

Congressional Advocacy and Key Housing Committees

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Lobbying Congress is a direct way to advocate for the issues and programs that are important to you. Members of Congress are accountable to constituents of a certain region and any individual or organization should be able to connect with their senators and representatives through a fairly simple process. As a constituent, you have the right to lobby the members who represent you; as a housing advocate, you should exercise this right.

CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

To find out the contact information for your Member of Congress, visit NLIHC's congressional directory at <http://capwiz.com/nlihc/dbq/officials>, or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

MEETING WITH YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Scheduling a meeting, crafting your agenda, developing the appropriate materials to take with you, determining your “ask” or “asks” ahead of time, making sure your meeting does not veer away from the subject at hand, and following up afterward, are all crucial elements to holding effective meetings with Members of Congress.

For more tips on how to lobby effectively, refer to the lobbying section of this chapter.

KEY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The following are key housing authorizing and appropriating committees in Congress:

- The House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services.
- The House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations.

- The House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means.
- The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
- The Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- The Senate Committee on Finance.

See below for details on these key committees as of February 1, 2019. For all committees, members are listed in order of seniority. Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk (*).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

See <http://financialservices.house.gov>.

The House Committee on Financial Services oversees all components of the nation's housing and financial services sectors, including banking, insurance, real estate, public and assisted housing, and securities. The committee reviews laws and programs relating to HUD, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, government sponsored enterprises including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and international development and finance agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The Committee also ensures the enforcement of housing and consumer protection laws such the “U.S. Housing Act”, the “Truth in Lending Act”, the “Housing and Community Development Act”, the “Fair Credit Reporting Act”, the “Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act”, the “Community Reinvestment Act”, and financial privacy laws.

The Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance oversees HUD and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mac). The Subcommittee also handles matters related to housing affordability, rural housing, and government sponsored insurance programs

such as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the National Flood Insurance Program, and community development, including Empowerment Zones.

Majority Members (Democrats)

- Maxine Waters (CA), *Chair*
- Carolyn B. Maloney* (NY)
- Nydia M. Velázquez* (NY)
- Brad Sherman* (CA)
- Gregory Meeks (NY)
- Wm. Lacy Clay* (MO),
Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Chair
- David Scott (GA)
- Al Green* (TX)
- Emanuel Cleaver* (MO)
- Ed Perlmutter (CO)
- Jim A. Himes (CT)
- Bill Foster (IL)
- Joyce Beatty* (OH)
- Denny Heck* (WA)
- Juan Vargas* (CA)
- Josh Gottheimer (NJ)
- Vicente Gonzalez* (TX)
- Al Lawson* (FL)
- Michael San Nicolas (GU)
- Rashida Tlaib* (MI)
- Katie Porter (CA)
- Cindy Axne* (IA)
- Sean Casten (IL)
- Ayanna Pressley (MA)
- Ben McAdams (UT)
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY)
- Jennifer Wexton (VA)
- Stephen F. Lynch (MA)

- Tulsi Gabbard (HI)
- Alma Adams (NC)
- Madeleine Dean (PA)
- Jesús “Chuy” García (IL)
- Sylvia Garcia (TX)
- Dean Phillips (MN)

Minority Members (Republicans)

- Patrick McHenry (NC), *Ranking*
- Peter T. King (NY)
- Frank D. Lucas (OK)
- Bill Posey (FL)
- Blaine Luetkemeyer* (MO)
- Bill Huizenga* (MI)
- Sean P. Duffy* (WI),
Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Ranking
- Steve Stivers (OH)
- Ann Wagner (MO)
- Andy Barr (KY)
- Scott Tipton* (CO)
- Roger Williams (TX)
- French Hill (AR)
- Tom Emmer (MN)
- Lee M. Zeldin* (NY)
- Barry Loudermilk (GA)
- Alexander X. Mooney (WV)
- Warren Davidson (OH)
- Ted Budd (NC)
- David Kustoff* (TN)
- Trey Hollingsworth (IN)
- Anthony Gonzalez* (OH)
- John Rose* (TN)
- Bryan Steil* (WI)
- Lance Gooden* (TX)
- Denver Riggleman (VA)

* Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

See <http://appropriations.house.gov>

The House Committee on Appropriations is responsible for determining the amount of funding made available to all authorized programs each year.

The Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) determines the amount of government revenues dedicated to HUD, among other agencies.

Majority Members (Democrats)

- Nita Lowey (NY), *Chair*
- Marcy Kaptur (OH)
- Peter Visclosky (IN)
- José Serrano (NY)
- Rosa DeLauro (CT)
- David Price* (NC),
Transportation-HUD Subcommittee Chair
- Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
- Sanford Bishop (GA)
- Barbara Lee (CA)
- Betty McCollum (MN)
- Tim Ryan (OH)
- C. Ruppertsberger (MD)
- Debbie Wasserman Shultz (FL)
- Henry Cuellar (TX)
- Chellie Pingree (ME)
- Mike Quigley* (IL)
- Derek Kilmer (WA)
- Matt Cartwright (PA)
- Grace Meng (NY)
- Mark Pocan (WI)
- Katherine Clark* (MA)
- Pete Aguilar* (CA)

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- Lois Frankel (FL)
- Cheri Bustos (IL)
- Bonnie Watson Coleman* (NJ)
- Brenda Lawrence* (MI)
- Norma Torres* (CA)
- Charlie Crist (FL)
- Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ)
- Ed Case (HI)

Minority Members (Republicans)

- Kay Granger (TX),
Ranking Member
- Harold Rogers (KY)
- Robert Aderholt (AL)
- Michael Simpson (ID)
- John Carter (TX)
- Ken Calvert (CA)
- Tom Cole (OK)
- Mario Diaz-Balart* (FL),
Transportation-HUD Subcommittee Ranking Member
- Tom Graves (GA)
- Steve Womack* (AR)
- Jeff Fortenberry (NE)
- Charles Fleischmann (TN)
- Jamie Herrera Beutler (WA)
- David Joyce (OH)
- Andy Harris (MD)
- Martha Roby (AL)
- Mark Amodei (NV)
- Chris Stewart (UT)
- Stephen Palazzo (MS)
- Dan Newhouse (WA)
- John Moolenaar (MI)
- John Rutherford* (FL)
- William Hurd* (TX)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

See <http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

The Committee on Ways and Means is the chief tax writing committee in the House of Representatives.

Majority Members (Democrats)

- Richard Neal (MA)
- John Lewis (GA)
- Lloyd Doggett (TX)
- Mike Thompson (CA)
- John Larson (CT)
- Earl Blumenauer (OR)
- Ron Kind (WI)
- Bill Pascrell (NJ)
- Danny Davis (IL)
- Linda Sanchez (CA)
- Brian Higgins (NY)
- Terri Sewell (AL)
- Suzan DelBene (WA)
- Judy Chu (CA)
- Gwen Moore (WI)
- Dan Kildee (MI)
- Brendan Boyle (PA)
- Don Beyer (VA)
- Dwight Evans (PA)
- Brad Schneider (IL)
- Tom Suozzi (NY)
- Jimmy Panetta (CA)
- Stephanie Murphy (FL)
- Jimmy Gomez (CA)
- Steven Horsford (NV)

Minority Members (Republicans)

- Kevin Brady (TX)

- Devin Nunes (CA)
- Vern Buchanan (FL)
- Adrian Smith (NE)
- Kenny Marchant (TX)
- Tom Reed (NY)
- Mike Kelly (PA)
- George Holding (NC)
- Jason Smith (MO)
- Tom Rice (SC)
- David Schweikert (AZ)
- Jackie Walorski (IN)
- Darin LaHood (IL)
- Brad Wenstrup (OH)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

See <http://banking.senate.gov/public>

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs oversees legislation, petitions, and other matters relating to financial institutions, economic policy, housing, transportation, urban development, international trade and finance, and securities and investments.

The Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development oversees urban mass transit systems and general urban affairs and development issues, and is the primary oversight committee for HUD. The subcommittee oversees HUD community development programs, the FHA, the Rural Housing Service, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and all issues related to public and private housing, senior housing, nursing home construction, and indigenous housing issues.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Michael Crapo (ID), *Chair*
- Richard Shelby* (AL)

* Those who sit on key housing subcommittees are marked with an asterisk.

- Patrick Toomey (PA)
- Tim Scott (SC)
- Ben Sasse (NE)
- Tom Cotton* (AR)
- Mike Rounds* (SD)
- David Perdue (GA), *Subcommittee Chair*
- Thom Tillis* (NC)
- John Kennedy (LA)
- Martha McSally* (AZ)
- Jerry Moran* (KS)
- Kevin Cramer* (ND)

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Sherrod Brown (OH), *Ranking Member*
- Jack Reed* (RI)
- Robert Menendez* (NJ),
Subcommittee Ranking Member
- Jon Tester (MT)
- Mark R. Warner (VA)
- Elizabeth Warren* (MA)
- Brian Schatz (HI)
- Chris Van Hollen (MD)
- Catherine Cortez Masto* (NV)
- Doug Jones* (AL)
- Tina Smith* (MN)
- Krysten Sinema (AZ)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

See <http://appropriations.senate.gov>

The Senate Committee on Appropriations is responsible for determining the amount of funding made available to all authorized programs each year.

THUD has jurisdiction over funding for the Department of Transportation and HUD.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Richard Shelby* (AL), Chair
- Mitch McConnell (KY)
- Lamar Alexander* (TN)
- Susan Collins* (ME), *Subcommittee Chair*
- Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- Lindsey Graham* (SC)
- Roy Blunt* (MO)
- Jerry Moran (KS)
- John Hoeven* (ND)
- John Boozman* (AR)
- Shelley Moore Capito* (WV)
- John Kennedy (LA)
- Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)
- Steve Daines* (MT)
- Marco Rubio (FL)
- James Lankford (OK)

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Patrick Leahy (VT), *Ranking Member*
- Patty Murray* (WA)
- Dianne Feinstein* (CA)
- Richard Durbin* (IL)
- Jack Reed* (RI),
Subcommittee Ranking Member
- Jon Tester (MT)
- Tom Udall (NM)
- Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
- Jeff Merkley (OR)
- Chris Coons* (DE)
- Brian Schatz* (HI)
- Tammy Baldwin (WI)
- Christopher Murphy* (CT)
- Joe Manchin* (WV)
- Chris Van Hollen (MD)

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

See www.finance.senate.gov

The Senate Committee on Finance oversees matters relating to taxation and other revenue measures generally, such as health programs under the “Social Security Act”, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund.

Majority Members (Republicans)

- Chuck Grassley (IA), *Chair*
- Mike Crapo (ID)
- Pat Roberts (KS)
- Michael B. Enzi (WY)
- John Cornyn (TX)
- John Thune (SD)
- Richard Burr (NC)
- Johnny Isakson (GA)
- Rob Portman (OH)

- Patrick Toomey (PA)
- Tim Scott (SC)
- Bill Cassidy (LA)
- Steve Daines (MT)
- James Lankford (OK)
- Todd Young (IN)

Minority Members (Democrats)

- Ron Wyden (OR), *Ranking Member*
- Debbie Stabenow (MI)
- Maria Cantwell (WA)
- Robert Menendez (NJ)
- Thomas Carper (DE)
- Benjamin Cardin (MD)
- Sherrod Brown (OH)
- Michael Bennet (CO)
- Robert Casey, Jr. (PA)
- Mark Warner (VA)
- Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)
- Maggie Hassan (NH)
- Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)