

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



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January 3, 2018

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Happy New Year

We hope and trust that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that you are now back at work in the New Year. The term “back at work” describes the Senate that returns to session today. The House will convene this coming Monday, January 8.

Both House and Senate and the Administration all face a deadline of Friday, January 19 which is when the next Continuing Resolution expires. Decisions on FY18 spending will have to be made by that date to prevent parts of the Federal government from closing down. But before FY18 Appropriations can be finalized a number of other issues must be sorted out including immigration reform, extension of the Childhood Health Insurance Program, and extension of the National Flood Insurance Program. Waiting in the wings is also the Disaster Relief Supplemental funding bill that addresses damages inflicted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria along with the California wildfires.

In a way, Congress and the Trump Administration resemble TV chefs who stand in front of the camera with bowls of food in front of them and a spoon. They mix and match the ingredients from the bowls into one large pot with the goal of creating an appetizing concoction. The Legislative and Executives branches of the Federal government hope to do the same thing between now and January 19<sup>th</sup> with some predicting success and others warning of a governmental shutdown.

An important step in the process is occurring today as House and Senate Leaders of both parties meet with President Trump in the White House to try and agree on a path forward. Few doubt that a single meeting will be able to sort out all of the topics that need to be resolved before January 19, but it's at least a start. Republicans hold the majority in both Houses of Congress but Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell will need Democratic votes in both Chambers in order to pass an omnibus package over the next two weeks. The only question is how much Republicans will have to concede to the Democrats in order to send a bill to the President's desk in time to keep the government open.

Resolving issues surrounding the expiration of the Continuing Resolution on January 19 is the first act of the 2018 political year in Washington. Once they are hopefully resolved WESTCAS can fully address the issues that are identified in the Flyer for the 2018 Federal Issues Workshop, to be held on Thursday, February 22 from 9:00 to 4:00 PM. Hopefully you have already received notice of this Workshop in your email in-box and you are planning to attend.

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Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290  
P.O. Box 2115  
Springfield, VA 22152-0115  
[fred@hicks-ray.com](mailto:fred@hicks-ray.com)

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880  
P.O. Box 955  
Waco, TX 76703-0955  
[tom@hicks-ray.com](mailto:tom@hicks-ray.com)