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# Environmental Issues: What's Ahead in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress?

Claudia Copeland

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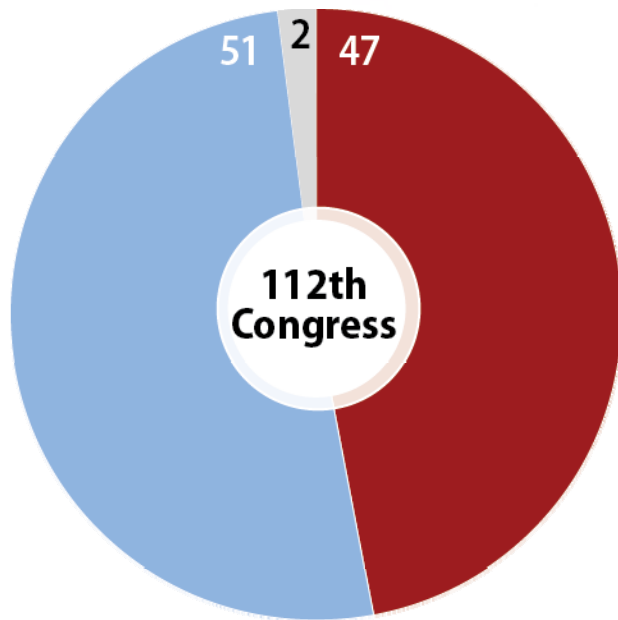
# The 2012 Election

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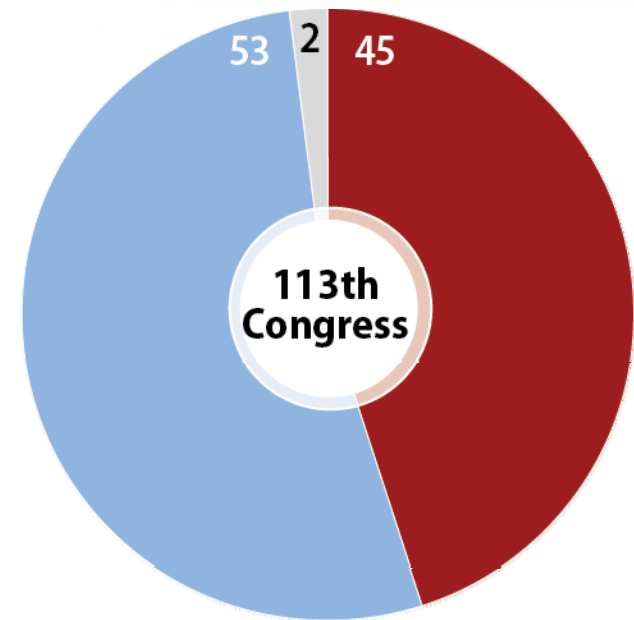
- The election cost \$6 billion and largely confirmed the status quo in the White House and Congress
  - New records in 2012 for spending by the energy industry and environmentalists
- A costly and hard-fought campaign, but little in the way of a mandate for change
  - A non-wave election



# 112<sup>th</sup> and 113<sup>th</sup> Congress Senate



<b>47</b>	Senate	<b>45</b>
	Republicans	
<b>51</b>	Senate	<b>53</b>
	Democrats	
<b>2</b>	Senate	<b>2</b>
	Independents	



# The New Senate

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- Democrats gained 2 seats and retain control of the Senate, but not enough for a filibuster-proof majority (60 votes needed)
- 12 new senators in January
  - 7 men and 5 women
  - 8 Democrats, 3 Republicans, 1 Independent



# Senate Committees in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress

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- Minimal leadership change expected
  - Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Barbara Boxer, current chairman; Senator David Vitter, ***new ranking member***
  - Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Ron Wyden, ***new chairman***; Senator Lisa Murkowski, current ranking member
  - Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Senator Jay Rockefeller, current chairman; Senator Jim DeMint, ***new ranking member***



