

2022 MIDTERM ELECTION ANALYSIS

November 10, 2022

With votes still to count in a handful of Senate and House races that will determine party control of both chambers, Tuesday's midterm elections results were a far from cry from the Republican "red wave" pundits were predicting. With the results amplifying the divide throughout our country, expect gridlock to continue in our nation's capital. Yet, on the issue of America's role in the world – while we certainly see challenges – the 118th Congress will kickoff full of champions and friends on both sides of the aisle.

USGLC'S SMARTVOTE 2022

For the USGLC, this election was never about a blue or a red "wave," but rather a dedicated effort to engage candidates on how global stability impacts America's stability. Since 2008, the USGLC has led a nationwide education initiative to meet with candidates running for federal office to talk about the importance of America's global leadership and the impact of global issues here at home.

Our **SmartVote 2022** candidate engagement campaign was no exception, and USGLC is proud to have galvanized our network of local business, veteran, faith, and community leaders from across the country. These leaders **met face-to-face with more than 360 candidates and campaigns for the House and Senate** – an unprecedented volume of engagement – to discuss how diplomacy and development impacts America's economic and security interests.

Our team and community leaders held many terrific meetings, with strong champions returning to Capitol Hill and many new friends who will be joining them in January. In fact, our coalition will welcome our first-ever United States Senator, who previously served on a USGLC State Advisory Committee.

Read on for our post-election report based on conversations with candidates and their teams along with our analysis of what the election results mean for U.S. diplomacy and global development issues. The report includes:

1. Top Election Takeaways
2. The 118th Senate
3. The 118th House
4. What's Ahead for the International Affairs Budget
5. New Faces in Washington

Top Election Takeaways

As Washington prepares for a new and likely divided government, here are our top election takeaways when it comes to America's global leadership:

1. AMERICANS FELT GLOBAL DISRUPTIONS, BUT PRIORITIZED ECONOMIC AND OTHER DOMESTIC ISSUES.

While global disruptions – from energy and supply chain issues to the food and fertilizer crisis – impacted every American family's budget throughout this year's election season, voters' focus at the ballot box was clearly on domestic issues.

EXIT POLLS: As Americans reeled from rising inflation and high prices from the gas pump to the grocery store, national exit polls made it clear that voters prioritized inflation along with the issue of abortion and concerns about democracy. Not surprisingly, much less attention and debate time was spent on foreign policy and how global instability is impacting Americans at home.

GLOBAL CONNECTION: At the same time, mid-cycle polling showed that Americans still connect global and domestic issues. In an [April poll](#), even before food prices surged higher, voters pointed to global factors as three of the top five reasons for increasing food costs – including supply chain disruptions, COVID-19, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Expect these issues to impact lawmakers when they return to governing.

2. THE THREAT POSED BY CHINA AND RUSSIA WAS THE TOP GLOBAL ISSUE ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL.

Despite the prioritization of the domestic agenda, one significant exception is that both candidates and voters clearly see a global threat posed by China and Russia.

CHINA FOCUS: Reflecting one area of bipartisan consensus on the campaign trail, Republican and Democratic candidates continued to tap into voters' attitudes towards the global competition with China.

- Pew polling prior to the elections revealed that **82% of Americans** [have](#) an unfavorable view of China – a more than 30 point shift over the last 5 years.
- On the campaign trail, candidates often jumped at the chance to accuse their opponent of being “weak on China.” These attacks took place not only between parties, but within the parties during the primaries.
- Interestingly, in the nine most competitive senate races, more than 80% of the candidates addressed the issue of China directly in their campaign platforms or on the debate stage.

RUSSIA THREATS: From late February through the summer months, Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a high profile and unifying issue on the campaign trail for candidates on both sides of the aisle.

- Candidates from across the political spectrum weighed in loudly expressing their solidarity with the Ukrainian people and calling for America to support its European ally.
- As the war escalated, incumbents took time off from the campaign trail to lead trips to Ukraine and strong bipartisan bills passed Congress to rush emergency assistance to the region.

- As examples, **Senator-elect Ted Budd (R-NC)** told the press he was “proud to support” aid to “help Ukraine defend itself against Russia’s aggression.” After returning from a delegation to eastern Europe, **Senator-elect Peter Welch (D-VT)** stated he was committed “do all we can to protect Ukraine’s sovereignty.”

CLOSING ARGUMENTS: By the fall, some Republican fissures began to emerge with populist voices starting to question the amount of U.S. support to Ukraine, particularly as domestic economic pressures increased. Republican leadership in the House and Senate offered differing perspectives in the final weeks of the election:

- **Leader Kevin McCarthy** started raising questions on the future of U.S. aid to Ukraine but in the weekend before the election he stated “I’m very supportive of Ukraine... it means... [not a blank check, but] make sure that resources are going to where it is needed.”
- **Leader Mitch McConnell** weighed in with a strong statement that the U.S. and our allies “need to do more to supply the tools Ukraine needs to thwart Russian aggression” adding that it would take not just security assistance but also “humanitarian and economic support to help this war-torn country endure the coming winter.”

3. RETURNING CHAMPIONS CENTRAL FOR BOLSTERING INTERNATIONALIST LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS.

While chamber control is still being determined, there are hundreds of champions and friends – on both sides of the aisle – who will return or continue on Capitol Hill in critical appropriations and foreign policy leadership posts.

TOP COMMITTEE CHAMPIONS RETURN: In the upper chamber, **Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Chris Coons (D-DE), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and Jim Risch (R-ID)** take the mantle in critical committee leadership roles. On the House side, **Reps. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Hal Rogers (R-KY), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Michael McCaul (R-TX), and Gregory Meeks (D-NY)** all return to Capitol Hill.

