

**SPECIALIZED
US Senate**



JACKRABBIT MUN VI

L.B. POLY - MAY 25th, 2024

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HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Matthew Inui, and I am so excited to be one of your head chairs for the U.S. Senate room! I am currently a senior and the co-president of our Model UN club. I am also active in our school's UNICEF club, Japanese club, and chamber orchestra. When I'm not drowning in schoolwork, I can probably be found drowning in a book or a cup of coffee (if you have any book recommendations, I'd be happy to take any of them).

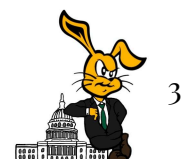
I cannot wait to see where your research takes you, especially with our open agenda committee. I encourage you to follow character policy and stay true to your political background but also consider that you are a member of the highest legislative body in the country. While it may not always seem this way, the job of a Senator involves balancing your political agenda with the needs of your constituents and the country as a whole. With that being said, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Sincerely,

Matthew Inui

U.S. Senate | Head Chair

matthewinui1@gmail.com



HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Sophie Nishikawa, and it's a pleasure to be serving as one of your head chairs for the US Senate room! I'm currently a sophomore, but I have participated in the Model UN program since freshman year. I also participate in a few other programs around school, such as Poly's UNICEF and FLA clubs, and the school's varsity tennis team. Whenever free time comes around, I love to bake, draw, read, and travel, usually with some kind of tea in hand.

It's going to be a fun and exciting time seeing where you guys end up taking this committee, and I personally can't wait to see what you come up with. I'm sure that all of you will bring some amazing debate to this room, and I'm quite excited to see how everyone balances their character along with their political background with the solutions that the U.S. needs. Make sure to have fun and enjoy yourselves, but if you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to email me or anyone on the dais with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sophie Nishikawa

U.S. Senate | Head Chair

sophiemnishikawa@icloud.com



VICE CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Alaina Castillo and I am honored to be your vice chair. I am currently a freshman and have been part of Poly's Model UN team since my 7th grade year! Debate, history, politics, writing, and critical thinking are all things I love to explore and luckily, in Model UN, there's a place for all of them. At Poly I am ASB's freshman vice president, a member of the cheer team, president of our Equity, Inclusion, & Change club, and president of Kamag-Aral (a Filipino culture club). Community is something I am passionate about and I believe that this room is a great place to learn and develop that. I cannot wait to see all of the amazing debate that is bound to happen in committee. Have fun researching, and if you have any questions please reach out to me or anyone on our dias.

Sincerely,

Alaina Castillo

US Senate | Vice Chair

lainyrcastillo@gmail.com



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

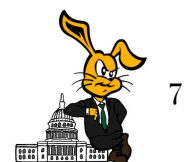
No position papers are required for the U.S. Senate Committee.

Please research your senator's policy and be prepared to speak on a variety of political topics. Please also come prepared with some topics you may be interested in proposing when we set the agenda.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Welcome, delegates, to the hallowed chambers of the United States Senate, where the echoes of history resonate with every deliberation and the weight of the nation's future rests on your shoulders. These distinguished halls have borne witness to some of the nation's most significant debates, but today, we stand at the epicenter of unprecedented political uncertainty. With the country facing issues ranging from immigration reform to drug price regulation, agricultural subsidies to international aid, the responsibility rests with the Senate to enact legislation that will affect the change our country needs. However, it is up to your discretion to prioritize these issues as you see fit. May your deliberations be marked by innovative thinking, respectful dialogue, and a shared commitment to the democratic values that bind us together. The eyes of history are upon you.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

In order to simulate the real United States Senate, the committee will have the following revisions to the Rules of Procedure.

Addressing Other Senators

All speeches must be addressed to the Presiding Officer, beginning with “Mr. President” or “Madam President.” While Senators typically refer to each other by state, for simplicity’s sake, delegates may address each other as “Senator *Last Name*.”

Setting the Agenda

As this is an open agenda committee, there is no preset topic. Delegates are free to motion to set the agenda to any topic, and the committee will vote. Research your senator’s policy and be prepared to speak on a wide variety of topics. Ideally, we will cover 2-3 topics over the course of the day.

