



## **An Exodus On Capitol Hill**

According to new reporting, a remarkable 58 members of the U.S. House have already announced they will not seek reelection ahead of the 2026 midterms. That's more than one in eight lawmakers, an extraordinary level of turnover this far out from Election

Day, and the highest in more than a decade. Additional vacancies will be created by those lawmakers leaving due to scandals or death.

It's not just the number that stands out. It's the timing, the pace, and the implications.

Members are leaving earlier than usual, some stepping away after long careers, while others chase new opportunities in the Senate or governors' mansions. Redistricting has reshaped political maps, making some districts unfamiliar or unwinnable. And beneath it all is a broader trend, an aging Congress where more lawmakers are simply deciding it's time to go home.

Even influential figures like Sam Graves, a key player on transportation policy, are heading for the exits. With each departure, decades of experience and carefully built relationships leave with them.

For most Americans, this kind of turnover might feel like just another political storyline. But for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and the millions of riders it represents, it's something much more consequential.

Because in Washington, relationships are everything.

Over the years, motorcyclists have worked hard to build a network of lawmakers who understand that riders are not just another category of road user. They are a distinct part of the transportation ecosystem, with unique safety concerns and policy needs. Those relationships don't happen by accident, they are built meeting by meeting, conversation by conversation, often over the course of many years.

Now, many of those relationships are disappearing.

In their place will be a new class of lawmakers, men and women who may have never considered how infrastructure design affects a rider, or how emerging vehicle technologies interact with motorcycles, or why federal policy must account for those differences. They won't come to Washington with that knowledge. They will have to learn it.

Moments of high turnover are rare, but when they come, they offer a chance to shape the conversation from the very beginning. Before priorities are set. Before assumptions take hold. Before other voices fill the void.

That is why this year's Bikers Inside the Beltway carries a different kind of weight.

This isn't just another fly-in. It's not just another round of meetings. It is, in many ways, a reset.

When riders walk the halls of Congress during Bikers Inside the Beltway, they won't just be reinforcing old relationships, they will be introducing themselves to the future of Congress. They will be sitting down with lawmakers who are still forming their views, still deciding which issues matter, still learning who to trust.

Those first impressions matter. In many cases, they last.

As lawmakers retire, those who stay will shape transportation policy in the years ahead. This wave of retirements signals the end of one era on Capitol Hill. For motorcyclists, it also marks the beginning of another.

The question isn't whether Congress will change, that is already happening. The question is whether riders will be part of that change from the start.

Because in a year like this, showing up isn't just important. It's everything

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SCAN FOR MORE ABOUT THE MRF

### MAKE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS NOW!

Pre-event briefing: May 18, 2026 • Event: May 19, 2026  
Pre-register (FREE) at [www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org) (cut-off May 14)

Embassy Suites, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, Virginia, 703-684-5900,  
\$270 per night, incl. breakfast (cut-off April 22). Room block is limited so reserve yours  
today! For room reservations call 800-362-2779 and reference group code, "MRF"

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