

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**  
**118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

**A RESOLUTION**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 118-32**

**Resolution to Approve the Committee's Views and Estimates for Fiscal  
Year 2025**

*Be it resolved*, pursuant to § 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and clause 4(f)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the Committee hereby adopt the following views and estimates for Fiscal Year 2025:

**Committee on House Administration**  
**FY 2025 Budget Views and Estimates**

*Federal Election Commission*

- The First Amendment protects the right of all Americans to state their political views and donate money to the candidates, causes, and organizations of their choice without fear of retribution.
- The Federal Election Commission (“FEC”) plays an important role as it is the governmental body responsible for enforcing all federal civil campaign finance laws. These laws can have severe impacts on Americans' First Amendment right to political speech. As such, the FEC should take careful steps to not criminalize political speech or take selective enforcement actions that damage Americans’ trust in the agency.
- The Committee is pleased that the agency is operating with a full complement of commissioners, especially with the level of federal campaign activity anticipated in a presidential election cycle. However, the Committee is concerned that some commissioners “hold over” and stay on the FEC longer than their six-year term the law allows.
- As with all budget requests, we expect the FEC to allocate the funding and resources it receives to ensure proper and thoughtful oversight of our federal campaign finance system.
- From fiscal year 2016 through 2022, the FEC’s budget was essentially flat at \$71 million. Moreover, from fiscal year 2012 to fiscal year 2022, the number of FEC employees has been reduced by approximately 17 percent while the levels of campaign finance activity, and the resulting workload, have significantly increased.
- The FEC’s budget increased to \$81.6 million in 2023, giving it a much-needed increase following several years of stagnation in the face of high levels of inflation.
- In 2024, the FEC is asking for roughly \$94 million, an increase of 14.5 percent from its 2023 appropriation. The FEC plans to spend \$7.7 million of the increased level on personnel costs, both increased costs of current employees and costs of hiring new employees. The FEC plans to reach 340 employees. As of September 30, 2022, it had only 293 employees.

- After the FEC's first real budget increase since 2016, the agency is asking for an understandable increase to hire more staff as we approach a presidential election this November. This increase will also help the FEC fulfill its statutory mission while accounting for inflation.
- For many years, the six FEC Commissioners and other senior staff have been subject to a pay freeze that has put them drastically behind the rate of inflation. The Committee believes the Commissioners' pay freeze should be removed and the Commissioners' salaries raised and set to adjust automatically with inflation. Moreover, the Committee believes more study is required for salaries of FEC staff.
- The Committee also encourages FEC career staff to work in-person at the agency's headquarters in Washington D.C., for which the taxpayers pay a sizable amount in rent for the agency to maintain.

All six FEC Commissioners and the agency's Inspector General appeared before this committee for a traditional oversight hearing on September 20, 2023. The last traditional oversight hearing of the FEC before this Committee occurred on November 3, 2011. At that hearing, the commissioners defended the FEC's budget request and actions the FEC has taken over the last several years. The Committee plans on closely following the FEC's actions in the new year, especially with a presidential election come November.

#### U.S. Election Assistance Commission

- EAC was formed in 2002 with a mission to assist state and local election officials with the administration of federal elections.
- The agency's core responsibilities are to provide a testing and certification program for voting equipment, administer Help America Vote Act grants, and serve as a national clearinghouse for election administration information.
- The committee appreciates the role the EAC has in assisting our state and local election officials and lauds the agency's successful efforts in the adoption of the newest set of voluntary voting system guidelines, VVSG 2.0.
- The Committee is pleased that the EAC Inspector General office has sufficient funding to conduct investigations and audits as required under HAVA.
- All four EAC Commissioners and the agency's Inspector General appeared before this committee for a traditional oversight hearing on June 14, 2023, when the committee was finally able to conduct proper and routine oversight of the EAC not afforded over the past four years by the previous Chair of this committee.
- The EAC has requested increased funding to support additional human capital that the agency states is necessary to continue to fully support its statutory obligations and programs.
- In recent years, the EAC has received unprecedented levels of grant funding for disbursement to states as a result of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic and to increase the security of our elections.
- Specifically, the EAC received \$380 million in Election Security Grants in 2018, \$825 million in 2020 in Election Security Grants and CARES Act funding, and \$75 million at the end of both FY 2022 and FY 2023.
- We recognize that with the additional grants appropriated to the EAC, the increased engagement in the area of election security in recent years, and expenses associated with relocation of its headquarters from Maryland back to Washington, D.C., an increase in EAC's operational budget was needed.