FRONTLINE NATIONAL SECURITY VOICES: High profile bipartisan For Country Caucus leaders – like **Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE), Mike Waltz (R-FL), and Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)** – will also return to Capitol Hill alongside national security experts, including **Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), Elissa Slotkin (D-MI),** and others.

See additional detailed analysis below on the 118th Senate and House.

4. FUTURE CHAMPIONS AND FRIENDS ARE HEADING TO CONGRESS, INCLUDING VETERANS AND LEADERS FROM USGLC’S STATE NETWORKS.

In addition to our champions and friends returning, there will be many new friends heading to Congress come January. In our more than **360 briefings**, we met dozens and dozens of candidates from both parties who shared their strong interest in and commitment to the importance of America’s global leadership and the role of diplomacy and development. Some came with powerful personal stories and experience – such as veterans, business leaders, and those who participated in missionary work.

NEW TO FOREIGN POLICY: While a number of candidates running in the open race seats showed up to USGLC meetings with limited foreign policy background, candidates were open to learning and discussing foreign policy and the global ties to their state.

- Among those who described their platforms as “America First”, many candidates connected American global leadership to smart economic investments for their state. For others it was a deeply personal connection from past travel, family connections, or religious beliefs.

USGLC LEADERS: Our coalition will see more **USGLC members who once served on our State Advisory Committees** join the ranks of Congress, including the first USGLC committee member to be elected to the U.S. Senate. All of these newly-elected Members are poised to be emerging leaders on diplomacy and development as they arrive on Capitol Hill:

- **Senator-elect Katie Britt (R-AL)** has spoken out in strong support of U.S. global leadership stating that “America should lead from a place of strength... in the world.” She promised that “whether it be trade deals, armed conflicts, treaties or foreign aid, I will make sure Alabama not only has a seat at the table, but benefits directly.”
- **Representative-elect Morgan McGarvey (D-KY)** is a strong supporter of American global leadership particularly in the area of global health.
- **Representative-elect Zach Nunn (R-IA)** has advocated as a combat veteran and a former national security official on why America must remain engaged in the world.
- While his race is still too close to call, business and community leader **Jevin Hodge (D-AZ)** has demonstrated growing support on the importance of U.S. leadership in the world, particularly through the lens of climate change and energy security.

5. THE POPULIST WINDS AND VOICES ARE STILL A RELEVANT ISSUE.

The populism that has animated some voters and candidates in both parties continued in 2022. On the Republican side, many skeptics of America’s role in the world lost their races, but some will still show up on Capitol Hill and need further engagement and education.

LEADERS RETIRING: As an example of the transitions now underway, several important Republican champions – who have led on critical global development, global health, and diplomacy issues – will be leaving big shoes to fill in the U.S. Senate at the end of the 117th Congress. At present, the newly elected senators filling their seats do not yet match the same level of commitment and support as their predecessor – and some could bring new challenges to the issues:

- In Ohio, **Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)** departs the Senate as a strong internationalist and the head of Ukraine Caucus, having just returned from a bipartisan trip to Kyiv. Ohio’s newest member of the upper chamber, **Senator-elect J.D. Vance**, will arrive as a candidate who has prominently campaigned against U.S. assistance to Ukraine.
- In Missouri, **Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)** – an important champion on global health – retires as **Senator-elect Eric Schmitt (R-MO)** wins his seat. Currently serving as Missouri’s attorney general, Schmitt has less experience on international affairs and has made mixed statements on the campaign trail, including questioning the value of U.S. engagement with the World Health Organization.
- In North Carolina, **Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)** – a longtime ally to **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)** supporting resources for the International Affairs Budget – departs as **Senator-elect Ted**

Budd (R-NC) moves from the House to the upper chamber. While Budd has had a mixed record in the House on important diplomacy and development votes, he has been more forthright on the importance of U.S. global leadership on the campaign trail.

All three of these new senators have shown interest in meeting and engaging with USGLC leaders after the election – along with other freshman who are soon headed to Capitol Hill. For more on what all the newly-elected senators have said on diplomacy and development, see USGLC’s incoming senator profiles later in this report.

INTERNATIONALISTS ON THE TRAIL: Partnering up to elevate critical national security issues on the campaign trail, **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)** and **former Trump Administration State Department Spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus** traveled the country in the final days of the election hosting candidate forums from **Arizona** to **Florida** to **North Carolina** to **Pennsylvania**. This important momentum ahead of election day bodes well for the coming Congress and how this new freshman class engages on the issues – and how many ultimately support diplomacy and development.

PROGRESSIVE LETTER: On the Democratic side – in the days leading up to the election – House Progressives released a letter urging the President to engage in direct talks with Russia, potentially sidelining Ukraine, to press for a “realistic framework for a ceasefire.” Some interpreted the move as a weakening of support for Ukraine and the backlash from within the party was swift with the letter quickly withdrawn.

6. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE A NON-ISSUE WHILE DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ANIMATED SOME CANDIDATES.

To determine whether or not foreign assistance or foreign policy issues were a lightning rod during the campaign, the USGLC analyzed advertising and candidate platforms throughout the election.

CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING: Out of more than 3.2 millions total ad spots on the airwaves in 2022, USGLC’s research team identified **only three broadcast ads** that criticized a Congressional candidate for their support of aid to Ukraine across all the primary and general election races. No other anti-foreign aid ads directed against individual candidates were identified.

- This block of negative ad runs was an infinitesimally small slice of ads **at just 0.1% of all broadcast ad runs**. USGLC’s research team also identified that close to 7.4% of campaign ads overall touched on an international affairs issue.

CANDIDATE PLATFORMS: In reviewing the Senate candidate platforms of the 13 most competitive races in the country, the USGLC found that nearly every single major party candidate featured a formal foreign policy or national security plank on their platform, often acknowledging the importance of America’s global leadership or strength, even among candidates from the more ideological wings of their parties.

