



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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### Midterm Elections Shake Up Balance of Power in Washington

Yesterday's midterm elections produced significant changes on Capitol Hill. The House of Representatives will shift to a Democratic majority for the first time since 1994, while control of the U.S. Senate hinges on the final outcome of Senate races in Montana and Virginia, both of which are too close to call. Meanwhile, Senator Dianne Feinstein was re-elected to a third term, and the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation remained largely intact, with the exception of the 22nd Congressional District, where Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) was elected to replace retiring Congressman Bill Thomas.

Many observers see Northern California as a major beneficiary of the congressional change of power, with current House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi all but certain to assume the Speakership. Other members of the Bay Area delegation are also poised to take key committee chairmanships. However, Southern California is not without its clout, as Congressman Henry Waxman is expected to become chairman of the powerful Government Reform Committee. In addition, Representatives Howard Berman, Brad Sherman and Grace Napolitano are in line to chair key subcommittees. On the Republican side, Representatives Buck McKeon, David Dreier and Dana Rohrabacher are expected to assume influential ranking member positions on various House committees.

Congress will return to Washington next week for a lame-duck session. Although appropriations bills and other matters still remain to be completed before adjourning, it is expected that leadership elections and other housekeeping duties will occupy the majority of time. As such, the exact timing on unfinished legislative business is unclear. We will keep you informed as new developments arise.

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