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President Biden Gives Annual State of the Union Address

On Tuesday, February 7, President Joe Biden gave his **2023 State of the Union address** to Congress. It marked the first time he spoke to a Republican-led House of Representatives. In the speech, President Biden spoke to his record of success on the economy, infrastructure, veterans' health, and prescription drugs.

He also laid out his legislative goals for 2023, including asking Congress to pass bills:

- Modernizing “Made in America” standards for construction materials.
- Imposing a “billionaire minimum tax” to ensure billionaires pay the same effective tax rate as blue collar jobs.
- Quadrupling the tax on corporate stock buy-backs.
- Raising the debt limit without taking the economy “hostage”.
- Passing the Junk Fee Prevention Act which bans deceptive surprise fees in travel and communications contracts.
- Passing the PRO Act to allow for more workers to unionize.
- Passing the George Floyd Policing Reform Act to ban certain dangerous police tactics.
- Passing an assault weapons ban.
- Passing comprehensive immigration reform to protect the border and address domestic workforce needs.
- Restricting the data social media can collect on children.

President Biden also insisted that cuts to Medicare and Social Security not be part of the debt limit negotiations currently underway, a position Republicans in the audience agreed to by acclamation. Though President Biden was pushing a message of bipartisanship, the speech was interrupted many times by Republicans. Further, even with President Biden's advocacy, many of his legislative goals are almost certainly nonstarters in the Republican House.

Senate Committee Assignments Announced

Senate Democrats and Republicans have announced Committee assignments and a few Committees of importance to NCSSMA are included below. For the Democrats, there were no changes on the Finance Committee while at the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) is a new addition to the Committee. The Appropriations Committee added Senator Gary Peters (D-MI). Full lists are below. Republicans who are new additions to the respective Committees are bolded.

Senate Finance

Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)
Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)
Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
Sen. Margaret Hassan (D-NH)
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-ID)
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
Sen. John Thune (R-SD)
Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)
Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)
Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)
Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)
Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)
Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Senate Appropriations

Chair Patty Murray (D-WA)
Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)
Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME)
Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)
Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)
Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN)
Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)
Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)

Senate HELP

Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Sen. Margaret Hassan (D-NH)
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)
Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)
Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)
Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)

Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)
Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)
Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS)
Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT)
Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Leadership

Senate appropriators have reportedly finalized their lists of chairs and ranking members for the 118th Congress, although panel leaders have not yet formally announced the Subcommittee rosters as of this time. It is being reported that Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) will take over as chair of the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) will move from Homeland Security to become Ranking Member on Labor-HHS. The timeline for the official release of Subcommittee leadership and membership is still unclear.

House Committees Fill Subcommittee Slots

A number of House Committees also finalized their Committee and Subcommittee rosters. Of interest:

House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Social Security

Chair Drew Ferguson (R-GA)
Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH)
Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ)
Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS)
Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)
Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)
Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL)
Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN)

Ranking Member John Larson (D-CT)
Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY)
Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV)
Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI)

House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Work and Welfare (Worker & Family Support)

Chair Darin LaHood (R-IL)
Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)
Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH)
Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)
Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA)
Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)
Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)
Rep. Claudia Tenney R-(NY)

Ranking Member Danny Davis (D-IL)
Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)
Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)

House Appropriations Committee Labor-HHS Subcommittee

Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)
Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)
Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)
Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)
Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)
Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA)
Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS)
Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX)
Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)

Ranking Member Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)
Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA)

White House Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Expected In Early March

The Biden Administration has said the FY 2024 President's budget request will be sent to Congress on March 9. That is about a month later than the statutory deadline, which is the first Monday in February, though that target is often missed and there is no penalty for doing so. Given that the FY 2023 omnibus spending package didn't clear until December 23, the Biden Administration needed more time to provide updated comparisons to current spending in the FY 2024 budget request.

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