

Fresno Council of Governments Monthly State Legislative Report

1/11/2018

(Patterson R) Transportation bond debt service.

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 12/13/2016
Last Amend: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/8/2018-In committee: Set, first hearing. Failed passage.

Location: 1/19/2017-A. TRANS.

Summary: Current law requires loans of remaining weight fee revenues to the General Fund in any fiscal year to the extent the revenues are not needed for bond debt service purposes, or to redeem or retire those bonds, with the loans to be repaid when the revenues are later needed for those bond debt service purposes. This bill would delete the requirement to loan any remaining weight fee revenues to the General Fund in a fiscal year in which all of the weight fee revenues are not needed for payment of debt service on general obligation bonds issued for transportation purposes, or to redeem or retire those bonds.

Position

(Patterson R) High-Speed Rail Authority: reports.

Current Text: Introduced: 12/13/2016 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 12/13/2016

Status: 1/9/2018-From committee: Without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 62(a).

Location: 4/25/2017-A. TRANS.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would require the business plan of the High-Speed Rail Authority to identify projected financing costs for each segment or combination of segments of the high-speed rail system, if financing is proposed by the authority. The bill would require the authority to identify in the business plan and in another report any significant changes in scope for segments of the high-speed rail system identified in the previous version of each report and to provide an explanation of adjustments in cost and schedule attributable to the changes.

Position

(Ting D) Autonomous vehicles.

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 1/5/2017

Last Amend: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/9/2018-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on C. & C. (Ayes 9, Noes 4.) (January 8). Re-referred to Com. on C. & C.

Location: 1/9/2018-A. C. & C.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to include in regulations it adopts relating to application requirements for the testing of autonomous vehicles on public roads without the presence of a driver inside the vehicle, a requirement that the manufacturer certify that the local authorities, within the jurisdiction where the autonomous vehicle will be tested, have been provided with a written notification, as specified, and a requirement that the manufacturer provide certain law enforcement agencies with a copy of a law enforcement interaction plan.

Position

Summary: Current law imposes weight fees on the registration of commercial motor vehicles and provides for the deposit of net weight fee revenues into the State Highway Account. Current law also provides for the transfer of net certain weight fee revenues from the State Highway Account to the Transportation Debt Service Fund to reimburse the General Fund for payment of debt service on general obligation bonds issued for transportation purposes. Current law also provides for the transfer of certain weight fee revenues to the transportation Bond Direct Payment Account for direct payment of debt service on designated bonds, which are defined to be certain transportation general obligation bonds issued pursuant to Proposition 1B of 2006. This bill would repeal these provisions, thereby retaining the weight fee revenues in the State Highway Account.

Position

(Gloria D) Metropolitan planning organizations: transactions and use taxes.

Current Text: Amended: 3/20/2017 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 2/17/2017
Last Amend: 3/20/2017
Status: 1/10/2018-In committee: Do pass. (Ayes 5, Noes 3.) (January 10).

Location: 3/21/2017-A. L. GOV.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would authorize a metropolitan planning organization or regional transportation planning agency that is authorized by law to levy, expand, increase, or extend a transaction and use tax to levy, expand, increase, or extend that tax in only a portion of the jurisdiction, as an alternative to the entire jurisdiction, in which the organization or agency is authorized to levy, expand, increase, or extend the tax, if approved by the required percentage of the voters in that portion of the jurisdiction.

Position

(Baker R) Transportation revenues.

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 2/17/2017
Last Amend: 1/3/2018
Status: 1/8/2018-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.
Location: 3/13/2017-A. TRANS.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Current law requires certain miscellaneous revenues deposited in the State Highway Account that are not restricted as to expenditure by Article XIX of the California Constitution to be transferred to the Transportation Debt Service Fund in the State Transportation Fund, as specified, and requires the Controller to transfer from the fund to the General Fund an amount of those revenues necessary to offset the current year debt service made from the General Fund on general obligation transportation bonds issued pursuant to Proposition 1B of 1990. This bill would, on July 1, 2019, delete the transfer of these miscellaneous revenues to the Transportation Debt Service Fund, thereby eliminating the offsetting transfer to the General Fund for debt service on general obligation transportation bonds issued pursuant to Proposition 1B of 1990.

