

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
OFFERED BY CHAIRMAN DARRELL ISSA
THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - 112TH CONGRESS

1 Rule 1 — Application of Rules

2 Except where the terms “full committee” and “subcommittee” are specifically referred to, the
3 following rules shall apply to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its
4 subcommittees as well as to the respective chairs and ranking minority members.

5 Rule 2 — Meetings

6 The regular meetings of the full committee shall be held on the second Thursday of each month
7 at 10 a.m., when the House is in session. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular
8 meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when
9 circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the
10 committee pursuant to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(c)(2). Subcommittees shall
11 meet at the call of the subcommittee chairs. Every member of the committee, unless prevented
12 by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days
13 before each meeting or hearing explaining: (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the
14 names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The ranking minority
15 member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority
16 may request.

17 Rule 3 — Quorums

18 (a) A majority of the members of the committee shall form a quorum, except that two
19 members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of

1 the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which the presence of a
2 majority of the committee is otherwise required. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of
3 the committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who
4 is present shall preside at that meeting.

5 (b) The chairman of the full committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair,
6 make a temporary assignment of any member of the full committee to such subcommittee for the
7 purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such
8 subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, DC. Members appointed to such temporary
9 positions shall not be voting members. The chairman shall give reasonable notice of such
10 temporary assignment to the ranking minority members of the committee.

11 Rule 4 — Committee Reports

12 (a) Bills and resolutions approved by the full committee shall be reported by the chairman
13 pursuant to House Rule XIII, clauses 2- 4.

14 (b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall not be considered in the committee
15 unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the committee for at least three
16 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session
17 on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in the committee. If hearings have
18 been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such
19 hearings printed and available to the members of the committee before the consideration of the
20 proposed report in the committee.

21 (c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the
22 committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such a report

1 a member of the committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, or additional
2 views that member shall be entitled to file such views following House Rule XI, clause 2(l) and
3 Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1).

4 (d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the
5 committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 Rule 5 — Record Votes

8 (a) A record vote of the members may be had upon the request of any member upon
9 approval of a one-fifth vote of the members present.

10 (b) Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2 (h)(4), the chairman is authorized to postpone
11 further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or
12 matter or on adopting an amendment and to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any
13 time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question,
14 notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall
15 remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was
16 postponed. After consultation with the ranking minority member, the chairman shall take
17 reasonable steps to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record
18 vote.

19 Rule 6 — Subcommittees; Referrals

20 (a) There shall be seven standing subcommittees with appropriate party ratios. The
21 chairman shall assign members to the subcommittees. Minority party assignments shall be made

1 only with the concurrence of the ranking minority member. The subcommittees shall have the
2 following fixed jurisdictions:

3 (1) The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor
4 Policy – Legislative jurisdiction over the federal civil service and the U.S. Postal Service.
5 The Subcommittee also has oversight jurisdiction over labor policy;

6 (2) The Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency and Financial
7 Management – Legislative jurisdiction over government management and accounting
8 measures, the economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and
9 activities (other than procurement and data standards), federal property, and
10 reorganizations of the executive branch;

11 (3) The Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the
12 National Archives – Legislative jurisdiction over drug policy, the District of Columbia,
13 the Census Bureau, and federal records (including the National Archives and Records
14 Administration and the Presidential Records Act). The subcommittee also has oversight
15 jurisdiction over federal health care policy, food and drug safety, public support for the
16 arts, libraries and museums, criminal justice, and transportation;

17 (4) The Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign
18 Operations – Oversight jurisdiction over national security, homeland security, foreign
19 operations, immigration, and emergency management;

20 (5) The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and
21 Government Spending – Legislative jurisdiction over federal paperwork reduction, data
22 quality, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. The Subcommittee also

1 has oversight jurisdiction over regulatory affairs, stimulus policy, federal spending,
2 education, agriculture, and communications policy;

3 (6) The Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and
4 Private Programs – Oversight jurisdiction over financial and monetary policy, banking,
5 housing, and insurance regulation, financial crisis and rescues, and tax policy; and

6 (7) The Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental
7 Relations and Procurement Reform – Legislative jurisdiction over public information,
8 including the Freedom of Information Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act, federal
9 information technology and data standards, procurement and grant reform, the
10 relationship between the federal government and states and municipalities, including
11 unfunded mandates. The subcommittee also has oversight jurisdiction over public
12 broadcasting.

13 (b) Bills, resolutions, and other matters shall be expeditiously referred by the chairman to
14 subcommittees for consideration or investigation in accordance with their fixed jurisdictions.

15 Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee
16 or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdiction, the chairman shall refer the matter as
17 he may deem advisable. Bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to subcommittees may be
18 re-referred or discharged by the chairman when, in his judgment, the subcommittee is not able to
19 complete its work or cannot reach agreement therein.

