



Leadership and Committees of Congress

At the beginning of each Congress, members of each major party meet in closed sessions known as party conferences (or party caucuses) to elect leaders, make committee assignments, and set legislative agendas.

Within each body there are numerous leadership positions. Congressional leaders perform a variety of functions including: presiding over debate in their chamber, setting the agenda by determining what and when legislation comes before the body, day-to-day management of business on the chamber floor, makes rulings on points of order, appointing task forces and commissions, persuading members to support the party's position on votes, and serving as primary spokespeople for their party.

While there are many leadership positions in the House and Senate, below is a list of positions which influence policy on a day-to-day basis.

- **House of Representatives**
 - Speaker of the House
 - Majority Leader
 - Republican Leader
 - Majority Whip
 - Republican Whip
 - Committee Chair

- **Senate**
 - President of the Senate (U.S. Vice President)
 - Majority Leader
 - Minority Leader
 - Assistant Majority Leader or Democratic Whip
 - Assistant Minority Leader or Republican Whip
 - President Pro Tempore
 - Committee Chair

For more information about leadership positions, visit:

- [Congressional Leadership Information](#)
- [House Leadership Offices](#)
- [Explanation of Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and Party Whips](#)
- [Senate Organizational Chart- 111th Congress](#)

House and Senate Committees and Jurisdiction

The House and Senate each have numerous committees and subcommittees which handle business within their jurisdiction. Committees specialize in the issues within their jurisdiction and perform activities such as: reviewing and recommending legislation to the body as a whole, generating ideas for legislation, reviewing and comparing legislative proposals, research and evaluation of issues and policies, and government oversight. Committee and subcommittee chairs are able to schedule hearings in committee and invited witnesses. This authority gives them the ability to determine what legislative business and priorities will be taken up in committee. Although the committee system is similar in the House and Senate, each body has its own rules that govern committees and each divides its work among committees differently. Most issues of importance to ANCOR and its members fall under the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee in the Senate and the Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means Committees in the House.

For more information on areas of jurisdiction, visit:

- [Senate Committee Jurisdictions](#)
- [House Committee Jurisdictions](#)