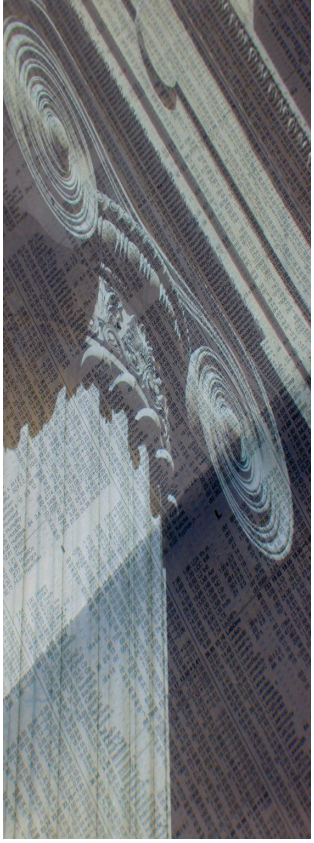


***CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS** (CFSO)*

2026 MIDTERM ELECTION BRIEF

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice on behalf of its member organizations on matters of mutual interest regarding forensic science, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is national, state, & local policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

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Forensic Science & the 120th Congress

01 | Election Results

The November 3, 2026, midterm election resulted in a historic shift in congressional control, with Democrats gaining majorities in both the House and the Senate. As of November 12th, Democrats have won 255 House seats to Republicans' 169, with 11 races still undecided. In the Senate, Democrats hold 55 seats to Republicans' 44, with 1 race yet to be called. The election also brought substantial congressional turnover, with at least 27 incumbent members being replaced across both chambers. These changes will have implications for the congressional committees that play an important role in the work of the forensic science community. Although committee assignments and leadership positions will not be finalized until February or March 2027, the election results provide an initial picture of the incoming Congress and the potential changes ahead for the forensic science community.

02 | Key Committee Changes

The lists below identify previously departing committee members and those replaced in the general election, along with the newly elected members replacing them. **Please note that victors do not automatically inherit their predecessors' committee assignments and that some races remained undecided at the time this review was written.**

House Judiciary Committee:

- **Departing Members**: Darrell Issa (CA), Thomas Massie (KY), Troy Nehls (TX), Harriet Hageman (WY), Wesley Hunt (TX), Thomas Tiffany (WI), Chip Roy (TX), Barry Moore (AL), Andy Biggs (AZ), Daniel Goldman (NY), Jerrold Nadler (NY), Jesus Garcia (IL), Jasmine Crockett (TX), Steve Cohen (TN)

- **Lost Reelection:**
  - Jeff Van Drew (NJ), replaced by Zack Mullock
  - Brad Knott (NC), replaced by Paul Barringer
  - Kevin Kiley (CA), replaced by Richard Pan

- **Races Not Yet Called:**
  - Michael Baumgartner (WA)

Senate Judiciary Committee:

- **Departing Members:** John Cornyn (TX), Richard Durbin (IL), Thomas Tillis (NC)

- **Lost Reelection:**
  - Darline Graham (SC), replaced by Dr. Annie Andrews

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

- **Departing Members:** Darrell Issa (CA), Mike Collins (GA), Haley Stevens (MI), Daniel Webster (F

- **Races Not Yet Called:**
  - Nick Begich (AK)
  - David Rouzer (NC)
  - Pat Harrigan (NC)

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation:

- **Departing Members**: Gary Peters (MI), Cynthia Lummis (WY)

- **Races Not Yet Called:**
    - Dan Sullivan (AK)

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions:

- **Departing Members**: Bill Cassidy (LA), Tommy Tuberville (AL), Alan Armstrong (OK)

- **Lost Reelection:**
    - Susan Collins (ME), replaced by Troy D. Jackson
    - Roger Marshall (KS), replaced by Adam Hamilton
    - Jon Husted (OH), replaced by Sherrod Brown

House Committee on Energy and Commerce:

- **Departing Members:** Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA), Neal Dunn (FL), Dan Crenshaw (TX), John James (MI), Diana DeGette (CO), Janice Schakowsky (IL), Marc Veasey (TX), Robin Kelly (IL)

- **Lost Reelection:**
    - Gabe Evans (CO), replaced by Manny Rutinel
    - Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA), replaced by Christina Bohannan
    - Thomas Kean (NJ), replaced by Rebecca Bennett
    - Richard Hudson (NC), replaced by Richard Ojeda

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies:

No Changes Identified

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies:

- **Departing Members:** Jeanne Shaheen (NH), Gary Peters (MI)

- **Lost Reelection:**
    - Susan Collins (ME), replaced by Troy D. Jackson
    - Darline Graham (SC), replaced by Dr. Annie Andrews

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies:

- **Departing Members**: Julia Letlow (LA), Chuck Edwards (NC), Steny Hoyer (MD), Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies:

- **Departing Members**: Richard Durbin (IL), Jeanne Shaheen (NH)

- **Lost Reelection:**
  - Jon Husted (OH), replaced by Sherrod Brown
  - Darline Graham (SC), replaced by Dr. Annie Andrews

- **Races Not Yet Called:**
  - Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)

03 | New Members with Medical and Scientific Backgrounds

U.S. Senate:

- Dr. Annie Andrews (SC) is a pediatrician
- Dr. Abdul El Sayed (MI) is an epidemiologist

U.S. House of Representatives:

- Dr. John Cowan (GA) is a neurosurgeon
- Dr. Adam Hamawy (NJ) is a plastic surgeon and former Army combat surgeon
- Dr. Richard Pan (CA) is a pediatrician
- Dr. Amish Shah (AZ) is an emergency medicine physician
- Dr. Jasmine Clark (GA) is a microbiologist
- Kristina Knickerbocker (OH) is an oncology nurse practitioner
- Manny Rutinel (CO) is a microbiologist
- Mitchell Berman (WI) is an emergency room nurse

04 | What Now?

With Democrats gaining control of both chambers, several current Democratic ranking members are expected to assume committee chair positions in the 120th Congress. However, these changes remain anticipated until committee leadership and subcommittee assignments are formally selected.

In the House, Jamie Raskin (MD) is expected to chair the Judiciary Committee, Zoe Lofgren (CA) the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and Frank Pallone (NJ) the Energy and Commerce Committee. Rosa DeLauro (CT) is expected to lead the House Appropriations Committee and its Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, while Grace Meng (NY) is positioned to chair the CJS Subcommittee.

In the Senate, Maria Cantwell (WA) is expected to chair the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and Bernie Sanders (VT) the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Patty Murray (WA) is positioned to lead the Senate Appropriations Committee, with Chris Van Hollen (MD) and Tammy Baldwin (WI) as potential chairs of the CJS and Labor-HHS-Education subcommittees. The departure of Ranking Member Dick Durbin (IL) also leaves an opening in Democratic leadership on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the Ranking is rumored to be Senator Lee (UT).

The 120th Congress will begin on January 3, 2027, and committee assignments and subcommittee leadership decisions are expected to follow in the months after. These decisions will clarify which members oversee federal programs and legislation relevant to forensic science. CFSO will continue to monitor these developments and their implications for the forensic science community.