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Welcome to Womble Carlyle's Capitol Connection e-newsletter, a weekly look at politics on Capitol Hill created by our Federal and State Government Affairs group for our Members and select clients they wish to send it to.

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**Presidential Transition**

The Electoral College Electors convened in each of the 50 states on December 15<sup>th</sup> and ratified the results of the November 4th election, giving Obama 365 votes and 173 votes to John McCain – officially making Barack Obama the President-elect. The electors' ballots are now on the way to the U.S. House of Representatives where they will be tallied the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, when the election result will be made final.

President-elect Obama announced his new Environment and Energy team this week as well as his nominees for Secretary of Education, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Secretary of the Interior.

Dr. Steven Chu, a Nobel prize winning physicist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California is the pick to head the Energy Department while Lisa Jackson, former head of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, was chosen to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Carol Browner, the former Administrator at EPA in the Clinton Administration will fill a new position to be created within the White House to coordinate the Obama Administration's positions on the climate and the environment. Nancy Sutley, the Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, will lead the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

The new Secretary of Education will be Arne Duncan who is the current chief of the Chicago public school system. Shaun Donovan, New York City's former Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development, will lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development while Sen. Ken Salazar from Colorado -- who was a former Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources in the early 1990s -- will be the new Secretary of the Interior. Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack will be the Secretary of Agriculture. Retiring Republican Congressman Ray LaHood from Illinois is Obama's pick for Transportation Secretary.

Rep. Xavier Becerra also announced this week that he would **NOT** accept the position of U.S. Trade Representative in the Obama Administration and would instead remain in Congress where he recently defeated Rep. Marcy Kaptur to become Vice Chairman of the Democrat Caucus. Becerra's decision ends the race to succeed him as Caucus Vice Chair that included Kaptur and Reps. Kendrick Meek (FL), Joseph Crowley (NY) and Joe Baca (CA).

## **Election Musical Chairs**

With the selection of Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO) to be Sec. of Interior this week, there are now four Senate seats where it is unclear who the occupant will be in February. Along with the contested race in Minnesota between Norm Coleman and Al Franken, there is the controversy surrounding Illinois Gov. Blagojevich and the as yet undetermined process for picking a replacement for Obama's Senate seat. In addition, the Governors of New York and Colorado must fill the seats presently held by Clinton and Salazar. Carolyn Kennedy recently added her name to that of N.Y. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and others who are interested in replacing Hillary Clinton. The Governor of Delaware has already announced that Vice President-elect Biden will be replaced in the Senate by his long-time Senate Chief of Staff Edward Kaufman – who has committed to staying only two years until a special election is held to permanently fill the vacancy. After all replacements are named, Democrats will control at least 58 seats and possibly 59 depending on the outcome of Minnesota's contested election.

Delayed elections in Louisiana (due to Hurricane Gustav) included the surprise upset of indicted Rep. William Jefferson. The House still has one seat yet to be decided in Virginia where the Democratic Party candidate leads by 745 votes out of 317,000 cast ballots. Pending that decision, the Democrats have 256 seats to the Republicans 178, a net gain of 23 more seats for the Democrats than they started out with in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## **110<sup>th</sup> Congress -- Closing shop**

The House and Senate recessed last week without passing legislation to rescue the automobile industry. The House passed a bill 237-170, but the Senate could only muster 52 of the 60 votes needed to end a filibuster of the bill. The Administration and Treasury Secretary Paulson continue to indicate they expect to find a way, using TARP funds if necessary, to ensure the automobile companies do not have to file for bankruptcy protection before the new President is sworn into office. The Senate will continue pro-forma sessions until the new Congress in order to prevent recess appointments being made in the last days of the Bush administration.

## **111<sup>th</sup> Congress – Leadership Line Up**

Senate Committee Chairs and Ranking Members: In the Senate, Chairman have been officially selected for all Committees, and together with the expected (but not official) Ranking Members are:

Aging: Chairman Herb Kohl, Ranking Mel Martinez\*

Agriculture: Chair Tom Harkin; Ranking Saxby Chambliss

Appropriations: Chair Daniel Inouye\*, Ranking Thad Cochran

Armed Services: Chair Carl Levin, Ranking John McCain

Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs: Chair Chris Dodd, Ranking Richard Shelby

Budget: Chair Kent Conrad, Ranking Judd Gregg

Commerce, Science, & Transportation: Chair John Rockefeller\*, Ranking Kay Bailey Hutchison\*

Energy and Natural Resources: Chair Jeff Bingaman, Ranking Lisa Murkowski\*

Environment and Public Works: Chair Barbara Boxer, Ranking Jim Inhofe

Finance: Chair Max Baucus, Ranking Chuck Grassley

Foreign Relations: Chair John Kerry\*, Ranking Norm Coleman/Bob Corker\*

Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions: Chair Edward Kennedy, Ranking Mike Enzi

Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs: Chair Joseph Lieberman, Ranking Susan Collins

Indian Affairs: Chair Byron Dorgan, Ranking Tom Coburn\*

Intelligence: Chair Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Kit Bond

Judiciary: Chair Patrick Leahy, Ranking Arlen Specter

Rules and Administration: Charles Schumer\*, Ranking Robert Bennett

Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Chair Mary Landrieu\*, Ranking Olympia Snowe

Veterans Affairs: Chair Daniel Akaka, Ranking Richard Burr

*\* - change from 110<sup>th</sup> Congress*

House Committee Chairs and Ranking Members:

Democrats elevated Rep. Ed Towns (NY) to be the new Chairman of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee while House Republicans finally named their Ranking Members with three major changes: embattled Rep. Don Young (AK) dropped his effort to remain as Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee and was replaced by Rep. Doc Hastings (WA); retiring Ways and Means Ranking Member Jim McCrery was

succeeded by Rep. Dave Camp (MI); and retiring Armed Services Ranking Member Duncan Hunter was replaced by Rep. John McHugh (NY) who bested Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (MD) and Rep. Mac Thornberry (TX) for the spot.