20 (c) The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be ex officio
21 members of all subcommittees. They are authorized to vote on subcommittee matters; but,

1 unless they are regular members of the subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a
2 subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

3 Rule 7 — Subcommittee Scheduling

4 (a) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up
5 legislation, and report to the full committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

6 (b) No subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or
7 hearing of the full committee.

8 (c) The chair of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the
9 approval of the full committee chairman with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting
10 rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee meetings or hearings.

11 (d) Each subcommittee chair shall notify the chairman of any hearing plans at least two
12 weeks before the date of commencement of the hearings, including the date, place, subject
13 matter, and the names of witnesses, willing and unwilling, who would be called to testify,
14 including, to the extent the chair is advised thereof, witnesses whom the minority members may
15 request.

16 Rule 8 — Staff

17 (a) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the chairman of
18 the full committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional
19 and clerical staff of the committee.

1 (b) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the staff of the
2 committee shall be subject to the direction of the chairman of the full committee and shall
3 perform such duties as he or she may assign.

4 Rule 9 — Hearings

5 (a) A committee member may question witnesses only when recognized by the
6 chairman for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(j)(2), the five-minute
7 rule shall apply during the questioning of witnesses in a hearing. The chairman shall, so far as
8 practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members
9 present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing.
10 After that, additional time may be extended at the direction of the chairman.

11 (b) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the
12 committee by motion, may permit an equal number of majority and minority members to
13 question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than
14 thirty minutes for each side.

15 (c) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the
16 committee by motion, may permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a
17 witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes
18 for each side.

19 (d) Nothing in paragraph (b) or (c) affects the rights of a member (other than a member
20 designated under paragraph (b)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with
21 paragraph (a) after the questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c). In any extended
22 questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c), the chairman shall determine how to allocate

1 the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or majority committee staff,
2 and the ranking minority member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for
3 extended questioning by minority members or minority committee staff. The chairman or the
4 ranking minority member, as applicable, may allocate the time for any extended questioning
5 permitted to staff under paragraph (c) to members.

6 (e) Hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, clause
7 2(k). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter
8 before the Committee for consideration, and the chairman shall rule on the relevance of any
9 questions put to the witnesses.

10 (f) Witnesses appearing before the committee shall so far as practicable, submit written
11 statements at least 24 hours before their appearance. Witnesses appearing in a non-governmental
12 capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency
13 and program) of each federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof)
14 received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years, by the witness or
15 by an entity represented by the witness.

16 (g) The chairman or any member designated by the chairman may administer oaths to any
17 witness before the committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the
18 following oath by the Chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: ``Do you
19 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole
20 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?''.

21 Rule – 10 Committee Records, Open Meetings, Transparency

1 (a) The committee staff shall maintain in the committee offices a complete record of
2 committee actions from the current Congress including a record of the roll call votes taken at
3 committee business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall
4 be available for public inspection whenever the committee offices are open for public business.
5 The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alteration,
6 additions, or defacement.

7 (b) A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be
8 made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

9 (c) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open
10 to the public or closed in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

11 (d) The chairman of the full committee shall maintain an official website on behalf of the
12 committee for the purpose of furthering the committee's legislative and oversight
13 responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to
14 committee members and other members of the House. To the greatest extent practicable, the
15 chairman shall ensure that committee records are made available on the committee's official
16 website in appropriate formats.

17 (e) The ranking minority member of the full committee is authorized to maintain a
18 similar official website on behalf of the committee minority for the same purpose, including
19 communicating information about the activities of the minority to committee members and other
20 members of the House.

21 Rule 11 — Audio and Visual Coverage of Committee Proceedings

1 (a) An open meeting or hearing of the committee may be covered, in whole or in part, by
2 television broadcast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast, and still photography, unless closed
3 subject to the provisions of House Rules. Any such coverage shall conform to the provisions of
4 House Rule XI, clause 4.

5 (b) Use of the Committee Broadcast System shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in
6 accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4(b), and all other applicable rules of the House of
7 Representatives and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Members of the
8 committee shall have prompt access to a copy of coverage by the Committee Broadcast System,
9 to the extent that such coverage is maintained.

10 (c) Personnel providing coverage of an open meeting or hearing of the committee by
11 internet broadcast, other than through the Committee Broadcast System shall be currently
12 accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries. If the Committee Broadcast
13 System is not available, the chairman may, with the concurrence of the ranking minority
14 member, direct staff to provide coverage in a manner that is fair and nonpartisan and in
15 accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4.

