

Appropriations & Elections Update

Paul Smedberg & Jennifer Zeitzer
Ad Hoc Group Town Hall Meeting
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“All Congresses and Parliaments have a kindly feeling for idiots, and a compassion for them, on account of personal experience and heredity.”

- Mark Twain's Autobiography

Status of FY 2011 Bills

- CR until Dec. 3rd; likelihood of a second CR through Dec. 24th – 25th
- Rumor that staff is close to a compromise of FY '11 numbers at FY '09 Budget Resolution level, with some "anomalies"
- House Republicans want cuts to FY '08 levels
- Possible action week of Dec. 6th - ???
- Better likelihood of being postponed until Feb/March
- GOP warning to Democrats – “no lame-duck spending spree”

Impact of Elections

(as of Nov. 9th)

- Republicans control House 239-189 (7 races undecided)
- Democrats control Senate 53 – 46 (AK race undecided) & White House
- This mix of divided government not seen since the Civil War
- 16 new members in Senate; loss of veteran dealmakers (Lincoln, Bayh, Feingold, Voinovich, Gregg, etc.)
- 90+ House Freshmen; 50% of Blue Dogs retired/defeated
- Rep. Greg Walden (OR) chairing 22-member GOP Transition Team
 - 3 work groups: House Republican Conference Rules, House Schedule, House Rules

Projected House Leadership

- Republicans
 - Elections Nov. 17th
 - Speaker: John Boehner (OH)
 - Maj. Leader: Eric Cantor (VA)
 - Maj. Whip: Kevin McCarthy (CA)
 - Conf. Chair: Jeb Hensarling (TX)
 - Freshman Leadership Liaison: Kristi Noem (SD) - ??
- Democrats
 - Elections Nov. 18th
 - Min. Leader: Nancy Pelosi (CA)
 - Min. Whip: Steny Hoyer (MD) *
 - Caucus Chair: John Larson (CT)
 - Caucus Vice Chair: Xavier Becerra (CA)

* Currently being challenged by James Clyburn (SC).

Projected Senate Leadership

- Democrats

- Elections expected Nov. 16th
- Maj. Leader: Harry Reid (NV)
- Maj. Whip: Richard Durbin (IL)
- Conf. Vice Chair: Chuck Schumer (NY)

- Republicans

- Elections expected Nov. 16th
- Min. Leader: Mitch McConnell (KY)
- Min. Whip: Jon Kyl (AZ)
- Conf. Chair: Lamar Alexander (TN)

New House Committee Leadership

- Appropriations
 - Chair: Jerry Lewis * (CA) vs. Hal Rogers (KY)
 - Ranking Member: Norm Dicks (WA) vs. Chaka Fattah (PA)
- Budget
 - Chair: Paul Ryan (WI)
 - Ranking Member: ?? - Allyson Schwartz (PA) current vice chair
- Energy & Commerce Committee
 - Chair: Fred Upton (MI) vs. John Shimkus (IL)/ Cliff Stearns (FL)
 - Ranking Member: Henry Waxman (CA)

* Seeking waiver of GOP term limit rule

New Senate Committee Leadership

- Appropriations
 - Chair: Daniel Inouye (HI)
 - Ranking Member: Richard Shelby (AL)
- Budget
 - Chair: Kent Conrad (ND) * - ??
 - Ranking Member: Jeff Sessions (AL)
- HELP
 - Chair: Tom Harkin (IA) * - ??
 - Ranking Member: Mike Enzi (WY)

* Depends on what happens with other committee chairmanships – e.g. Agriculture, HELP, etc.

Outlook for 112th Congress

- Budget & tax issues will test partisanship
 - Vote to increase debt ceiling likely in first quarter of 2011
 - Fiscal Commission recommendations due Dec. 1st
- Increased level of gridlock expected
- Narrower margins in Senate will further complicate the math to find 60 votes
- Republican Agenda:
 - Repeal health care reform bill
 - Extend 2001 & 2003 tax cuts for all earners
 - Cut domestic discretionary spending
 - Moratorium on earmarks in House; not clear that Senate will agree

Prospects for FY 2012 (and Beyond)

- House Republican “*Pledge to America*” proposed \$100 billion in spending cuts
- OMB directed agencies to submit FY ‘12 budget requests 5% the FY ‘11 discretionary total
- Flat funding for NIH is probably the high water mark
- Will the Appropriations trains “run on time”?

Lessons From the Last Revolution

“I’m not dead yet!” [Monty Python]

- Budget for NIH doubled last time Republicans controlled the House
- There was bipartisan support for science (Porter, Gingrich, Hatfield, Mack, Harkin, Obey, etc.)
- Individuals, more than parties, are crucial for our issues
 - e.g. R’s & D’s who support stem cell research (Sen. Hatch, Rep. DeGette)
- We have an opportunity to educate about the value of NIH