

FEDERAL UPDATE AND OUTLOOK

LEGISLATIVE AD HOC COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

E-GOV



2015-2016 OVERVIEW

Specific successes over the past year include:

- Preservation of the language that protects the City's ability to charge rent for the use and management of City rights-of-way in the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act;
- Increased sub-allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to metropolitan areas in the FAST Act, including growing Metroplex funding from \$89.7 million in FY 2015 to \$109.8 million in FY 2020;
- Preservation of the Transportation Alternatives Program and the federal transit program, including defeat of an anti-streetcar amendment in the House;
- Removal of language from a Senate wireless communications spectrum bill that would have preempted local zoning authority over cell phone facilities;



2015-2016 OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

- Turning back Senate efforts to preempt local government regulation of drones;
- Preservation of core local government programs in the face of austerity, including CDBG, HOME, Homeland Security and local law enforcement assistance;
- Preservation of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), which provides the Metroplex with \$14 million annually for disaster and terrorism preparedness and response efforts;
- Support from members of the House delegation for sales tax fairness; and
- Working with the delegation to create dialogue on the issue of ‘sanctuary cities’.



REMAINDER OF 2016

These issues and others will continue to present opportunities and challenges in the year ahead. Most immediately, Congress will face a number of deadlines and difficult issues between Labor Day and the end of the year.

- FY 2017 begins on October 1, 2016 and Congress has yet to send President Obama any of the 12 annual appropriations bills.
- The Administration is moving forward with regulations related to fair housing, clean water, clean air, and metropolitan planning.



115TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION: KEY DATES

- January 2017: New Administration & Congress sworn in
- January: US Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting
- March: National League of Cities Meeting
- March: Debt ceiling reached
- March – September: FY 2018 appropriations process
- July: Aviation programs expire
- October 1st: FY 2018 begins



115TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION: KEY ISSUES

- **Budget**
 - Sequestration is back for FY 2018, putting pressure on all discretionary spending, especially core local government programs.
- **Tax**
 - Comprehensive tax reform; for cities, tax exemption for municipal bonds is a key issue.
- **Infrastructure**
 - Major infrastructure investment package?
 - Aviation reauthorization
 - WRDA
 - Water & wastewater
- **Local Control**
 - Telecommunications: ROW & zoning
 - Sales tax fairness
- **Public Safety**
 - Criminal justice reform
 - Grant funding
- **Regulations**
 - Will the next Administration continue President Obama's regulatory agenda? Major issues include clean air, clean water, fair housing, and workplace issues.



GENERAL STATEMENT OF CITY LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

Oppose any federal action that would:

- Erode the home rule authority of municipalities,
- Impose unfunded mandates on the City, or
- Constrain the ability of cities to allocate resources to locally-determined priorities.

Support legislation that:

- Creates opportunities for individuals and businesses to thrive and prosper,
- Provides an equitable distribution of federal funds, and
- Addresses the concerns and issues confronting large metropolitan cities, including urban transportation, crime reduction, affordable housing and healthy neighborhoods.

Deficit Reduction:

- The City generally supports a balanced approach to deficit reduction; federal deficit reduction should not disproportionately harm national defense, safety net programs or core local government programs nor should they delay much-needed investments in our nation's infrastructure.



MONITOR

- Congressional and FCC action on communication policy
- Implementation of HUD's Fair Housing rule
- Various EPA rulemakings (clean water, ozone, clean power, etc.)
- SEC implementation of Dodd-Frank re: municipal finance and payday lending
- All grant opportunities of potential interest to the City



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



1212 New York Avenue NW – Suite 250
Washington DC 20005
202-842-5430

Ralph Garboushian
ralphg@capitaledge.com

Joy Grewatz
grewatz@capitaledge.com