

### 9. Use of Electronic Equipment on House Floor

The Speaker's policy announced on January 27, 2000, as clarified on January 6, 2009, and as modified by the change in clause 5 of rule XVII in the 112th Congress, will continue in the 115th Congress with modifications as follows. All Members and staff are reminded of the absolute prohibition contained in clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of mobile electronic devices that impair decorum. Those devices include wireless telephones and personal computers. The Chair wishes to note that electronic tablet devices do not constitute personal computers within the meaning of this policy and thus may be unobtrusively used in the Chamber. No device may be used for still photography or for audio or video recording or for live broadcasting.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or make wireless telephone calls to do so outside of the Chamber. The Chair further requests that all Members and staff refrain from wearing telephone headsets in the Chamber and to deactivate any audible ring of wireless phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms, pursuant to clause 3(a) of rule II and clause 5 of rule XVII, to enforce this prohibition.

In light of the changes to rule II and rule XVII in the 115th Congress, the Chair would like to take this opportunity to educate all Members and staff on how these changes will be implemented. The Sergeant-at-Arms is charged with enforcement of clause 3(g) rule II, which prohibits the use of electronic devices for still photography or for audio or visual recording or broadcasting in contravention of clause 5 of rule XVII and the policies just articulated. The Chair would advise Members of the following policies of the Sergeant-at-Arms surrounding the rules change.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will enforce the prohibition with respect to violations observed first-hand on the House floor as well as violations that become apparent at a later time, such as through publication online or broadcast on television.

In the case of violations observed on the floor, the Sergeant-at-Arms will hand the offending Member a card noting the violation, and will follow up by sending the Member a written letter. In the case of other violations, Members will receive a written letter detailing the offending conduct.

The fine for a first offense is \$500. The fine for each subsequent offense is \$2500. The Sergeant-at-Arms will endeavor to provide Members a written warning prior to assessing a fine for a first offense. Because of the inherent difficulty of enforcing this prohibition during ceremonial events, the Sergeant-at-Arms may choose not to cite minor violations occurring during such an event.

Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule II, in addition to notifying the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner concerned, the Sergeant-at-Arms will also notify the Speaker, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Committee on Ethics of any fine imposed. Upon receiving notification of a fine, a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may appeal the fine to the Committee on Ethics within 30 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later.

The Sergeant-at-Arms and the Committee on Ethics are each authorized to establish policies and procedures for the implementation of these rules. The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to establish policies and procedures for deducting any such fine from a Member's net salary. It is the desire of the Chair that any such policies and procedures

be submitted for printing in the Congressional Record.

Nothing in the House rules or this policy deprives the House of its ability to address breaches of decorum or other violations of House rules that may give rise to questions of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

The Chair appreciates the attention of all Members to these efforts.

### 10. Use of Chamber

The Speaker's policy announced on January 6, 2009, with respect to use of the Chamber will continue in the 115th Congress.

The Chair will announce to the House the policy of the Speaker concerning appropriate comportment in the chamber when the House is not in session.

Under clause 3 of rule I, the Speaker is responsible to control the Hall of the House. Under clause 1 of rule IV, the Hall of the House is to be used only for the legislative business of the House, for caucus and conference meetings of its Members, and for such ceremonies as the House might agree to conduct there.

When the House stands adjourned, its chamber remains on static display. It may accommodate visitors in the gallery or on the floor, subject to the needs of those who operate, maintain, and secure the chamber to go about their ordinary business. Because outside "coverage" of the chamber is limited to floor proceedings and is allowed only by accredited journalists, when the chamber is on static display no audio or video recording or transmitting devices are allowed. The long custom of disallowing even still photography in the chamber is based at least in part on the notion that an image having this setting as its backdrop might be taken to carry the imprimatur of the House.

The imprimatur of the House adheres to the Journal of its proceedings, which is kept pursuant to the Constitution. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the Congressional Record, which is kept as a substantially verbatim transcript pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVII. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the audio and visual transmissions and recordings that are made and kept by the television system administered by the Speaker pursuant to rule V. But the imprimatur of the House may not be appropriated to other, ad hoc accounts or compositions of events in its chamber.

### EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 1

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

Effective from January 3, 2017, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 (114th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, is continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

#### SEC. 2. USE OF CAPITOL.

Effective from January 3, 2017, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 (114th Congress), to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted

for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING ON JANUARY 6, 2017, OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 2

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Friday, the 6th day of January 2017, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter "A"; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that the whole number of the House is 434.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.