

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6601

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

Pursuant to Section 504 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report about establishing and maintaining a database of votes taken in Committees. This report also discusses other Committee operations matters, including the Deconflict Committee Scheduler (deconflict.house.gov).

Committee Voting Module and Centralized Committee Portal

As the Committee is aware, there is a need for a comprehensive, holistic approach that addresses all systems used to manage Committee work in conjunction with other modernization efforts, such as the redesign of the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS). To that end, we previously recommended the creation of a Committee portal that would serve as a next-generation platform to manage Committee work.

As you know, the appropriate stakeholders, including your Committee, recently approved our March 2023 request to use funds from the fiscal year 2023 Modernization Initiatives Account to work with vendor partners to build the initial infrastructure for a Committee portal and develop the Committee voting module, a tool to allow for the management of Committee votes as data. Long term, the portal will feature several modules, including a replacement for the back-end application that Committees use to publish meetings on the Committee Repository (docs.house.gov/committee). We also plan to provide a resources module that will streamline communications between Committee staff and staff from our Office and the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Committee staff will be able to schedule resources for Committee activities and submit information to the Clerk's Committee Digest Clerk and Office of Official Reporters and CAO's House Recording Studio.

Currently, we are finalizing procurement-related tasks for the initial phases of this work and expect to schedule a project kickoff meeting soon. We look forward to working with this Committee and others as we build a centralized Committee portal.

Committee Repository and Deconflict Committee Scheduler

Chief Administrative Officer Catherine L. Szpindor and her office released the Deconflict Committee Scheduler to House Committees on April 6, 2023. Recently, CAO released HouseCal (calendar.house.gov) in a pilot phase; the tool is a spinoff of the Deconflict tool and enables all House staff to view and track meeting calendars for Committees, Subcommittees, and Members. Unlike Deconflict, HouseCal only shows publicly noticed Committee events. Clerk staff support these applications by providing draft and published Committee Repository data and by working with CAO staff when there are change requests that impact Clerk-provided data.

Additionally, we continue to train Committee staff on using the Committee Repository and the Deconflict Committee Scheduler during our instructor-led, virtual Committee Repository workshops. We have hosted nine workshops since the start of the Congress.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will submit the next report on Committee votes and related Committee functions on or before September 15, 2024. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin F. McCumber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin F. McCumber
Acting Clerk of the House

cc: The Honorable David Valadao, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch
Appropriations Subcommittee
Chief Administrative Officer Catherine L. Szpindor