Presenters

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How to Participate Effectively

• All participants on mute
• To ask a question, type in lower box of your dashboard
• This webcast will be recorded and the slide deck and recording will be sent to all participants and others who wish to review it
• Most importantly – stay in touch and follow up!
Presentation Outline

• Effective American Government in an Era of Division
• Overview of Recent Legislative Action
  • 2021 Consolidated Appropriations, COVID Stimulus
• What to Expect
  • Biden/Harris Administration Priorities, 117th Congress Priorities
• How to Prepare
  • Focus Areas for Localities, Tips for Organizing to Secure Resources
Potential for Effective Government

• Fractured Congress, questions about future of Republican Party

• Time devoted to investigations & impeachment while COVID continues, economy falters, spending bills must be developed, infrastructure legislation to be considered

• Challenges for local leaders to connect to federal officials, given virus and travel issues

• Will January 6 crisis lead to common-sense action on America’s needs, or more conflict?
Overview of Recent Legislative Actions
FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations

- Most key programs for localities same as robust FY20 level, very few decreases

- HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – $50 million above FY 2020
- HUD Choice Neighborhoods – $25 million above FY 2020
- USDA Rural Broadband Grants -- $430 million above FY 2020
- Economic Development Administration - $13 million above FY 2020
- National Endowment for the Arts – $5.25 million above FY 2020
- FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) & Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Responses Grant Program (SAFER) – each $5 million above FY 2020
- DOJ COPS Hiring, Byrne Grants, Community Policing Development, and other programs up – $61.5 million above FY 2020
- EPA Brownfields – $2 million above FY 2020
- Historic Preservation Grants - $25.7 million above FY 2020

= DOT BUILD, EPA Water/Sewer, HUD Section 108 – same as FY 2020
Substantive Statutes Added to Spending Bills

• Water Resources Development Act (funding Corps projects, with earmarks!), Energy Act of 2020, Environmental Innovation Act

• Key takeaway 1 - Congress is using spending bills as vehicles to pass major, substantive legislative acts without going through “regular order”

• Key takeaway 2 - Earmarks
2\textsuperscript{nd} Round COVID-19 Stimulus

- Provides key help, except for direct aid to localities
- Extension of Coronavirus Relief Fund through end of 2021 – but no more resources or flexibility
- $284.5 billion for PPP (expanded eligibility); $20 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Grants, $15 billion for cultural institutions, live venues & independent movie theaters, $10 billion for State DOTS; $14 billion in Transit Emergency Relief; $25 billion in rental assistance; $12 billion for CDFIs
- Hundreds of billions for health & nutrition funding
What to Expect
Priorities for Biden/Harris Administration & 117th Congress
Democrats to control Washington for now – but gridlock & need for bipartisan compromise to remain

• President Biden has more room for his legislative agenda and his nominees, more control over hearings and floor action, and much less hearings & oversight scrutiny now that the Democrats control the White House, House, and Senate.

• Budget reconciliation streamlines Senate process. Are the days of the Senate filibuster numbered??

• Moderates in Senate will be critical to all major legislation

• Washington likely to move fast in early 2021 under Democratic control under a short honeymoon . . . .local governments cannot wait to get seats at the table
Biden/Harris Administration –
Key Leaders Important to Localities

White House Intergovernmental Director: Julie Rodriguez
White House Domestic Policy Ambassador: Susan Rice
HUD Secretary: Marcia Fudge
Transportation Secretary: Pete Buttigieg
EPA Administrator: Michael Regan
National Climate Advisor: Gina McCarthy
Secretary of Commerce: Gina Riamondo
Secretary of Labor: Mayor Marty Walsh
Agriculture Secretary: Tom Vilsack
Director of National Economic Council: Brian Deese
Attorney General: Merrick Garland
Biden/Harris Administration Priorities

• 100 Day COVID Challenge
• $1.9 trillion “American Rescue” stimulus package proposed January 14
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} “Build Back Better Recovery” stimulus package to be presented in February
• $2 trillion climate & clean energy package – and major regulatory & incentive overhaul
• Resilience, criminal justice reform, racial & economic equity
• Manufacturing & innovation
• Reinvigoration of and improvements to the Affordable Care Act
Biden Proposes $1.9 Trillion “American Rescue” Stimulus