- One common thread in Democratic platforms was the calling for a “diplomacy first” foreign policy, while Republican platforms often pointed to views on how the world is less safe when America is “weak” on the global stage.
- Within the top Senate races, no major party candidate called for specifically cutting resources for foreign aid, diplomacy or global development within their formal campaign platforms, even though two candidates did call for cutting the federal budget.

GLOBAL ISSUES: While not top issues in a domestic-focused election, Republican, Democratic, and Independent candidates did stake out positions on core diplomacy and development issues during this midterm election cycle:

- **DIPLOMACY:** At a time when the world is war-weary, candidates across the country and on both sides of the aisle – including those in competitive races – often called for a “strong diplomatic corps” and “stronger diplomacy” and highlighted the importance of putting “diplomacy first” in their campaign platforms and in discussions during briefings with USGLC state leaders.
- **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:** Across social media and on the campaign trail, candidates regularly highlighted the message that “**food security is national security**” making the connection between local farming communities and the stakes for global hunger around the world as the war in Ukraine has disrupted supply chains globally.
- **GLOBAL STABILITY:** Given the growing number of threats and crises around the world, candidates also made the connection on the importance of resources for diplomacy and development to promote American stability. Engaging in USGLC candidate briefings, a veteran and Republican candidate in the Heartland – who was a self-identified budget hawk – stated that “reining in federal spending should not affect this issue.” A Democrat running for the House in Florida also spoke up that he is “a big believer in aid to foreign countries and USAID” considering the threats around the world.

7. THE WORLD IS WATCHING AS POLICYMAKERS LEAVE CAMPAIGN TRAIL BEHIND TO CONFRONT CRITICAL GLOBAL AGENDA.

Covering the front pages of newspapers from the UK to France to Kenya to Singapore, the U.S. election made headlines around the world.

- **In Europe**, Martin Quencez of the German Marshall Fund’s Paris office said the question that remains is whether the U.S. “**can still produce predictability for allies**” or will it revolve around partisan debates “that have very little importance to Europeans.”
- **African** political analyst Ebenezer Obadare stated, “**Political polarization in the U.S. — and the subsequent ripples — has deepened anxiety about the prospects of democracy globally.**” He added that Africans are focused on whether the U.S. can deliver on the goals “outlined in the recently launched U.S. strategy towards sub-Saharan Africa.”
- Not surprisingly **in Asia**, Chinese state media suggested that the “U.S. is bracing for further chaos and division” and predicted more “partisan strife” in the U.S. after the elections after **President Xi Jinping** cemented his historic third term last month.

WHEELS UP FOR U.S. POLICYMAKERS: With the midterm elections now in the rearview mirror, U.S. policymakers are headed out of the country to the global climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and beyond.

- Following his post-midterm press conference yesterday – a Washington tradition – **President Joe Biden** departs today for the climate summit along with stops in **Cambodia** and **Indonesia for the G20.**

- **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** is leading a COP27 Congressional delegation of more than a dozen Members telling reporters in her departure press statement that Congress is “proud to work side-by-side with our partners around the world... we’re all in.”
- The **GOP Climate Caucus** is also headed to the summit with **Caucus Chairman John Curtis (R-UT)** stating “our delegation in Egypt will be the proof that the Republicans are not just at the climate table but leading with solutions.”

Read on in the report for more on what the results mean for the 118th Congress, the International Affairs Budget, and details on the new U.S. senators headed to Washington.

Congressional Support for America's Global Leadership Remains Strong and Bipartisan

The 118th Congress: Control of Both Chambers Up for Grabs

The battle for control of Congress is far from over, with several high-profile races still too close to call. It could be several days – or even weeks – before the results are known. Whatever the outcome, expected narrow majorities in the House and Senate could complicate efforts to govern. Increased partisanship and polarization could also make legislating difficult. The new Congress's productivity will largely depend on a willingness from both Democrats and Republicans to compromise and find consensus – something that could prove particularly challenging given the diverse array of viewpoints within and between both parties.

The 118th Senate:

Control of the upper chamber remains an open question. While defending only 14 of 35 seats up for election, Democrats were seen to be facing an unfavorable electoral environment – with several incumbents locked in competitive races. Democrats largely defied expectations, holding most of their seats and picking up one open Republican seat in Pennsylvania, but two races are still too close to call, and one is heading to a runoff as of this writing. To clinch a majority, Republicans need to win at least two of the outstanding contests in Arizona, Nevada, and Georgia.

The good news is that the make-up of the 118th Senate will once again include bipartisan supporters of America's global leadership.

- **RETURNING FRIENDS:** We are pleased to welcome back several friends that served in leadership roles in the 117th Congress who were on the ballot this year, including **Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Patty Murray (D-WA), and John Thune (R-SD)**. Additionally, we are pleased to see the reelection of long-time champions serving on the Foreign Relations and Appropriations Committees – including **Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Todd Young (R-IN), John Boozman (R-AR), and Jerry Moran (R-KS)**. Other good friends who were re-elected to their Senate seats include **Senators James Lankford (R-OK), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)**.
- **HOUSE MEMBERS ASCEND:** The incoming **Freshman** class will include three Members currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives – **Senators-elect Ted Budd (R-NC), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Peter Welch (D-VT)**. While they have differing views and approaches when it comes to America's role in the world, each will bring important legislative experience and a unique perspective to the upper chamber on foreign policy issues of the day.
- **NEW FACES TO WATCH:** With several impressive resumes and a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences – many that indicate strong connections to foreign policy – a new generation of Freshmen will be looking to make their mark, including **Senator-elect Katie Britt (R-AL)** who

previously served on USGLC's Alabama Advisory Committee and will be the second-youngest Senator at the age of 40.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEES

While there are not expected to be major shakeups in top party leadership for either Republicans or Democrats, key retirements on both sides of the aisle will have significant implications for committee leadership in the 118th Congress.

