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Federal Issues Update
Congressional Election Results

U.S. House last Congress
236 R, 197 D, 2 Vacant

Current U.S. House
235 D, 199 R, 1 I

U.S. Senate last Congress
51 R, 46 D, 2 I, 1 Vacant

Current U.S. Senate
53 R, 45 D, 2 I
FY 2020 Appropriations

• Two-year budget agreement signed by President Trump on August 2
• On September 19, U.S. House passed a continuing resolution through Nov. 21
• U.S. House has passed all 12 appropriations bills
• Senate Appropriations Committee is currently moving appropriations bills
• Large infrastructure package remains elusive
• Highway Trust Fund expires in September 2020
• S. 2302 (Sen. Barrasso), America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act
  • Five-year reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund
  • $287 billion—27% increase
  • Reported favorably by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on August 1
It’s time to end the callous policy of inmate Medicaid exclusion

- Current federal law bans coverage for pre-trial inmates
- NACo and National Sheriffs’ Association Task Force
- Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act, H.R. 1345—Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.)
  - Removes limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income and CHIP benefits for pre-trial inmates
- Working with Senate allies to get bipartisan legislation introduced this Congress
Current NFIP extension expires September 30

Last fully reauthorized in 2012 and has been funded with temporary spending measures since 2017

H.R. 3167—NFIP Reauthorization Act—Rep. Waters (D-Calif.):

- Five-year pilot program to provide means-tested assistance for low-income policy holders
- $500 million annually to update mapping technology
- $200 million annually for the flood mitigation assistance grant program
- Monthly premium payments to ensure low-income policy holders can afford flood insurance
- Provides continuous coverage for policy holders who wish to explore flood insurance in the private market
The accuracy of FCC’s National Broadband Map has become the target of bipartisan concern within Congress.

- No mechanism to verify the accuracy of the data
- Lack of competition in areas with limited coverage means higher prices

Legislation to address this issue:

- S. 1822, Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (Broadband DATA) Act
- S. 842, Improving Broadband Mapping Accuracy Act
- S. 1522, Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2019
- H.R. 1644, Save the Internet Act of 2019
- H.R. 2643, Broadband Mapping After Public Scrutiny (MAPS) Act
Waters of the United States

• Several Supreme Court decisions have led to inconsistent application of WOTUS definition

• In 2015, Obama administration issued a sweeping national WOTUS rule that was immediately challenged in court

• More conflicting court decisions: 22 states under the 2015 rule; 28 under pre-2015 rule

• September 12: Trump administration formally repealed 2015 WOTUS rule

• New draft rule expected as early as this winter
PILT and SRS

**PILT**
- Full PILT funding in FY 2020 House Interior Appropriations bill
- Permanently Authorizing PILT Act *(H.R. 3043)*
- PILT Reauthorization Act *(S. 2480)*—ten-year mandatory PILT
- PILT population caps bill *(S. 2108; H.R. 3716)*

**SRS**
- SRS 2-year bills *(H.R. 3048 and S. 430)*
- *S. 1643,* Forest Management for Rural Stability Act—permanent SRS endowment fund
Forestry and Endangered Species Regulation Changes

- Forest Service NEPA regulations
- New categorical exclusions for road/trail maintenance, watershed protection, and the salvage/removal of dead or dying trees
- New Endangered Species Act regulations unveiled July 25th
  - Critical habitat—agencies would have to consider occupied habitat options before moving to unoccupied
  - Rescission of blanket 4(d) rule
  - Clarifies Section 7 consultation process
Save the Dates for NACo Events

• WIR Board Meeting, October 28-30, Mariposa County, CA

• NACo Legislative Conference, February 29-March 4, Washington, DC

• WIR Conference, May 13-15, Mariposa County, CA

• NACo Annual Conference, July 17-20, Orange County/Orlando, FL