

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



---

March 27, 2017

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Bringing the FY17 Appropriations Cycle To A Close

On December 9 the Congress passed a Continuing Resolution [CR] for FY17 lasting through April 28. This action prevented a pre-Christmas shutdown of the Federal government. But a date that seemed a long way off during the Christmas season is now just 30 days away and Congress must now resolve the issue of how to bring the FY17 Appropriations cycle to a close.

There are two basic options on the table. The first is to extend the FY17 CR past April 28<sup>th</sup> until the end of the fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The second is for Congress to fashion omnibus legislation that folds all of the unpassed FY17 Appropriations bills into a single measure.

The yearlong CR option would likely require less Federal discretionary spending and seems the best bet. Last Friday's debacle in the House over the vote to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and the pressures of approaching \$20 trillion in national debt only increases the odds of a year-long CR.

Another reason for a likely year long CR is that the Congress will be in recess for much of the month of April. With the April 28 CR deadline looming Congress will adjourn on Thursday, April 6 and won't return to session until Tuesday, April 25 with first votes scheduled at 6:30 PM that evening. That provides only two legislative days for Congress to debate and decide how they are going to bring the FY17 Appropriations process to a close. In such situations, the simpler the solution the more likely it will be tried and that probably means a year long CR versus an omnibus.

It this a certainty? Absolutely not. In politics nothing is certain. One just reads the tea leaves and makes the best guess possible.

---

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)