Bills & Voting

Bills will be processed in the same way resolution papers are in normal General Assembly committees. The formatting of the bills will be explained on the day of the conference and a template will be provided, but they generally follow the same formatting as resolution papers. Bills are passed with a simple majority vote.

COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

Legislation

The primary function of the Senate is writing and passing legislation. Typically, a senator introduces a bill by presenting it to the appropriate committee. The bill is then debated, amended, and voted upon before being sent to the full Senate for another vote. If the bill passes, it moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration, and if approved by both chambers, it is sent to the President for signature or veto.

War-Related Powers

The Senate, along with the House of Representatives, is given the exclusive right to declare war on other countries, which is notably different from the president authorizing military force, which can be done without Congressional approval. Further, as stated by the Constitution, the Senate is responsible for providing, maintaining, and organizing military troops as well as granting letters of marque and reprisal.

Treaties

Although the president has the exclusive authority to make treaties with other countries, the Senate approves or rejects these treaties through a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. In addition, they are allowed to amend treaties and adopt any changes made to the treaty. However, the president can still legally form executive agreements with other nations, which is outside of Senate jurisdiction.

Nominations

The Senate may not nominate government officials, but they have the power to approve or reject a presidential nomination. These nominations include but are not limited to federal court judges, ambassadors, cabinet secretaries, and other public officials. Nominations are confirmed or rejected by a simple majority.

Censure & Expulsion

The US Constitution gives the Senate the right to both determine its procedure and discipline its own members through the use of censure and expulsion. Censure and expulsion are used on the premise of disorderly behavior from senators, but the former is only a reprimand, as opposed to expulsion, which removes a senator from office with a $\frac{2}{3}$ Senate vote.

Filibusters and Cloture

A long-standing Senate tradition is the filibuster, a generally multi-hour speech that is used to block debate or legislation. These speeches have no time limit, but the Senate can choose to end a filibuster with a $\frac{3}{5}$ majority vote. (Note: filibusters will not be entertained in committee at JackrabbitMUN).

Impeachment Trials

Congress is given the express power to impeach a government official. The role of the Senate in impeachments is to hold a trial and act as the jury and judge of the proceedings. Although, if the president is being impeached, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides as judge. If an official is found guilty, they may never again hold an elected office in the US. Notably, the Senate cannot bring charges against an

official, as that is the job of the House of Representatives, and cannot try an official without formal charges.

Limitations on Powers

As per Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution, there are many limitations put on Congress that are important to keep in mind. The Senate is not allowed to:

- Suspend habeas corpus (outside of rebellion or invasion)
- Lay a tax on state exports
- Make trade laws favoring one state over another
- Require taxes for interstate ship travel
- Spend money without the consent of Congress
- Grant or receive titles (nobility or otherwise)
- Pass any ex post facto law/bill of attainder
- Pass a head tax (unless it's proportional to the census).

However as stated in Article 1, Section 8, Congress, and by extension, the Senate are allowed to use all implied powers as necessary and proper for the function of explicit powers.



MODERN POLITICAL TOPICS

Defense/National Security

U.S. national security policy includes everything from nuclear proliferation to domestic terrorism. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea come up most frequently in defense policy discussions, but U.S. interests extend around the world and are at threat from a variety of national and subnational groups. In general, Democrats are more inclined to cuts in the U.S. defense budget, while Republicans generally support increases in the budget. More specifically, Democrats are more open to funding for and participation in international organizations such as NATO and the UN. Meanwhile, Republicans generally prefer stricter approaches toward the U.S.' enemies abroad and are more willing to utilize methods such as embargos, sanctions, and assassinations.

Energy and the Environment

The world is currently facing a global environmental crisis involving rapid changes in global temperatures and loss of biodiversity. Overall, American concerns for the health of the planet are growing, with 2/3 of the general public stating that the government is doing too little to address climate change. However, Democrats are generally more inclined toward climate action, with 85% citing it as a top issue for Congress to tackle. On the other hand, Republicans are much more split on the matter, some going so far as to deny climate change completely. In general, Republicans support policies that expand both fossil fuel and renewable energy, looking for a more balanced approach to energy policy. Very few cite climate change as one of the top priorities for the country.