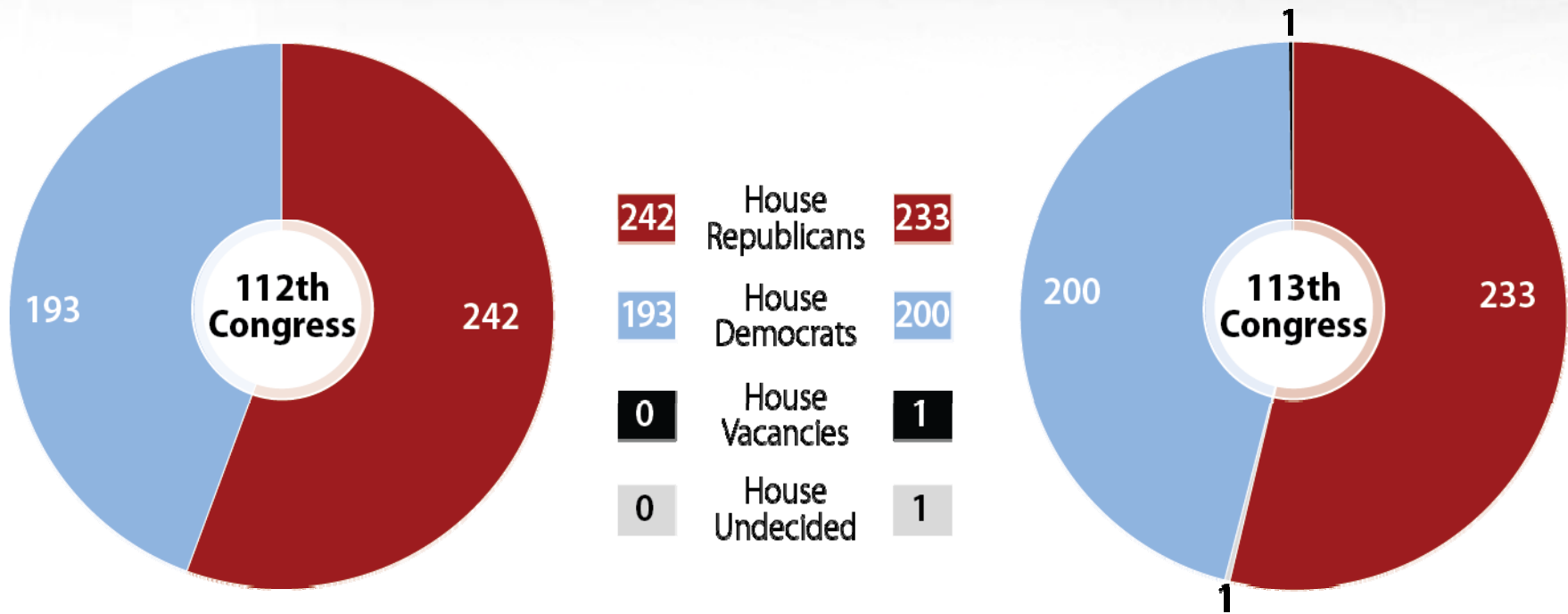
## Senate committees, cont.

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- Appropriations Committee, Senator Daniel Inouye, current chairman; Senator Thad Cochran, current ranking member
- Committees will organize and make subcommittee assignments in January



# 112<sup>th</sup> and 113<sup>th</sup> Congress House of Representatives





# The New House

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- Republicans lost 9 seats (for now), but remain in the majority
- 84 new members in January – nearly 20% of the House
  - 65 men and 19 women
  - 49 Democrats and 35 Republicans
  - 33 new members have never held elective office





# House Committees in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress

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- Minimal changes expected
  - Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. Bill Shuster, ***new chairman***; Rep. Nick Rahall, current ranking member
  - Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Fred Upton, current chairman; Rep. Henry Waxman, current ranking member
  - Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Doc Hastings, current chairman; Rep. Edward Markey, current ranking member



## House committees, cont.

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- Science, Space and Technology Committee, Rep. Lamar Smith, ***new chairman***; Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, current ranking member
- Appropriations Committee, Rep. Harold Rogers, current chairman; Rep. Nita Lowey or Rep. Marcy Kaptur, ***new ranking member***
- Committees will organize and make subcommittee assignments in January



## But before the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress...

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- The lame-duck session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress is underway
  - Single priority: a budget deal to resolve the “fiscal cliff” problem of taxes and spending before the December 31 deadline
    - Nothing will happen until this is resolved
  - Other possible legislation: farm bill?



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- In the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, environmental issues received a lot of attention, especially through oversight of Executive Branch activities and regulations
    - 6 House committees held 2 dozen hearings on water-related issues
    - 3 Senate EPW hearings in 2 years
  - But no water-related legislation other than appropriations was enacted
    - House passed 5 bills that died in the Senate, House committees approved 4 others



# What's Ahead in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress?

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## More of the same

- Continued vigorous oversight of EPA, DOI and other agencies and departments
  - EPA is due to issue a number of regulations and guidance in 2013 (e.g., stormwater, cooling water, powerplant ELG, CAFO rules, CWA jurisdiction guidance), which will be scrutinized, as will ongoing implementation of water laws and policies (e.g., Chesapeake Bay TMDL, numeric nutrient water quality standards in Florida)



## What's ahead, cont.

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- Limited congressional action on legislation, as partisan stalemate is expected to continue
  - House is expected to pursue changing environmental laws by easing regulatory burdens, challenging policies, and restricting funding; the Senate will mostly resist
  - After the close election with no clear mandate, every interest group is hoping that its agenda will receive attention
- The President has broadly indicated his priorities: tax code, fiscal discipline, immigration reform



## What's ahead, cont.

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- Committees will announce their priorities over the next several weeks
- Spending (appropriations)
  - Agencies and programs face cuts no matter the outcome of the “fiscal cliff”
- Work has begun in the Senate on reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- Climate change (cap and trade)/carbon tax unlikely, but clean energy policy that affects climate is possible
- Water infrastructure - maybe





# Questions?

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Claudia Copeland  
Specialist in Resources and  
Environmental Policy  
Congressional Research Service  
[ccopeland@crs.loc.gov](mailto:ccopeland@crs.loc.gov)

