



2019 Washington Recap and Outlook

MVTTC
Presentation

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60 Days: The First Two Months



Democrats' Dilemma

“On one hand, they want to be an aggressive counterweight to Trump for the sake of energizing their liberal base. On the other, they don't want to get ahead of their skis and risk alienating more moderate voters in ways that might help Trump win reelection in 2020.”

The Hill
January 30, 2019

Republicans' Rubik's Cube

Follow the lead of an unpredictable, crisis-loving President strongly supported by an unyielding non-majority voter base or risk alienating that base and the President's attack-tweet barrage by advancing positions supported by less-partisan voters.

Democrats' 2019 Agenda

- Immigration/DACA relief
- Medicare for All and/or proposals to shore up ACA
- Investigations and Oversight (Mueller probe, agency activities, etc.)
- Ethics (including proposals on campaign finance, voting rights, etc.)
- Wealth redistribution tax proposals
- Opportunity proposals on job access, education and student loan forgiveness
- Climate change

Agenda & Possible Compromise

Republicans' 2019 Agenda

- Nominations, nominations, nominations
 - Administrative vacancies such as Attorney General, EPA and others
 - Judges, Judges, Judges
- Border Security
- Defend Tax Bill

Areas for Compromise?

- Infrastructure – still slim due to pay-fors and other political factors
- Drug Pricing

Anticipated Legislative Schedules

- Almost everything has been delayed...
 - Committee and subcommittee assignments
 - Republican and Democrat policy retreats
 - Finalization of FY19 appropriations bills
 - Submission of Administration's FY20 budget proposals
- Messaging hearings have begun or been announced - effects of shutdown(s) on...
 - Federal agencies
 - Climate Change
 - 4 House committees so far,...
- Other hearings as well...
 - Judicial and executive branch nominations in the Senate
 - Infrastructure in both the House and Senate,...
- Action-forcing mechanisms are present...
 - Expiration of CR(s)
 - Prospect of debt ceiling exceedance
 - Restoration of domestic and military discretionary spending limits
 - Expiration of Highway Trust Fund spending and taxing authority,...

FY 2020 Federal Budget

- The President's budget is usually submitted to Congress in early February
- This year, due to the 35 day partial government shutdown, the FY20 budget will not be released until mid-March
- This delay will push back the appropriations process in the Congress by at least a month

Infrastructure Bill



“These critical corridors of commerce depend on a dilapidated system of locks and dams that are more than half a century old. And their condition, as you know better than anybody, is in bad shape. It continues to decay. Capital improvements of the system, which [are] so important, have been massively underfunded. And there’s an \$8.7 billion maintenance backlog that is only getting bigger and getting worse...citizens know firsthand that the rivers, like the beautiful Ohio River, carry the life-blood of our heartland.”

President Trump, June 7, 2017

“We also passed legislation to rebuild our water infrastructure, including our nation’s inland waterways, which carry more than 60 percent of our agricultural products.”

President Trump, January 14, 2019



Infrastructure Bill



“Last night I had a conversation with President Trump about how we could work together, one of the issues that came up was ... building infrastructure for America, and I hope that we can achieve that.”

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
November 7, 2019



“The one issue that Leader Pelosi and I discussed this morning, where there could be a possible bipartisan agreement, is something on infrastructure.”

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) , November 7, 2019



“I look forward to kicking off my Chairmanship with a thoughtful, productive discussion that will inform our work on a comprehensive infrastructure bill that creates jobs, and increases economic growth for all Americans.”

Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Peter DeFazio (D-OR), January 29, 2019

Infrastructure Bill

- House Transportation and Infrastructure hearing – February 7th
- Kicks off an expected series of hearings on crafting new infrastructure legislation
- Main challenge: How to fund a major infrastructure bill?

2019 Port Infrastructure Funding

Funding for U.S. Port-Related Programs Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 Agreement

- House and Senate appropriators agreed to provide \$292.73 million in funds for U.S. coastal port grants to be distributed by the Maritime Administration as part of its Port Infrastructure Development Program
- The minibus funding agreement also includes \$900 million for USDOT's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants, which when combined with funding for MARAD's infrastructure program, brings USDOT's multimodal grants funding level to almost \$1.2 billion

Members of Americans for Transportation Mobility who support an increase in federal gas tax to fund an infrastructure bill



Laborers International
Union of North America



National Asphalt Pavement
Association



Associated General
Contractors



U.S. Chamber of
Commerce



American Road &
Transportation Builders
Association



Association of Equipment
Manufacturers



National Stone, Sand &
Gravel Association



International Union of
Operating Engineers



PCA, America's Cement
Manufacturers



American Public
Transportation Association



American Public
Transportation Association



American Society of Civil
Engineers



American Council of
Engineering Companies

Senators Up for Re-Election in 2020

Democrats (12)

Booker, Cory (NJ)
Coons, Chris (DE)
Durbin, Richard J. (IL)
Jones, Doug (AL)
Markey, Edward J. (MA)
Merkley, Jeff (OR)
Peters, Gary (MI)
Reed, Jack (RI)
Shaheen, Jeanne (NH)
Smith, Tina (MN)
Udall, Tom (NM)
Warner, Mark (VA)

Republicans (22)

Open Republican Seats: Tennessee, Kansas

Capito, Shelley Moore (WV)	Hyde-Smith, Cindy (MS)
Cassidy, Bill (LA)	Inhofe, James M. (OK)
Collins, Susan (ME)	McConnell, Mitch (KY)
Cornyn, John (TX)	McSally, Martha (AZ)
Cotton, Tom (AR)	Perdue, David (GA)
Daines, Steve (MT)	Risch, Jim (ID)
Enzi, Michael B. (WY)	Rounds, Michael (SD)
Ernst, Joni (IA)	Sasse, Ben (NE)
Gardner, Cory (CO)	Sullivan, Dan (AK)
Graham, Lindsey (SC)	Tillis, Thom (NC)