

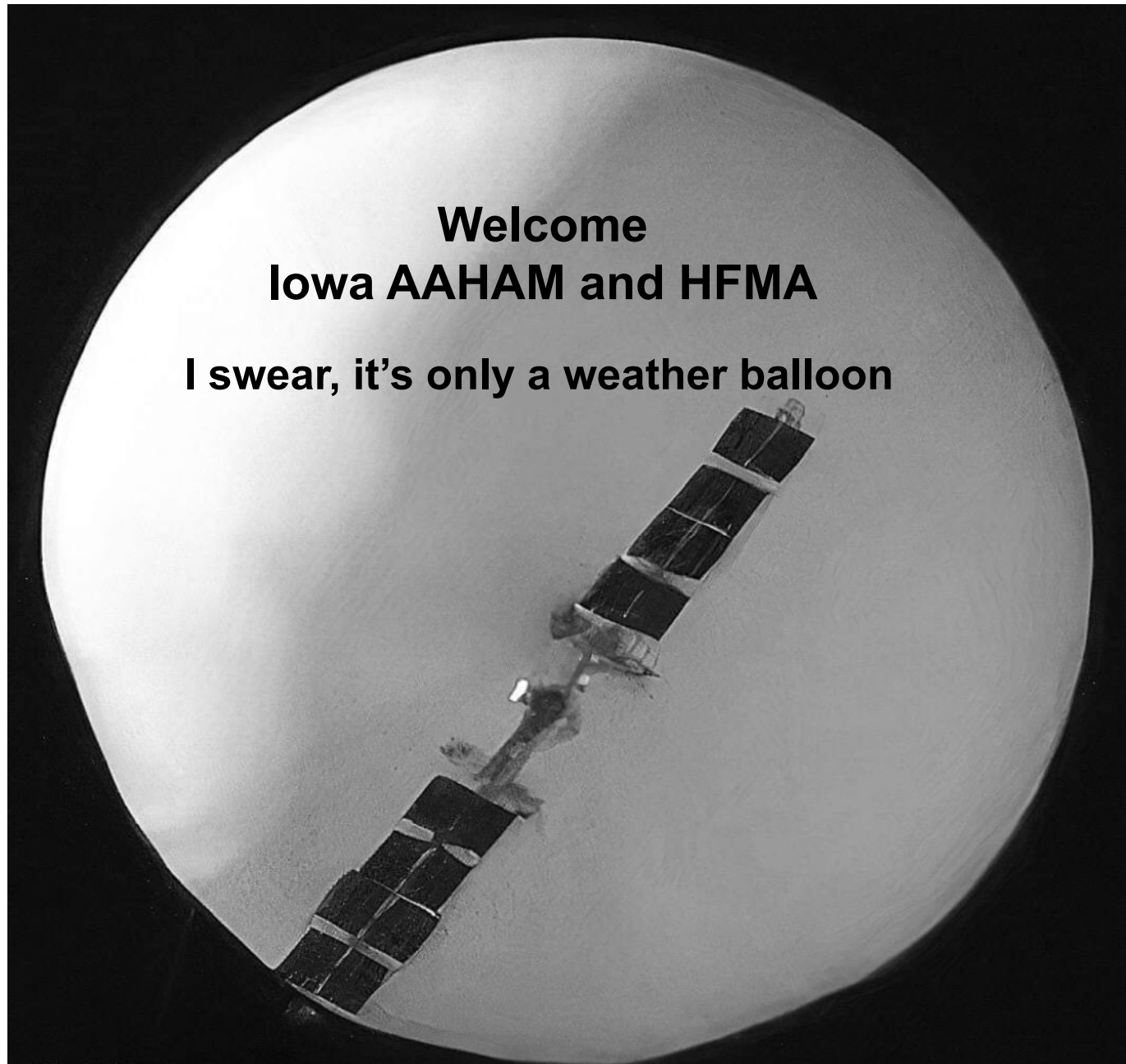
The image is a complex collage. On the left, the top half of the US Capitol building is visible against a blue background with white stars. On the right, the bottom half of the Capitol building is visible against a background of red and white stripes. The entire scene is overlaid with a grid of puzzle pieces, some of which are missing, creating a fragmented effect. The text is overlaid on this collage.

