

Learning About Legislation #35 - Committee Assignments in the Senate

While we wait for the far more [dramatic](#) revelation of which House members have been assigned to which committee, let's see what happened with Senate Committees. Generally, they have a much easier time reorganizing their committees at the start of each session, with far fewer members shifting in each two-year period. There was some [speculation](#) last year that with the retirement of Utah's Orrin Hatch, a reshuffling of committee chair assignments *might* catapult our own junior senator, Pat Toomey, into the top seat on the Senate Banking Committee. That did not come to pass. Both of our senators stayed put, retaining the positions they held in the last Congress.

Sen. Bob Casey - Committee Assignments

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- Special Committee on Aging (Ranking Member)

Sen. Pat Toomey - Committee Assignments

- Committee on Finance
- Committee on the Budget
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs - last term he had the additional assignment as the leader of this group's Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, but the [official Senate site on committee assignments](#) does not have information on those subcommittee leadership positions yet

A note on terms - the party in power has the ability to hold the majority of members on all committees, thus the leader of that group is referred to as the Chairperson. The person from the minority party who has been designated as the leader of that group is given the title of Ranking Member. So in the Senate, the Republicans have Chairpeople, and the Democrats have Ranking Members. The reverse will be true in the House.

Hopefully the House will have announced their committee assignments by next week, and we will have information on all of the PA Representatives' positions in next week's report.