Healthcare

Healthcare in America is a major issue, especially considering rising healthcare costs, with Americans holding over \$220 billion in medical debt. Democrats generally support the implementation of federal aid programs like the Affordable Care Act that benefit minority groups, whereas Republicans generally advocate for a market approach to private health insurance. Drug prices, especially for life-saving drugs such as insulin, are another significant issue, with both parties working to take on “Big Pharma,” but Democrats more inclined to pass price caps. Republicans blame other drug problems, such as the fentanyl and opioids crisis, on loose border policies while Democrats more often cite the mental health crisis.

Education

Education is an extremely contentious subject in American politics as major issues such as post-COVID learning, race-related curriculum, and book banning take center stage. Children in elementary school during the pandemic have suffered significantly in terms of education, with children in grades 3-8 having lost $\frac{1}{2}$ of a grade level in math and $\frac{1}{3}$ of a grade level in reading achievement. Furthermore, people are split on how subjects like slavery and race should be taught in school, which has resulted in measures such as book banning. In general, Democrats do not directly oppose the teaching of Critical Race Theory, LGBTQ themes, and sexual health. Republicans, on the other hand, generally support school choice and promoting private and charter schools as well as homeschooling. They also tend to advocate for greater parent input in what is taught regarding race, sexuality, and sexual health.

Economy

The economy has been a growing topic of concern over the past few years following the COVID-19 pandemic. The housing crisis, job market, and taxes continue to be popular points of contention. The pandemic made a great impact on the state of the economy, contributing to major job loss and inflation. Overall, the U.S. economy has seen better days but is slowly improving as citizens recover from debts made during the pandemic. In general, the Democratic party believes in funding public welfare programs, government involvement, and regulations, while the Republican party tends to support the funding of the military, subsidies, and commercial interests.

Immigration

Immigration has long been one of the most controversial and polarizing topics in American politics with contentious subtopics such as immigrant documentation and border security, especially with Mexico. This is especially prevalent as roughly 45.3 million U.S. adults are immigrants, and over 23 million have at least one immigrant parent. In general, Democrats push for some immigrant protections, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which allows immigrant children to be considered for stay in the US. Republicans generally believe in tightening border security and deporting immigrants who are illegally in the US.

Cybersecurity

As the technological age progresses, the importance of the internet in everyday life increases, as well as the importance of secure internet activity. Social media and the U.S. industrial, water, energy, and telecommunication networks are all important areas that have been targeted by hackers and require special security to ensure the

safety of America. In general, both political parties believe in strengthening U.S. cybersecurity, just in different ways. Democrats generally support CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Association), the largest cybersecurity organization in the U.S., while Republicans believe the organization to be an infringement upon the Constitutional right to free speech. However, both parties cite the Chinese-affiliated social media site TikTok as a potential threat to national security and have voted to ban it in the U.S. if it is not sold to an American company.

Homelessness and the Housing Crisis

The rise of unhoused persons and people unable to find adequate housing has increased dramatically over the years. Several factors contributed to this crisis, including the increased cost of living, the Great Recession of 2008, the COVID-19 pandemic, high-interest rates combined with low inventory, increased rent, and even a lack of mental health services. In general, Democrats favor increasing the federal minimum wage to help ease financial burdens caused by the increased cost of living while Republicans oppose this, usually advocating for more modest increases.

Gun Regulation

With an increase in violence and specifically gun-related deaths in recent years, gun regulation has been a contentious topic in U.S. politics. “The right to bear arms” is protected under the Second Amendment of the Constitution, a fact often pointed out by Republicans who generally seek to protect gun rights. Democrats, on the other hand, often urge for stricter gun regulations such as banning assault-style weapons. However, both parties often agree on basic precautions such as universal background checks or preventing people with mental illness from purchasing guns.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What policies do you focus on through your legislation?
- How has your party previously tackled issues related to these topics?
- What policies have you or other members of your party created? How has this differed from policies by members of the opposing party?
- What has impacted you or your party's political stances?
- Where can you find consensus across the aisle?
- Which committees is your senator on, and how will that affect their policymaking and influence?

