

**RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - 113TH CONGRESS**

Rule 1 — Application of Rules

Except where the terms “full committee” and “subcommittee” are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its subcommittees as well as to the respective chairs and ranking minority members.

Rule 2 — Meetings

The regular meetings of the full committee shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., when the House is in session. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the committee pursuant to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(c)(2). Subcommittees shall meet at the call of the subcommittee chairs. Every member of the committee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days before each meeting or hearing explaining: (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The ranking minority member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request.

Rule 3 — Quorums

(a) A majority of the members of the committee shall form a quorum, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of

the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which the presence of a majority of the committee is otherwise required. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(b) The chairman of the full committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair, make a temporary assignment of any member of the full committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, DC. Members appointed to such temporary positions shall not be voting members. The chairman shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the ranking minority members of the committee.

Rule 4 — Committee Reports

(a) Bills and resolutions approved by the full committee shall be reported by the chairman pursuant to House Rule XIII, clauses 2- 4.

(b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall not be considered in the committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in the committee. If hearings have been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearings printed and available to the members of the committee before the consideration of the proposed report in the committee.

(c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such a report

a member of the committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, or additional views that member shall be entitled to file such views following House Rule XI, clause 2(l) and Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1).

(d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Rule 5 — Record Votes

(a) A record vote of the members may be had upon the request of any member upon approval of a one-fifth vote of the members present.

(b) Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2 (h)(4), the chairman is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment and to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed. After consultation with the ranking minority member, the chairman shall take reasonable steps to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

Rule 6 — Subcommittees; Referrals

(a) There shall be five standing subcommittees with appropriate party ratios. The chairman shall assign members to the subcommittees. Minority party assignments shall

be made only with the concurrence of the ranking minority member. The subcommittees shall have the following fixed jurisdictions:

(1) The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census – Legislative jurisdiction over the federal civil service, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Census Bureau;

(2) The Subcommittee on Government Operations – Legislative jurisdiction over government management and accounting measures, the economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities, procurement, federal property, public information, including the Freedom of Information Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act, federal records (including the National Archives and Records Administration and the Presidential Records Act) federal information technology and data standards, grant reform, the relationship between the federal government and states and municipalities, including unfunded mandates;

(3) The Subcommittee on National Security – Oversight jurisdiction over national security, homeland security, foreign operations, immigration, emergency management, and criminal justice. The Subcommittee also has legislative jurisdiction over drug policy;

(4) The Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs – Oversight jurisdiction over regulatory affairs, impediments to economic growth and job creation, monetary policy, banking, infrastructure, and tax policy. The Subcommittee also has legislative jurisdiction over federal paperwork reduction, data quality, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs; and

(5) The Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements – Oversight jurisdiction over federal health care policy, food and drug safety, energy policy, solvency of federal entitlement programs.

(b) Bills, resolutions, and other matters shall be expeditiously referred by the chairman to subcommittees for consideration or investigation in accordance with their fixed jurisdictions.

Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdiction, the chairman shall refer the matter as he may deem advisable. Bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to subcommittees may be re-referred or discharged by the chairman when, in his judgment, the subcommittee is not able to complete its work or cannot reach agreement therein.

(c) The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be ex officio members of all subcommittees. They are authorized to vote on subcommittee matters; but, unless they are regular members of the subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

Rule 7 — Subcommittee Scheduling

(a) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

(b) No subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the full committee.

(c) The chair of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the full committee chairman with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee meetings or hearings.

(d) Each subcommittee chair shall notify the chairman of any hearing plans at least two weeks before the date of commencement of the hearings, including the date, place, subject matter, and the names of witnesses, willing and unwilling, who would be called to testify, including, to the extent the chair is advised thereof, witnesses whom the minority members may request.

Rule 8 — Staff

(a) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the chairman of the full committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional and clerical staff of the committee.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the staff of the committee shall be subject to the direction of the chairman of the full committee and shall perform such duties as he or she may assign.

Rule 9 — Hearings

(a) A committee member may question witnesses only when recognized by the chairman for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(j)(2), the five-minute rule shall apply during the questioning of witnesses in a hearing. The chairman shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing. After that, additional time may be extended at the direction of the chairman.

(b) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee by motion, may permit an equal number of majority and minority members to

question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(c) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee by motion, may permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(d) Nothing in paragraph (b) or (c) affects the rights of a member (other than a member designated under paragraph (b)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with paragraph (a) after the questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c). In any extended questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c), the chairman shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or majority committee staff, and the ranking minority member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by minority members or minority committee staff. The chairman or the ranking minority member, as applicable, may allocate the time for any extended questioning permitted to staff under paragraph (c) to members.

(e) Hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, clause 2(k). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the Committee for consideration, and the chairman shall rule on the relevance of any questions put to the witnesses.

(f) Witnesses appearing before the committee shall so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 24 hours before their appearance. Witnesses appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency

and program) of each federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years, by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(g) The chairman or any member designated by the chairman may administer oaths to any witness before the committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the Chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: ``Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?''.

