



Special Report

2024 Election
Results Overview
& Lame Duck
Preview

November 13, 2024



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Introduction

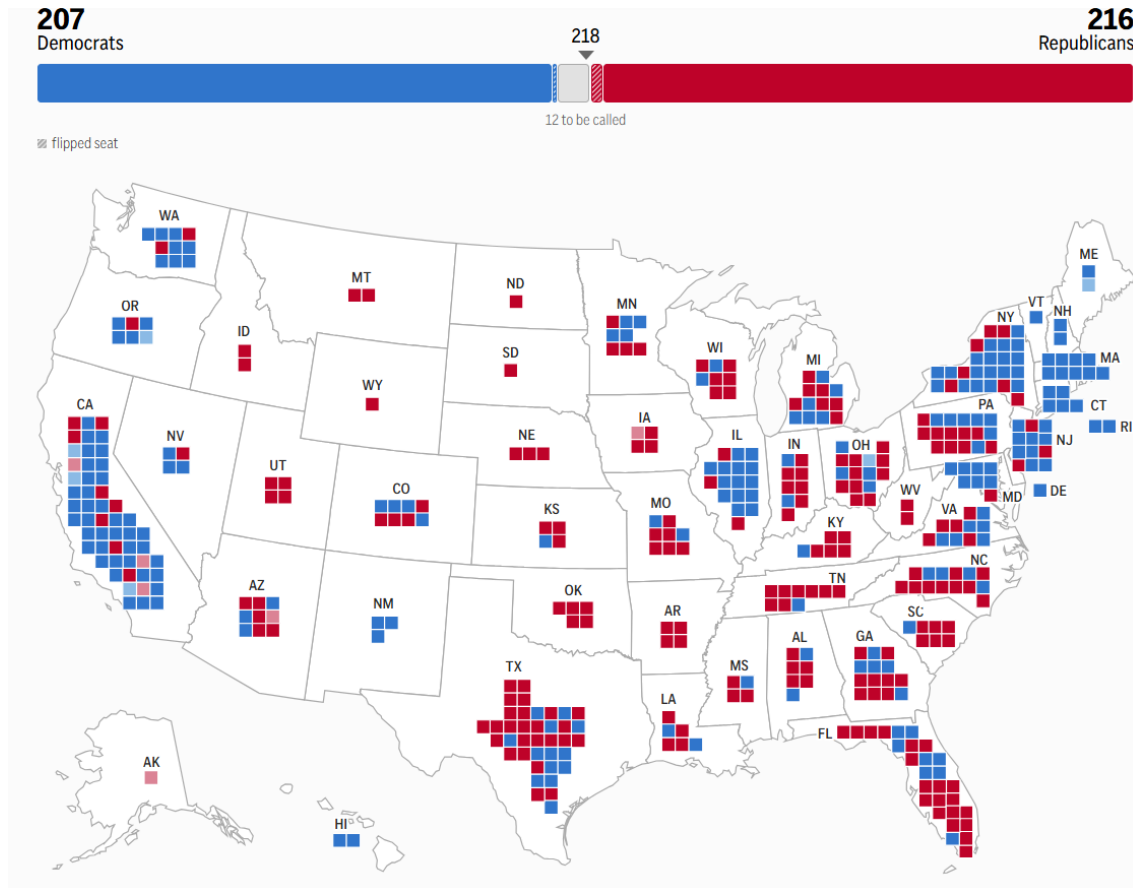
TFG's Special Report provides an initial overview of the November 5th election results and their impact on the House of Representatives, Senate, congressional leadership, and key committee leadership races. TFG will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the election results and subsequent committee assignments and leadership roles.

