

# A NEW DIRECTION: THE FIRST 100 DAYS



In its first 100 days, the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress has shown it is serious about changing the way Washington works. While past Congresses have stood back and rubberstamped the President's failed policies, this Congress has shown the courage to stand up on behalf of the American people by asking tough questions; passing responsible legislation; and restoring productivity, accountability and responsiveness to government. We are putting the concerns of everyday Americans at the forefront our agenda and we will continue to fight for what they demanded in November: a new direction at home and abroad.

## ***Productivity***

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**This Senate is working hard to pass legislation, and in just a few short months has passed several measures to strengthen America at home and abroad.**

**The new Democratic Senate has already passed legislation to:**

- ★ Clean up Washington through the most significant ethics reform in more than 20 years
- ★ Give working Americans a long overdue raise by raising the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years
- ★ Make America more secure by fully implementing the 9/11 recommendations
- ★ Restore fiscal responsibility and put middle-class families first through the continuing resolution and the first budget passed in two years
- ★ Approve life-saving research into stem-cell treatments that offer hope to millions of Americans and their families
- ★ Change course in Iraq by removing our troops from a civil war and requiring Iraq to make the political decisions necessary to take control of its own future

## ***Accountability***

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**Democrats take very seriously our Constitutional responsibility to offer citizens a government that is accountable for its actions. We are dedicated to restoring a system of checks and balances that past Republican Congresses refused to enforce.**

**This Congress is:**

- ★ Holding this administration accountable for its failed policies in Iraq
  - ✓ In the first 100 days, we have held 58 oversight hearings on Iraq – that’s 58 more than in the last Congress
  - ✓ We have held major debates on changing the course in Iraq
  - ✓ We have passed legislation that gives our troops a strategy for success
- ★ Ensuring our veterans receive the care they deserve
  - ✓ We are leading investigations into the deplorable conditions at Walter Reed and ensuring our troops have the resources they need going into combat and the care they were promised when they come home
- ★ Ensuring our criminal justice system is free of political manipulation
  - ✓ We are questioning the White House’s involvement in the firing of federal prosecutors because the American people deserve an independent judicial system on which they can rely

## ***Responsiveness***

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**Among the many things the American people asked for in November is a government responsive to their concerns. Democrats are heeding the calls of the American people and working to change course in Iraq.**

- ★ Democrats are united in listening to what the vast majority of Americans, military experts and the Iraq Study Group know we need in Iraq: a change in course
- ★ We demand a strategy for success rather than a rubber stamp for the President’s failed policy
- ★ Democrats have crafted legislation that removes our troops from a civil war and requires Iraq to make the political decisions necessary to take control of its own future
- ★ Democrats know we must transition the mission in Iraq to enhance America’s security and more effectively fight terrorism
- ★ We are committed, as always, to providing our troops the resources they need, when they need it