

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



---

September 19, 2017

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Autumn Schedule Comes into Focus for the Congress and the Administration

It is always difficult to predict what will or won't happen during a political season such as the fall of 2017. But at least we know more about the schedule that will be followed by the Congress and the Administration in addressing a number of key issues. Here is a brief discussion of what happens next.

## **Omnibus Legislation Likely in Mid-December**

President Trump's now famous dinner with Senator Schumer and Representative Pelosi earlier this month broke the logjam that was threatening a government shutdown on September 30. This produced a Continuing Resolution that will run until December 8.

An extension of the debt ceiling and also for the National Flood Insurance Program were also included in the package which passed the House by a vote of 419 to 3 and the Senate by 80-17. Kicking the can down the road is always popular in Washington. The December 8 deadline allows the Congress to pass additional very short term CR's after December 8 giving everybody time to engage in political theater while still getting home in time for Christmas.

A Christmas-season omnibus may be described as a process when major players in the Legislative and Executive Branches are given a box full of ornaments and try to hang as many as possible on the Omnibus/Christmas tree. Just substitute various issues and bills in place of a mental picture of Christmas ornaments and you get the idea. Hanging a small number of ornaments on the tree means lost opportunities to get things done. Too many ornaments and the tree collapses.

The "art" of negotiating omnibus legislation is one of the least understood activities in Washington largely because the process is conducted out of public view. We are still almost three months away from the December "Omnibus end game" but discussions are already underway with regard to what items may and may not be included. This could range from some or all of the FY12 Appropriations Subcommittee bills all the way to tax reform, addressing the Affordable Care Act, and DACA, to name only a few.

The WESTCAS Tucson conference is well timed to allow participants to discuss and finalize the WESTCAS position on Omnibus related issues that impact the Arid West. If you haven't registered we urge you to do so. See you in Tucson.

---

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)