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Republican Caucus

Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Senator Marsha Blackburn has been the senior senator from Tennessee since 2018. One of the most conservative Republicans in the Senate, Sen. Blackburn has consistently pushed for a smaller, more efficient federal government. As a former business owner, she has prioritized reducing federal regulation of small businesses and creating a flatter, simpler tax code. She has also worked to limit the federal government's role in education and agriculture. Another of Sen. Blackburn's priorities is border security, having opposed the spread of sanctuary cities and supported the border wall. Meanwhile, she has worked to invest in technological development, especially as it pertains to national defense, and to protect consumers' online data.

Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Senator Bill Cassidy has been the senior senator from Louisiana since 2015 and is currently the Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Formerly a gastroenterologist, Sen. Cassidy has worked to reform the healthcare system, addressing problems such as mental health and the cost of prescription drugs, but has also sponsored infrastructure, disaster response, and border bills. He is a proponent of school choice for parents, specifically expanding public school alternatives, and favors a balanced energy approach, prioritizing domestic energy production and U.S. jobs in the energy sector. He is also focused on preserving Second Amendment rights and providing for active service members and veterans.



Susan Collins (R-ME)

Senator Susan Collins has been the senior senator from Maine since 1997 and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. A moderate Republican often ranked the most bipartisan senator, Sen. Collins has repeatedly reached across the aisle to pass healthcare reform, education policy, defense legislation, and more, focusing on reaching rural communities. She is one of the most progressive Senators when it comes to climate policy, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy prices, and has pushed for healthcare investments, specifically biomedical research on Alzheimer's and diabetes. She has also worked to expand the capabilities of first responders and invest in transportation infrastructure.

John Cornyn (R-TX)

Senator John Cornyn has been the senior senator from Texas since 2002 and currently serves as the Republican Whip (the second-highest position in the Senate Republican Conference). A staunch Republican, Sen. Cornyn has focused on addressing the right to bear arms, government transparency, and healthcare reform. He supports increasing private medical coverage options while limiting government options like Obamacare. He also seeks to increase agricultural exports and supports environmental policies that expand both renewable and non-renewable energy sources while limiting federal regulation. Formerly the Texas Attorney General, Sen. Cornyn supports policies that support local law enforcement officers and considers securing the southern border a top priority.

Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Senator Ted Cruz has served as the junior senator from Texas since 2013 and currently serves as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. A favorite of the far-right Tea Party Movement and one of two senators to join the Tea Party Caucus, Sen. Cruz is often described as an “anti-establishment Republican” with libertarian tendencies. He is a fierce advocate for First and Second Amendment rights and has continuously supported school choice. He has fought to protect Texas’ oil industry and seeks to expand economic opportunity by reducing small business regulation, balancing the national budget, and reforming the tax system. He also considers national security a top priority, previously introducing legislation to build a border wall and support CBP and ICE agents while taking an aggressive stance toward U.S. adversaries abroad.

Joni Ernst (R-IA)

Senator Joni Ernst has served as the junior senator from Iowa since 2015 and currently serves as the Republican Policy Committee Chairman as well as the ranking member of the Small Business Committee. Coming from a major agricultural state, Sen. Ernst has been a leader in agricultural policy, working to open carbon markets to farmers and expand use of biofuels. She has also worked to shrink the role of the federal government, limiting federal regulation of waterways and education. Instead, she has pushed for greater transparency in higher education as well as more opportunities for trade and technical training. She believes in a market solution to healthcare issues and has worked to close loopholes and increase rural access to healthcare through telehealth and expanding opportunities for international doctors.