Position

AB 1324

(Gloria D) State highways: Department of Transportation: litter, debris, and graffiti remediation plan.

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 2/17/2017
Last Amend: 1/3/2018
Status: 1/8/2018-VOTE: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations]
Location: 1/8/2018-A. APR.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would require the Department of Transportation, on or before January 1, 2020, to develop a litter, debris, and graffiti remediation plan, which would both address the buildup of litter and debris along state highways and freeways, the graffiti along state highways and freeways, and the delay between when the department is notified that an area contains litter, debris, or graffiti and when the area is remediated, and include recommendations to modify or establish state processes or policy to allow a municipality to carry out obligations specified in the plan with reimbursement provided by the state.

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AB 65

(Patterson R) Transportation bond debt service.

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 12/13/2016
Last Amend: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/8/2018-In committee: Set, first hearing. Failed passage.

Location: 1/19/2017-A. TRANS.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Current law requires loans of remaining weight fee revenues to the General Fund in any fiscal year to the extent the revenues are not needed for bond debt service purposes, or to redeem or retire those bonds, with the loans to be repaid when the revenues are later needed for those bond debt service purposes. This bill would delete the requirement to loan any remaining weight fee revenues to the General Fund in a fiscal year in which all of the weight fee revenues are not needed for payment of debt service on general obligation bonds issued for transportation purposes, or to redeem or retire those bonds.

Position

AB 66

Current Text: Introduced: 12/13/2016 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 12/13/2016

Status: 1/9/2018-From committee: Without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 62(a).

Location: 4/25/2017-A. TRANS.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would require the business plan of the High-Speed Rail Authority to identify projected financing costs for each segment or combination of segments of the high-speed rail system, if financing is proposed by the authority. The bill would require the authority to identify in the business plan and in another report any significant changes in scope for segments of the high-speed rail system identified in the previous version of each report and to provide an explanation of adjustments in cost and schedule attributable to the changes.

Position

AB 87

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 1/5/2017

Last Amend: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/9/2018-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on C. & C. (Ayes 9, Noes 4.) (January 8). Re-referred to Com. on C. & C.

Location: 1/9/2018-A. C. & C.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to include in regulations it adopts relating to application requirements for the testing of autonomous vehicles on public roads without the presence of a driver inside the vehicle, a requirement that the manufacturer certify that the local authorities, within the jurisdiction where the autonomous vehicle will be tested, have been provided with a written notification, as specified, and a requirement that the manufacturer provide certain law enforcement agencies with a copy of a law enforcement interaction plan.

Position

AB 351

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)
Introduced: 2/8/2017

Last Amend: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/8/2018-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Location: 2/21/2017-A. TRANS.

Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered

1st House **2nd House** **Conf.** **Conc.**

Summary: Would require the Department of Transportation, on or before January 1, 2020, to develop a litter, debris, and graffiti remediation plan, which would both address the buildup of litter and debris along state highways and freeways, the graffiti along state highways and freeways, and the delay between when the department is notified that an area contains litter, debris, or graffiti and when the area is remediated, and include recommendations to modify or establish state processes or policy to allow a municipality to carry out obligations specified in the plan with reimbursement provided by the state.

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the assessment in regional allocations for the next housing element cycle.

Position

(Garcia, Eduardo D) Transportation funding: low-income communities.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/17/2017 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2017

Status: 4/28/2017-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was TRANS. on 3/16/2017)

(May be acted upon Jan 2018)

Location: 4/28/2017-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	1 Year	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House	2nd House	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.

Summary: Would require, beginning January 1, 2020, each regional transportation improvement program to allocate a minimum of 25% of available funds to projects or programs that provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to low-income individuals who live in certain identified communities or to riders of transit service that connects low-income residents to critical amenities and services. The bill would require the Department of Transportation, in consultation with residents of low-income communities and specified state agencies, to adopt guidelines for this allocation no later than January 1, 2018.