- **REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP:** **Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** is expected to serve as Republican Leader, with **Senator John Thune (R-SD)** expected to serve as Whip.
- **DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP:** **Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY)** is expected to remain Democratic Leader, with **Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)** serving as the Democratic Whip. **Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)** will likely retain her position as Assistant Democratic Leader.
- **APPROPRIATIONS:** With the retirements of current **Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT)** and **Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL)**, Democratic and Republican leadership on the committee is expected to pass to two longtime champions for America's development and diplomacy tools, **Senators Patty Murray (D-WA)** and **Susan Collins (R-ME)** – the first time in history two women will lead the powerful spending committee. **Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC)** and **Chris Coons (D-DE)** are expected to remain atop the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee.
- **FOREIGN RELATIONS:** **Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)** will continue to serve as the top Republican and **Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)** will remain as the top Democrat.
- **BUDGET:** **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)** is expected to remain the top Republican. With **Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)** expected to replace **Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)** as the top Democrat on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, **Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)** is likely next in line for the top Democratic slot on the Budget Committee.
- **ARMED SERVICES:** With the retirement of current **Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-OK)**, Republican leadership of the committee is expected to pass to **Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)**. **Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)** is expected to remain as the top Democrat.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The USGLC would like to thank the longstanding supporters of America's global leadership who will not be returning to the Senate next year:

First and foremost, a special thank you to **Appropriations Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT)** for his nearly five decades of outstanding service and his extraordinary contributions to making the world a better, safer place. As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the longtime top Democrat of the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee, he has fought tirelessly to strengthen America's development and diplomacy programs and provide critical resources for the U.S. International Affairs Budget. From human rights to global health to conservation, his work has impacted nearly every aspect of U.S. foreign policy, improved the lives of millions worldwide, and paved the way for generations of champions for America's global engagement.

Our sincere thanks to **Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO)**, **Richard Burr (R-NC)**, **Jim Inhofe (R-OK)**, **Rob Portman (R-OH)**, and **Richard Shelby (R-AL)** for their support of America's civilian tools of national security while serving in the Senate.

Freshmen Facebook

For a detailed profile of each of the new Senator-elects, see page 16.

- Alabama: Katie Britt (R)
Replacing retiring Senator Richard Shelby (R)
- Missouri: Eric Schmitt (R)
Replacing retiring Senator Roy Blunt (R)
- North Carolina: Ted Budd (R)
Replacing retiring Senator Richard Burr (R)
- Ohio: JD Vance (R)
Replacing retiring Senator Rob Portman (R)
- Oklahoma: Markwayne Mullin (R)
Replacing retiring Senator Jim Inhofe (R)
- Pennsylvania: John Fetterman (D)
Replacing retiring Senator Pat Toomey (R)
- Vermont: Peter Welch (D)
Replacing retiring Senator Patrick Leahy (D)

Potential Freshmen – Too Close to Call

- Nevada: Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto (D) or Adam Laxalt (R)
- Arizona: Senator Mark Kelly (D) or Blake Masters (R)
- Alaska: Senator Lisa Murkowski (R) or Kelly Tshibaka (R)

Run-Off Race (December 6)

- Georgia: Senator Raphael Warnock (D) or Herschel Walker (R)

| The 118th House:

While we await the results for dozens of House races, election watchers project that Republicans are on track to win a narrow majority. Notably, more than 68 incumbents – 57% of them Democrats – did not seek re-election, instead choosing to retire or seek other positions.

Assuming Republicans clinch a majority, tensions could run high with Republicans expected to pursue an aggressive oversight agenda and investigations of the Biden Administration – including in the foreign policy arena. However, with many friends and allies re-elected to their seats and dozens of incoming Freshmen who understand the value of America’s global engagement, bipartisan consensus on the importance of America’s role in the world will continue in the 118th House.

- **RETURNING CHAMPIONS:** The leadership of the 118th House is poised to once again include supporters of America’s leadership role in the world, with key Republican and Democratic party and committee leaders re-elected – including **Reps. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Kay Granger (R-TX), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Hal Rogers (R-KY), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Michael McCaul (R-TX), and Gregory Meeks (D-NY).**

Many of the foreign policy and national security leaders who made their mark on international affairs issues in the 117th House will also return, including:

- Key members of the Appropriations and Foreign Affairs Committees, including **Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Grace Meng (D-NY), Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Tom Cole (R-OK), Lois Frankel (D-FL), Julia Letlow (R-LA), Norma Torres (D-CA), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Jennifer Wexton (D-VA), Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Colin Allred (D-TX), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Young Kim (R-CA), Sara Jacobs (D-CA), Joe Wilson (R-SC), Ami Bera (D-CA), Ann Wagner (R-MO), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Dean Phillips (D-MN), Andy Barr (R-KY), Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), David Cicilline (D-CA), Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Andy Kim (D-NJ).**
- Military veterans and service corps leaders, including For Country Caucus Co-Chairs **Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE) and Jared Golden (D-ME),** as well as **Michael Waltz (R-FL), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Mike Gallagher (R-WI), Jake Auchincloss (D-MA), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Seth Moulton (D-MA), and Jim Baird (R-IN).**
- Former USGLC State Advisory Committee Members, including **Reps. Stephanie Bice (R-OK), Jason Crow (D-CO), Jake LaTurner (R-KS), Joe Neguse (D-CO), William Timmons (R-SC), Marilyn Strickland (D-WA), Carlos Gimenez (R-FL), Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Mike Flood (R-NE), and Deborah Ross (D-NC).**
- **FAMILIAR FRESHMAN FACES:** The incoming Freshman class includes two more Members-elect who previously served on USGLC State Advisory Committees, **Morgan McGarvey (D-KY)** and **Zach Nunn (R-IA),** making a dozen now, who come to Capitol Hill with a commitment to America’s global leadership role and an understanding of the importance of our development and diplomacy tools to advancing U.S. interests and values.
- **NEW VETERAN VOICES:** There will be at least 12 veterans in the incoming Freshman class, whose experience has equipped them with an inherent understanding and appreciation for the importance of America’s civilian national security tools. Among them are Army veteran **Wesley Hunt (R-TX),** Army National Guard veteran **Jeff Jackson (D-NC),** Navy veteran **Jen Kiggans (R-VA),** Navy veteran **Christopher Deluzio (D-PA),** and Army veteran **Keith Self (R-TX).** These

new faces will join an already strong contingent of veteran voices in Congress who support elevating development and diplomacy, alongside a strong defense.

