

# ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

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## ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

—————  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021  
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Printed for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration



U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 2021

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

FIRST SESSION

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## ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION,  
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 5:50 p.m., in Room 219, U.S. Capitol, Hon. Amy Klobuchar, Chairwoman of the committee, presiding.

**Present:** Senators Klobuchar, Blunt, Feinstein, Warner, King, Padilla, Fischer, and Hyde-Smith.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HONORABLE AMY KLOBUCHAR, CHAIRWOMAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. Okay, here we go. Okay. The Committee on Rules and Administration will come to order for its first business meeting of the 117th Congress. We are livestreaming this because there have been requests that we not have private meetings when we organize these committees, and we are very pleased to do that. Thank you everyone for accommodating us and doing this during the vote. I want to welcome the new members on the Rules Committee, Senators Merkley, Padilla, Ossoff, and Hagerty. I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Senator Blunt as chairman for the last several years and I look forward to working with him. I also want to note he did a great job as chair of the inauguration.

[Clap.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. We have a lot to work—starting tomorrow we are doing a joint hearing with Homeland Security, where we have all the—both of the former Sergeants at Arms, as well as the former Police Chief of the Capitol Police, as well as the Metro Police Chief, current acting Police Chief. So it is going to be a major hearing about what happened, so we make sure it doesn't happen again. We are going to have a hearing on the For the People Act, which is S. 1, in the near future. Today we are going to vote on three routine matters. The committee rules, a resolution authorizing funding for Senate committees for the 117th, and an amendment to that resolution authorizing funding for this committee. I appreciate that Ranking Member Blunt has worked with me, and our staff worked very well together on all three items. Senator Blunt.

Senator BLUNT. Well, chairwoman, glad to be continuing to work with you on this. We have had a great working relationship for a long time. We will continue to have one on the things that impact

the way we do our work every day and work together on that, but you are the chairwoman. I am glad to be working with you and both on adopting the rules today and the budgets for our committee and the other committees I think are the items before us.

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. Very good. We are recommending, and now we are going to proceed to consideration of business—we are recommending we update the rules to provide the committee with subpoena authority. We are one of the few committees without a specific process for issuing subpoenas and this change will put us in line with nine other committees that use the same procedures. We are also recommending a few technical changes to standardize capitalization and updating pronouns and titles, as in not just having he but having he and she for obvious reasons. Senator Blunt, you are recognized for any comments you would like to make on the proposed rules.

Senator BLUNT. Well, I am glad we have been able to work together on the rules. I am glad to get our pronouns in good shape and look forward to moving forward—making whatever motion you need on these rules.

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. Okay. You agree that we should do this by voice vote?

Senator BLUNT. Sure.

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. You think so?

Senator BLUNT. Absolutely.

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Any further discussion of the proposed committee rules for the 117th Congress?

Senator FEINSTEIN. Are we voting on both at one time?

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. No, we are going to vote on all separate things. So this is first the adoption of the committee's rules of procedure, which are the same except for the two things I outlined. All those in favor say, aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. All those opposed say, no.

[No response.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The rules of the committee are adopted pursuant to Senate Rule 26. The rules will go into effect after they have been published in the congressional record. I will now proceed to the consideration of the omnibus committee funding resolution for this Congress. This resolution is the result of a strong bipartisan process. I now recognize Ranking Member to offer an amendment.

Senator BLUNT. Chairwoman, I do have an amendment which authorizes the expenditure of funds for the Rules Committee in addition to all of the other committees and ask that the Rules Committee amendment be added for immediate consideration.

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Hearing no objection, the amendment is considered read. Is there any discussion?

[No response.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. If there is no further discussion, the question on this amendment is offered. All those in favor say, aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. All those opposed, no.

[No response.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to. Are there any further amendments to the resolution on the funding?

[No response.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. Hearing none, the question is on ordering the resolution as amended, favorably reported. All those in favor say, aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. All those opposed say, no.

[No response.]

Chairwoman KLOBUCHAR. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The omnibus committee funding resolution is favorably reported as amended. Thank you, everyone, for your participation. I am looking forward to a productive Congress and a productive committee starting tomorrow. We really want this hearing tomorrow to be as constructive as possible. It is really important. Thank you everyone.

[Whereupon, at 5:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]

