



International Association of Workforce Professionals

INFORMATION MEMO

Date: November 14, 2006

To: IAWP Board of Directors, Legislative Steering Committee, Chapter Presidents, and Legislative Action Network

From: Daniel L. Hays, Chair
IAWP Legislative Steering Committee

Subject: Information Memo 2006-03
Post Election Report

At this moment, the Democrats (Ds) have gained 28 seats and a majority in the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress next year. Eleven districts remain undecided at this point – two of which are headed to a run-off. Of the nine races not going to a run-off, it appears at this point that the Ds take one seat (CT-2) and the remaining will be held by the Rs. Based upon today's numbers, the Ds pick up a total of 29 seats and have a fifteen seat majority.

In the Senate, with the concession by Sen. Allen (VA), the Ds will become the majority with forty-nine Ds and two Independents caucusing with the Ds. Harry Reid of Nevada will become the Senate's new Majority Leader in January, Dick Durbin of Illinois will become the Assistant Majority Leader and Robert Byrd of West Virginia will become the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky will become the Minority Leader since Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee did not seek reelection to the Senate this year. All Committee chairs in the Senate will also change in January.

In the House, Nancy Pelosi of California will become the first female Speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January 2007. And while he will face a challenge, it appears Steny Hoyer of Maryland will become the new House Majority Leader. Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois will not stand for election as House Minority Leader and at this point Majority Leader John Boehner faces opposition from two members of his party caucus as he seeks the position of Minority Leader. All House Committee chairs will, of course, change with the Democratic takeover next January. If Mr. Boehner is not elected by his caucus to be the next Minority Leader, this could alter the Republican ranks at the

Education and the Workforce Committee since he could then attempt to reclaim his seniority as the top ranking Republican on that Committee, possibly bumping Rep. Buck McKeon of California down one spot.

It is interesting and important to note something quite striking about many newly elected Members of Congress. In large measure, the Ds were able to take the House because moderate to conservative D candidates defeated moderate Rs. This means the next D House caucus will be more moderate than the current one and the House R caucus will be more conservative (but may take note of the losses their moderates suffered this year when considering policy choices.) In the Senate, the Ds have apparently won the Senate by, in part, putting forward “populist” rather than “liberal” candidates. While these Ds are perhaps not as conservative as some Ds elected to the House, they agree with these newly elected House Ds on many issues. All this to say that the D’s new Congressional leadership may be tempered somewhat by an influx of populist and/or moderate to conservative Members in their caucuses.

In the House next year, new chairs of key committees are likely to be as follows:

Budget – John Spratt of South Carolina

Appropriations – David Obey of Wisconsin

Agriculture – Collin Peterson of Minnesota

Armed Services – Ike Skelton of Missouri

Education and the Workforce – George Miller of California

(Note that this Committee’s ranks on the R side is possibly complicated, as noted above, and there is also some speculation, which I view as unlikely, that George Miller might want to reclaim his rank at the Resources Committee and serve as chair there, in which case Dale Kildee of Michigan would become chair of the education committee.)

Energy and Commerce – John Dingle of Michigan

Financial Services – Barney Frank of Massachusetts

Government Reform – Henry Waxman of California

Homeland Security – Bennie Thompson of Mississippi

International Relations – Tom Lantos of California

Judiciary – John Conyers of Michigan

Resources – Nick Rahall of West Virginia

(Note comments above regarding George Miller and the education committee.)

Rules – Louise Slaughter of New York

Small Business – Nydia Velazquez of New York

Transportation – James Oberstar of Minnesota

Ways and Means – Charlie Rangel of New York

Intelligence – Jane Harmon of California or Alcee Hastings of Florida

In the Senate next year, new chairs of key committees are likely to be as follows:

Budget – Kent Conrad of North Dakota

Appropriations – Robert Byrd of West Virginia

Agriculture – Tom Harkin of Iowa
Armed Services – Carl Levin of Michigan
Banking – Chris Dodd of Connecticut
Commerce, Science and Transportation – Dan Inouye of Hawaii
Environment and Public Works – Barbara Boxer of California
Energy – Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico
Finance – Max Baucus of Montana
Foreign Relations – Joe Biden of Delaware
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions – Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts
Homeland Security – Joe Lieberman of Connecticut
Judiciary – Patrick Leahy of Vermont
Small Business – John Kerry of Massachusetts
Indian Affairs – Byron Dorgan of North Dakota
Special Committee on Aging – Herb Kohl of Wisconsin