- **PUBLIC SERVICE A PLUS:** Many of the new Freshmen have impressive backgrounds in public service, including in foreign policy and national security roles, including former Office of Management and Budget appointee **Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)**.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEES

If Republicans secure a majority, both parties could see new faces join the leadership ranks. When the House reconvenes next week, Republican and Democratic leadership races will ramp up in advance of elections during the lame duck. Committee leadership on both sides of the aisle is expected to remain relatively unchanged, with a few exceptions.

- **REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP:** Rep. **Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)** is favored to remain as Republican Leader, with Rep. **Steve Scalise (R-LA)** expected to retain the number two spot. A shift to a Republican majority is expected to create a three-way contest for Republican Whip between Reps. **Tom Emmer (R-MN)**, **Drew Ferguson (R-GA)**, and **Jim Banks (R-IN)**.
- **DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP:** While none of the three top Democrats – current **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, **Democratic Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)**, or **Democratic Whip James Clyburn (D-SC)** – have announced their future plans, if one or more step down, it could lead to the most significant leadership shakeup in decades. Rep. **Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)** is seen as a frontrunner to replace Pelosi as Democratic Leader, with Rep. **Adam Schiff (D-CA)** also eyeing a potential bid for the top spot. Reps. **Katherine Clark (D-MA)** and **Pete Aguilar (D-CA)** are vying for the number two and number three roles, respectively, although other candidates could emerge.
- **APPROPRIATIONS:** Rep. **Kay Granger (R-TX)** will continue to serve as the top Republican, with Rep. **Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)** remaining as the top Democrat. Rep. **Hal Rogers (R-KY)** – who is term-limited under Republican Conference rules – may seek a waiver to retain the lead Republican role on the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee. Several other top Republicans also face term limits, and a decision to not grant waivers could lead to a significant reshuffling of subcommittee leadership. Rep. **Barbara Lee (D-CA)** is expected to remain the top Democrat on the State-Foreign Operations panel.
- **FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Rep. **Michael McCaul (R-TX)** is expected to retain his position as the top Republican on the panel, with Rep. **Gregory Meeks (D-NY)** returning as the lead Democrat.
- **BUDGET:** With current **Ranking Member Jason Smith (R-MO)** running to succeed retiring Rep. **Kevin Brady (R-TX)** as the top Republican on the Ways and Means Committee, Reps. **Jodey Arrington (R-TX)**, **Buddy Carter (R-GA)**, and **Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)** are all vying to take over as lead Republican on the Budget Committee. However, if Smith loses his committee race, he is expected to pursue the top slot on the Budget Committee. The retirement of Rep. **John Yarmuth (D-KY)** leaves an opening for the top Democratic spot. Rep. **Brendan Boyle (D-PA)** has signaled his interest in running for the position, although other potential candidates could emerge.
- **ARMED SERVICES:** Reps. **Mike Rogers (R-AL)** and **Adam Smith (D-WA)** are both expected to retain their respective parties' top posts on the committee.

A Special Thank You

The USGLC would like to thank the many longstanding supporters of America's global leadership who will not be returning to the House next year:

- First, a special thank you to **Budget Chairman John Yarmuth (D-KY)** – a respected leader and steadfast champion for America's engagement in the world – who will retire at the end of the year. Serving as the top Democrat on the Budget Committee for three terms, he consistently prioritized resources for America's development and diplomacy tools and spoke eloquently about how what happens abroad directly impacts the economic and security interests of Americans here at home.
- The USGLC would also like to recognize longtime State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee member **Rep. David Price (D-NC)** and Foreign Affairs Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights Subcommittee **Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-CA)** for their steadfast support of America's role in the world and their unwavering commitment to strengthening U.S. development and diplomacy funding and programs throughout their tenure in Congress.
- Our sincere thanks to **Reps. Steve Chabot (R-OH), Tom Malinowski (D-NJ), Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Peter Meijer (R-MI), Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Elaine Luria (D-VA), and Ted Deutch (D-FL)**, who consistently championed America's international affairs programs and resources from their positions on the Appropriations and Foreign Affairs Committees.
- We are also grateful to **Reps. Fred Upton (R-MI), Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO)**, and many others who have been strong supporters of America's role in the world throughout their careers in Congress. We look forward to continuing to work closely with them in the future.

What's Next for the International Affairs Budget?

Wrapping Up the 117th Congress

The 117th Congress will return to Washington next week for a lame duck session with a lengthy to-do list – including several items that could impact international affairs funding and programs. Preventing a government shutdown when the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires on December 16th will be a top priority, as well as potential consideration of a new emergency supplemental for Ukraine.

FY23 International Affairs Budget

The lack of a bipartisan agreement on topline spending levels has stalled progress on finalizing FY23 spending bills. The House approved six of its twelve FY23 spending bills in July, including the State-Foreign Operations bill that funds the vast majority of the International Affairs Budget. The Senate Appropriations Committee released its full slate of FY23 spending bills in late-July but has not taken any additional action.