As a result, the Chair and Ranking Members in the House have both been officially selected for all Committees as follows:

Agriculture: Chair Collin Peterson (MN), Ranking Frank Lucas, (OK)  
Appropriations: Chair David Obey (WI), Ranking Jerry Lewis (CA)  
Armed Services: Chair Ike Skelton (MO), Ranking John McHugh\* (NY)  
Budget: Chair John Spratt (SC), Ranking Paul Ryan (WI)  
Education & Labor: Chair George Miller (CA), Ranking Howard (Buck) McKeon (CA)  
Energy & Commerce: Chair Henry Waxman\* (CA), Ranking Joe Barton (TX)  
Financial Services: Chair Barney Frank (MA), Ranking Spencer Bacchus (AL)  
Foreign Affairs: Chair Howard Berman, Ranking Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL)  
Homeland Security: Chair Bennie Thompson (MS), Ranking Peter King (NY)  
House Administration: Chair Robert Brady (PA), Ranking – OPEN\*  
Intelligence: Silvestre Reyes (TX), Ranking Pete Hoekstra (MI)  
Judiciary: Chair John Conyers (MI), Ranking Lamar Smith (TX)  
Natural Resources: Chair Nick Rahall (WV), Ranking Doc Hastings\* (WA)  
Oversight and Government Reform: Edolphus Towns\* (NY), Ranking Darrel Issa\* (CA)  
Rules: Chair Louise Slaughter (NY), Ranking David Dreier (CA)  
Science & Technology: Chair Bart Gordon, Ranking Ralph Hall (TX)  
Energy Independence & Global Warming: Chair Edward Markey (MA), Ranking James Sensenbrenner (WI)  
Small Business: Nydia Velazquez (NY), Ranking Sam Graves\* (MO)  
Standards of Official Conduct: Chair Gene Green (TX), Ranking – OPEN\*  
Transportation & Infrastructure: Chair James Oberstar (MN), Ranking John Mica (FL)  
Veterans' Affairs: Chair Bob Filner (CA), Ranking Steven Buyer (IN)  
Ways & Means: Chair Charles Rangel (NY), Ranking Dave Camp\* (MI)

*\* - change from 110<sup>th</sup> Congress*

### **Issues for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress**

The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress will begin quickly after being sworn in on January 6<sup>th</sup> in order to consider legislation before the Inauguration on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The most urgent matters in addition to nomination hearings for cabinet members will include work on a now \$1 trillion economic stimulus package being drafted by the Obama transition team and the Democrat Congressional leadership. Congress will also attempt to finalize the uncompleted FY09 appropriations process by passing individual bills or an "Omnibus" package both of which are expected to include earmarks. The Continuing Resolution (HR 2638) passed before the election to fund on-going government operations expires on March 6 which means Congress must act by then to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

In the time between Jan. 6 and the Jan. 20 Inauguration Congress is also expected to consider approval for releasing the second half of the \$700 billion authorized for the Treasury Department's Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (HR 1424) signed by the President on October 3, 2008.

### **Useful Links for the Week**

Obama Presidential Transition: <http://www.change.gov/>

Official House Schedule for 111th Congress, 2009:  
<http://www.majorityleader.gov/docUploads/2009-FINAL-CALENDAR120508.pdf>

Official Senate Schedule for the 111th Congress, 2009:  
<http://www.cq.com/flatfiles/editorialFiles/temporaryItems/2008/2009Recesscalendar.pdf>

Senate Committee Chairs - 111th:  
<http://democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/record.cfm?id=305931&>

House Committee Chairmen/Ranking Members -- 111<sup>th</sup>:  
[http://www.nationaljournal.com/congressdaily/cd\\_20081120\\_1087.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/congressdaily/cd_20081120_1087.php)

New House Committee Members -- 111<sup>th</sup>:  
<http://speaker.house.gov/newsroom/pressreleases?id=0918>

List of Members Who Will Not Be Back:  
[http://www.nationaljournal.com/congressdaily/cd\\_20080417\\_7840.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/congressdaily/cd_20080417_7840.php)

Up to the minute information on the Obama transition: <http://www.politico.com/politico44/>

Information on the how, where, and how much related to inaugural balls in January:  
<http://www.presidential-inauguration.com/>

***If you would like additional information on any of these items or have any comments on how we can improve this product for you, please contact either John Mashburn at [jmashburn@wcsr.com](mailto:jmashburn@wcsr.com) or Mark Harkins at [mharkins@wcsr.com](mailto:mharkins@wcsr.com).***

### **Federal and State Government Affairs Team**

Womble Carlyle is an experienced and effective government affairs advocate in Washington, as well as North Carolina and Georgia. Our Government Affairs group includes members from both major political parties who previously held the following positions: four-term North Carolina Governor; former Maryland Governor; Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court; General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel of the FEC; four-term North Carolina State Senator; Chief of Staff to the Co-Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives; and two Chiefs of Staff to United States Senators.

The Group lobbies Members of Congress, State Legislators, as well as Federal and State Executive Branches; offers representation in connection with campaign finance, gift, and lobbying laws; assists clients in securing appropriations; tracks legislative activities and assesses proposed legislation for opportunities and impacts on clients; drafts legislative language; builds coalitions and organizes grassroots campaigns; develops and maintains political action committees (including our own Womble PAC); creates and distributes direct mail; and prepares and presents testimony before state and federal regulatory agencies and legislative bodies. Combining our related skills with our proven reputation for successful outcomes, our state and federal lobbying teams address client concerns responsively and cost-effectively.

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