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Client Alert: The 2026 Midterms Are Coming—and So Is a New Era of Congressional Oversight

With the midterms just a few months away, *POLITICO* reports that K Street is already in “hunker-down mode” —running murder boards, auditing communications, and building committee relationships now, ahead of an expected wave of aggressive oversight if either chamber flips.

That story focused on energy, but the exposure is broader. Any company that’s engaged with the administration, has taken federal funds, or sits in a visible sector, such as health care, technology, finance, manufacturing, transportation, or higher education, could get an inquiry letter, a document request, or a hearing invite. When the government is divided, oversight becomes the majority’s main lever, and it’s often the private company, not the agency, that gets asked to produce the documents.

What Flips with a New Majority

- **New gavels move fast.** Investigators are planning to act on Day 1—no grace period.
- **Wider targets.** Federal grants and loans, permitting, health care program integrity, and the “affordability” frame will drive requests.
- **It plays out in public.** Hearings and letters hit the press; legal, government relations, and communications need to move together.

How We Help

- **Oversight readiness.** Assess exposure, prep executives, and build a response plan before a letter arrives.
- **Political intelligence.** Real-time read on races and committee leadership fights.
- **Relationship building.** Ensuring your first contact with a congressional office isn’t a subpoena response.

The Time to Prepare Is Now

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Environmental & Energy
Financial Institutions &
Insurance
Manufacturing
Public Sector
Technology
Transportation, Advanced
Mobility & Logistics

SERVICE LINE

Government Law & Policy

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The consistent advice—echoed throughout recent reporting from Washington, D.C.—is simple: do not wait until the morning after the election to make your first call.

Organizations that are proactive and prepare NOW enter the new Congress with relationships in place and equipped with a plan.

Organizations that are unprepared are often forced into a reactive posture.

Many of our clients know Shumaker as trusted legal counsel. They may be less familiar with Shumaker Advisors, the firm's full-service government affairs operation in Washington, D.C., dedicated to helping clients navigate moments exactly like these.

To talk through what this means for your organization, reach out to Ryan Walker or Chris Salemmme in our Washington, D.C. office.