



RAIL PASSENGERS  
ASSOCIATION

# What the 2020 Election Results Mean for Passenger Trains and Transit

OneRail Coalition

+

Rail Passengers Association



# The 2020 Election + Passenger Trains

*November 18th*

*3:00 PM Eastern*

- 3:00 PM – Introduction – Joe Aiello – Director of Resource Development, Rail Passengers Association
- 3:05 PM – The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress + Transportation – Sean Jeans-Gail – Vice President, Policy + Gov't Affairs, Rail Passengers Association
- 3:20 PM – What the Biden Administration Means for Trains – Anne Canby – Director, OneRail Coalition
- 3:35 – 3:45 PM – Q&A – Canby, Jeans-Gail and RPA President Jim Mathews answer questions from members (prioritize those submitted ahead of time, field questions from the chat box if time)

**Please mute your microphones and turn off your cameras. Thank you!**

# Introducing the 117th Congress: Key Committees and Leadership Roles

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Sean Jeans-Gail | VP of Gov't Affairs + Policy  
Rail Passengers Association  
Washington, DC



BOTTOM-LINE UP FRONT

# Looking ahead to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress:

Key questions, committees and dates



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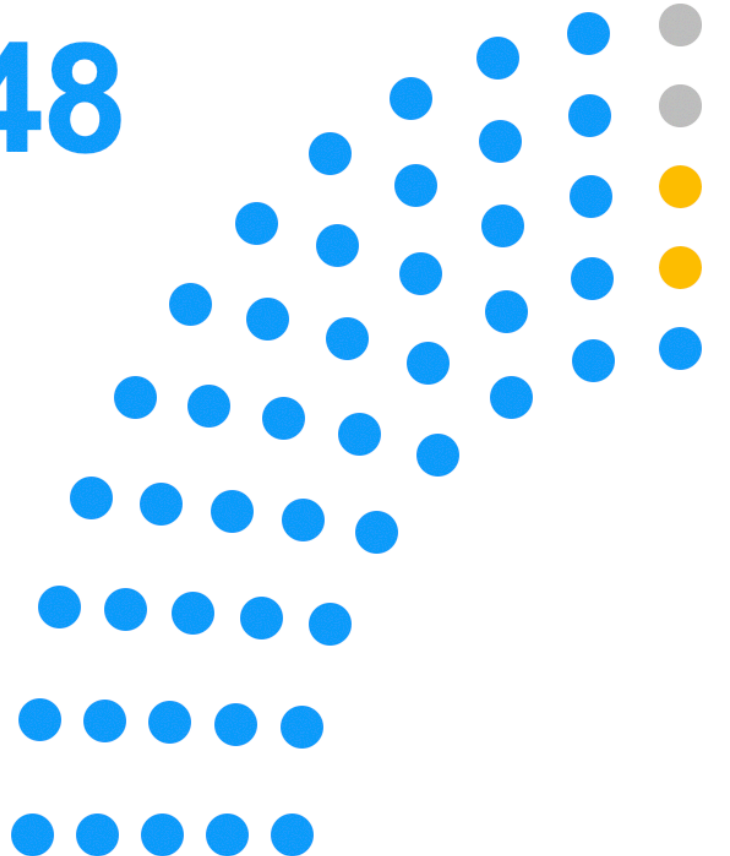
- Control of Senate will be decided January 5<sup>th</sup>
  - President-Elect Biden's ability to influence infrastructure hinges on Georgia
- House Democratic majority erodes, setting up confrontation between centrists and progressives
  - House GOP eye majority in 2022
- Key legislative opportunities/hurdles:
  - Fiscal 2021 Continuing Resolution
  - Surface Transportation Reauthorization
  - COVID-19 response package
  - Fiscal 2022 appropriations bills
  - Debt limit



# Senate Still in Play

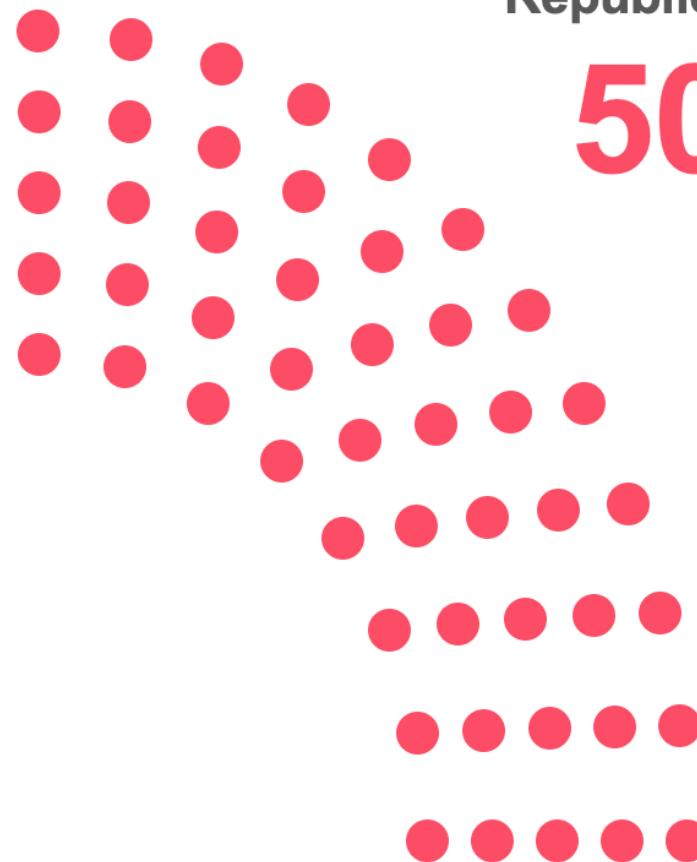
Democrats

48



Republicans

50





# Senate Still in Play

- Republicans have a 50-48 advantage, but control of the chamber will come down to Jan. 5 runoffs for two Georgia seats
- If Republicans win just one of the Georgia seats, then Mitch McConnell (KY) will remain majority leader
- If Democrats win both seats, then Vice President Kamala Harris would break a 50-50 tie in their favor
  - In this scenario Democrats would have full control of government, albeit by razor-thin margins
  - Power-sharing agreement between Democrats and Republicans in Senate would be necessary



