2026 MIDTERM ELECTION OUTLOOK: FEDERAL PROCUREMENT



ANALYSIS BY

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MONUMENT ADVOCACY

OVERVIEW: *Oversight, Oversight, Oversight*

Federal procurement is an oversight story in the next Congress, but don't count out the Administration as the most significant rewrite of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in 40 years is expected to continue. The FAR re-write paired with AI governance, domestic content and supply chain security updates will be worth watching. No matter who controls the next Congress, federal contractors are impacted by Congressional activity more than most -- given the annual funding conversation, NDAA acquisition policy impact, and oversight. Congressional oversight attention with the likely shift in control of the House will impact contractors who may be on defense, or it could be an opportunity to shape the narrative. A Democratic Senate will only heighten oversight attention and bring new leadership to HSGAC.

Constant Across Scenarios:

Contracting & DOGE oversight; agency management and federal personnel attention; IG and GAO products as investigative fuel; NDAA and targeted acquisition reform bills possible to drive acquisition policy government-wide.

Best Framing for Engagement:

Mission delivery and agency requirements; cost and schedule performance; supply chain and cyber security; AI tools that increase efficiency, protect data; efficient buying of commercial technology and cloud.

IF THE HOUSE FLIPS

Oversight. Oversight. Oversight. Increased oversight of all things agency management, federal personnel and contracting — including allegations of undue influence and corruption in contract awards to perceived favored contractors.

- **Watch the House Oversight Committee** — and if past practice continues, all Committees will have more robust oversight subcommittees for each Committee. Coordination of investigations amongst Committees will be key.
- **Agency IG and GAO reports along with content from outside groups and whistleblowers will drive oversight agenda**.
- **DOGE Activity Oversight related to data access,** contract awards to favored recipients, agency reorganizations, and corruption probes.

IF BOTH CHAMBERS FLIP

- Increased oversight of all things **agency management, federal personnel and contracting — including allegations of undue influence and corruption in contract awards to perceived favored contractors.**
- **Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC)**: increased oversight and use of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), which can issue subpoenas at the direction of the chair (incoming Sen. Blumenthal).
- More coordination on oversight and division of labor between House and Senate.
- **DOGE activity oversight** related to data access, contract awards to favored recipients, agency reorganizations, and corruption probes.
- More attention on agency **IG and GAO products.**
- **Outside groups** (POGO, Public Citizen, American Oversight) can be expected to **bring investigations** to Oversight Committees.
- If both flip, there could be an **opportunity for targeted, good government, commercial focused government-wide (title 41) related acquisition reform**. HSGAC could have a new Chair with Senator Hassan who has worked on IT modernization and good government issues often in coordination with Senator Lankford.

IF NEITHER FLIPS

- **Oversight of Administration limited a**lthough individual GOP members frustrated with lack of action on parochial concerns could take up focused oversight projects.
- **Administration moves ahead with regulatory reform with the most significant rewrite of federal acquisition rules in 40 years.** Plus there is the potential for targeted statutory changes to support the commerciality focus in the re-write.

CANDIDATES TO WATCH

RISING REPUBLICANS




REPS. TIMMONS & BURLISON
R-SC / R-MO

Both have worked on federal procurement-related bills and engaged in oversight via HOGR. Timmons led on the FASC (Federal Acquisition Security Council) Improvement Act, while Burlison led on the FIT Procurement Act, which includes several acquisition reform provisions of note, including raising the SAT and MPT and modifying authorities so the USG can more efficiently buy cloud computing.



SEN. JAMES LANKFORD
R-OK

If the Senate shifts to Democratic control and Sen. Paul plays less of a role on HSGAC, expect Lankford to play more of a dealmaking role on matters within HSGAC jurisdiction, including federal procurement issues and acquisition reform.



REP. ROBERT GARCIA
D-AZ

If the House flips, would become the new Chair of the House Oversight Committee. Named ranking member in June 2025 promising to hold the Trump administration accountable and framing the committee as a key oversight venue; only in his second term, having beaten long-time senior member Rep. Lynch (D-MA). Expected focus areas: government accountability, federal IT modernization, cybersecurity, AI governance, federal workforce issues, and DC independence.



SEN. MAGGIE HASSAN
D-NH

On deck for HSGAC chair if the Senate flips. Has focused on government efficiency and accountability for federal contractors during her time on HSGAC; could focus on oversight for large federal IT contracts that are behind schedule and have major cost overruns. Also focused on cybersecurity and emerging technologies.



Also to Watch

REP. MARK POCAN (D–WI)

FSGG; has called for DOGE hearings.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Changes on HASC and SASC could also impact acquisition reform prospects through the NDAA, though those committees have focused more on DoD-related acquisition reform than government-wide reform.

Today's letters are next year's subpoenas (referencing DOGE, the Qatar airplane, ballroom donations, DHS contracts, Trump family businesses and Trump-aligned lobbyists, and USAID-related foreign policy moves).

MONUMENT ADVOCACY'S FEDERAL PROCUREMENT EXPERTISE

This analysis was crafted by Monument Advocacy's Federal Procurement policy team, led by Julie Dunne.



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