

# Hicks-Ray Associates



July 31, 2012

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Approaching the Congressional Summer Recess

The Congress is in session today and will remain until Friday, August 3, when it adjourns for its summer recess. This will stretch to Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

In September, Congress is in session a total of 8 days although the celebrations of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will shorten three of these eight days because Congress doesn't go into session until 6:30 PM. In October, Congress is in session the first week of the month and then goes into further adjournment until after the election on November 6.

Of the 95 days between August 4 and November 6, Congress will be in session a total of 16 days. This is one of the reasons that little will get done before the general election. There simply isn't time. The other reason is that with the political nation so divided plus a Presidential and Congressional election; any thought of bi-partisanship will have to be put on hold until the American voter has registered their verdict.

Actually, a great deal of work has been done on the FY13 Appropriations bills which must be passed by Congress to fund the government. Here is the tally:

| House   | Senate  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11 of 12 bills passed out of Committee</li><li>• 6 out of 12 bills passed by full House</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 out of 12 bills passed</li><li>• 0 bills passed by the Senate</li></ul> |

This 0 for 12 record of consideration in the Senate reflects the policy of Leader Harry Reid who has decided that it is better to simply put off consideration until after the election at which time he believes that money could be added to what have proven to be bare bones FY13 Appropriations bills in the House.

What this means is that despite their looking hopelessly behind, on issues like Appropriations, the work of House and Senate Subcommittees has already given us a good idea for what these bills will look like in their final form. In such cases, what appears to be inertia can very suddenly be replaced by swift action.

Stay tuned. We are just entering a very intense period in our history.

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