- However, the EAC budget has more than doubled in recent years and CARES Act funding is no longer being administered. Additionally, EAC has not been granted any new statutory or regulatory authority since its establishment in 2002.
- The Committee supports the mission of the EAC and will continue its oversight responsibilities to ensure that the agency is a good steward of taxpayer dollars, meeting its obligations as set forth in HAVA, and its efforts are beneficial to the election community.
- For many years, the four EAC Commissioners and other senior staff have been subject to a pay freeze that has put them drastically behind the rate of inflation. The Committee believes the Commissioners' pay freeze should be removed and the Commissioners' salaries raised and set to adjust automatically with inflation. Moreover, the Committee believes more study is required for salaries of EAC staff.

### The Legislative Branch

The Committee on House Administration's oversight responsibilities are heavily in the Legislative Branch. The Committee strives to ensure that Legislative Branch appropriations serve to strengthen all of Congress in the most efficient manner possible. With that said, the Committee has reviewed its agencies' budgets, and was unable to identify examples of reauthorizations in its jurisdiction that would curb mandatory spending. The Committee is committed to ensuring that spending by and operation of the Legislative Branch is accountable, and that Congress has the tools to conduct proper oversight of the Executive Branch. Listed below are some of the efforts the Committee has undertaken in the 118th Congress and plans to continue to work toward in FY2025 and in the 119th Congress to meet these objectives:

#### Effective Stewardship of the Legislative Branch

- One initiative of the Modernization Subcommittee was to boost the oversight capacity of the House of Representatives by providing House committees with E-discovery tools, to increase their capacity to carry out investigations of the Executive Branch. These tools will be instrumental in enabling Congress to identify and remove waste, fraud, and abuse throughout the Federal Government.
- The Modernization Subcommittee has also identified other opportunities for low-cost modernizations to the House that will improve workplace operations and have ripple effects for the productivity of Congress, allowing Congress to devote more of its time and resources to conducting necessary oversight of Federal spending throughout the Executive Branch.
- The Committee has identified unique challenges for Legislative Branch Inspectors General, such as challenges to their independence, recruitment and retention challenges, and a lack of whistleblower protections for Legislative Branch employees.
- The Committee has identified areas within Government Publishing Office where legacy projects and authorizations should be reconsidered for the modern era, including the mandatory printing of the *Constitution Annotated* and the outdated Federal Depository Library Program.
- The Committee has begun to identify duplicative efforts across the Legislative Branch that can be streamlined to better ensure consistency and efficiency across the Legislative Branch.
- The Committee is beginning to consider avenues to increase data reporting from the agencies it oversees to better understand how they aim to meet their strategic goals.

## **Committee on House Administration Minority Views and Estimates for FY2025 Budget Resolution**

The Committee on House Administration Democrats welcome the opportunity to provide our views on budgetary priorities for Fiscal Year 2025, including enhancing the institutional capacity of the House of Representatives and our partner agencies in the legislative branch, supporting the Smithsonian Institution's growing mission, and ensuring our federal elections are safe, fair, and accurate.

### **The House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives account includes funding for salaries for officers and employees of the House, including the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds, Office of the Inspector General, Office of General Counsel, Office of the Parliamentarian, Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, and the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, allowances for the compensation of interns, funding for modernization initiatives and other allowances and expenses.