Congress returned to Washington on Tuesday, November 12 to begin the final legislative days of the outgoing 118th Congress – also referred to as a “lame duck session.” Congress is expected to adjourn by December 20th. The Senate will be in session for 24 legislative days and the House for 20 legislative days. With limited workdays, there is a narrow timeframe for Congress to pass several important pieces of legislation, including final fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills, the Water Resources Development Act, the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, expiring provisions to the farm bill, and more. Plus, as Republicans secured a governing trifecta (control of the White House, Senate, and the House of Representatives) they will look to set up their legislative agenda for 2025. This Report highlights the major remaining legislative items Congress may tackle before wrapping up. Future updates in the Report will be flagged.

as Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director. Former Trump Administration official Stephen Miller will rejoin as Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, and Tom Homan will serve as “Border Czar.” The president-elect will also create a new government agency titled the Department of Government Efficiency, tapping Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to head the agency. More information on the official Trump-Vance Transition Team, including Agency Review Teams and political appointments, will be detailed later in this Report.

On January 20, 2025, the President and Vice President will be inaugurated. The Twentieth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution set the inauguration date as January 20, which began in 1937. Since 1981, the ceremony has, with one exception, been held on the West Front of the Capitol. The Vice President takes the oath first, followed at noon by the President. This will mark the beginning of the new administration.

The House of Representatives



Source: *The Associated Press, as of 10 am ET on Nov. 13*

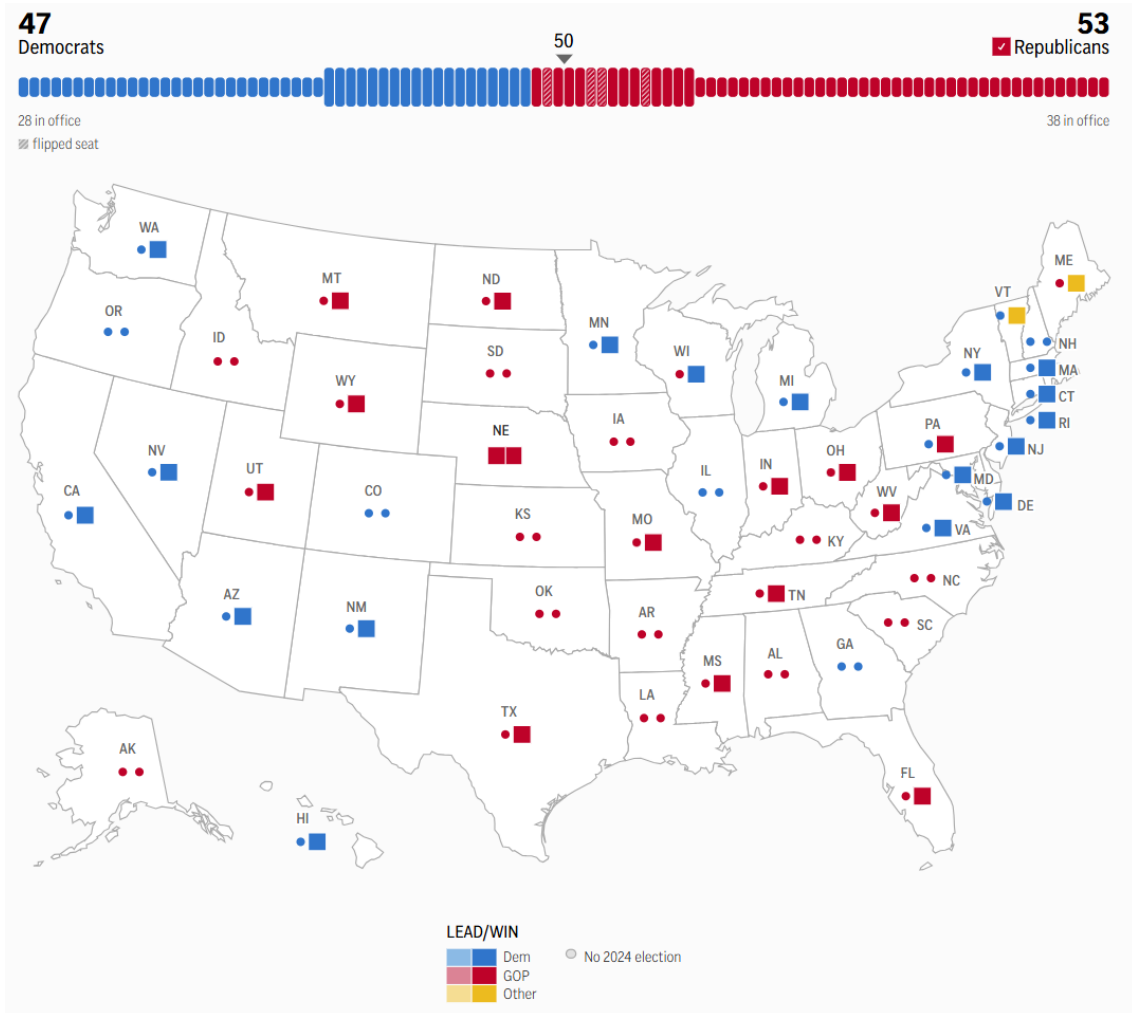
Control of the House of Representatives has yet to be officially determined, as votes for many races still continue to be counted. According to the Associated Press, House Republicans have secured the votes for 216 seats and House Democrats have secured 207 seats, with the remaining 12 races yet to be called, as of 10:00 a.m. EST on November 13th. Republicans need to secure two of the remaining 12 seats to take control of the House. In the lead up to the election, House Republicans could only afford to lose three seats if they were to retain the majority. However, other media outlets have already called the House for the GOP. Despite votes still being counted in the remaining races, House Republicans will certainly retain a slim majority. **Notably:** several news outlets have called the necessary 218 House seats needed for House control and Decision Desk HQ has the tally at 219-211 in favor of the Republicans. Many expect the House Republican majority to have a total of anywhere between 221 to 223 seats.

