



## ON THE HILL

A Weekly Advocacy Update from TIA

The Latest News and Updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department



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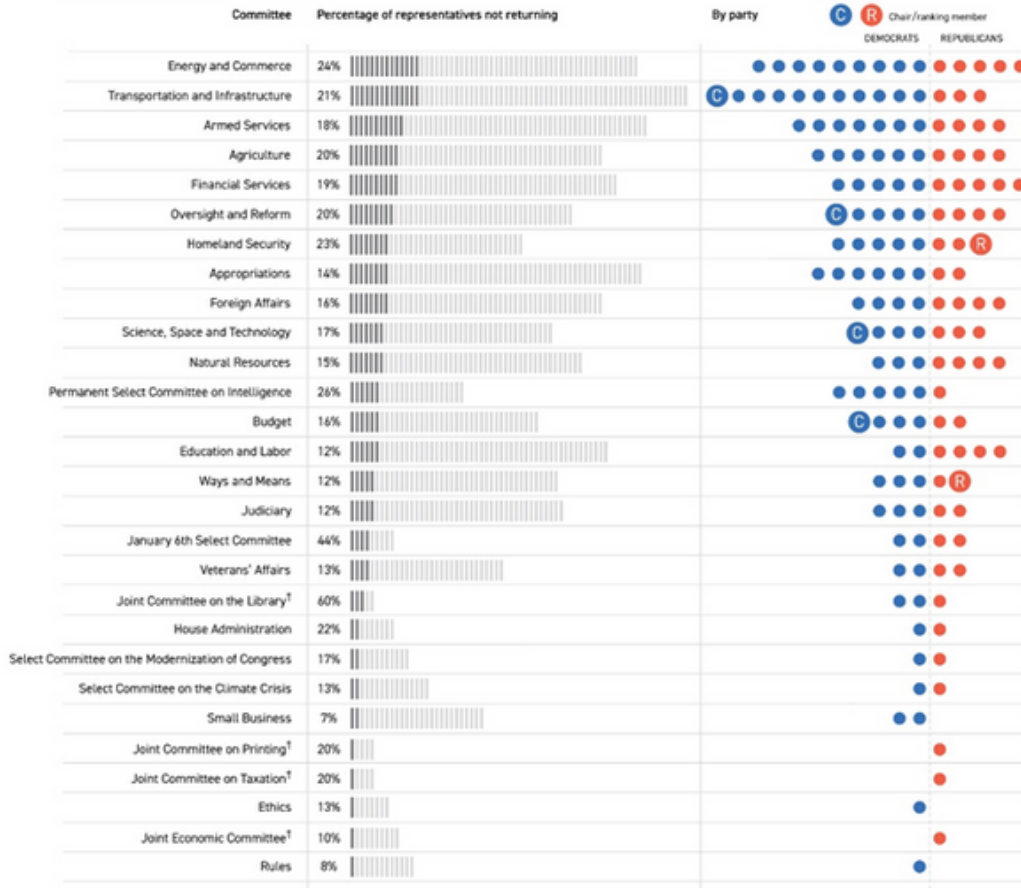
On Thursday, the Senate voted to avert a freight rail strike. Although not ideal for Congress to resolve such matters, the quick passage of the resolution was vital to avoiding economic catastrophe. Had the bill not been passed, things like drinking water, food, energy, and – relevant to this time of year – Christmas gifts would all have been significantly delayed and some not delivered at all. Needless to say, the swift action of legislators saved Christmas and the country what would have been an estimated lost \$2 billion per day; a real Grinch that would have been.

The vote was 80-15 with Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) voting present, to pass a bill that would implement contract terms that have been in negotiations between freight railroads and their unions since September. The hold up? Unions (4/12) wanted an increase in paid sick time off. Had an agreement not been codified by Congress, a strike could have ensued as soon as December 9th.

# The House Experiencing Committee Turnover

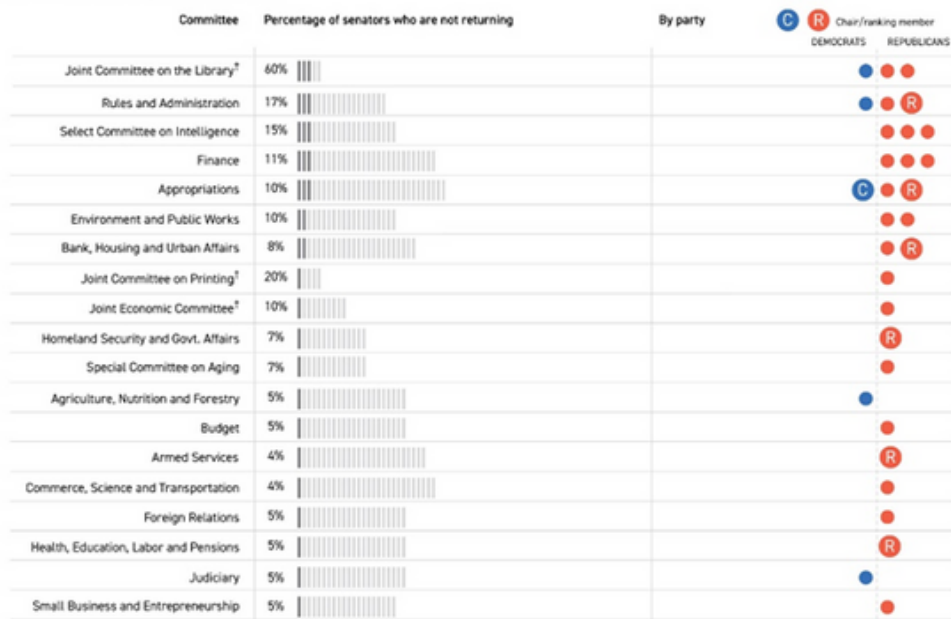
The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee will experience some of the highest turnover in recent memory with its Members due to the 2022 election. With 74 current members not returning to Congress, the shakeup is inevitable. 14 members on each of the two Committees either lost re-election, or retired.

## House committee turnover



Notes: There were no House vacancies on the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth. Del. Michael San-Nicholas (D-Ouam) is included in Democratic totals.

## Senate committee turnover



Note: There were no Senate vacancies on the Energy and Natural Resources, Indian Affairs or Veterans Affairs committees, nor on the Joint Committee on Taxation nor the Select Committee on Ethics.

<sup>†</sup> Joint committees are made up of members from both houses of Congress. Representatives and senators departing from these committees are listed in their respective sections.

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## FAA Chief Nomination Punted to the 118th Congress

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, said on Tuesday that the hearing for President Biden's pick for FAA chief, Phil Washington, will be postponed until the start of the 118th Congress. With there already being skepticism of his nomination, this latest news only adds to it.

Senator Cantwell's reasoning is lack of floor time. With the clock ticking on many issues that must get resolved this Congress, there is simply not enough time for a nomination hearing. Funding the government as well as other Democrat-led bills are of the essence right now.

Because of this decision, the White House will have to renominate Mr. Washington assuming they stick to that choice. But they may go in another direction due to news surfacing of a corruption probe in September, in which Mr. Washington was at that time CEO of LA Metro.

Senator Cantwell expects President Biden to remain with Washington. Time will tell.