



Virtual Town Hall on Our Fight for Democracy

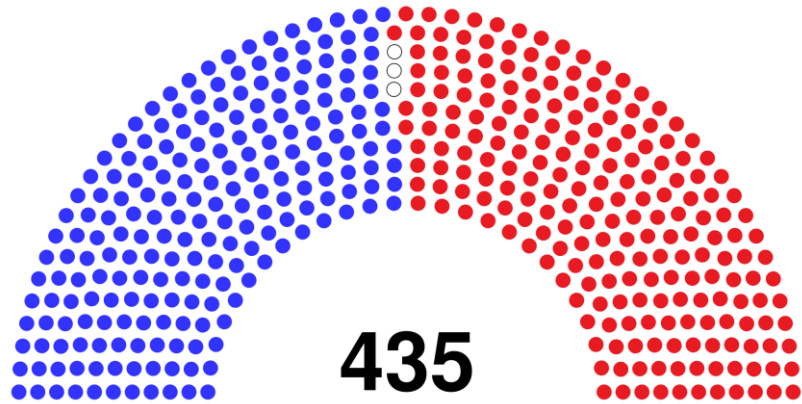
Hosted by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10)
with Special Guest Nikki McKinney, Senior Advisor for Policy &
Public Affairs at Democracy Forward

June 24, 2025

Republicans Hold Majorities in Both Chambers of Congress

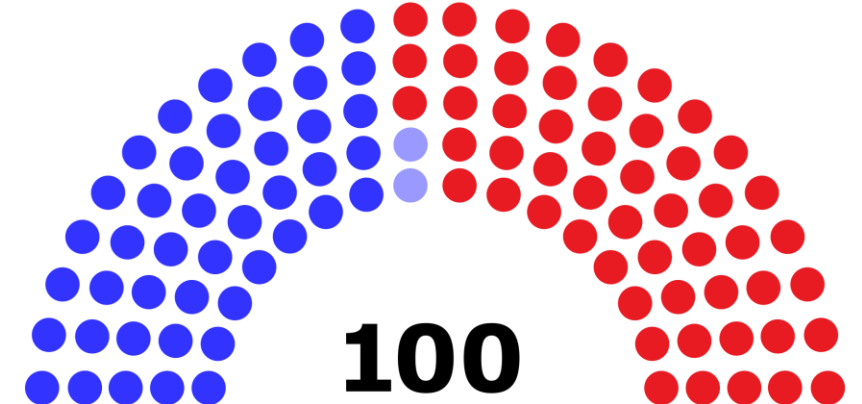
U.S. House

220 **Republicans**, 212 **Democrats**, and 3 vacancies (TX-18, AZ-07, and VA-11)



U.S. Senate

53 **Republicans**, 45 **Democrats**, and two **Independents**



Being in the minority means Democrats do not have the power to decide which bills are voted on or debated, or to call hearings.

But that doesn't mean we aren't taking action.

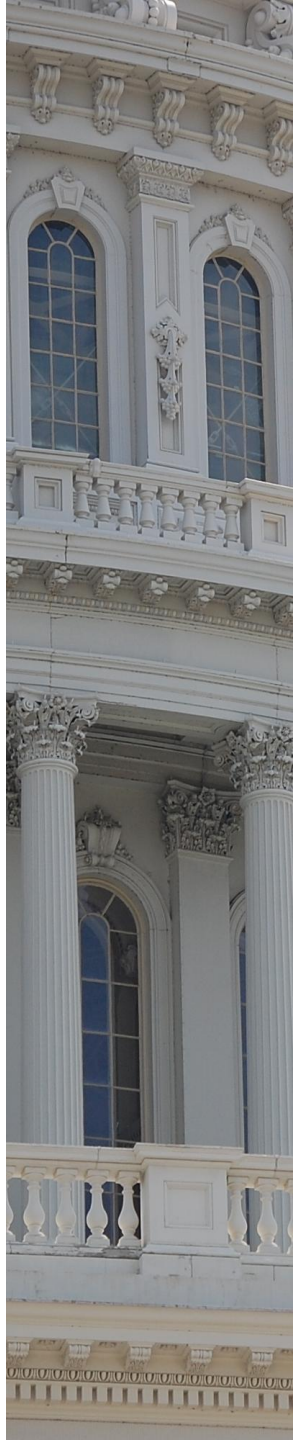
Democracy Under Attack

- President Trump is illegally centralizing power and remaking our democracy into authoritarianism by:
 - Deploying National Guard and Marine troops to squash protests in Los Angeles, over the objections of Governor Newsom and despite First Amendment protections.
 - Detaining and deporting individuals, including at least seven U.S. citizens, sometimes in violation of court orders.
 - Punishing media outlets that publish negative coverage of the Administration.
 - Withholding funds from universities and other institutions that have policies that the Administration disagrees with.
 - Allowing DOGE to make unauthorized spending cuts, illegally fire federal employees, and gain improper access to sensitive data.
 - Pardoning January 6th rioters, including those who assaulted police officers, and other criminals who are politically aligned with the President.
 - Arresting and detaining elected officials, including members of Congress, who are performing their oversight duties.