Committee Democrats support an increase to this account so the Committee may continue its efforts described above. These efforts build institutional capacity, improve employee recruitment and retention, and allow Congress to better serve the American people.

Committee Democrats support full funding for the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). ODI was established based on a bipartisan, unanimous recommendation by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. It provides important services for—and works closely with—offices on both sides of the aisle. Since its inception in 2019, 255 Republican offices have utilized its services. It is remarkable—but not surprising—that the Majority has chosen to sabotage its own ability to recruit the best and brightest just to satisfy MAGA extremists' grievances about diversity. Committee Democrats believe robust funding for ODI is vital to the success of both Democratic and Republican House offices and encourages the Majority to maintain the office.

Committee Democrats also support robust funding for the House Modernization Initiatives Account. This account is used to implement the bipartisan recommendations set forth by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress during the 116<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Committee Democrats appreciate the Subcommittee on Modernization Majority's good faith, bipartisan efforts to continue the Select Committee's work and look forward to working with House stakeholders to further implement the recommendations and provide valuable return on investment for the institution.

### **Architect of the Capitol**

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is the builder and steward of the buildings and grounds of Capitol Hill. Among the agency's many areas of expertise are architecture, engineering, electrical, gardening, historic preservation, masonry, mechanics, painting, and visitor services.

Committee Democrats support full funding to enable important AOC activities, programs, and initiatives including but not limited to:

- Continuing restorations, repairs, and security improvements necessitated by the January 6, 2021, attack at the Capitol;
- National searches to hire a new permanent Architect and Deputy Architect;
- Improving agency diversity, particularly among senior leadership;
- Hiring and retaining leaders, from C-suite executives to office heads, that will foster an environment of innovation, collaboration, and inclusion throughout the AOC;
- Phase IV of the Cannon House Office Building Renovation Project;
- Sustainability efforts, including initiatives to reduce energy consumption and waste in the Capitol Complex; and
- Closing open AOC Inspector General recommendations.

### **Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress (Library) is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, photographs, recordings, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts in its collections. It is also home to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the U.S. Copyright Office.

Committee Democrats support full funding to enable important Library activities, programs, and initiatives associated including but not limited:

- Increasing access to the Library and its collections, particularly through the Visitor Experience Initiative, the Stacks software platform, and renovations to the Thomas Jefferson Building;
- CRS operations, including diversity/inclusion, staff morale, attrition rates, work conditions, resource allocation, and administrative support for subject matter experts;
- Continued modernization of the Copyright Office, including development and implementation of the Enterprise Copyright System and further study of the copyright issues, legal challenges, and potential areas for congressional action raised by generative artificial intelligence;
- Continued modernization of the Library's information technology, consistent with guidance from the Government Accountability Office;
- Activities of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, including efforts to increase the number of users and plan a move to a new physical headquarters; and
- Closing open Library Inspector General recommendations.

### **Smithsonian Institution**

The Smithsonian Institution is a quasi-federal agency consisting of museum, education, research, and revenue generating entities with facilities and activities across the United States and world. Founded by Congress in 1846, the Smithsonian is governmental in nature but organizationally separate and distinct from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Approximately 70% of the Smithsonian's budget comes from federal appropriations, while 30% comes from private support.

Unfortunately, the Budget Committee requested the views and estimates presented herein prior to the release of the President's Budget, which includes the Smithsonian Institution. However, Committee Democrats support full funding for the Smithsonian, particularly with respect to the construction of the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women's History Museum. Both museums were authorized through the efforts of Committee Democrats during the

116<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Congresses, and we remain committed to ensuring both museums take their rightfully places on the National Mall. In addition, Committee Democrats support robust funding for:

- Efforts to improve workplace culture, particularly at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI);
- Efforts to protect Smithsonian facilities and collections from the effects of climate change, including implementation of the Smithsonian's Climate Change Action Plan;
- Continued renovations at the National Air and Space Museum;
- Expansion of the Smithsonian Affiliates Program;
- Collaboration with rural and tribal stakeholders via initiatives including the Rural Needs Sensing Project, representing rural history, culture, and community in educationally enriching experiences;
- Working with indigenous communities to observe ethical archaeological principles and execute successful repatriation efforts;
- Initiatives to improve diversity at the Smithsonian, both at senior employment levels and in exhibits/collections; and
- Efforts to improve access to the Smithsonian through traveling exhibitions and digital resources.

