- ▶ Support dozens of bills to improve college affordability, like the Debt Free College Act

Protecting the Environment

GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE & CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION



- The global annual average temperature has been **steadily rising, increasing more than 1.5° F** since 1880
- The majority of warming at the global scale over the past **50 years** is due to **human influences** like burning fossil fuels and deforestation

Trump's Rollbacks

	49	34	83
	ROLLBACKS COMPLETED	ROLLBACKS IN PROCESS	TOTAL ROLLBACKS
 Air pollution and emissions	10	12	22
 Drilling and extraction	9	9	18
 Infrastructure and planning	12	1	13
 Animals	8	2	10
 Toxic substances and safety	3	2	5
 Water pollution	4	3	7
 Other	3	5	8

Protecting the Environment: Legislative Actions

Environmental **legislation and resolutions** introduced this Congress:

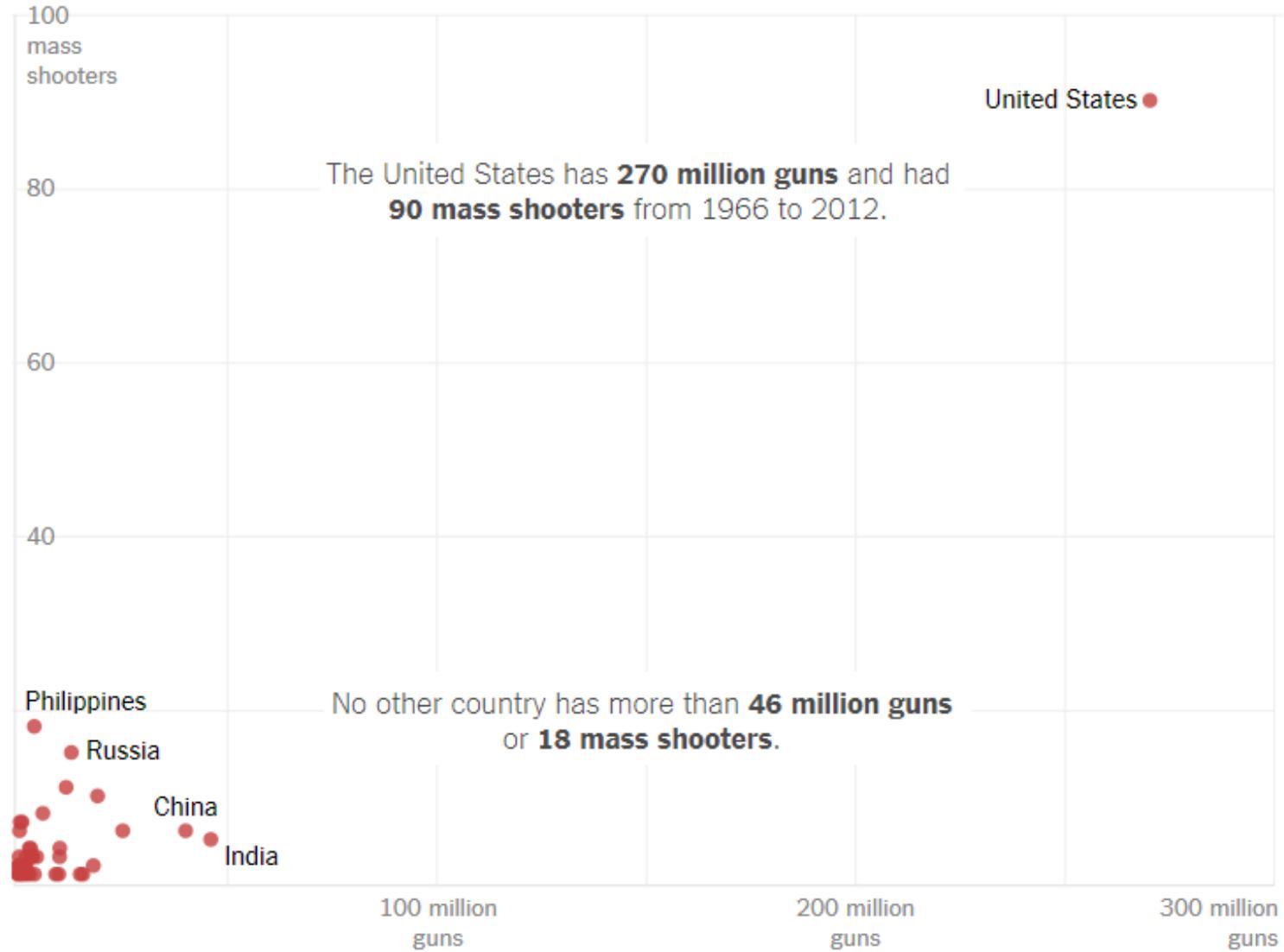
- ▶ Climate Action Now Act Amendment
- ▶ Clean Corridors Act
- ▶ Moving FIRST Act
- ▶ Clean Cars Resolution

Supported **44 pieces** of environmental legislation so far this year, including:

- ▶ Green New Deal
- ▶ Zero-Emission Vehicles Act
- ▶ Climate Risk Disclosure Act
- ▶ Clean and Efficient Cars Act
- ▶ Frack Pack

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: Legislative Actions

- ▶ 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
 - ▶ Create a Gun Safety Board to assess proposals to reduce gun violence based on effectiveness

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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