Lindsey Graham (R-SC)



Senator Lindsey Graham has served as the senior senator from South Carolina since 2003 and is currently the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. While many far-right groups label Sen. Graham a “moderate Republican,” he refers to himself as a “Reagan-style Republican” and has called for a more “inclusive Republican Party.” A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Sen. Graham has focused on defense and foreign policy, favoring a more interventionist approach to countries like Iran and Afghanistan. He supports conservative economic policies such as a flat income tax rate and is a proponent of less federal action on topics such as education, but consistently reaches across the aisle to work with Democrats on climate and immigration policy.

Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

Senator Chuck Grassley has been the senior senator from Iowa since 1981—making him the longest-serving Republican in Congressional history and the most senior member of the Senate—and he currently serves as the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee. Coming from a major agricultural state and a former farmer himself, Sen. Grassley has pushed for caps on agricultural subsidies and antitrust action against agribusiness monopolies. He is also especially concerned with accountability and government transparency, leading several federal investigations and often labeled “the patron saint of whistleblowers.” A consistent Republican, Sen. Grassley pushes for traditionally conservative policies like securing the southern border and opposing gun legislation but often works bipartisanly on antitrust and climate-related policies. While a critic of the Environmental Protection Agency’s regulation of farmers specifically, Sen. Grassley has also been an advocate for renewable energy, specifically biofuels and wind power.

John Kennedy (R-LA)

Senator John Kennedy has served as the junior senator from Louisiana since 2017. A consistent Republican, Sen. Kennedy has pushed for less federal involvement in sectors such as education and healthcare, advocating for replacing Obamacare with a free-market health insurance system. He is also focused on expanding economic opportunities for small businesses, working to cut federal regulatory red tape and expand tax benefits for small business owners. Representing one of the most flood-prone states, Sen. Kennedy is a consistent advocate for expanding flood insurance programs and funding flood recovery programs while supporting coastal conservation projects. He is also a consistent advocate for border security, supporting efforts to build the border wall, and often criticizes liberal policies that he interprets as “soft on crime.”

Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Senator Lisa Murkowski has served as the senior senator from Alaska since 2002. Sen. Murkowski is often described as one of the most moderate Senate Republicans and is consistently ranked as one of the most bipartisan senators. She has focused primarily on Alaskan concerns, working to support indigenous communities, maintain funding for fisheries and the Coast Guard, and protect energy and mineral resources. She is also considered a leader in Arctic policy, working to raise awareness about the environmental, economic, and military importance of the region. While she pushes for conservative policies such as protecting gun rights, balancing the budget, and decreasing the federal role in education, she also works bipartisanly to address topics such as addiction and infrastructure investment.

Mitch McConnell (R-KY)



Senator Mitch McConnell has been the senior senator from Kentucky since 2018 and serves as the current Senate Minority Leader. The longest-serving Senate party leader from either party, he announced that he would step down from party leadership in January 2025. Over the years, he has continually pushed against Democrat legislation, including healthcare legislation, gun control measures, and climate change regulations. He is also known as a fierce opponent of campaign finance reform and campaign spending limits. Instead, he has pushed for stricter border security measures, free trade agreements, and general reductions in taxes. He does not believe that climate change is a legitimate political concern (and was one of the biggest supporters of the controversial Keystone oil pipeline in 2014), and consistently has pushed for a balanced budget amendment.

Rand Paul (R-KY)

Senator Rand Paul has served as the junior senator from Kentucky since 2011 and is the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee. Though often described as a libertarian, a title he has both accepted and rejected, Sen. Paul instead describes himself as a constitutional conservative and Tea Party supporter. He supports cutting all regulatory red tape in the domestic energy sector, decreasing the authority of the Department of Education, and expanding the right to privacy against government oversight. He also supports a balanced budget amendment and supports widespread decreases in taxes, even beyond most Republicans. However, Sen. Paul's ideas on justice often align more with Democrats, and he often reaches across the aisle to pass legislation expanding police accountability, decreasing penalties for non-violent crimes, and addressing inequities in the criminal justice system.

