

WHAT WILL HAPPEN THIS FALL IN DC?

It's been a busy summer in DC, with lawmakers working on a number of key initiatives in the policy agenda – infrastructure, a budget resolution, appropriations, competition with China, and more. When lawmakers return from the August recess, there will be an array of policy areas that will be waiting for imminent action. Signal's advocacy team offers their insights on what to expect in the fall.

CHARLES COOPER

Managing Director & Chair of Advocacy Practice



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Policymakers head home with unfinished infrastructure debates, unfinished spending bills, and an unfinished increase to the debt limit – all of which need to be dealt with early in the Fall. The unusually long recess will open the door to constituent input and could adjust the course of action of some of these “above the fold” issues, but policymakers on both sides of the aisle will work hard to keep momentum high (and criticism low) around infrastructure when they return to DC.



PATRICE WILLOUGHBY

Managing Director & Head of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

This fall will include a focus on bipartisan retirement security efforts (Portman/Cardin in the Senate and Secure II in the House), and the needs of caregivers – particularly women who have left the workforce because of caregiving needs. Furthermore, financial innovation will bring financial inclusion to the forefront.

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TED ANDERSON

Managing Director, National Security



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When members return to DC after August recess, we expect them to work swiftly to pass the NDAA and Defense Appropriations Bills. The House & Senate Armed Services Committees have passed their NDAA by years-end for 61 consecutive years now, and due to the lack of contentious policy disagreements, this year will likely be no different. However, there is disagreement over defense topline spending, and a Continuing Resolution (CR) is expected to fund the Department of Defense into FY22. The House and Senate may come to an agreement on defense funding before Thanksgiving, but in a worst-case scenario, may not reach agreement until the end of the calendar year.



BLAKE ANDROFF

Executive Vice President & Co-Chair, Signal Outdoors

Members of Congress will soon face more than a month of townhalls and public events in their districts during the August District Work Period. There is no doubt that COVID-19 and the high cost of health care will remain a top issue for constituents at home. Before election season heats up in early 2022, Congress will return to DC this fall and will have to juggle its oversight responsibilities looking into the January 6th insurrection while legislating on those pocketbook issues that keep their constituents up at night – jobs, wages and health care costs.



MAE STEVENS

Executive Vice President & Chair, Signal Water

This fall is going to be incredibly eventful. With the Senate writing the reconciliation package and the House taking up both that and the bipartisan infrastructure framework, this could be one of the busiest seasons in Washington in a long time. With careful messaging and a clear but nimble strategy anyone can be well placed to take advantage of these opportunities.



MADELINE WADE

Vice President & Co-Chair, Signal Outdoors

We are watching how climate policies are prioritized within the reconciliation package, especially given the recent findings within the UN IPCC report. As a result of heightened pressure from the environmental NGOs and increasingly from corporates, we expect to see committees outside of the normal areas of jurisdiction focus on climate and conservation policies. The Biden Administration is motivated to support some of these ambitious positions to showcase at upcoming global climate events, such as COP26 and the UN General Assembly. Climate policy is currently a crowded space, so we will be working with clients to make sure their voices are heard on policies that effectively combat the climate crisis.



CONTACT US

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