



Member Note: Please update your files to reflect NARC's new address: 660 North Capitol Street NW Suite 440, Washington, DC 20001.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

House is back in session; Senate returns tomorrow.

Congress is Back

Congress has returned and lawmakers have until December 9 to keep the government running when the current short term spending bill expires. Another short term spending bill is likely, which will allow the new Republican-controlled House and Senate to craft a spending measure together with a new Republican President.

The House and Senate both passed their own versions of the *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA) and now must reconcile the differences. The more comprehensive Senate version provides funds to help communities replace lead contaminated water infrastructure, creates a Resilient Waterfront Community designation to plan for waterfront revitalization, establishes a grant to assist public water systems in small communities, and provides grants for addressing sewer overflows among other provisions. Congress also is expected to abandon its efforts to find a compromise on an energy bill that included NARC-supported brownfields reauthorization.

Change is Afoot after Historic Election

Last week's election of Donald J. Trump as the nation's 45th president came as a surprise to many, both inside and outside the Beltway. However, one thing is certain: one-party rule has returned to Washington, D.C. for the first time since 2010. This time, Republicans will control both chambers of Congress and the White House. Specifically, House Republicans lost six seats but hold a 238-193 advantage with four races yet to be called; Senate Republicans lost two seats and hold a 51-48 advantage with Louisiana's Senate seat headed to a runoff election; and President-elect Trump is likely to end up with more than 300 electoral votes, despite losing the popular vote.

What this means in terms of policy is still coming into focus, but is certain to mean a very different direction on nearly every policy front. First to take hit will likely be a number of issues that were front and center during the campaign: Obamacare, including a push to repeal the law and replace it with an alternative proposal; climate policy, including the cancellation of billions of dollars in payments to United Nations climate initiative; government regulation, including the repeal of executive orders put in place by President Obama; financial regulation, including a push to repeal the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*; trade, including the reopening of the North American Free Trade Agreement; and immigration, including an effort to fulfill Trump's campaign promise to build a wall on the nation's southern border.

A robust infrastructure package may also be part of Trump's first 100 days. On the campaign trail, Trump promised a \$1 billion infrastructure investment over ten years, but offered scant details as to how he would pay for such a package. It is unclear at the moment if a near-term package would include new money or a series of tax code changes and other financing mechanisms that won't have as much direct impact.

The immediate impacts of the election will be apparent when both the House and Senate return to Washington for the lame duck session. Their primary work will center on funding the government. A short-term continuing resolution (CR) passed in September funds much of the government through December 9th. By that date, Congress will either have to pass an additional CR to carry things into next year (and the next Congress) or finalize the 2017 spending measures for the remainder of the fiscal year. While both courses of action seem feasible and advantageous for Republicans in both chambers, they have yet to reach consensus on how to proceed. Other issues that could be considered in the lame duck session include WRDA, which passed both chambers and is currently being conference, and the Trans Pacific Partnership, which is particularly unlikely with Trump's election.

While the only positions named by the President-elect so far are Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, many familiar names from previous Republican administrations appear to be in the mix to fill the hundreds of positions a new President must name. NARC will keep you updates as the transition takes shape...

We have a good indication of the regulatory side that will involve congressional action to overturn or limit action on several Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, including lowering the ground-level ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 ppb and regulations in the Waters of the US rule that would expand bodies of water subject to the *Clean Water Act*. Congress may also act to limit the impact of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) overtime rules.

Republicans will maintain a slight lead in the Senate, as Democrats gained only two seats. House Democrats gained seven seats with several still not decided, but the Republicans kept a large majority.

Transportation-related Committee Changes

As a result of retirements, Election Day losses, and Republican chairman term-limits, there are changes coming for the congressional committees that deal with transportation. **Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee** will see significant changes at the top. Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) is term-limited as committee chair and will be replaced by John Barrasso (R-WY). Ranking Member Barbara Boxer is retiring at the end of this Congress, and there are several candidates to replace her. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) is next in line, followed by Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT). All three, however, may opt to stay in leadership positions on other committees, which could elevate Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) to EPW Ranking Member. Senator David Vitter (R-LA) is retiring. **Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee**, which has jurisdiction over transit, will also have a new Chairman in the 115th Congress. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), who is term-limited as chair, will be replaced by Michael Crapo (R-ID). Sherrod Brown (D-OH) will remain as Ranking Member. Two members won't be with the committee next year: Vitter and Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), who lost his reelection. **Senate Appropriations Committee** is expected to be chaired again by Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), but Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) is retiring. Mikulski will be replaced by one of: Richard Durbin (D-IL), Patty Murray (D-WA), or Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Kirk, who currently serves on the Transportation Subcommittee, is the only other member of the current committee that will not be back next year.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leadership will remain the same in the 115th Congress. Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) survived a reelection challenge from a fellow Republican who ran in an open Democrat slot, and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) will return as ranking member. Surface Subcommittee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) and ranking member Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) also both won reelection and are expected to return to their respective slots. There will be a number of open slots on the committee, as nine members will not return to Congress. Representatives John Mica (R-FL), former committee Chairman, and Crescent Hardy (R-NV) both lost their reelections. Representatives Candice Miller (R-MI), Donna Edwards (D-MD), Janice Hahn (D-CA), and Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) sought other offices. Representatives Richard Hanna (R-NY) and Reid Ribble (R-WI) retired. And Corrine Brown (D-FL) lost in her primary earlier this year. **House Appropriations Committee** will see new leadership at the top, with Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) expected to replace the current and term-limited Chairman, Hal Rogers (R-KY). Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY) is expected to stay for her third term in that role. Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Mario Diaz Balart and Ranking

Member David Price (D-NC) were both victorious. One member of the subcommittee, David Jolly (R-FL), lost his reelection and will not return for the 115th Congress.

