



2014 Midterm Election Update From SGMP

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Now that the dust has settled from last week's midterm election, SGMP has been analyzing the potential impacts on government meetings and our members going forward.

The biggest outcome from the 2014 election is the return of Republican control in the United States Senate, with the GOP winning a minimum of 53 seats with one more race still to be decided. This outcome represents the first election cycle that Republicans have won control of both Houses of Congress since 2006. In the House of Representatives, Republicans expanded their control by picking up a minimum of 12 additional seats with several more still to be decided. Ultimately, it has yet to emerge what impacts a change of leadership in the Senate will bring to government meetings in the near term, but it is logical to expect an overall climate of fiscal restraint and additional oversight.

Every new Congress brings changes in committee membership and, sometimes, in committee leadership. The 114th Congress will follow this pattern and will bring very significant changes as a result of the new Republican majority in the Senate. Republicans will have more seats on every Senate Committee and Democrats will have fewer. Newly elected Senate and House members will not have their committee assignments for several weeks and subcommittee assignments are not likely to be fully known until January. Additionally, there will be several vacancies on key committees like House Appropriations and House Energy & Commerce, creating the likelihood that returning members will be willing to give up current assignments in order to move to these key committees.

Two of the committees that directly impact government meetings will be selecting new chairmen in the next Congress with vacancies to be filled on both the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee and the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee. Both of these committees held high-profile hearings on government meetings expenses in the last Congress, so they are particularly important toward our industry coalition effort to promote the value of government meetings. A number of Senate and House members are vying for these posts and SGMP will keep you informed regarding the outcomes.

SGMP will keep our members informed of other important post-election updates while continuing to work in partnership with our industry coalition partners to closely monitor key developments that may impact government meetings. We will address every opportunity to effectively communicate the value and benefit created every day by our members.