Position

(Wiener, D) Employee housing: farmworker housing.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/4/2018-From printer. May be acted upon on or after February 3.

Location: 1/3/2018-S. RLS.

Summary: Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would expand the Employee Housing Act to (1) further incentivize the creation of farmworker housing in agricultural communities, (2) authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development to partner private agricultural operators with independent nonprofits that will manage and operate residences, and (3) preserve and protect the civil rights of tenants living in employee housing.

Position

(Wiener, D) Transportation funding: active transportation: complete streets.

Current Text: Amended: 1/10/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2017

Last Amend: 1/10/2018

Status: 1/10/2018-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Conn. on APPR.

Location: 1/10/2018-S. APPR.

Desk	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House	2nd House	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.

Summary: Would establish the Office of Active Transportation within the Division of Transportation Programming of the Department of Transportation and require that a deputy director of the department be assigned to give attention to active transportation program matters to guide progress toward meeting the department's active transportation program goals and objectives. The bill would require the California Transportation Commission to give high priority to increasing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and to the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Position

(Wiener, D) Planning and zoning: transit-rich housing bonus.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/4/2018-From printer. May be acted upon on or after February 3.

Location: 1/3/2018-S. RLS.

Summary: Would authorize a transit-rich housing project to receive a transit-rich housing bonus. The bill would define a transit-rich housing project as a residential development project the parcels of which are all within a 1/2 mile radius of a major transit stop or a 1/4 mile radius of a high-quality transit corridor, as those terms are further defined. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Position

(Wiener, D) Land use: housing element.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/3/2018 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/3/2018

Status: 1/4/2018-From printer. May be acted upon on or after February 3.

Location: 1/3/2018-S. RLS.

Summary: Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would, among other things, require the department to take certain actions relating to unmet housing needs, including completing a comprehensive assessment on unmet need for each region and including the results of

Jeaneen Cervantes

From: Simon and Company <silvana.caldera@simoncompany.com>
on behalf of Simon and Company <silvana.caldera@simoncompany.com>
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2017 9:24 AM
To: Trix Her-Cole
Subject: Washington Friday Report - December 29, 2017

Washington Friday Report

Volume XIX, Issue 52

SIMON AND COMPANY
Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Affairs

Washington Friday Report

December 29, 2017

Inside this Issue...

- Tax Reform: Rollout Road Bump
- Infrastructure Update
- Clean Power Plan
- Congressional Calendar
- Education Summits

Here's some wrap-ups from the last week on issues we'll all be working on in the weeks and months ahead. **Happy New Year from Len, Jen, Silvana and Stephanie.**



TOP STORIES

Tax Reform: Rollout Road Bump

It has been exactly one week since the tax reform package was signed into law by the President and we have already encountered the first road bump related to its rollout – as is anticipated given the magnitude of the reform and the hastiness in which it was passed. In an unusual addition to Americans' usual holiday activities, many rushed to their local tax offices to prepay their 2018 property taxes in an attempt to avoid property tax deduction caps set to go into effect with taxes filed in 2019.

Permission to prepay property taxes and indications that it would be deductible from 2018 taxes was given by many jurisdictions and personal accountants around the country, making the best judgments they could at the time. But the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), responding to this national movement, issued a notice Wednesday which stated that taxpayers may only claim deductions for 2018 on taxes assessed during the 2017 calendar year. This makes it almost impossible to prepay 2018 taxes for most people since assessments usually take place in the same calendar year. What this now means is that local governments will need to figure out how to adjust early payments made in the last few days, as well as contemplate at what stage of the process a property is considered assessed, which is not the same across the country.

For now, uncertainty remains, with many payments in the pipeline at the city and county levels in numerous areas. However, cities, counties, and states are beginning to take action and clarify what is allowed in their jurisdictions. The District of Columbia, for example, issued a response to the IRS notice and claimed, "since the District both assessed properties and set real property tax

liabilities in 2017, there is a basis, if a taxpayer chooses to repay real property taxes by December 31, 2017, for the taxpayer to claim a deduction on his or her 2017 return." In contrast, Montgomery County, Maryland yesterday advised its residents that pursuant to the IRS notice, payments made without 2018 assessments (they take place in July 2018 for Montgomery County) would not be eligible for a deduction. Litigation may be another factor down the road if aggrieved taxpayers are denied deductibility of a prepayment. This *Washington Post article* goes into further detail on the current and potential future issues related to property tax deductions.