Washington Update

★ We're Not In Kansas

★ Anymore Toto

AAHAM and HFMA
April 2023



**Welcome
Iowa AAHAM and HFMA
I swear, it's only a weather balloon**

Miller  Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY



No more COVID precautions



COVID 15

Miller  Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY



U.S. Capitol grounds locked down like a war zone after
January 6th

Miller  Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY



U.S. Capitol grounds locked down supposedly due to
COVID

The Race For Control

- Biden defeats Trump.
- Trump supporters don't believe the results and election fraud conspiracies begin (and continue today).
- **Trump off the social media stage, gives Republicans an opportunity to showcase their leadership.**
- **2021 Republicans start becoming confident they can and will retake the House and possibly the U.S. Senate in 2022.**
- January 6th still on people's minds in Washington – depending on what side of the aisle you're on.
- 2021 country still dealing with continue COVID precautions and lockdowns – becomes a nagging issue for Biden.
- **Biden's poll numbers continue to drop and Republican stock keeps rising.**
- **Re-enter Trump – there went the Republicans energy and momentum.**

The Race For Control

- Democrats held 5 seat majority in 2020-2021. Republicans currently hold 4 seats (depending on what happens to George Santos, that could change).
- Speaker Pelosi keeps her caucus in line.
- Love her or hate her, she served as the most successful Speaker in modern times.
- Pelosi knew how to control her wild kid members of the caucus. She did have help from a very senior leadership team of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and Whip Jim Clyburn.
- Republicans have not had that kind of leadership team since the days of Speaker Dennis Hastert, who was put in the job by former Congressmen Tom “the Hammer” DeLay and Dick Armey. Republican members feared DeLay. Same as Democrats fearing Pelosi.
- Republicans have not had that since – Boehner was too nice. Ryan was not a politician, but a policy wonk.



The Race For Control

- 2022 Biden poll numbers continue to tank.
- Gas prices reach all time high.
- Unemployment on the rise.
- Supply chain issues.
- Worker shortages.
- Inflation reaches highest level.
- **All indicators of a Republican sweep of the House and Senate in November of 2022.**
- **Not so fast!**
- Trump backed candidates spoil the party.



The Race For Control

- Trump backed candidates spoil the party.
 - PA Senate Race: Dr. Oz loses to Lt. Governor John Fetterman for Senate seat.
 - Fetterman could hardly speak due to lingering issues from his stroke.
 - Fetterman did not have a command of the issues or remember his position on them during debate.
 - Dr. Oz looks competent in debate.
 - Voters pick Fetterman even as they have concerns about his health.
 - **Fetterman now in hospital getting treatment for depression.**
- Georgia Senate race: **Groundhog Day all over:**
 - Herschel Walker one of the worst candidates in history and only kept the race close because of his football fame.
 - Baggage Republicans didn't want, but Trump did.
 - Republicans lose GA for the 2nd straight year in the same exact way – runoff!
- Same can be said about numerous House seats that were originally in play with more moderate candidates.



The Race For Control

The George Santos Factor

Would the real George Santos please step forward



- You have to ask who on the Democratic side were asleep at the wheel?
- How does the Robert Zimmerman campaign not find any of these lies ahead of the election?
- It's called opposition research for a reason. Clearly no one did any checking on Santos.



The Race For Control

- Labor Day rush to the election finish line.
- As election day drew closer, democrats got giddier.
- Democrats saw a path to keeping the House and Senate.
- Republicans temper their talk of taking the House.
- Instead of talking 20-30 seat margin on election day, Republicans worried Democrats would keep the House.
- Senate Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell raised \$250 million for Senate Republicans.
- House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy raised \$500 million for House Republicans.
 - A lot of this money went to help secure votes for him becoming the next Speaker of the House.
 - Still, some turned on him during the Speaker's race.

Yes Virginia, We have a Speaker of the House

- 2023 started like a Wild West Show Down at High Noon.
- On one side you had the resurgence of the Freedom Caucus, a group of about 40 right leaning members of Congress.
- Freedom Caucus grew its power behind former Congressman and Trump Chief of staff Mark Meadows.
- After Meadows departed Congress, the group lost its swagger and power.
- That was until they saw an opening to oppose McCarthy for Speaker.
- 2023 Vote for Speaker is the 16th time in history the vote has gone past the first ballot.
- It took McCarthy 15 votes and numerous promises to get the votes he finally needed to be Speaker. The 3rd run for Speaker was the charm.



Yes Virginia, We have a Speaker of the House

- McCarthy's vote was not the most votes needed to become Speaker.
- Does anyone know who took the longest and how many ballots it took?



Yes Virginia, We have a Speaker of the House

1855-1857

Nathaniel Banks (MA)

133 ballots





Yes Virginia, We have a Speaker of the House

- To capture the gavel, McCarthy had to give away the store.
- We shall see if he can now deliver on these promises. Some of them like defense spending cuts are out of his control, so easier to agree to these types of promises.
- Big wins for Freedom Caucus:
 - 3 members added to the critical House Rules Committee.
 - Committee where all bills go for debate before they get to floor.
 - Promise by Speaker not to campaign against incumbents.
 - This was big because of McCarthy's ability to raise money.
 - Promise votes will go through regular order and open amendment process.
 - Promise to kick Rep. Eric Swalwell and Rep. Adam Schiff off Judiciary Committee.
 - Promise to kick Rep. Omar off Foreign Affairs Committee.
 - This was going to be harder to do with several Republicans opposing.
 - At the end of the day McCarthy swayed 2 members to switch votes and Republicans succeeded.

