



## FACT SHEET:

### Civility & Fiscal Responsibility Rules Changes: Friday

---

During the first 100 hours of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Speaker-designate Pelosi and the Democratic Leadership have pledged to pass key bills affecting the everyday lives of all Americans. Democrats are committed to restoring democracy in the House – by simply following the existing rules of the House. Democrats will vote on a title of the rules package to address the most egregious abuses in the House -- curbing abuses on voting, and opening up Conference Committees so that the minority is able to participate. Democrats will also have a fiscal responsibility title to require pay-as-you-go budget discipline with no new deficit spending, and require full transparency in order to begin to end the abuse of special interest earmarks. **On Friday, the following titles of the rules package will be voted on.**

#### Civility Provisions (Title III)

**Curbs Abuses of Voting Time:** Prohibits holding votes open for the sole purpose of affecting the outcome.

**Reforms Conference Committees:** Reforms conference committee process by requiring adequate notice of meetings to ensure Member attendance, ensuring information is available to all conferees, and ensuring that the text of conference reports cannot be changed after signatures.

#### Fiscal Responsibility Provisions (Title IV)

**Restores Pay-As-You-Go Budgeting:** This amendment to the House rules package will not allow consideration of any bill, amendment or conference report where the combine effect of provisions affecting mandatory spending (such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and farm bill) and revenue would increase the deficit over the five-year and ten-year windows, relative to the Congressional Budget Office baseline. Democrats also plan to pursue pay-as-you-go legislation in order to protect our grandchildren from mountains of debt and spur economic growth.

**Earmark Reform:** Require committees to disclose the sponsors of any earmarks included in appropriations, authorizing measures such as the highway bill, and tax or trade legislation that benefits 10 or fewer. These new rules would also prohibit trading earmarks for votes and require Members to disclose their earmark requests and certify that they (and their spouses) have no personal financial interest in the request.

These provisions comprehensively require committees of jurisdiction and conference committees to publish lists of the earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits, along with their sponsors, contained in the reported bills, unreported bills, manager's amendments, and conference reports brought to the House floor for consideration. A Member may make a point of order against the consideration of any rule that waives this requirement. The rule defines an earmark as any Member-requested project that is targeted to a specific place and falls outside a formula-driven or competitive award process.

**Budget Reconciliation:** Finally, this amendment to the rules package prohibits the House from considering budget resolutions or amendments thereon or conference reports on budget resolutions that contain reconciliation directives for any reconciliation bill that would increase the deficit.

## **Miscellaneous Provisions (Title V)**

This include miscellaneous provisions and technical changes to House Rules.