

PROCESS FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Determination of Issues for Policy Development

- At the beginning of every year, the Policy Committee, following consultation with the Leadership, Ranking Members and others, shall compile a list of issues and issue areas where Republican policy positions may be necessary or desirable during the year.
- The Republican Leader reports his plans for the year as part of his annual message to the Conference.
- Any Policy Committee recommendation of issues for policy development shall be brought before the Leadership for approval.
- The Leader, Ranking Members, and other Members of the Conference may propose issues for policy development at any time throughout the year. In such cases, all such issues may be initially sent to the task forces (described below) for recommendation, referred to the Policy Committee, or in accordance with Conference rules can be taken up directly by the Conference.
- Recommendations from the Leader's Roundtable after approval by the Leadership Group could be forwarded for policy development.

Initial Policy Development

- The Policy Committee Chairman may, after consultation with the Leader, have a Policy Committee forum to discuss any issue the Chairman may choose. After such forum discussions the Chairman of the Policy Committee could call an executive Policy Committee meeting to issue a statement. The Policy Committee Chairman may choose to refer any matter to a task force or to the entire Conference.
- The Leader and/or the Research Committee, after consultation with the Leader, shall create task forces in each of the issue areas to develop recommendations as to policy and legislative proposals.
- These task forces shall include representatives of the committees of jurisdiction, including Ranking Members. The goal is to have close coordination between the committees and the task forces.
- Task force staff support shall be drawn from committee staffs, the Research Committee staff, and other Leadership office staffs.

Policy Development (Cont.)

- Each task force shall determine if and when its recommendations shall be submitted for ultimate conference approval as overall House Republican Party positions except when action is called for by the Leadership and/or the Chairman of the Policy Committee. A date certain for the task forces to report can be established.

Policy Approval Process

- Policy Committee - Task Force recommendations shall be submitted to the Policy Committee for action. The Policy Committee may decide either to recommend no action, to issue a policy statement, and/or to submit the issue to the Conference.
- Conference - The Conference shall take up all policy issues and recommendations referred to it by the Policy Committee, as well as issues brought directly to the Conference with the requisite number of signatures as required by the Conference rules. Approval by the Conference constitutes official House Republican policy.

Oversight

- It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Policy Committee to monitor the status and progress of policy development in these issue areas, and to report back to the Leadership and the Conference periodically in this regard.