State-Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Snapshot

FY22 Enacted*	FY23 Request**	FY23 House^	FY23 Senate***^
\$56.1 billion	\$66.3 billion	\$64.58 billion	\$64.56 billion

**Excludes \$29.3 billion in primarily Ukraine and Afghanistan-related emergency funding*

***Reflects CBO's re-estimate of the Administration's request*

****Excludes \$950 million in FY23 emergency funding for pandemic preparedness and \$5 billion in FY22 emergency funding for the global COVID-19 response*

^Excludes \$4.5 billion in FY23 Ukraine-related emergency funding provided in the FY23 Continuing Resolution

There are a few scenarios that could play out during the lame duck when it comes to action on FY23 spending bills:

- **OMNIBUS:** If bipartisan Congressional leaders can reach a deal on topline spending levels, Congress could approve an omnibus package containing all 12 FY23 appropriations bills before the end of the year. A brief extension of the current Continuing Resolution might be necessary to provide sufficient time for an omnibus to be finalized and considered by both the House and Senate.
- **CROMNIBUS:** If bipartisan Congressional leaders reach a topline spending deal but are unable to agree on all 12 individual FY23 appropriations bills, they could approve a package that

includes some FY23 bills alongside a CR that would fund the remaining bill(s) at FY22 enacted levels for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- **EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL:** Members on both sides of the aisle have indicated that a new emergency supplemental to provide military, economic, and humanitarian support to Ukraine may be needed before the end of the year. Additional resources to address other domestic and international emergencies – such as disaster aid for states impacted by recent hurricanes, the global food crisis, and the ongoing COVID-19 and Monkeypox responses, among others – could also be included as part of an emergency package.

If these efforts are unsuccessful, the following scenarios could result:

- **SHORT-TERM CR:** While some Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle – including retiring Senate Appropriations Committee **Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT)** and **Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL)** – would prefer to complete action on FY23 spending bills in the lame duck, there could be a push from Republican lawmakers to delay action until the 118th Congress if they clinch a majority in one or both chambers. As a result, Congress may need to approve a short-term CR that extends FY22 funding levels through early 2023.
- **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN:** If lawmakers are unable to reach a topline spending deal or approve a short-term CR before the current CR expires, a federal government shutdown could result.

At a time of unprecedented global threats, the USGLC urges Congress to adopt no less than the House-proposed level of \$64.6 billion for the FY23 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill to ensure our investments in development and diplomacy meet the urgent needs affecting America's security and economic interests.

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 118TH CONGRESS

The swearing-in of the 118th Congress on January 3rd will usher in a new era and a host of new challenges when it comes to governing – with funding the federal government at the top of the list. If Congress punts final decisions on FY23 spending to the New Year, the 118th Congress will be tasked with wrapping up FY23 and beginning work on FY24 spending bills in rapid succession.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress have long supported robust funding for the International Affairs Budget and have worked together to ensure America's development and diplomacy programs are effective, accountable, and data driven. With no shortage of global threats – from the war in Ukraine to a global food crisis to escalating humanitarian crises – the 118th Congress will have an opportunity to build on this legacy.

Key Dates

- **November 13-19; November 28-December 3:** New Member Orientation
- **November 14:** Lame Duck Session Begins
- **Weeks of November 21 & 25:** District Work Period & Thanksgiving
- **December 16:** FY23 Continuing Resolution Expires
- **January 3, 2023:** Opening and Swearing-In of 118th Congress

New Faces in Washington

Alabama

Senator-elect Katie Britt (R-AL)



Prior to being elected to the U.S. Senate, Katie Britt served on USGLC's Alabama Advisory Committee. As a candidate, Senator-elect Katie Britt regularly expressed strong support for U.S. global leadership stating that "America should lead from a place of strength... in the world" and that with threats from Russia and China, the U.S. must "deter war through strength."

Making the connection between Alabama and the importance of global engagement, she has stated that "foreign affairs aren't foreign to the millions of Alabamians impacted by them." On the campaign trail, she promised that "whether it be trade deals, armed conflicts, treaties or foreign aid, I will make sure Alabama not only has a seat at the table but benefits directly."

Britt previously served as President of the Business Council of Alabama and as campaign manager and Chief of Staff for Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which includes the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Previously serving as the President and CEO at the Business Council of Alabama, Britt has lifted up the importance of U.S. leadership in the global marketplace. Citing Alabama's exports of "over \$17 billion in wide-ranging goods and services" she has stated that the state's exports overseas "will only become exponentially more important in the coming years" with the ongoing upgrades at Alabama's deep-water port.
- Pointing to the critical links between the Alabama economy and U.S. national security – including the aerospace industry – she has stated that "Alabama can play a leading part not just in foreign affairs, but across our Solar System, for years to come."

ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:

- Citing her background growing up in an agricultural and military community, Britt stated on the campaign trail that she is a "big believer that food security is national security" adding that she "will always fight for Alabama's hardworking family farmers."

ON THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA:

- Britt has called China "our biggest geopolitical threat" stating that China's aggression is a "risk to our national security and every Alabama family." She has called on leaders in Washington, D.C. to "wake up" to the real threats from China, putting a spotlight on the complex challenges the U.S. faces with China from manufacturing and jobs to fentanyl trafficking to the genocide against the Uyghurs to technology threats.
- Throughout her campaign, she was particularly concerned with the future of American manufacturing as it relates to competition with China, promising her constituents that upon entering office, she will "stand up to China, because it is in America's interest and Alabama's interest."

North Carolina

Senator-elect Ted Budd (R-NC)



A North Carolina native and three-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator-elect Ted Budd comes to the U.S. Senate consistently stating his firm belief in a “policy of peace through strength on the world stage.”

He has said that “America should be the leader of the free world and exercise our military power only when it is necessary to protect our citizens or our national security” adding that “we must always stand up for our values abroad and stand with allies who share them.”

ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FUNDING:

- During his tenure in the House, Budd supported several bipartisan global development and diplomacy bills, including the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022 and Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021; however, he also voted in favor of amendments to cut international affairs funding and opposed bipartisan bills such as the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2022 and Global Health Security Act of 2021.

ON THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA:

- As a Congressman, Budd stated that “the Russian government must pay a steep price for its unjust invasion of Ukraine. Isolating them from the world stage will send another clear and unmistakable message that this evil and thuggish behavior will not be tolerated.”
- He has also stated that “China is acting as an ally to Russia in their unjust war against Ukraine. They are not a force for good. The Biden Administration must use our economic leverage to punish China today.”

ON GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY:

- As a House Member, Budd introduced legislation to investigate the World Health Organization’s response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, stating that the “Chinese Communist Party lied to the world and allowed the Coronavirus to spread around the world” adding that “American taxpayers, whose dollars fund a significant part of the World Health Organization’s budget, deserve to know to what extent WHO either participated in or was slow to call out the lies coming from China’s party leadership.”

ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FUNDING:

- A vocal supporter of the U.S.-Israel relationship, he sponsored several pieces of legislation including the America Stands with Israel Act, stating “the United States must stand shoulder to shoulder with the State of Israel because they are our friend, our ally, and the only democracy in the Middle East.”.

Before his election to the U.S. Senate, Budd represented North Carolina’s 11th Congressional District since 2017. He has traveled overseas to Belgium, Germany, Japan, Poland, South Korea, and Switzerland.

Pennsylvania

Senator-elect John Fetterman (D-PA)



Senator-elect John Fetterman has stated “we live in a complex, ever-changing world that requires American leadership and diplomacy.” He has called for “maintaining smart global leadership” and that the U.S. “should be engaging in preventive diplomacy, and proactively working with other countries to improve relations.”

He says his worldview has been shaped by serving 13 years as the Mayor of Braddock, Pennsylvania – an industrial steel town that he worked to revitalize before becoming Lt. Governor. In his statements, he has approached foreign

policy through a domestic lens, stating that “in order for America to be a force for good in the world... America must first be strong at home.”

On national security, Fetterman has stated he wants to ensure “that the best military in the world remains strong and prepared” while at the same time we want to avoid “costly wars of choice have put too many American men and women into harm’s way.”

ON DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Fetterman has called for prioritizing diplomatic means to keep America safe through a “compassionate, diplomacy-first foreign policy” and by “partnering with our allies abroad to promote more stability around the world.”
- He wants to reduce the frequency of America’s military engagements and end “costly wars of choice.” He has stated he supports an approach of “strengthening our diplomatic efforts and investing in effective foreign aid programs.”

ON RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE:

- Fetterman has spoken out on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine stating, “I’ve been so proud to watch the world rally against Russia’s attack on Ukraine – an attack on democracy itself.”
- Calling the invasion a “brutal attack,” he has continued to show his support by saying “we must continue showing the world that we as a country are completely united and stand with Ukraine in the fight against Putin.”

ON THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA:

- Fetterman has called China our greatest foreign policy challenge, saying “I believe the greatest threat is China. China is not our friend and I believe that we need to push back and stand against China.”
- Throughout his campaign, he has said he will “work to guarantee that we don’t allow China to out-innovate us.”

After serving 13 years as Mayor of Braddock, Fetterman became Pennsylvania’s Lieutenant Governor in 2018. He is also an AmeriCorps alumnus and Harvard graduate with a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government.

Oklahoma

Senator-elect Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)



A native Oklahoman and five-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator-elect Markwayne Mullin comes to the U.S. Senate with a belief in the importance of America's global leadership, stating that “As a leader of the free world, many nations look to us during negotiations or times of crisis... Congress should still use the opportunities we have to maintain our diplomatic ties with our allies and ensure that America will always be that ‘shining city on a hill.’”

During his tenure in the House, Mullin engaged on issues of U.S. national security from his seat on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. In a column published on his Congressional website, Mullin urges America to strive “for President Ronald Reagan’s ideal of peace through strength” stating that “our allies and enemies are watching.”

ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT:

- As a member of the House of Representatives, Mullin has supported bipartisan global development and diplomacy bills, including the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022, Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021, and Global Health Security Act of 2021. However, he also voted in favor of several amendments to cut international affairs funding.

ON THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA:

- Mullin has been critical of the Chinese Communist Party, stating that it “is a premier threat to the United States. President Biden must demonstrate forceful leadership in foreign policy negotiations to protect American economic and security interests.”
- A cosponsor of a resolution expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong, Mullin wrote that he “voted to condemn the Chinese Communist Party for their gross human rights abuses against the people of Hong Kong. We must stand in support of all those who are threatened by the CCP’s authoritarian regime.”

ON RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE:

- Following the Russian invasion, Mullin strongly condemned the “unjustified and unprovoked attack on Ukraine,” stating in his official capacity that “America stands with Ukraine. As we watch these horrific attacks on our ally unfold we are reminded of the stark truth that freedom is never free.”

Mullin was a member of several foreign affairs-related caucuses in the House of Representatives – including the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, the Congressional Moldova Caucus, and the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus – and served on the bipartisan House Democracy Partnership in the 116th Congress. He has traveled extensively overseas, including to Afghanistan, Kosovo, Germany, Jordan, Liberia, Panama, and Turkey.

Before his election to the U.S. Senate, Mullin represented Oklahoma’s 2nd Congressional district since 2013.

Missouri

Senator-elect Eric Schmitt (R-MO)



As a candidate, Senator-elect Eric Schmitt called for America to be a “beacon of hope to the world of freedom and liberty” while acknowledging that in a dangerous world “we’ve got to have peace through strength.” He has also expressed his concern that the United States should not “cede its sovereignty” to multilateral organizations, such as the World Health Organization and United Nations.