16 Rule 12 — Additional Duties of Chairman

17 The chairman of the full committee shall:

18 (a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from
19 the investigations of the committee as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2);

20 (b) Direct such review and studies on the impact or probable impact of tax policies
21 affecting subjects within the committee's jurisdiction as required by House Rule X, clause 2(c);

1 (c) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule
2 X, clause 4(f), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

3 (d) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the
4 conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the
5 jurisdiction of the Committee;

6 (e) Prepare, after consultation with the ranking minority member, a budget for the
7 Committee;

8 (f) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the
9 committee upon unanimous consent; and

10 (g) Offer motions under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House (motion to
11 request or agree to a conference) whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.

12 Rule 13 — Consideration of Certain Bills and Resolutions

13 (a) The determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-
14 postal issues is properly for consideration by the Postmaster General and the committee will not
15 give consideration to legislative proposals specifying the subject matter of commemorative
16 stamps and new semi-postal issues. It is suggested that recommendations for the subject matter
17 of stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

18 (b) The consideration of bills designating facilities of the United States Postal Service
19 shall be conducted so as to minimize the time spent on such matters by the committee and the
20 House of Representatives.

1 (c) The Chairman shall not request to have scheduled any resolution for consideration
2 under suspension of the Rules, which expresses appreciation, commends, congratulates,
3 celebrates, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event,
4 group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a
5 period of time for such purposes.

6 Rule 14 — Panels and Task Forces

7 (a) The chairman of the full committee is authorized to appoint panels or task forces to
8 carry out the duties and functions of the committee.

9 (b) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee may serve as ex-
10 officio members of each panel or task force.

11 (c) The chairman of any panel or task force shall be appointed by the chairman of the full
12 committee. The ranking minority member of the full committee shall select a ranking minority
13 member for each panel or task force.

14 (d) The House and committee rules applicable to subcommittee meetings, hearings,
15 recommendations, and reports shall apply to the meetings, hearings, recommendations, and
16 reports of panels and task forces.

17 (e) No panel or task force so appointed shall continue in existence for more than six
18 months. A panel or task force so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be
19 reappointed by the chairman.

20 Rule 15 — Deposition Authority

1 (a) The chairman of the full committee, upon consultation with the ranking minority
2 member of the full committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to
3 notice or subpoena.

4 (b) Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of
5 examination (if other than within the committee offices). Depositions shall be taken under oath
6 administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths.

7 (c) Consultation with the ranking minority member shall include three business days
8 notice before any deposition is taken. All members shall also receive three business days notice
9 that a deposition has been scheduled.

10 (d) Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their
11 rights. No one may be present at depositions except members, committee staff designated by the
12 chairman or ranking minority member of the full committee, an official reporter, the witness, and
13 the witness's counsel. Observers or counsel for other persons, or for agencies under
14 investigation, may not attend.

15 (e) At least one member of the committee shall be present at each deposition taken by the
16 committee, unless the witness to be deposed agrees in writing to waive this requirement.

17 (f) A deposition shall be conducted by any member or staff attorney designated by the
18 chairman or ranking minority member. When depositions are conducted by committee staff
19 attorneys, there shall be no more than two committee staff attorneys permitted to question a
20 witness per round. One of the committee staff attorneys shall be designated by the chairman and
21 the other by the ranking minority member. Other committee staff members designated by the
22 chairman or ranking minority member may attend, but may not pose questions to the witness.

1 (g) Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the
2 majority and minority. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the members
3 or staff attorneys conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each
4 round, a member or committee staff attorney designated by the chairman shall ask questions first,
5 and the member or committee staff attorney designated by the ranking minority member shall
6 ask questions second.

7 (h) Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-
8 argumentative and non-suggestive manner. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to
9 preserve a privilege. When the witness has objected and refused to answer a question to preserve
10 a privilege, the full committee chairman may rule on any such objection after the deposition has
11 adjourned. If the chairman overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer
12 any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the clerk
13 of the committee and shall be provided to the members and the witness no less than three days
14 before the reconvened deposition. If a member of the committee appeals in writing the ruling of
15 the chairman, the appeal shall be preserved for committee consideration. A deponent who refuses
16 to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chairman in writing may be subject to
17 sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chairman is reversed on
18 appeal.

19 (i) Committee staff shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically
20 recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel
21 shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days thereafter, the witness
22 may submit suggested changes to the chairman. Committee staff may make any typographical

1 and technical changes requested by the witness. Substantive changes, modifications,
2 clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be
3 accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the
4 witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications,
5 clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon
6 the witness signing the transcript.

7 (j) The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify on the
8 transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a
9 true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic
10 recording, with the clerk of the Committee in Washington, DC. Depositions shall be considered
11 to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there
12 with the clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use. The chairman and the ranking
13 minority member of the full committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the
14 deposition at the same time.

15 (k) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee shall consult
16 regarding the release of depositions. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a
17 deposition or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the full committee for
18 resolution.

19 (l) A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a
20 copy of the committee's rules.