Mitt Romney (R-UT)

Senator Mitt Romney has served as the junior senator from Utah since 2019. One of the more moderate Republican senators, Sen. Romney has reached across the aisle to negotiate critical infrastructure investments, COVID-19 relief, and judicial appointments. He is an outspoken critic of China, seeking to combat its economic, geopolitical, and cybersecurity threats, and is a proponent of strengthening border security laws. He also believes that the future of climate policy is in carbon-capture technology and private-sector innovation and has sought to make agriculture more sustainable, but he also recognizes the role fossil fuels will continue to play in U.S. energy. Coming from a state with a significant indigenous population, Sen. Romney has also been an advocate for indigenous rights, working to return public land to local communities and supporting conservation efforts.

Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Senator Marco Rubio has been the senior senator from Florida since 2011 and is the Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence. One of the most conservative members of the Senate, Sen. Rubio has pushed for stricter international and defense policy, working to reduce reliance on China, domesticate industries, and expand sanctions on Iran, Russia, and North Korea. He also supports standard conservative economic and social policies such as a balanced budget, greater defense spending, dissolving the Department of Education, and repealing Obamacare. However, Sen. Rubio is also well regarded for his bipartisanship, recently going against his party to double the Child Tax Credit during the COVID-19 pandemic and previously engaging in bipartisan discussions on immigration policy.

Tim Scott (R-SC)

Senator Tim Scott has been the junior senator from South Carolina since 2013 and currently serves as the ranking member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. Through his creation of the Opportunity Zones initiative, Sen. Scott has pushed for investment in low-income areas, including quality education, innovation, and criminal justice reform. He supports investing in secondary education, expanding college attainment, job training, and financial literacy resources in schools, and has worked to connect underserved communities to banking services. He has also worked to increase accountability in police departments and has led several commissions in investigating challenges facing specifically people of color.

Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)

Senator Tommy Tuberville has been the senior senator from Alabama since 2021. A solid conservative, Senator Tuberville has been a leader in national security discussions, advocating for greater defense spending with a focus on small defense contractors. He has also worked against sanctuary cities and pushed for more accessible healthcare for veterans. Sen. Tuberville believes in lowering taxes, specifically in agriculture, and has consistently pushed to decrease the Internal Revenue Service's oversight abilities. He has also introduced legislation to expand school choice and introduce mental health literacy programs into general education curriculums.

Democratic Caucus

Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

Senator Richard Blumenthal has been the senior senator from Connecticut since 2011. He has focused on consumer protection, holding corporations accountable

and keeping consumers safe from scams and fraud as well as investigating Big Tech for misuse of personal user data. In this vein, he has also supported expanding affordable housing, securing collective bargaining rights, and regulating for-profit higher education institutions. A consistent Democrat, Sen. Blumenthal supports increased regulation of gun sales and the gun lobby as well as protecting the Affordable Care Act and expanding universal health care policies. He has also worked to expand the visa and green card program, increase funding for transportation projects, and focus Department of Veteran Affairs efforts on females and minorities.

Corey Booker (D-NJ)

Senator Corey Booker has been the junior senator from New Jersey since 2013. One of the more liberal members of the Senate, Sen. Booker has supported traditional progressive policies such as affirmative action, Medicare-for-All, and cap and trade taxation to combat climate change. He has specifically focused on criminal justice reform and mass incarceration, working to address abusive labor practices in correctional facilities and combat workplace discrimination. He has also worked to increase wages and expand tax credits while cracking down on predatory corporate and real estate practices. In foreign policy, Sen. Booker has one of the most vocal voices in the Senate in support of humanitarian efforts and addressing human rights abuses abroad.

Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

Senator Maria Cantwell has served as the junior senator from Washington since 2000 and currently serves as the chair of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Sen. Cantwell has been a leader in renewable energy research and

implementation, working towards energy independence and clean energy tax incentives. She has also pushed to expand consumer protection, combat predatory Wall Street practices, and invest in STEM education and job training. She believes in a more humane approach to immigration, expanding opportunities for asylum seekers and improving conditions in detention facilities, and has led efforts to equip law enforcement officers with the resources to address gang violence and the drug crisis.

Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Senator Dick Durbin has been the senior senator from Illinois since 1997 and currently serves as the Democratic Whip, the second highest position in the Senate Democratic leadership. As the chair of the Judiciary Committee. Sen. Durbin has led the charge on strengthening gun control measures, protecting the Dream Act, and addressing predatory payday lending practices. Consistently rated one of the most liberal Senators, Sen. Durbin has consistently been one of the foremost voices for liberal policies like free child care, more affordable post-secondary education, and raising the minimum wage. He is a major proponent of climate investments, specifically in electric vehicles and biofuels, and has pushed for greater involvement in international organizations, especially through humanitarian support.

Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

Senator Mazie Hirono has been the junior senator from Hawaii since 2013. Coming from a Pacific island state, Sen. Hirono has consistently pushed for investment in Asia-Pacific relations. She has also worked to provide adequate education, training,

and equipment for both active service members and veterans while supporting the right of LGBTQ individuals to enlist in the Armed Services. She is a major proponent of public schools, working to maintain funding for the public school system, and has consistently fought against Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act while supporting movement toward a single-payer medical insurance system. She has also supported traditional liberal gun measures, such as universal background checks and banning high-capacity magazines.

Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Senator Amy Klobuchar has been the senior senator from Minnesota since 2007 and currently serves as the chairwoman of the Democratic Steering and Rules Committees. A self-proclaimed “modern liberal,” Sen. Klobuchar supports liberal policies such as the Affordable Care Act and the Dream Act and pushes for increased efforts to move away from fossil fuels. She has been a major proponent of consumer protection, working to expand federal regulation and improve U.S. cybersecurity, and has worked bipartisanly to enforce antitrust laws and combat predatory corporate practices. She has also been a leader in expanding government ethics laws and worked to reform campaign laws, strengthen election security, and increase voter registration. Sen. Klobuchar has a liberal approach to immigration, working to expand asylum opportunities, support immigrant-owned businesses, and support immigrant children through social work and adoption services.

Joe Manchin (D-WV)

Senator Joe Manchin has been the senior Senator from West Virginia since 2010 and is the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has prioritized job creation and infrastructure, working to expand broadband access in

rural areas and invest in job-search services, and has pushed for more action providing for homeless students. However, one of the most moderate Democrats and elected in a generally Republican state, Sen. Manchin prioritizes bipartisanship and often reaches across the aisle for legislation. In terms of energy, Sen. Manchin supports the more conservative balanced energy plan that invests in renewable energy and carbon capture technology but recognizes the short-term importance of fossil fuels.

Patty Murray (D-WA)

Senator Patty Murray has been the senior Senator from Washington since 1993 and is currently the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the second highest position besides the Vice President, and the chair of the Senate Budget Committee. Sen. Murray has championed progressive investments in family life, pushing for paid leave and child care, rental assistance programs, and stronger collective bargaining rights. A former teacher and school board member, Sen. Murray has also focused on education, working to make education more accessible through debt reduction and elimination. Environmental preservation and investment in fisheries have been a priority for Sen. Murray, as well as reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs and supporting veterans' needs, especially female veterans. She also believes that there should be a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

Jon Ossoff (D-GA)

Senator Jon Ossoff has served as the senior senator from Georgia since 2021. Much of Sen. Ossoff's work has focused on providing for veterans, expanding mental healthcare services, and investigating discrimination against military families in

private housing. He has also focused on social justice in U.S. prisons, working to address mistreatment of female inmates in federal prisons and expose corruption. However, Sen. Ossoff has also looked toward more local issues, working to expand broadband and flood readiness in Georgia. He has also done work on healthcare issues, working to address the opioid epidemic, limit the price of insulin, and protect children's online privacy.

