



# Policy Update

November 10, 2022

**2022 Midterm Elections** – As the results of the midterm elections are still being determined across the country, it remains unknown for certain which party will be in the majority in either chamber of Congress. Election prognosticators predict the House will have a Republican majority. The magic number is 218 seats and as of 7 am today, Republicans have 207 seats to 184 Democrat seats (according to Politico). This leaves 44 seats still to be called. In the Senate, the current balance is

49 to 48. Republicans will pick up Alaska since the race is between two Republicans, leaving three seats left to determine the majority in the Senate. Georgia is heading to a December runoff. Votes in Nevada and Arizona are still being counted. These numbers are going to change and may be different by the time readers see this update.

Should the Republicans take over either chamber, the majorities will be slim and will require the Leaders to work with all the different factions in their party, which could present many challenges in moving the legislative agenda. Additionally, there will not be enough votes to override a Presidential veto. What we do anticipate is that under a Republican majority, oversight of the President's activities will be at the top of the list for the next two years.

Impact on Transportation – The outcome of the elections should not impact the flow of transportation funding under the IIJA for the next two years or the policy initiatives in the law. However, a Republican majority in Congress will mean that USDOT will be called to the Hill to explain any actions that the new Congressional Majority disagrees with, such as Administrative policy that was not included in the IIJA and how the competitive programs are being awarded.

**Lame Duck Session** – When Congress does return, it will have plenty to do. Both parties will spend time filling their leadership positions and selecting committee assignments for members. The debt limit is a major issue that both parties will be eager to address throughout the lame duck session and both the House and Senate must pass funding legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 16th. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is one of the biggest items that will be considered in the lame duck session, and it also carries the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

**Looking ahead to the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress** – Hopefully the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress will have completed its work (the FY23 Budget) and the new Congress can move forward with its own agenda. Some key dates in the next year:

- January 3, 2023 - Scheduled date for 118th Congress convening and election for House Speaker.
- February 6, 2023 – President is required to send Congress his budget request.
- Transportation related – September 30, 2023, the current FAA authorization expires.

**IIJA GRANTS** – Grant award announcements for the MEGA projects program and the large bridge awards under the Bridge Investment Program are imminent.

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