# Senate Turnover

## **Defeated Incumbents**

Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) defeated by Hickenlooper

Doug Jones (D-Ala.) defeated by Tuberville

Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) defeated by Kelly

## **Did Not Seek Re-election in 2020**

Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) replaced by Hagerty

Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) replaced by Lummis

Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) replaced by Marshall

Tom Udall (D-N.M.) replaced by Lujan

## **Notable Reelections**

Susan Collins (R-Maine) defeated Gideon

Tom Thillis (R-N.C.) defeated Cunningham

Steve Daines (R-Mont.) defeated Bullock



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# Democratic Majority in House Narrows

- Democrats underperformed down ballot, with Republicans protecting incumbents and adding seats
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California will have less room to maneuver
  - Several centrist members added in the 2018 “Blue Wave” were defeated, flipping back to GOP control
  - More progressives have been elected and are expected to add additional pressure
- Tension could build ahead of 2022 midterm elections
  - The party in control of the White House historically has lost seats in midterms

# House Transportation Leadership



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Rep. DeFazio (D-OR),  
Chair



Rep. Graves (R-GA),  
Ranking Member





# Rail Subcommittee: Campaign for Gavel

- Several lawmakers are vying to succeed Chair Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
  - Albio Sires (NJ), John Garamendi (CA), Donald Payne (NJ), and Tom Malinowski (NJ) among others.
- Sam Graves (R-AR) likely to continue as ranking member



Sires



Garamendi



Payne



Malinowski

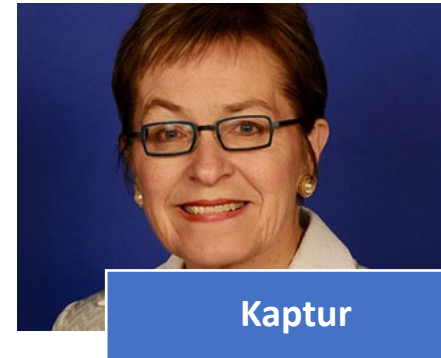


Graves



# Appropriations: Three-Way Campaign for Gavel

- Three lawmakers are vying to succeed retiring Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
  - Marcy Kaptur (Ohio), the next most senior Democrat on the panel, faces challenges from Rosa DeLauro (Conn.) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Fla.)
- Kay Granger (R-Texas) likely to continue as ranking member





# Mixed Results for Rail on the Ballot

## Key Wins for Rail Transit

- **Measure RR** passed by Bay Area voters in California, averting a fiscal crisis for Caltrain by creating a dedicated source of funding.
- Austinites overwhelmingly passed **Proposition A**, greenlighting a \$7 billion mass transit plan.

## Some Measures Defeated

- Multnomah County (Oregon) voters shot down the regional transportation plan **Measure 26-218** by a vote of 58-42.
- **Gwinnett County transit referendum** to add buses, BRT corridors, and extend a MARTA line lost by the slimmest of margins.



## Key Dates on the Legislative Calendar

- **This Week:** House leadership elections
- **Dec. 11:** Current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires
- **Dec. 14:** Electoral College delegations meet and vote
- **Jan. 3, 2021:** 117th Congress officially convenes (likely to shift to Monday, Jan. 4)
- **Jan. 5:** Georgia Senate runoff elections
- **Jan. 20:** Presidential inauguration
- ...
- **???:** COVID-19 supplemental funding bill
- ...
- **Sept. 30:** One-year extension of surface transportation law expires
- **Sept. 30:** Fiscal Year 2021 budget expires

# The Biden Administration + Infrastructure: What “Amtrak Joe” Means for Rail



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Anne Canby, Director  
OneRail Coalition

[www.OneRail.org](http://www.OneRail.org) | FB: @OneRailCoalition



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- What legislative opportunities will the Biden Administration have to advance its vision for passenger rail?
- How can advocates capitalize on President-Elect Biden's strong support for passenger rail to secure wins at the federal or state level?
- How can passengers leverage "Amtrak Joe" to increase public support for Amtrak?



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# Answering Your Questions

Jim Mathews, President & CEO

+

Sean Jeans-Gail, VP – Gov't Affairs

Rail Passengers Association

Anne Canby– Director

OneRail



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# Answering your questions

**Q: We know 'Amtrak Joe' can't do it all on his own. How does the makeup of the Congress hinder what we advocates are fighting for?**



# Answering your questions

**Q: How can we put pressure on the new administration to include more rural voices specifically for passenger rail?**

-Christopher



# Answering your questions

**Q: Any rumors going around as to who may end up being the Secretary of Transportation when former VP Joe Biden becomes President?**

-Barry



# Answering your questions

**Q: What are the key ways members can support the work of the Association through the transitional period?**



Thank You!

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**BIT.LY/RPAMERCH**



**Stand up + Stand Out**  
**Wear your support**