What Does a Trump Presidency Mean for the Supreme Court?

Lisa Soronen, executive director of the State and Local Legal Center, **spoke on this topic** at NARC's 50th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Salt Lake City earlier this year and now provides an update in the National League of Cities blog, CitiesSpeak.

While still a candidate, President-elect Donald Trump released two lists of potential Supreme Court nominees to fill the current vacancy; both lists were well-received by conservatives. If Senate Democrats filibuster Trump's nominee, Senate Republicans are likely to exercise the "nuclear option," meaning only a simple majority of Senators will be needed to confirm the nominee. If all goes according to plan, a conservative Justice will replace Justice Antonin Scalia next spring. In short, it is difficult to imagine that President-elect Trump's first Supreme Court nominee will shift the Supreme Court much at all.

Contrastingly, if President-elect Trump makes multiple appointments to the Supreme Court, the Court will likely have a larger majority of conservative Justices. The biggest change is likely to be the specific cases the Court will consider. Many high-profile cases on the Supreme Court docket involving executive action might simply go away.

Trump Agenda Re: Overtime Rule

DOL's **overtime rule**, set to take effect December 1st, may get a cold reception from President-elect Donald Trump. The rule will double (to \$47,476) the salary threshold under which virtually all employees are guaranteed time-and-a-half pay whenever they work more than 40 hours in any given week. Trump said in an August interview that he'd exempt small businesses from the rule. The rule came out too far in advance of his January 20 inauguration for him to be able to block it without issuing a new rule and comment period, which would take time and would require instating the rule and then taking it away from employees. Additionally, undoing the overtime rule would be unpopular; a **Morning Consult poll in May** found support for the rule not only from Democrats (64 percent), but also from Republicans (57 percent) and independents (58 percent). In September, NARC hosted a **session** at the 2016 Executive Directors Conference in South Bend, Indiana regarding the new labor overtime rules.

NACo Legislative Presentation: U.S. Election Insight 2016

To help you digest the results of the election and what it means for county governments, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has released a detailed report, *U.S. Election Insight 2016: What's in Store for the Nation's Counties*. Their analysis details what the election means for the composition and balance of power in Congress and the states, as well as how county priority issues could fare under the Trump Administration and 115th Congress. The report also includes a full list of former county officials who will be serving in the new Congress. Contact: Deborah Cox, Legislative Director, at dcox@naco.org or 202.942.4268.

OTHER NEWS

Stormwater Public Outreach Campaign

Polluted runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water in the U.S. As we develop our cities and towns, we replace forests and meadows with buildings and pavement. When it rains, stormwater runs off roofs and driveways into the street, picking up pollutants as it makes its way through storm drains and ditches - untreated - to our streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean. *Soak Up the Rain* is a stormwater public outreach campaign to raise awareness about the problem of polluted stormwater runoff and to encourage citizens, municipalities and others to take action to help reduce runoff and its costly impacts.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Planning Manager, Community and Economic Development

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

USDA Farm to School Grant RFA

Applications due: December 8

USDA has announced the release of the FY 2017 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications. Up to \$5 million in grant funds are available to help schools create or strengthen **farm to school** programs this school year. Awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 will be distributed in four different grant categories: Planning, Implementation, Support Service, and Training.

EJ Small Grants Program Accepting Applications

Applications due: January 31, 2017

EPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants program provides financial assistance to community-based organizations, and local and tribal governments working on projects to address environmental and public health concerns. EPA awards grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities and to identify ways to address environmental and public health concerns at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at up to \$30,000 each nationwide.

Urban Waters Restoration Grants

Applications due: January 31, 2017

Webinar: November 15, 2:00 PM ET

Healthy urban waters enhance economic, educational, and recreational opportunities in surrounding communities. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently announced a request for proposals (RFP) through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant program, funded in part by EPA. This public-private partnership seeks to develop community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Priority will be given to projects that advance water quality goals in environmental justice communities such as neighborhoods with minority or low-income populations.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

AARP's Online Family Caregiving Fair

November 17, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

Connect with fellow family caregivers and view helpful tips, resources, and information to help you care for a loved one. Chat one-on-one with representatives from various government agencies, non-profit organizations, and AARP programs. Plus, you can check out other free resources, videos, and presentations, including a live webinar featuring Sherri Snelling and Holly Robinson Peete. Consult the Online Family Caregiving Fair **Schedule of Events** and remember to **register** in advance.

NARC Webinar! DOE Clean Cities Tools Webinar

November 17, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy created **Clean Cities Tools**, a group of resources consumers can use to calculate and inform themselves about ways to lower emissions, spend less money, and consume less petroleum. This set of tools allows users to compare different eco-friendly vehicles and systems; calculate the amount, cost, and impact of petroleum and greenhouse gas emissions a fleet produces; locate alternative fueling stations; research how companies, fleets, and agencies are using alternative fuel; and much more. Join us as we take an in-depth look at some of these tools and learn how your organization can benefit from using them.

2018 IECC Online Voting with cdpACCESS Webinar

November 18 1:00 PM ET* *Note date/time change*

The Energy Efficient Codes Coalition will provide this briefing on the upcoming nationwide online voting period for the 2018 IECC using the cdpACCESS system of the International Code Council, nominally scheduled for November 8-22. The briefing will review the outcomes from the Kansas City hearings that determined the code changes on the final ballot. The briefing will cover the

EECC's *Voting Guide and Recommendations* for measures to be approved or modified to keep the IECC on track for efficiency gains, and on the backsliding and rollback measures to be disapproved. Please choose the date which works best for you above.

Save the Date! 2017 National Conference of Regions

February 12-15 – Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their local elected officials' focus. Additional information will be available soon. Capitol Hill Day is the final day of the conference, February 15, 2017.

CONTACT US

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