



washington dc update

September 10, 2012

Congress Returns to Session

Congress returned to session on Monday after their summer recess which began on Friday, August 3. To be fair, this more than five week absence includes the nominating conventions for both the Republican and Democratic parties and also many meetings between Members and their constituents.

After putting in a full week of work until 3:00 PM Friday, Congress will adjourn for Rosh Hashanah next Monday and Tuesday and then come into session Wednesday September 19 at 6:30 PM until Friday the 21nd when they will adjourn for the remainder of September. They are back on Monday, October 1 through Friday October 5 when there will be another adjournment until after the elections on November 6.

There are at least two reasons for spending only 13 days in session for September and October. First, about the only thing that absolutely has to get done before the election is for Congress to write a continuing resolution that will keep the Federal government open after the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. It would not look good for the government to shut down barely a month before the elections.

Second, there is so much discord in the political nation right now that any significant progress on major issues simply isn't possible until at least after the voters have made their choices clear. And maybe not even then. We'll see.

The unfortunate aspect of this strategy is that while some major issues, such as "going off the fiscal cliff" may be addressed during the lame duck session in Congress, there is a huge backlog of uncontroversial yet still important legislation that will die with the 112th Congress at the stroke of midnight, December 31st. This includes more than a few water related bills that are important to WESTCAS members.

We look forward to trying to make sense out of all this when we get together October 10-12 at the WESTCAS fall conference in Tucson. See you there!



Important for the Calendar

**WESTCAS
2012 Fall Conference
October 10-12, 2012
Westward Look Resort
Tucson, AZ**

What is the one reason why Congress will be in session for only 13 days after this week?

Join us at the WESTCAS Fall Conference for that discussion.

We will also focus on:

- Opportunities and disappointments in the Lame Duck,
- The extent of the Continuing Resolution (potential return to a 'normal' budgeting process?), and
- WESTCAS FY13 Federal strategy.

Join us—your input is needed and will be heard!