### **Government Publishing Office**

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) is a legislative branch agency responsible for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the Federal Government. Such information products include the official publications of Congress and the White House, passports, and the official publications of other Federal agencies and the courts.

Committee Democrats support full funding to support important GPO activities, programs, and initiatives including but not limited to:

- Digitization of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP);
- Continued work related to the Committee Print Project;
- XPub system development;
- Enhancing cybersecurity based on an evolving threat environment; and
- Exploring potential applications and governance of AI and large language models at GPO in areas including process automation, screening for personally identifiable information (PII), and quality assurance image analysis
- Continuing improvements to GovInfo, including new content collections, enhanced accessibility, electronic submission of Congressionally Mandated Reports, and improved discoverability of hosted information; and
- Meeting Congressional printing requirements.

### **United States Capitol Police**

The United States Capitol Police Department (Department) is responsible for policing the Capitol Buildings and Grounds under the direction of the Capitol Police Board. This includes protecting Members, staff, visitors, and facilities so that Congress can fulfill its constitutional and legislative responsibilities safely, securely, and transparently.

Committee Democrats support full funding which brings the Department's funding levels in line with the supplemental security bill passed by the House during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress without any Republican votes. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding include, but are not limited to:

- Continued overhaul of the Training Services Bureau, including opportunities for in service training and leadership training, as well as procedures for quality control;
- Expansion of the Howard C. "Howie" Liebengood Center for Wellness;
- Efforts to improve security for Members of Congress outside Washington, DC, including in their districts and in transit;
- Improving recruitment and retention so that all authorized officer slots are filled;
- Ensuring readiness for National Security Special Events;
- Strengthening cyber defense and threat monitoring;
- Increasing the Department's intelligence capabilities and competencies;
- Further expansion of the Civil Disturbance Unit and specialized training programs;
- Continued improvements to relationships with National Capitol Region law enforcement partners;
- Replacing outdated or ineffective equipment; and
- Continued use of contract security officers to augment the Department's workforce.

### **Office of Congressional Workplace Rights**

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) was established to administer the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA). The office administers a range of federal workplace regulations applying to the legislative branch, including the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act<sup>1</sup>, Fair Labor Standards Act<sup>2</sup>, and Federal Employee Paid Leave Act<sup>3</sup>. Its mission is to advance workplace rights, safety, and health for employees in the legislative branch, as well as ensure accessibility for members of the public.

Committee Democrats support full funding for OCWR to support important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Confidential advising;
- Hearings and mediations;
- Safety and health inspections;
- Unfair labor practice investigations;
- Family and medical leave benefits;
- Facilitating the employment and reemployment of servicemembers and veterans;
- Americans with Disabilities Act investigations; and
- Improvements to cybersecurity capabilities.

### **Federal Elections**

The safe and secure elections upon which our democracy rests require significant resources. Since its inception in the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the United States Election Assistance