Aside from property taxes, we wanted to again provide you for your convenience a side-by-side comparison of the House, Senate, and final tax bill courtesy of CQ. This chart contains all of the provisions of the new law. You may also refer to last week's Washington Friday Report or Special Report for more information on key parts pertinent to localities.



- the President's State of the Union Address, on the evening of Monday, January 29th:
- The proposal will call for \$200 billion over 10 years in new federal spending on infrastructure programs – but this amount would be offset by proposed budget reductions in other programs;
 - Since the 2016 campaign, the plan has been referred to as “\$1.0 trillion over 10 years,” but that number is attained by the \$200 million leveraging an additional \$800 billion from the public and private sectors;
 - The traditional 80/20 federal/local split for transportation projects would be reversed so that for grantees to obtain a 20% federal share, they will need to come to the table with 80% from elsewhere.

Despite bipartisan infrastructure support, five factors may hamper legislative success: (1) a crowded legislative agenda; (2) the reluctance of Congress to cut other programs; (3) the desire of Democrats to deny the President another win; (4) the opposition of fiscal conservatives to expanding the federal infrastructure role; and (5) the partisan pressures of the mid-term elections with all House seats and 1/3 of Senate seats on the ballot. *We will look forward to updating you on infrastructure early in 2018!*

OTHER NEWS AND GRANTS

Clean Power Plan

Following the President's tax reform victory, the White House is readying its long-awaited infrastructure plan to be rolled out next month. Here is what we know so far:

- The President will host Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** and House Speaker **Paul Ryan** at Camp David next week to discuss strategy for the year, with special emphasis on the infrastructure package;
- The formal unveiling of the infrastructure program will take place during

Following up on our story from last week on the Administration's process for replacing the Clean Power Plan, we wanted to share the official Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Administration is specifically seeking input on the “proper and respective roles of the state and federal governments.” Comments are due **February 26, 2018**.

2018 Congressional Calendar											
Roll Call											
 █ Roll Call between 10:00 AM & 11:00 AM █ 5:00 PM PT to 6:00 PM											
January	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
1 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
21 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
28 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	29	30	31				1	2	3	4	5
February	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
5 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
March	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
3 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
April	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
1 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
May	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
1 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
20 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
4 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
July	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
1 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
August	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
27 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	28	29	30	31			1	2	3	4	5
September	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
1 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
October	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
29 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	30	31			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
November	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
1 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
December	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
23 <small>Joint Hrgs.</small>	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3



Recently, we sent many of you grant notices on the [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant \(AFG\) Program](#) and the [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2017 Save America's Treasures \(SAT\) Grant Program](#).

Please contact [Jen Covino](#) with any questions about grants.

Congressional Calendar

With 2018 just two days away, we wanted to recirculate the [House](#) and [Senate](#) calendars for next year. These are helpful to have on hand as you start thinking about your next visits to D.C. and the legislative days in general. The joint calendar is also below. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Education Summits

Education Secretary [Betsy DeVos](#) hosted two "Rethink School" Summits recently, where she convened education leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs who are demonstrating how student-centric models can improve student achievement. One [summit](#) focused on higher education and featured sessions on utilizing technology, the benefits of partnering with industry, and more. You

can view a video of the summit [here](#). The second [summit](#) focused on K-12 education and featured sessions titled "Attaining Each Child's Unique Potential," "Shifting the Paradigm," and "Customizing Learning." You can watch it [here](#).

Jeaneen Cervantes

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Sent: Friday, January 5, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Washington Friday Report - January 5, 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Washington Friday Report

Volume XXX, Issue 1

SIMON AND COMPANY

Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Affairs

Washington Friday Report

January 5, 2018

If you have any questions about this edition of the *Washington Friday Report*, please feel free to contact [Silvana Caldera](#) or [Len Simon](#).

