



NOWRA's Federal Advocacy



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Constitutional Right to Advocate



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

How Can Advocacy Help?

- Interact with industry allies & decision makers
- Build and strengthen relationships with congressional allies & federal agencies
- Secure more federal funding for onsite wastewater treatment
- Prevent federal policies from negatively impacting NOWRA members



Accomplishments So Far

- ✓ Built credibility for NOWRA and established Washington presence
- ✓ Strengthened relationships with allied organizations
- ✓ Created the Congressional Decentralized Wastewater Recycling Caucus



Accomplishments So Far

- ✓ Secured EPA's support for Census Bureau to add residential wastewater question to the American Communities Survey to provide critical data
- ✓ Enacted provisions of the NOWRA Act
 - Directs EPA to create an onsite technical assistance website
 - Directs EPA to report the amount of CWSRF funding provided to deploy onsite systems and identify barriers to that deployment
- ✓ Expanded USDA's Household Water Well Systems Grant Program to include decentralized systems for first time and increased funding for this program 5-fold

Current Activities

- Support legislation to create Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program
 - ❖ Current language in bipartisan infrastructure package would authorize \$250 million for decentralized grants in FY 2022-2026
- Expand USDA's Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program
 - ❖ Annual appropriations
 - ❖ Budget reconciliation package



Executive Branch Activities

- Building relationships with new Biden Administration and career staff
- Laying groundwork with EPA to implement Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program
- Advocating for additional funding opportunities



2022 — Looking Ahead

- Growing deficits will make funding increases more difficult
- Environmental justice becoming larger issue
- COVID-19 and other unknowns
- Midterm elections



Balance of Power



Congress in the Balance

117th Congress House Lineup

212

Republicans

0

Other

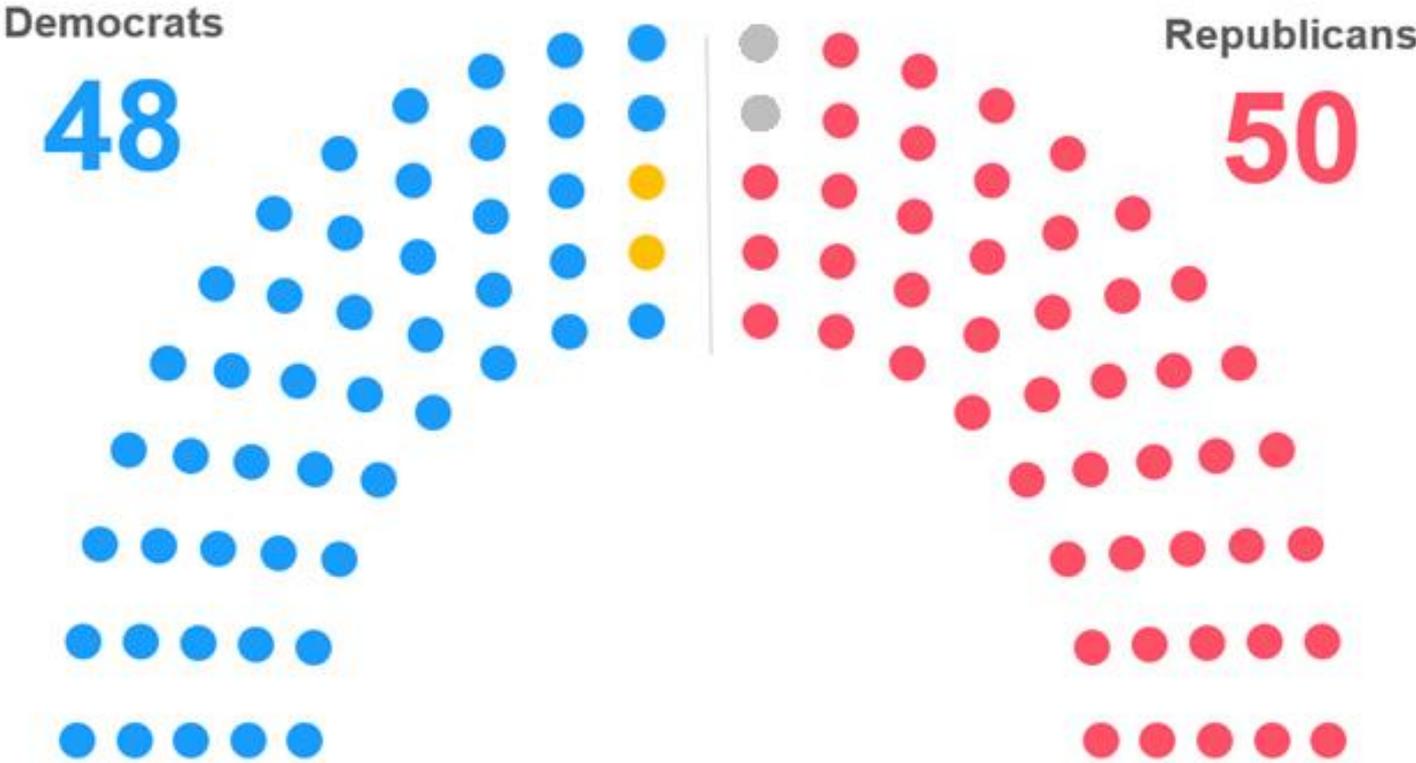
220

Democrats

3*

Vacancies *

Senate Makeup



Senate Races to Watch

Republicans Defending:

- ❖ NC—Sen. Richard Burr is Retiring
- ❖ PA— Sen. Pat Toomey is Retiring
- ❖ WI—Sen. Ron Johnson
- ❖ FL—Sen. Marco Rubio

Democrats Defending:

- ❖ NV—Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto
- ❖ NH—Sen. Maggie Hassan
- ❖ AZ—Sen. Mark Kelly
- ❖ GA—Sen. Raphael Warnock



2022 Congressional Activities

- Secure funding for EPA's new Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program
- Increase funding for USDA's Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program
- Be positioned to take advantage of legislative opportunities including through environmental justice
- Increase outreach and cultivate new allies
- Grow the Caucus

2022 Administration Activities

- Establish relationships with new players
- Advocate for additional funding for our critical programs
- Ensure decentralized systems have a role in environmental justice efforts



What Can You Do?

- Ask your Member of Congress to join the Caucus
- Write or call your Member of Congress/Senator to urge their support for decentralized wastewater programs
- Invite your Member of Congress/Senator to visit your company
- Contribute money and time to campaigns
- Participate in NOWRA's 2022 Washington Visit