SJC SAN JOSE MINETA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CITY OF SAN JOSE CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

TO: AIRPORT COMMISSION

FROM: Matthew Kazmierczak
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SUBJECT: Legislative Update

DATE: November 6, 2026

FEDERAL

The November 3, 2026 election saw Democrats win control of both chambers of Congress. This will result in a change in committee leadership across Congress, including relevant aviation and transportation committees.

What this means:

House

- House Republican leadership elections for the 120th Congress are scheduled for Tuesday, November 10. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has announced he will not seek the top Republican leadership position, creating an open race for the Minority Leader position.
- For House Democratic leadership, current leaders are expected to remain as they move into the majority. Reps. Hakeem (D-NY) Jeffries as Speaker, Katherine Clark (D-MA) as Majority Leader, and Pete Aguilar (D-CA) as Majority Whip. Democratic leadership elections will be held November 18-19. The formal vote for the Speaker of the House will not be until January.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure**: Rick Larsen (D-WA) is expected to become Chair, while David Rouzer (R-NC) is expected to lead the Republicans, though his race is yet to be called (he leads by about 2,400 votes as of the writing of this memo).

Senate

- Senate Republicans have scheduled their leadership election for Tuesday, November 10. Sen. John Thune (R-SD) likely to remain in the top spot and Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) joining him as Republican Whip.
- Senate Democrats have not yet scheduled their leadership elections. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is expected to move into the Majority Leader position with Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) joining as Democratic Whip.

- **Commerce, Science, and Transportation**: Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) are expected to continue leading the committee for their respective parties and would swap the Chair and Ranking Member roles.

The federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution (CR) through December 11, 2026. The lame-duck Congress will need to reconvene to address several critical bills including:

- Funding the federal government past December 11.
- Extension of Surface Transportation Programs
- National Defense Authorization Act authorization

STATE

SB 661 (Hurtado) Aviation Fuel Tax Revenue Use

The Governor vetoed SB 661, which would have redirected some aviation fuel tax revenues to the airports and brought California into compliance with federal FAA revenue use requirements. The bill had been a top priority for California airports because it would have protected eligibility for federal funding and created a more reliable funding stream for airport infrastructure. The bill's sponsors and airport stakeholders intend to reintroduce it in the 2027-28 legislative session. The Airport will continue to work with its state advocates and industry partners on the effort.