

The road ahead: What's coming in the final months of the 113th Congress and the Lamé Duck session

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As Congress returns from the August recess, re-election politics will play an increasing role on Capitol Hill. Congress is expected to be in session fewer than a dozen days between now and Election Day. This will tempt Congressional leaders to bring to the floor a series of “messaging bills” meant to draw contrasts and force vulnerable incumbents to cast “tough votes”. The piece of legislation most likely to reach the President’s desk in this limited time is a continuing resolution to keep the government funded. Gone from the debate this year are the ACA-driven shut down issues that have shrouded past funding extensions, but the debate will be tough nonetheless and it will be difficult for substantive legislation to move, at least until after the November elections. Other issues may be a part of the fiscal debate, for example the anticipated executive actions by the President on immigration have elicited a strong reaction from some Republicans.

Here the Dentons team in Washington looks at what is left on the agenda before November 4 and in the “Lamé Duck” session to follow the election. We examine how election concerns will influence the legislative process and prospects, and how the election results may influence legislation in the Lamé Duck and beyond. We also take a look at the trends in the competitive House and Senate races and do a little prognosticating ourselves.

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Your Key Contacts



Sander Lurie

Principal, Washington, DC
D +1 202 408 7003
sander.lurie@dentons.com



John R. Russell, IV

Principal, Washington, DC
D +1 202 408 6392
john.russell@dentons.com



Michael E. Zolandz

Office Managing Partner,
Washington, DC
D +1 202 408 9204
M +1 202 441 3901
michael.zolandz@dentons.com