Republicans flipped three Democrat-held seats (Mich. 7th vacated by Elissa Slotkin who won the Michigan Senate seat, Pa. 7th incumbent Susan Wild defeated, and Pa. 8th incumbent Matt Cartwright defeated) and Democrats flipped four Republican-held seats (Calif. 27th incumbent Mike Garcia defeated, N.Y. 4th incumbent Anthony D’Esposito defeated, N.Y. 19th incumbent Marc Molinaro defeated, and N.Y. 22nd incumbent Brandon Williams defeated). If current vote count trends continue, it is possible that the Democrats net one seat, and House Republicans retain the majority with a margin of three-seats. As the Republicans retain control of the House, their

slim majority will be temporarily reduced further as President-elect Trump has selected two Members to join his administration—Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) as Ambassador to the United Nations, and Rep. Mike Waltz (R-Fla.) as National Security Advisor.

House Republicans are expected to utilize the same leadership structure from their past, including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), and Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-Minn.), as they have formally announced their bids to return as the House Republican leadership. The only member of the leadership team who will not be returning is House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik who will have been tapped as Ambassador to the United Nations. Reps. Kat Cammack (R-Fla.) and Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) have all announced bids to fill the Conference Chair position. House Republicans will have elections November 13. House Democrats will hold their leadership elections on November 19, and many expect House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), House Minority Whip Katherine Clark (D-Mass.), and House Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.) to retain their roles without opposition.

The Senate



Source: The Associated Press, as of 4pm ET on Nov. 12

On November 8, Republicans won back the Senate majority for the first time in four years by flipping four Democratic-held seats. Notably, this was the first time since 1980 where Republicans regained control of the Senate in a presidential election year. On November 11, the final race was called in the upper chamber solidifying the tally at 53-47.

Thirty-four (34) seats were up for election in the 2024 cycle, including 33 regular elections and a special election in Nebraska to replace Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), who resigned his term early. Democrats faced a challenging map to retain control having 23 of the 34 contested seats. Republicans flipped seats in Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia beating three incumbent Democrats running for re-election: Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Bob Casey (D-Pa.), while flipping the seat of retiring Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.V.). Joining Sen. Manchin as incumbents who did not seek re-election were Sens. Tom Carper (D-Del.), Mike Bruan (R-Ind.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), and Mitt Romney (R-Utah). All other incumbent Senate Democrats and Republicans who ran for re-election in 2020 won their races.