• $350 Billion in “emergency funding” for state, local and territorial governments
  ➢ Not clear what level of flexibility, or whether funds can be used for local fiscal holes
  ➢ Includes call for $3 billion for Economic Development Administration grants

• $35 billion for state, local, tribal, and non-profit small business financing programs to leverage $175 billion in low-interest loans & venture capital for entrepreneurs including “clean energy sector”

• $15 billion for “flexible, equitably distributed grants to 1 million “hardest hit small businesses”

• $20 billion for “hardest hit” public transit agencies including to make systems “resilient”

• $13 billion for food and nutrition including FEMA FEED program for restaurants

• $5 billion for homeless services

• $5 billion for LIHEAP

• $4 billion for HHS SAMHSA & HRSA substance and mental health services

• $130 billion for K-12 school reopening, $35 billion for higher education, $5 billion for “hardest hit”

• Reimbursement of local government paid leave costs

• Many other programs for vaccines, COVID-19 response, worker protections, tax benefits, and more
Proposed “Build Back Better” Recovery Package

Coming February 2021

• “Historic investments” in infrastructure and manufacturing, innovation, R&D (including in battery technology, AI, biotechnology, clean energy), clean energy & climate infrastructure, job skills and training, and the caregiving economy (for young children & elderly)

• Focus on Made in America, pro-labor, climate-forward, rural investments

• Models are 2009 Recovery Act, House’s 2020 Moving Forward infrastructure package – with progressive perspective
Congressional Committee Chairs

**Senate**
- Appropriations
  - Leahy (VT)
- Environment & Public Works
  - Carper (DE)
- Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
  - Brown (OH)
- Commerce, Science & Transportation
  - Cantwell (WA)
- Energy & Natural Resources
  - Manchin (WV)

**House**
- Appropriations
  - DeLauro (CT 3\(^{rd}\))
- Energy & Commerce
  - Pallone (NJ 11\(^{th}\))
- Transportation & Infrastructure
  - DeFazio (OR 4\(^{th}\))
- Natural Resources
  - Grijalva (AZ 7\(^{th}\))
117th Congress Priorities

• House will be led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, with a slighter majority

• With GA election, Senate will be 50 seat Democrat, 50 seats Republican with Vice President Harris as tie-breaker
  • Budget reconciliation available to Democrats

• Senate will be led by Senator Chuck Schumer, with votes hinged on moderates & slivers of compromise

• Democrats will focus on more COVID-19 relief, infrastructure, climate, healthcare, tax policy, voting rights – as well as addressing January 6 insurrection

• Republicans will focus on small businesses, tax policy, immigration, new budget discipline

• Margins will be razor-thin for consequential votes
How to Prepare
Local Government Actions for Economic Recovery

- Continue to **track all COVID-19 related expenses** (direct spending on first responders, PPE, communications, utilities, as well as small business support, food relief, and housing), operational impacts (furloughs, sick leave, layoffs), & revenue impacts

- Develop a **Resource Roadmap** to chart your funding agenda for 2021, and match priority needs to key resources; watch key agencies for resources for economic rebuilding including: EDA, HUD, USDA, CDFIs, DOT, ARC & EPA Brownfields

- Compile list of top priority infrastructure, evaluate shovel-readiness and planning needs, confirm costs and project timelines to prepare for an **infrastructure package** for roads, rail, transit, trails, ports and airports, along with water/sewer/stormwater, broadband, electric grid & smart cities
More Local Government Actions for Economic Recovery

- Know your role and pathway in **climate & clean energy economy**, as federal action will impact, spending, infrastructure packages and all federal agencies – with potential for billions/trillions in investment & incentives in wind, solar, and renewables

- Prepare for the potential return of **congressional earmarks** by agreeing on priority projects and producing **briefing sheets with cost estimates**

**Confirm priority projects**

**Create effective briefing sheets**

**Prepare your elevator pitch**

**Communicate with elected officials**
Stay Engaged

- Follow ICMA alerts, participate in ICMA survey research and ICMA Regional Summits, ICMA University, coaching, and other projects
- Keep in close contact with Congressional offices, federal agencies leaders & state officials to communicate your priorities and community’s issues
- Participate in “Transition Advocacy Project”, a coalition of localities seeking to shape federal investment in community revitalization, local resilience, equity and wealth-building, and sustainable infrastructure
  - Join January 21, 3PM EST webcast (register here)
  - Sign on as “Local Founding Leader”
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