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Inside this Issue...

Congress and the Administration wasted no time in getting the new year off to a fast start! What is traditionally a quiet week turned out to be filled with important developments above and beyond the publishing of "Fire and Fury," including big changes for marijuana, fair housing, and offshore drilling policies. Here's the highlights for your review.

- January To-Do List: 2018 Appropriations and More
- Marijuana Policy
- Fair Housing
- Offshore Drilling
- Immigration
- Congressional Comings and Goings
- SALT Deduction
- Administration Turnover & Staffing
- Farewell Mayor Strickland



TOP STORIES

January To-Do List: 2018 Appropriations and More

The new year is starting at a rapid pace for Congress, after they left for the holidays with a daunting to-do list for January. The Continuing Resolution passed in late December – currently keeping the government open – is set to expire January 19th. That means a shutdown is possible if they do not pass another spending bill by that date. One item affecting what type of spending bill they will consider – another short-term measure continuing current funding levels or large omnibus bill – is how to address spending caps. Having pushed off this issue for months, Republicans and Democrats need to find a compromise on caps for both discretionary and defense spending to craft a more thorough FY18 spending bill and avoid sequestration. Democrats are holding out for “parity” – an equal rise in spending caps for defense and domestic programs.

Besides the caps, there are several contentious issues that may need to be addressed as part of a post-January 1st spending bill, including disaster relief, CHIP funding, the debt limit, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) issue and perhaps others as well. In addition, Congress and the Administration are not yet done with healthcare, with initial focus now on the healthcare market issue. Senator Susan Collins was promised a vote on her reinsurance bill and funding for cost-sharing reductions in exchange for her support of tax reform. That may happen in January as well.

The President and congressional leaders met in Speaker Ryan’s office on Wednesday to discuss budget negotiations. The meeting included Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, as well as White House budget chief Mick Mulvaney and White House legislative director Marc Short. The Leader, Speaker, and White House issued a joint statement after the meeting, where they noted, “*It also remains important that members of Congress do not hold funding for our troops hostage for immigration policy.*” This points to the

possibility of a separate bill for immigration – which Speaker Ryan’s office has told us several times is a strong preference on his part.

Republican lawmakers are embarking on a weekend retreat today at Camp David with the President to discuss 2018 strategy including the forthcoming infrastructure package. *We will keep you posted on any other details that emerge regarding legislative priorities for this month and beyond.*



Marijuana Policy

The Administration has rescinded Obama-era federal marijuana policy guidance – which left legalization and other marijuana-related policy and regulation to be determined at the State level. In a [memorandum](#) to all U.S. State Attorneys, Attorney General **Jeff Sessions** rescinds the current Department of Justice guidance and writes that “*Congress has generally prohibited the cultivation, distribution, and possession of marijuana,*” pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act. The memo essentially leaves future prosecutions up to individual U.S. attorneys, but plainly states that the relevant drug laws “*reflect Congress’s determination that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that marijuana activity is a serious crime.*” The memo is intended to ‘serve as a guide’ but creates ambiguity regarding future federal enforcement procedures. *We will keep you posted on any further guidance or action.*

Fair Housing

The Trump Administration has issued a [notice](#) delaying the Obama-era affirmative fair housing rule – “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing” – which requires communities to address patterns of racial residential segregation. The notice says the Department of Housing and Urban Development will suspend the rule until 2020, which means localities will no longer need to submit affirmative housing plans under the new standards for now. Comments on the notice are due **March 6, 2018**. You can find further information on the notice and how to comment [here](#).



Offshore Drilling

The Administration has [announced](#) a new offshore oil and natural gas drilling plan. The plan proposes to greatly expand areas available for drilling, including nearly all of the nation's outer continental shelf, such as the coasts of Florida, Alaska, and California. The announcement was met with immediate backlash from environmental groups and elected officials of both parties at all levels of government. Public meetings will be held starting this month following an official Notice of Intent on the plan, then a Proposed Program will be published to the Federal Register for a 60-day comment period. You can read more [here](#).

