



NCDA Monthly Report

The midterm elections were the driving force for the month of November, despite happening early in the month. Given how elections work in certain parts of the country and the closeness of many elections, the true impact wasn't fully known until after election day as final tallies were tabulated. Currently, one race still hasn't been decided. But today the full extent of the power shift in the House is clearer than it was on election night.

Advocacy Updates

The number of seats won, and the size of their popular vote win means Democrats will feel empowered to set an aggressive agenda. This agenda will not only include oversight of the Administration but will also mean that Democratic leadership will have votes on messaging bills that will help the party set forth their agenda for the 2020 election cycle.

The Republicans still control both chambers of Congress and in November they set about trying to tie up some last-minute priorities. A new tax bill was introduced in the House. This bill wrapped up some additional tax cuts, technical fixes to last year's tax bill, and some IRS administrative fixes. The first version of the bill failed to garner enough conservative votes and the current version of the bill will probably make it out

of the House but faces an uncertain future in the Senate due to the need to get Democratic support, which seems very unlikely.

Despite all the public clashes in the media between Democrats and the President, there are still several areas of bipartisanship where we expect compromise to occur and bills to reach the President's desk. The incoming leader of the House Education and Labor Committee has indicated that he will prioritize health care, labor, and higher education in the new session. There is a high chance of bipartisanship in these areas because the corresponding Senate Committee with jurisdiction over these areas, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee also has a history of bipartisanship.

But first, we must get through the "lame duck" period. Heading into December the possibility of a partial government shutdown loomed large. About 75% of the government is already funded through September of 2019 so the impact of a shutdown is reduced. President Trump is demanding \$5 billion in funding for the wall and Democrats are unwilling to do so without something in return. Currently, there is no indication of a potential compromise.

During the month of November, our team met with the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Agency, in a meeting set up by the Government Relations Committee co-chairs. This meeting was with a different division at ETA from the apprenticeship division we've met with previously. This conversation centered on competencies and how we could further strengthen the relationships between NCDA and key parts of DOL. The meeting went well, and we are now in talks to set up a session during the 2020 conference that would have members of the ETA division presenting and interacting with NCDA members.

Also, during the month of November, our team continued with the goal of identifying where Congress's priorities will be next year on the issue of workforce development. Our meeting was on the Senate side with the lead staffer of this issue on the Senate HELP Committee Minority. She indicated that potential vehicles for workforce development language would be the infrastructure bill, WIOA authorization, and the Higher Education Reauthorization bill. She anticipates that some of this work could happen in smaller bills but the bulk will likely happen in a big bill. This is a staffer that we have had a good working relationship with and we look to carry that over into the new year.

Until next month,

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