

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress

Meeting #68

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

10:00–10:09 AM

Webex Virtual Meeting

Members of the Committee present:

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives (Committee Chair)

Jody Wright, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Senate

Jay Trainer, Chief Operating Officer, National Archives and Records Administration

Matthew Wasniewski, Historian, U.S. House of Representatives

Kate Scott, Historian, U.S. Senate

Ben Francis-Fallon, Associate Historian, U.S. House of Representatives

George Apodaca, Archivist, U.S. Senate

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Tonia Awoniyi, Counsel, Clerk of the House, U.S. House of Representatives

Heather Bourk, Archivist, U.S. House of Representatives

Tremayne Bunaugh, Counsel, Secretary of the Senate, U.S. Senate

Richard Cappelto, Chief of Staff, Secretary of the Senate, U.S. Senate

Sarah Farinholt, Director of Archival Services for Research Services, National Archives and Records Administration

James Wyatt, Acting Director, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Kevin McCumber:

Welcome to the 68th meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. I appreciate everyone making time for today's meeting, especially during the busy holiday season. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to members of the Advisory Committee and thank you for your support and interest in preserving congressional records.

Good morning and welcome to Jody Wright, Assistant Secretary of the Senate, who is representing the Secretary of the Senate. I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Jay Trainer, Chief Operating Officer for the National Archives and Record Records Administration, who is representing the Acting Archivist of the United States. I'm pleased to have you join us this morning, Jay.

I'd also like to welcome my appointee to the Advisory Committee, Associate House Historian Ben Francis-Fallon. Ben has been with the Office of the Clerk since 2022 and works closely with House Historian Matt Wasniewski to study and document the House's institutional history and deepen our understanding of its role in American history. Before coming to the House, Ben was Associate Professor of History at Western Carolina University, where he taught courses on United States political, immigration, and Latino history.

Along with our colleagues in the Senate, we continue our efforts to restructure the Advisory Committee. We remain committed to working with House and Senate leadership to move forward with proposed legislation to sunset the Advisory Committee next year.

Before I turn things over to Jody, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the staff at the Senate, House, and Center for Legislative Archives for the work they do to manage, preserve, and provide access to congressional records. Thank you for your expertise and dedication to congressional records and history. I now would like to yield to Jody for any comments she'd like to make. Jody?

Jody Wright: Thank you. Can you all hear me? Yes. Perfect. Thank you, Kevin. I value our strong partnership, particularly our shared commitment to preserving the unique and historically significant records of Congress for future generations. That partnership will be more important than ever as we work with Senate and House leadership to sunset the committee in its current form in the next year.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the staff of the Office of History, Art, and Archives in the House of Representatives for planning and hosting today's meeting. It represents a significant outlay of your time and we appreciate your effort, especially during this busy time, as Kevin mentioned, so thank you all very much.

I am pleased to welcome back Denise Hibay, the Astor Director of Collections and Research Services at the New York Public Library. Denise has been reappointed by Senator Schumer for a two-year term. And we are grateful for her continued service and the valuable perspective she brings to our conversations. Welcome back Denise.

And I'm equally pleased to welcome a new appointee to the Advisory Committee, George Apodaca. George is a familiar face in the Senate community. He joined the Senate Historical Office in 2023 as Deputy Archivist for Digital Archives and this past January was promoted to the position of Senate Archivist. He holds a master's in library information science from the University of Arizona and brings more than a decade of experience in digital preservation, electronic records management, and archival program development. We are fortunate to have his expertise and leadership in the Senate as we tackle the challenges of managing and preserving modern congressional collections for future generations. Welcome George, and I'll turn it back to you, Kevin. Thank you all.

Kevin McCumber: Thank you, Jody. The next order of business on the agenda is approval of the minutes from the December 19, 2024 meeting. Do I hear a motion and second for their approval?

Matthew Wasniewski: So moved.

Kate Scott: A second.

Kevin McCumber: The minutes are approved. I will now call for a motion to adjourn.

Matthew Wasniewski: So moved.

Kevin McCumber: Is there a second?

Kate Scott: Yes, I second that motion.

Kevin McCumber: The meeting is adjourned. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting of the advisory committee for 2025. Thanks everyone and have a good rest of your day.

Jody Wright: Thank you all.

Kate Scott: Thank you.