Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall
MAY 28, 2019
Change in the House

**115th Congress**
2017-2018

218 seats for majority

193 (D) 235 (R)

**116th Congress**
2019-2020

218 seats for majority

234 (D) 200 (R)

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
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

- **Introduced in the House**
  - **Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)** – Restores federal oversight of changes to voting procedures that could restrict rights
  - **American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)** – Creates a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and TPS holders
Congressional Agenda in the Majority

- **Introduced in the House - continued**
  - **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

- **Awaiting Introduction**
  - **H.R. 2** - Comprehensive infrastructure plan
  - **H.R. 3** - Prescription drug cost-lowering bill
Efforts Passed by Congressman DeSaulnier Since January

- **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. 987**: Study on how pharmaceutical companies use federal money and how much they profit off of the public investment

- **Amendment to H.R. 1500**: Would hold student loan companies accountable to borrowers and the government, and increase industry transparency
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
- Protecting the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board from elimination.
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

20 legislative efforts passed the House and Committee including efforts to:
- Require that prescription drug monitoring programs become interoperable between states
- Provide $1 million to study how we can improve communication for cancer patients

Caucuses & Initiatives:
- Future of Work Wages and Labor
- Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus, Founder & Co-Chair
- Urban Regional Studies Caucus, Founder
What Congressman DeSaulnier is Doing

- **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
House Committee on Oversight and Reform

- **Jurisdiction**: Oversight of the Executive branch, all federal agencies, and private organizations. **Primary jurisdiction over ensuring accountability and transparency of all Executive branch actions.**

- **February 26, 2019**: Subpoenas to Attorney General Barr, then-Secretary of Homeland Security Nielsen, and HHS Secretary Azar for records on the Trump Administration’s child separation policy.

- **March 27, 2019**: Subpoena to Mazars USA LLP for documents related to the President’s financial statements.

- **April 2, 2019**: Subpoenas to DOJ Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Gore, Attorney General Barr, and Secretary of Commerce Ross for records related to adding the citizenship question to the 2020 Census.

- **April 2, 2019**: Subpoena to former White House Security Director Carl Kline for testimony connected to the Committee’s investigation into the White House Security Clearance Process.

- **May 20, 2019**: Judge denies Trump family bid to block release of Trump financial records.

- **May 22, 2019**: Judge rejects Trump’s bid to block release of Deutsche Bank records.
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
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
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.
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.
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.
Makeup of the Senate

Republicans – 53
Democrats – 45
Independents – 2
Senators up for Reelection in 2020
Democracy Awards

- **Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation Award - 2019 Finalist (1 of 2 Democrats)**
  
  “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
Contact Our Office

**Walnut Creek**
3100 Oak Road
Suite 110
Walnut Creek, CA
(925) 933-2660

**Richmond**
440 Civic Center Plaza
Second Floor
Richmond, CA
(510) 620-1000

**Washington, DC**
503 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC
(202) 225-2095

Facebook: /RepMarkDeSaulnier
Twitter: @RepDeSaulnier
Instagram: @RepDeSaulnier
Website: desaulnier.house.gov