Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

NOVEMBER 5, 2019
Makeup of the House

**115th Congress**
2017-2018

218 seats for majority

193 Seats flipped R to D (39) 235

**116th Congress**
2019-2020

218 seats for majority

234 Seats flipped D to R (3) 200
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 become 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
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.

  - 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 Inquiry Resolution

- **Reaffirms the ongoing impeachment inquiry:** Makes clear that the investigating committees have been engaged in an impeachment inquiry and directs them to continue their vital work.

- **Ensures transparency:** Authorizes HPSCI to make transcripts of their recent depositions public with appropriate redactions made for classified or other sensitive information. Establishes procedures for all investigating committees to transmit their evidence to the Committee on the Judiciary for use in their proceedings.

- **Enables effective public hearings:** The resolution permits staff counsels to follow their lines of inquiry to their ends by allowing for periods of up to 45 minutes per side in the questioning of witnesses. The resolution also continues the precedent of giving the minority the same rights to question witnesses that the majority has, as has been true at every step of the inquiry.

- **Provides the President opportunities to participate:** The resolution establishes opportunities for the President or his counsel to participate in impeachment proceedings held by the Committee on the Judiciary.

- **Directs the Committee on the Judiciary to review the evidence and, if necessary, to report Articles of Impeachment to the House.** Following the precedent of every modern impeachment inquiry, the Committee on Judiciary will decide whether Articles shall be reported to the House.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedural Protection</th>
<th>President Nixon</th>
<th>President Clinton</th>
<th>President Trump</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The President will receive a copy of the statement of information and related documents and other evidentiary material.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>No formal presentation of evidence</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>The President and his counsel are invited to attend the presentation of evidence.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>No formal presentation of evidence</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President’s counsel may ask questions at the presentation of evidence.</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>No formal presentation of evidence</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>The President’s counsel may respond to the presentation of evidence.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>The President’s counsel may submit written summaries of additional testimony or evidence the President wishes the Committee to consider.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President and his counsel may attend all hearings, including any held in executive session.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President’s counsel may raise objections relating to the examination of witnesses or to the admissibility of testimony and evidence.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>The President’s counsel may question any witness called before the Committee.</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President’s counsel may be invited to offer a concluding presentation, in the chair’s discretion.</td>
<td>Not expressly provided for in the rules but permitted</td>
<td>Not expressly provided for in the rules but permitted</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ranking minority member may issue subpoenas with the concurrence of the Chair or as authorized by a Committee vote.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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1 Although there was no presentation of evidence, the President’s counsel was invited to respond to evidence received and testimony adduced by the Committee.
On September 24, 2019, Speaker Pelosi announced the start of an official impeachment inquiry into President Trump.

On October 31, 2019, the House voted to move to the public phase of the inquiry.

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.

**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.
Inequality

Housing Crisis

Purchasing Property in the Bay Area

- The median price for a single-family home in the Bay Area is as high as $1 million and can reach as high as $1.6 million in San Francisco.
- Homes were sold within an average of 43 days in the San Francisco metropolitan area in 2017; the national average is 81 days.
- The number of informal settlements across the country has increased by 1,342 percent from 2007 to mid-2017.
- Of all states, California has the largest number of homeless encampments.
- There are at least 29,000 unhoused residents across the Bay Area’s nine counties.

Ariel Lung / Staff
Source: Urban Habitat and the East Bay Community Law Center
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 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.

Source: Bloomberg Data
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

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>In Process</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air pollution and emissions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drilling and extraction</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure and planning</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxic substances and safety</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pollution</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** The New York Times
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 United States has 270 million guns and had 90 mass shooters from 1966 to 2012.

No other country has more than 46 million guns or 18 mass shooters.

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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