OTHER NEWS AND GRANTS

Immigration

A group of Republican Senators met with the President yesterday to discuss immigration, including the future of the DACA program. Meeting attendees included Senators **John Cornyn**, **Chuck Grassley**, **Lindsey Graham**, **Dick Durbin**, **Tom Cotton**, **Thom Tillis**, and **James Lankford** – Senators Graham and Durbin are co-sponsors of one of the DACA bills in the Senate. Aside from border security measures that the Administration and many Republican lawmakers have said also need to be included in the bill, the President reemphasized inclusion of funding for a border wall, as well as provisions to end chain migration and the visa lottery system. You can watch the meeting [here](#). A secondary, bipartisan meeting on immigration may occur next week.

In related news, former Homeland Security Secretaries penned a letter to leaders in Congress urging a legislative solution for the DACA program. They emphasized a January time frame due to the inevitable implementation delays of any new policy. You can read the full letter [here](#).



Congressional Comings and Goings

There are some changes in Congress this week as two new Senators were sworn in and two Republican leaders announced their retirement. Three Vice Presidents were present on the Senate floor for the swearing in of Senator **Doug Jones** of

Alabama and Senator [Tina Smith](#) of Minnesota. Vice President [Mike Pence](#) presided, while former VP [Joe Biden](#) escorted Senator Jones and former VP [Walter Mondale](#) did the same for Senator Smith. This leaves Republicans with just a one vote majority – 51–49 – in the Senate, which should make for an interesting legislative session. You can watch their swearing-in ceremony [here](#).

Administration Turnover & Staffing

In addition, a stalwart in Congress for more than 40 years and the longest serving Republican Senator, plus President Pro Tem of the Senate and third in line for Presidential succession, Senator [Orrin Hatch](#) announced his retirement. His colleagues and delegation members were quick to offer their praise, including but not limited to [Leader McConnell](#), [Rep. Mia Love](#), and [Rep. Rob Bishop](#). In our work for Salt Lake City and County over the years, it has been a privilege to work with Senator Hatch and his fine staff. Over in the House, another Republican leader and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman [Bill Shuster](#) announced his retirement. He has a year to go and will be a key player in any infrastructure legislation this year. [Leader McCarthy](#) and [Rep. Jeff Denham](#) offered their support and well wishes after his announcement.

SALT Deduction

New York Governor [Andrew Cuomo](#) says he is considering challenging the constitutionality of the tax reform law – in particular, the changes it makes to the state and local tax (SALT) deduction. Having long argued the SALT changes will hit Democratic, high-tax states harder, Governor Cuomo commented on the new law during his State of the State address earlier this week. One possibility he discussed is replacing the state income tax with a state payroll tax which would be deductible on federal taxes. *We will let you know if and how this unfolds and what any potential legal action could mean for other localities.*

Recently, we sent many of you a grant notice on the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) [2018 NAWCA U.S. Standard Grants](#).

Please contact Jen Covino with any questions about grants.

Like Congress, the Administration is also experiencing its own “goodbyes” in the new year. We thought you might be interested in the chart below, courtesy of Axios, which highlights the current Administration’s turnover and federal agency staffing compared to past Administrations.

White House Turnover & Agency Staffing

AT THE AGENCIES: Still Arriving



AT THE WHITE HOUSE: Increasingly Departing



Source: [Washington Post](#); [Politico](#); [Public Sector](#); data thru 12/20/17. [KCF Taxex](#); [Brennan Center](#)
Photo: G. Ciolek/CIO/Corbis

Farewell Mayor Strickland

We wanted to take a moment to provide our thanks and best wishes to our dear friend Tacoma Mayor [Marilyn Strickland](#) as she leaves City Hall after eight great



years as Mayor. It has been a pleasure to work with her and we look forward to doing the same with Tacoma's new Mayor **Victoria Woodards**, who we have worked with in her previous roles as a Metro Parks Tacoma Commissioner and as a member of the Tacoma City Council.



If you have any questions about this edition of the *Washington Friday Report*, please feel free to contact [Silvana Caldera](#) or [Len Simon](#).



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