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 3330

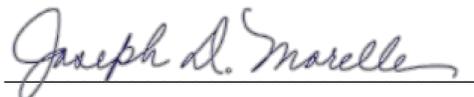
<sup>2</sup> 29 U.S.C. § 203

<sup>3</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 6382

Commission (EAC) has provided support to states and election officials at all levels. According to the EAC, between 2003 and September 30, 2021, over \$4 billion in federal funds were awarded across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories.<sup>4</sup> In 2018 and 2020, Congress appropriated a combined \$805 million to improve federal election administration, with an emphasis on security enhancements to election systems—\$380 million in FY2018 (which was the first time since 2010 that Congress made resources available through the Help America Vote Act in support of federal election improvements<sup>5</sup>) and \$425 million in FY2020—including \$400 million under the CARES Act in for improvements or supplements necessary in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>6</sup> The funds appropriated under the CARES Act, however, required jurisdictions to match federal funding with state or municipal funds,<sup>7</sup> a potentially significant expenditure for jurisdictions with financial limitations. By 2023, various states had returned over \$63 million of the \$400 million in CARES Act funding to the federal government.<sup>8</sup>

The funding crisis for elections administrators has not abated since 2020. The FY2023 Omnibus provided \$75 million for Election Security Grants to help states secure election systems and improve election administration, and the FY2022 Omnibus also provided \$75 million in Election Security Grant funding. But even with this money, “elections offices are left with limited options to meet urgent gaps in equipment, personnel, and facilities.”<sup>9</sup> According to his testimony earlier this year, Professor Zachary Mohr observed that “the amount spent by the local election jurisdictions on election administration is in the range of \$1.5 billion to \$5 billion per year.”<sup>10</sup>

President Biden’s FY2024 budget request proposed \$5 billion in new elections assistance funding allocated over the next 10 years, but that has not yet been appropriated. Election officials have consistently told Committee staff that they need additional, sustained funding for the administration of elections. To best continue fulfilling its mission, the EAC must be fully funded. Committee Democrats will push to ensure that the EAC—and through the EAC, state and local election administrators—is fully supported by Congress.



Joseph D. Morelle  
Ranking Member  
Committee on House Administration

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<sup>4</sup> *2021 Grant Expenditure Report: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021*, Elec. Assist. Comm. (July 2022), at [https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/paymentgrants/expenditures/EAC\\_2021\\_Grant\\_Expenditure\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/paymentgrants/expenditures/EAC_2021_Grant_Expenditure_Report_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Guidance on Meeting Match in CARES Act Grants under HAVA*, ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMM’N (Mar. 31, 2023), <https://www.eac.gov/grants/guidance-meeting-match-cares-act-grants-under-hava>.

<sup>8</sup> *Quarterly Report to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee*, ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMM’N (Jul. 10, 2023), [https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/15011\\_Quarterly\\_Report\\_on\\_CARES\\_Funding\\_Due\\_July\\_10\\_2023.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/15011_Quarterly_Report_on_CARES_Funding_Due_July_10_2023.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> *League Urges Congress to Preserve funding for elections*, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (Sept. 28, 2023), <https://www.lwv.org/expanding-voter-access/league-urges-congress-preserve-funding-elections>.

<sup>10</sup> *American Confidence in Elections: Confronting Zuckerbucks, Private Funding of Election Administration*, Hearing Before Comm. On House Administration, 118th Cong. (2024), written testimony of Zachary Mohr at 2.

**BRYAN STEIL, WISCONSIN**  
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One Hundred Eighteenth  
**Congress of the United States**  
House of Representatives

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**  
1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-6157  
(202) 225-8281 | CHA.HOUSE.GOV

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## Notification of Committee Poll No. 11 Results

TO: Members of the Committee on House Administration  
FROM: Bryan Steil, Chairman  
DATE: March 1, 2024  
RE: Committee Approval of Committee Resolution 118-32

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Thank you for your timely response to the Committee on House Administration poll. The Committee has approved the following matters:

Committee Resolution 118-32, to adopt the Committee's FY 2025 Budget Views and Estimates and Minority Budget Views and Estimates.

**Approve:** Steil, Murphy, Bice, Carey, D'Esposito, Lee, Morelle, Sewell, Kilmer, Torres  
**Disapprove:** None

Approval of the adoption of Committee Resolutions 118-32 was based upon a poll of the Committee members with a majority of the Committee approving the adoption of the resolution on March 1, 2024.