Why This Matters

- Governing in Washington has been hard enough over the past decade.
- Washington continues to be partisan,
- Factions within each party continue to grow and continue to grow, making governing with slim majorities very challenging.
- Dysfunction has made it challenging for groups like IPMI to be heard and get issues voted on.
- Promises like regular order and open rules have been made before.
- Once members realize how long into the night and on weekends they have to vote, they complain and the process becomes closed off again.



Republican Leadership

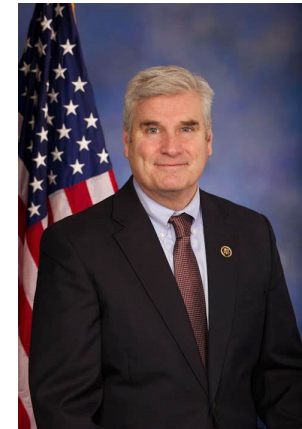
House



Speaker Kevin McCarthy (CA)



Majority Leader Steve Scalise (LA)



Majority Whip Tom Emmer (MN)

Senate



Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY)



Minority Whip John Thune (SD)



Conference Chair John Barrasso





Democratic Leadership

House



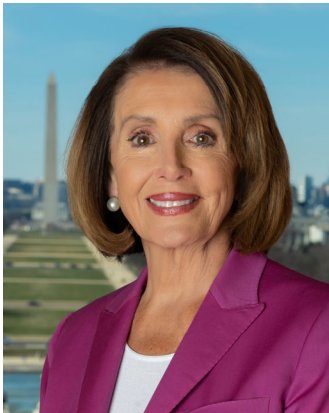
Minority Leader
Hakeem Jeffries (NY)



Minority Whip Kathy Clark (MA)



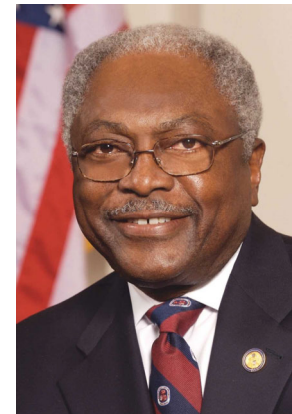
Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar (CA)



Nancy Pelosi (CA)



Steny Hoyer (MD)



Jim Clyburn (SC)

Young Guns In Training

Democratic Leadership

Senate



Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY)



Majority Whip Dick Durbin (IL)



Policy Chair Debbie Stabenow (MI)

Old Guard Remains





HELLO 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN CIRCUS



S rpprM fgj ~
Ktwr jwXH&t {3
Ktwr jw&r g&t ZS



FxfM zyhmxts
Ktwr jw&wofsx&t {3



[n{jpWfr fx| fr ~
) ;55& rmtts
Zsijw&5
Wzssrsl&s&sy&| tpj%
uqfktwr

Republican Announced Candidates

HELLO 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN CIRCUS



Mike Pence



Gov. Ron DeSantis



Mike Pompeo



Sen. Tim Scott

Republican Expected to Announce

- Gov. Glenn Younkin
- Gov. Rick Scott
- Gov. Chris Sununu
- Liz Cheney
- Sen. Ted Cruz
- Sen. Josh Hawley





Miller  Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

HELLO 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN CIRCUS



The Ring Leader



The Re Match



Democrats in Waiting



VP Kamala Harris



Secretary Pete Buttigieg



Stacey Abrams



Gov. Gavin Newsom

Sen. Elizabeth Warren
Sen. Bernie Sanders
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (MI)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar



How Do Things Get Done?

- It has become more difficult to get things done due to the hyper partisanship.
- Social media makes it almost impossible to separate fact from fiction today.
- Policy-makers too dependent on social media than listening to constituents.
- These factors are why every group should have a voice in Washington – large and small.
- Just be realistic with expectations and don't expect quick results.
- Be in it for the long haul.
- Just because something passes the House doesn't mean it's on a path to becoming law. Always easier to pass things in the House along party lines. This year may be more challenging due to the various factions on both sides.
- The real game will be on the Senate. This is not new, but as we've seen over the past couple years, nothing gets done unless the Senate says it does.

How Do Things Get Done?

- You still need to work across the aisle, but finding partnerships on both sides are more challenging today due to the partisan arrows fired daily at each other.
- Going to be hard enough for Republicans to hold their caucus together.
- Democrats have proved in the House they can.
- Senate is more difficult as Sen. Joe Manchin (WV) and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) have become power brokers and thorns in the Democrats side.
- Democrats will be spending the next 2-years trying to show why Republicans are unable to govern.
- Republicans will be out to show why President Biden and Democrats are not qualified to govern.
- This all leads us to the 2024 Presidential elections.
- A lot of decisions on what legislation gets floor time will be part of the 2024 campaign for the White House.

Paul A. Miller

E-Mail: pmiller@mwcapitol.com

Phone: (703) 383-1330

