

Policy Alert

Congressional Leadership Appoint Members of the Super Committee

August 11, 2011

All congressional leaders empowered by the recently enacted Budget Control Act¹ have now made their appointments to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (the “Super Committee”) as follows—

- By Senate Majority Leader Reid: Sens. Murray (D-WA), Baucus (D-MT) and Kerry (D-MA)
- By Senate Republican Leader McConnell: Sens. Kyl (R-AZ), Toomey (R-PA) and Portman (R-OH)
- By House Speaker Boehner: Reps. Hensarling (R-TX), Camp (R-MI) and Upton (R-MI)
- By House Democratic Leader Pelosi: Reps. Clyburn (D-SC), Van Hollen (D-MD) and Becerra (D-CA).

In addition, Rep. Hensarling and Sen. Murray have been designated as co-chairs of the Super Committee. The following is a brief analysis of the appointments.

- Four appointees (Hensarling, Becerra, Camp and Baucus) were members of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (“Bowles-Simpson”) and did not support the final package.
- No current member of Congress who was a member of Bowles-Simpson and who supported the final package was appointed to the Super Committee (Durbin, Conrad, Coburn and Crapo).
- No member of the Gang of Six was appointed (Warner, Durbin, Conrad, Chambliss, Crapo and Coburn).
- Two (Toomey and Becerra) voted against the recently-enacted Budget Control Act that created the Super Committee.
- Four (Kyl, Baucus, Clyburn and Van Hollen) participated in Biden Group negotiations.
- Appointments of members of the major committees of jurisdiction are—
 - Appropriations (1): Murray
 - Budget (4): Portman, Toomey, Murray and Van Hollen
 - Ways and Means/Finance (5): Camp, Becerra, Baucus, Kerry and Kyl

¹ Please see the Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP client alert “An Overview and Analysis of the Budget Control Act of 2011” (August 8, 2011), available [here](#).



- Energy & Commerce (1): Upton.
- Five members currently serve in House or Senate leadership positions—
 - Hensarling (House Republican Conference chair)
 - Clyburn (Assistant Democratic Leader)
 - Becerra (House Democratic Caucus vice-chair)
 - Kyl (Senate Republican Whip)
 - Murray (Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee chair and Senate Majority Conference secretary).
- Five members serve as full committee chairs—
 - Baucus (Senate Finance)
 - Kerry (Senate Foreign Relations)
 - Murray (Senate Veterans)
 - Camp (House Ways & Means)
 - Upton (House Energy & Commerce).
- Two (tax-writing committee chairmen Baucus and Camp) recently struck a bipartisan deal on the Trade Adjustment Assistance program and three pending free trade agreements (South Korea, Colombia and Panama).
- Two (Baucus and Camp) have said that they prefer to keep tax reform on a separate legislative track.

The next steps in the Super Committee process are (i) the joint appointment of a staff director by the two co-chairs (Murray and Hensarling) and (ii) the first organizational meeting of the Super Committee, to take place on September 16.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

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