



FACT SHEET:

Honest Leadership Rules Changes: Thursday

During the first 100 legislative hours of the 110th Congress, Speaker-designate Pelosi and the Democratic Leadership have pledged to pass key measures affecting the everyday lives of all Americans. One of these is a series of proposals to clean up Washington and severing unethical ties between lawmakers and lobbyists. We will start by banning gifts and travel from lobbyists, and ending the abuses connected to privately-funded congressional travel (including corporate jets). **These ethics reform provisions are in Title II of the rules package. Title I and Title II (ethics reform) will be voted on by the House on Thursday. (Titles III, IV, and V will be voted on by the House on Friday.)**

Continuation of the 109th Rules (Title I)

This title simply continues the rules of the 109th Congress.

Ethics Reform (Title II)

Bans Gifts from Lobbyists: Bans gifts, including meals and tickets, from lobbyists and the organizations that employ them, and requires that tickets to sporting and other events given to Members and staff by non-lobbyists are valued at market price.

Bans Lobbyist Travel: Bans lobbyists and the organizations that employ them from financing travel for Members or staff, except for one-day travel to visit a site, attend a forum, participate in a panel, or give a speech. The ethics committee would be required to develop guidelines for minimal lobbyist involvement for one-day/one-night travel. Travel provided by a private university would not be affected by anything in the rules package.

Requires Certification and Pre-Approval for Travel Paid for By Outside Groups: Requires the sponsors of all other permitted travel to certify that they have abided by all restrictions on lobbyist involvement. Requires Members and staff to obtain pre-approval from the ethics committee for travel to ensure trips are connected to official duties, the amount spent is limited to reasonable expenses, and the destination is related to the purpose of the trip. Requires the full disclosure of all travel within 15 days after the trip. Travel provisions take effect beginning on March 1st.

Prohibits use of Company Planes: Prohibits the use of official, personal or campaign funds to pay for the use of non-commercial, corporate jets. This provision does not apply to charter plane services or to airplanes owned by Members.

Ends the K Street Project: Clarifies that no Member can take or withhold an official act, or influence, or offer or threaten to influence, the official act of another with the intent to influence on the basis of partisan political affiliation an employment decision or employment practice of any private entity

Mandates Ethics Training: Require mandatory ethics training annually for all House employees.