Alex Padilla (D-CA)

Senator Alex Padilla has been the senior Senator from California since 2021 when he was appointed to the position after then-Senator Kamala Harris was elected Vice President. Entering the Senate during the Covid-19 pandemic, Sen. Padilla's priority has been providing pandemic relief. However, Sen. Padilla has also led the charge on immigration reform, working to provide a pathway to citizenship for immigrant workers and Dreamers. His stances on the environment are more radical, co-sponsoring the "Green New Deal" and introducing legislation to improve flood and fire response. He has also prioritized accessible education, pushing for student loan debt cancellation, providing for students' basic needs, and investing in STEM education. He believes that the U.S. should lead internationally by example, pushing for legislation that expands voting access, secures elections, and strengthens democracy.

Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Senator Bernie Sanders has been the senior Senator from Vermont since 2007 and identifies as an independent but caucuses with the Democratic Party. A self-described "democratic socialist" and current chair of the Health, Education, Labor

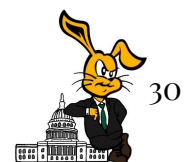
and Pensions Committee, he has pushed for more extreme liberal policies such as universal single-payer healthcare, paid family leave, and tuition-free college, among other tax-funded social programs. He supports increasing taxes on the rich and stricter regulation of corporations and Wall Street financial institutions. Sen. Sanders has supported greater environmental legislation, supporting the Green New Deal and pushing for a transition away from nuclear energy. He also has pushed for ending “endless wars” and transitioning money from the defense budget to infrastructure and job development.

Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Senator Chuck Schumer has been the senior Senator from New York since 1999 and is currently the Senate Majority Leader, the highest position in the Senate Democratic Caucus. In this position, he has led some of Biden’s most important legislation, including the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. However, Sen. Schumer also prides himself on focusing on local issues, pushing for action to make college tuition tax-deductible, lower the price of prescription medication, and take action against gun violence, domestic violence, and hate crimes. Sen. Schumer has also been a champion of consumer protection, working to make the private financial and manufacturing industries more transparent.

Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ)

Senator Kyrsten Sinema has been the senior senator from Arizona since 2019, and though formerly a member of the Democratic Party, she switched her party affiliation to independent in 2022, saying she’s “never really fit into a box of any



political party.” Consistently ranked one of the most bi-partisan senators, Sen. Sinema often reaches across the aisle to work on her legislative priorities, including national security measures, cutting regulatory red tape, and reforming the Veterans Administration. She has led the charge on cutting off U.S. funding for terrorist states abroad and pushed to increase pay for military and law enforcement officers. Sen. Sinema has also worked to make healthcare more affordable and expand rural job opportunities. However, Sen. Sinema’s bipartisanship often means she provides the tie-breaking vote in a 50-50 split Senate.

Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

Senator Debbie Stabenow has been the senior senator from Michigan since 2001 and is currently the Chairwoman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. In this position, she has prioritized nature preservation (focusing on the Great Lakes region), reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring that everyone has access to clean air and water. She has also been a leader in farm policy, working to create a safety net for farmers, invest in local farmers, and provide support to farmers looking to enter the industry. Sen. Stabenow has focused on health policy, helping author the historic Affordable Care Act and leading in improving access to health and mental health services for children and veterans. She believes that investing in education and job-skills training as well as domesticating industries to expand the job economy.

Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Senator Elizabeth Warren has been the senior senator from Massachusetts since 2013. One of the leading voices on economic policy, she has led the charge in holding corporations accountable, expanding government services, and rebuilding the middle

class. She has been one of the foremost voices for ending corporate lobbying and seeks to hold corporations accountable by expanding collective bargaining rights and extending criminal liability to corporate leadership. She has also pushed for investments in housing to end housing discrimination and debt relief and infrastructure investment for Puerto Rico. One of the more progressive voices in the Senate, Sen. Warren believes in taxing the rich to fund liberal policies such as universal child care, student debt relief, and climate investments in the Green New Deal.

Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse has been the junior senator from Rhode Island since 2007 and is currently the chair of the Senate Budget Committee. Sen. Whitehouse is considered a leader in climate policy, especially as it pertains to protecting the oceans, and has pushed for a faster transition towards renewables and accountability in the fossil fuel industry. He has also led the charge in exposing government corruption and establishing ethics guidelines for the Supreme Court. He has worked towards wage increases and believes that quality education and healthcare should be accessible to everyone.

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