

# Preparing for Congressional Oversight



With a narrowly divided Congress, legislative expectations beyond must-pass bills are low for the next two years. Expect lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle and in both the Senate and House of Representatives to bring renewed energy to Congress's oversight responsibilities. While some investigative efforts and hearings will be primarily performative in nature, organizations and corporations may find themselves in the crosshairs of the parties' divergent accountability agendas, as Democrats seek to address perceived economic, social and political inequities and Republicans investigate "wokeness" in corporate America and the federal government.

We are here to support our clients in understanding, preparing for and engaging around issues related to congressional oversight, whether they find themselves called to testify before a committee or they are simply active on issues adjacent to investigations in the news.

Among issue areas likely to be a focus of oversight efforts in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress:

- China competitiveness
- ESG / Climate / Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- COVID-19 response / relief funding
- Transgender healthcare and rights
- Technology / Privacy / Antitrust
- First Amendment / Social media
- Immigration
- Digital assets / Cryptocurrency

## WHEN TO CALL US

**Reach out to us if your organization:**

- Will potentially be called to testify in congressional hearings or respond to investigative inquiries.
- Needs to establish rapid response capabilities on oversight topics.
- Wants to understand and anticipate how the oversight agenda might impact them.
- Is looking for partners/allies to engage and provide support around prominent issues, including ESG.
- Needs to understand and engage the full breadth of stakeholders around oversight issues.
- Is educating and engaging policymakers, the stakeholders who influence them and the media regarding issues subject – or related – to congressional oversight.

## OUR OVERSIGHT EXPERTS

Our D.C.-based team at Powell Tate includes people who have worked at the highest levels of government and politics, from the White House and Capitol Hill, Beltway and national media, regulatory agencies and more. We have deep experience working in close collaboration with our clients and their in-house and external legal and government relations partners on oversight issues.

- **Ashley Etienne, senior advisor**; former communications director, House Oversight Committee minority (2010-2012), Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, (D-Calif.) and Vice President Kamala Harris (D)
- **Mike Dubke, senior advisor**; former communications director, Trump White House (2016-2017)
- **Caitlin Carroll, SVP**; former press secretary, House Oversight Committee majority (2012-2014), former spokesperson for the Senate Intelligence Committee Russia investigation; former communications director to Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.)
- **Lance Morgan, chief communications strategist**; former press secretary, Senate Iran-Contra investigating committee and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.)
- **Peter Carson, head of North America Corporate Affairs**; former chief of staff to Rep. Chris Shays (R-Conn.)
- **John Files, co-lead of North America Public Affairs**; former *New York Times* journalist
- **Meghann Curtis, co-lead of North America Public Affairs**; former senior advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
- **Jim Meszaros, EVP, International Public Affairs**

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