Rule 10 – Committee Records, Open Meetings, Transparency

(a) The committee staff shall maintain in the committee offices a complete record of committee actions from the current Congress including a record of the roll call votes taken at committee business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall be available for public inspection whenever the committee offices are open for public business. The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alteration, additions, or defacement.

(b) A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

(c) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(d) The chairman of the full committee shall maintain an official website on behalf of the committee for the purpose of furthering the committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to

committee members and other members of the House. To the greatest extent practicable, the chairman shall ensure that committee records are made available on the committee's official website in appropriate formats.

(e) The ranking minority member of the full committee is authorized to maintain a similar official website on behalf of the committee minority for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to committee members and other members of the House.

Rule 11 — Audio and Visual Coverage of Committee Proceedings

(a) An open meeting or hearing of the committee may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast, and still photography, unless closed subject to the provisions of House Rules. Any such coverage shall conform to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 4.

(b) Use of the Committee Broadcast System shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4(b), and all other applicable rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Members of the committee shall have prompt access to a copy of coverage by the Committee Broadcast System, to the extent that such coverage is maintained.

(c) Personnel providing coverage of an open meeting or hearing of the committee by internet broadcast, other than through the Committee Broadcast System shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries. If the Committee Broadcast System is not available, the chairman may, with the concurrence of the ranking minority

member, direct staff to provide coverage in a manner that is fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4.

Rule 12 — Additional Duties of Chairman

The chairman of the full committee shall:

(a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the committee as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2);

(b) Direct such review and studies on the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the committee's jurisdiction as required by House Rule X, clause 2(c);

(c) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule X, clause 4(f), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

(d) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the Committee;

(e) Prepare, after consultation with the ranking minority member, a budget for the Committee;

(f) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the committee upon unanimous consent; and

(g) Offer motions under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House (motion to request or agree to a conference) whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.

Rule 13 — Consideration of Certain Bills and Resolutions

(a) The determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues is properly for consideration by the Postmaster General and the committee will not give consideration to legislative proposals specifying the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues. It is suggested that recommendations for the subject matter of stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

(b) The consideration of bills designating facilities of the United States Postal Service shall be conducted so as to minimize the time spent on such matters by the committee and the House of Representatives.

(c) The Chairman shall not request to have scheduled any resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules, which expresses appreciation, commends, congratulates, celebrates, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event, group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a period of time for such purposes.

Rule 14 — Panels and Task Forces

(a) The chairman of the full committee is authorized to appoint panels or task forces to carry out the duties and functions of the committee.

(b) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee may serve as ex-officio members of each panel or task force.

(c) The chairman of any panel or task force shall be appointed by the chairman of the full committee. The ranking minority member of the full committee shall select a ranking minority member for each panel or task force.

(d) The House and committee rules applicable to subcommittee meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports shall apply to the meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports of panels and task forces.

(e) No panel or task force so appointed shall continue in existence for more than six months. A panel or task force so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the chairman.

Rule 15 — Deposition Authority

(a) The chairman of the full committee, upon consultation with the ranking minority member of the full committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena.

(b) Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination (if other than within the committee offices). Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths.

(c) Consultation with the ranking minority member shall include three business days notice before any deposition is taken. All members shall also receive three business days notice that a deposition has been scheduled.

(d) Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights. No one may be present at depositions except members, committee staff designated by the chairman or ranking minority member of the full committee, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness's counsel. Observers or counsel for other persons, or for agencies under investigation, may not attend.

(e) At least one member of the committee shall be present at each deposition taken by the committee, unless the witness to be deposed agrees in writing to waive this requirement.

(f) A deposition shall be conducted by any member or staff attorney designated by the chairman or ranking minority member. When depositions are conducted by committee staff attorneys, there shall be no more than two committee staff attorneys permitted to question a witness per round. One of the committee staff attorneys shall be designated by the chairman and the other by the ranking minority member. Other committee staff members designated by the chairman or ranking minority member may attend, but may not pose questions to the witness.

(g) Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the majority and minority. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the members or staff attorneys conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each round, a member or committee staff attorney designated by the chairman shall ask questions first, and the member or committee staff attorney designated by the ranking minority member shall ask questions second.

(h) Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has objected and refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, the full committee chairman may rule on any such objection after the deposition has adjourned. If the chairman overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the clerk of the committee and shall be provided to the members and the witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. If a member of the committee appeals in writing the ruling of the chairman, the appeal shall be preserved for committee consideration. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chairman in writing may be subject to

sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chairman is reversed on appeal.

(i) Committee staff shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days thereafter, the witness may submit suggested changes to the chairman. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes.. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

(j) The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the clerk of the Committee in Washington, DC. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use. The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time.

(k) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee shall consult regarding the release of depositions. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the full committee for resolution.

(1) A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of the committee's rules.