Having served more than 15 years as an elected official in the state of Missouri, Schmitt’s campaign for U.S. Senate largely focused on domestic issues including the economy, immigration and border security, and government spending. However, he has signaled a focus on China as an important policy priority and listed “Holding China Accountable” as his second issue priority within his campaign platform. He has not publicly addressed his position on the use of America’s foreign assistance tools to advance American interests and values.

ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Schmitt has spoken out on the importance of global trade for poverty reduction, stating that “80% of the world’s worst poverty has been eradicated in less than 40 years.”
- On food security issues, he has highlighted how America’s agricultural sector is “critical and vital to our long-term trade opportunities” and that “farmers provide the world with food, fuel, and fiber.”

ON RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE:

- While Schmitt has stated that “Putin must be held responsible for this unconscionable attack on Ukraine” and called for “aggressive sanctions on Russia’s energy sector”, he has also expressed concerns about the cost of American aid to Ukraine in contrast against other priorities.

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- Schmitt has called for the U.S. to “prevent the next pandemic in an America First way” and criticized the “trillions of dollars” spent in the response to Covid “when billions of strategic investments could prevent pandemics in the first place.”
- During his time as Missouri’s Attorney General, he attempted to sue the Chinese government in April 2020 to “hold China accountable for their lies and deceit that unleashed the COVID-19 global pandemic.”

Prior to being elected to the U.S. Senate, Schmitt served in the Missouri State Senate from 2009 to 2017, as Missouri State Treasurer from 2017 to 2019, and as Missouri Attorney General from 2019 to 2022.

Ohio

Senator-elect J.D. Vance (R-OH)



Senator-elect Vance comes to the U.S. Senate as a prior venture capitalist and New York Times bestseller who has endorsed a staunchly populist foreign policy perspective, arguing that “global elites have played a trick on normal Americans.” In his campaign platform, he states that “the foreign policy establishment gets rich when American children die for dumb ideas.”

In interviews, he has stated that his foreign policy view is that “Americans have to be a little bit more humble about what we can accomplish... in the world.”

Vance frequently describes U.S. foreign policy decisions as a direct choice between U.S. global engagement and domestic priorities. On issues like additional U.S. support for Ukraine, he has called it “a huge – a catastrophic – mistake” contrasting the choice with his focus on “problems right here at home.” On other occasions, he has doubled down stating that “I don’t really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another” adding that he does care “about the fact that in my community right now the leading cause of death among 18-(to)-45-year-olds is Mexican fentanyl that’s coming across the southern border.”

ON THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA:

- Throughout his senatorial campaign, Vance has criticized China and highlighted China’s impact on American manufacturing sectors stating, “China is stealing our jobs. China has stolen a big chunk of our industrial and manufacturing base.”
- He has expressed skepticism of U.S. support for Taiwan stating that “we don’t have to defend foreign island countries if it’s not in our core national interest.”

ON RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE:

- Vance stated that the Russian invasion of Ukraine “is not in our vital national security interest,” and that it instead “distracts our leaders from the things that do actually threaten it.”
- He has stated that “Vladimir Putin is an evil man” and has also criticized NATO and other Western nations for continuing reliance on Russian energy exports.

ON GLOBAL DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS:

- Vance has criticized the “foreign policy establishment” stating that those in it “obsess over democracy” adding that “they talk about democracy like it’s the most important thing in the world.”

ON U.S. ALLIANCES:

- Vance has called Israel an “important ally” and “a real ally in the sense that we’re not just sort of sharing interests, we’re actually sharing common values” adding that he has “always thought we should be more willing to help Israel.”

Vance served as a U.S. Marine in Iraq and worked as a principal at Peter Thiel-owned Mithril Capital. After his time in the Marine Corps, Vance attended the Ohio State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in political science and philosophy before receiving a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. Vance gained national prominence in 2016 when he published his book, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*

Vermont

Senator-elect Peter Welch (D-VT)



An eight-term Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator-elect Peter Welch brings to the U.S. Senate a strong record as a champion for America's development and diplomacy programs and a vision for our nation's foreign policy as "one that brings our troops home, restores diplomacy to foreign policy and improves the readiness of our military."

During his tenure in the House, he engaged on foreign policy and national security issues from his seat on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

ON DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Throughout his tenure in the House, Welch built a strong voting record on funding for the International Affairs Budget and supported legislation to strengthen and enhance U.S. development and diplomacy programs in a variety of areas including global health, humanitarian assistance, climate change, and human rights.
- As a House Member, he expressed concern about the Trump Administration's proposals to cut funding for the International Affairs Budget, tweeting that "Cutting @USAID, State Department funding damages US relationships w/ countries around the world & makes us less safe."

ON RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE:

- After returning from Eastern Europe as part of a Congressional delegation, Welch reaffirmed his support for U.S. assistance to Ukraine, stating that "I return to the United States with a continued commitment to do all we can to protect Ukraine's sovereignty and the well-being of the Ukrainian people and to ensure the security and prosperity of our allies in Eastern Europe."
- As a House Member, he also highlighted how the war in Ukraine connects to Vermont, tweeting that "Vermonters always step up to help others" and praising an event in Greensboro as "one of many inspiring examples of Vermonters pulling together to support Ukraine and defend democracy around the world."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- A vocal supporter of U.S. global health programs, U.S. investments in pandemic preparedness, and the importance of a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Welch has tweeted that "Yes! I strongly support global health programs like Gavi, Global Fund, and CEPI."

Welch was also a member of the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus, a co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Study Group on Europe, and served as a Chief Deputy Whip. Prior to being elected to Vermont's only House seat in 2006, Senator-elect Welch worked as a public defender and founded a small law practice.