Fighting the Extreme Trump Agenda in Court

- The Administration has so far issued 161 Executive Orders.
- The judicial process is the most effective tool to stop Trump.
- Almost 290 lawsuits have been filed, and at least 184 court orders have been issued blocking or at least temporarily pausing Trump's actions.
- Last month, Trump lost 96% of federal district court cases against his Administration, and had a 78% loss rate in court cases during his first Administration.



What the Judges Are Saying

“An American President is not a king – not even an ‘elected’ one – and his power to remove federal officers and honest civil servants...is not absolute, but may be constrained in appropriate circumstances, as are present here”

-- U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell

“[The Justice Department’s filings had] the kind of intemperate and disrespectful language I’m not used to hearing from the United States”

-- U.S. District Judge James Boasberg

“Agencies do not have unlimited authority to further a President’s agenda, not do they have unfettered power to hamstring in perpetuity to statutes passed by Congress”

-- U.S. District Judge Mary McElroy



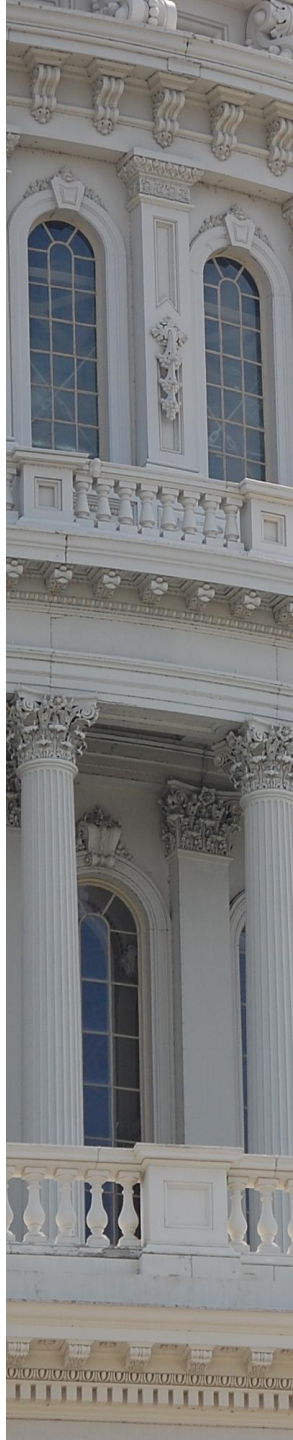
Recent Litigation Against the Administration

- House Democrats are coordinating on efforts to challenge illegal or unconstitutional Administration actions through the Litigation/Response Task Force.
- The graphic to the right contains information about outcomes in some of the more recent and high-profile legal challenges.

| Admin Action | Legal Outcome |
|---|---|
| EO ending Birthright Citizenship |  Multiple District Courts Issue Preliminary Injunction and Circuit Courts Deny Motion to Stay by Trump Administration (Supreme Court Oral Argument Hearing Scheduled for May 15th) |
| Aliens Enemies Act |  Multiple District Courts Issue Temporary Restraining Order and Circuit Courts Deny Motion to Stay by Trump Administration |
| DOGE Access to Sensitive Social Security Data |  District Court Issues Preliminary Injunction |
| OMB Federal Funding Freeze |  Multiple District Courts Issue Preliminary Injunctions (including the U.S. First Circuit Court denying an appeal by the Trump Administration to stop the district court's ruling) |
| Rescission of Collective Bargaining |  District Court Issues Preliminary Injunction |
| Dismantling of CFPB |  District Court Issues Preliminary Injunction and Circuit Denies Appeal by Trump Administration |
| Termination of FLRA Chair |  District Court Issues Summary Judgement |
| Press Access to White House |  District Court Issues Preliminary Injunction |

Standing Up For America

- House Democrats launched the Litigation and Rapid Response Task Force to fight back against the Trump Administration in court. I have been actively involved in the task force's work, co-chaired by Assistant Democratic Leader Joe Neguse, Congressman Jamie Raskin, and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.
- Since the start of the second Trump Administration, I've supported over 140 efforts to stand up and fight back, including:
 - Signing 9 Amicus Briefs opposing illegal or unconstitutional actions of the Administration.
 - Sponsoring 10 bills that directly fight against Trump action, including
 - Legislation to prevent the dismantling of the Department of Education.
 - Legislation to stop DOGE's access to sensitive information.
 - Co-signing numerous letters to federal officials along with many of my Democratic colleagues to push back on harmful or illegal actions taken by the Administration.
 - Supporting the state of California's work to hold the Administration accountable through lawsuits challenging the Administration's deployment of the National Guard and the Marines in Los Angeles, the illegal cancellation of California's Clean Air Act waivers, and other harmful policies.



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