There are 11 Senate freshmen entering the 119th Congress that will succeed either retiring or defeated Senators. They are: Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), County Executive Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.), Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), Navy Seal Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.), former diplomat Andy Kim (D-N.J.), businessman Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio), businessman Dave McCormick (R-Pa.), Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah), and Governor Jim Justice (R-W.V.).

As long-term Republican leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) plans to step out of leadership, Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.), and John Cornyn (R-Texas) are the two most likely candidates to take McConnell's place. Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) has also announced his candidacy as Leader although he is seen as a longshot to win the role. Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) will hold a candidate forum before the Republican Senators vote on November 13 in a closed ballot. Newly elected Senators can participate. Rumblings of the potential for President-elect Donald Trump to endorse a candidate in the Majority Leader race have swirled over the weekend as Republican Conference members anticipate if Trump were to weigh in, he would endorse Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.). Of note, Trump plans to select Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) as Secretary of State vacating a seat where Governor Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) would appoint his replacement.

Lame Duck Preview

FY 2025 Appropriations

On September 26, 2024, President Joe Biden signed the *Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025* ([P.L. 118-83](#)) into law, averting a government shutdown that would have begun on October 1 and [funding](#) the federal government at enacted FY 2024 funding levels through Friday, December 20, 2024. The House and Senate passed the Continuing Resolution (CR) by votes of [341-82](#) and [78-18](#), respectively, on September 25. Enactment of the CR provided congressional leaders an additional twelve weeks to finalize and pass all twelve FY 2025 spending bills.

As of November 13th, the full House Appropriations Committee has marked up and advanced all 12 of their FY 2025 appropriations bills; in June and July 2024, the full House passed five of these FY 2025 spending bills (Military Construction-Veterans Affairs; Defense; Homeland Security; State-Foreign Operations; and Interior-Environment). As of November 13th, the full Senate Appropriations Committee has marked up and advanced 11 of the 12 FY 2025 spending bills (only the Homeland Security spending bill has yet to be considered); none of these 11 spending bills have received votes on the Senate floor. Lists of all approved FY 2025 Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the House can be found [here](#); lists of all approved FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests in the Senate can be found [here](#).

According to a House GOP leadership aid, House Republican leaders may fund the government with a stopgap measure that would extend into March 2025. This strategy would give President-elect Donald Trump the opportunity to influence government spending for the current fiscal year.

Lame Duck Outlook: House and Senate disagreements over both the spending numbers and policy provisions will require considerable negotiation between congressional leaders to reach a compromised final spending package, and one that will be signed into law by President Biden by the current December 20th deadline. As of November 12th, President-elect Donald Trump has not yet publicly opined on whether he would like Congress to pass all twelve FY 2025 spending bills prior to him assuming office on January 20, 2025. House Republican Leaders Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.) will meet with Trump on Wednesday,

November 13 in the Capitol. Majority Leader Scalise is on record saying he wants to temporarily fund the government through September 30, 2025, to avoid any delay of the President's legislative agenda.

Grants

Federal grant funding to state and local governments will continue, regardless of the administration change. According to a recent [White House Report](#), since FY 1990, federal grants have steadily increased, with particularly notable growth from 2020 to 2024 due to pandemic relief and substantial infrastructure investments. Between FY 1990 and FY 2020, federal funding rose from \$135.3 billion to \$285.9 billion. By 2022, federal grants exceeded \$1.1 trillion for the first time, primarily due to COVID-19 relief efforts and the enactment of the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**.

The IIJA dedicates about \$1.2 trillion in total funding from FY 2022 to FY 2026, including \$550 billion in new spending above current baseline levels to modernize and enhance the nation's infrastructure. Among the 190 programs detailed in the White House [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook](#), 118 (62%) were pre-existing programs that received additional funding and, in some cases, legislative updates. Only 71 of these programs were newly established through the Act. Even with the IIJA's funding authorization set to expire in September 2026, many programs will remain. It is anticipated that reauthorization discussions will begin in 2025 under the new administration, and that the bipartisan nature of the legislation since its inception in 2021 underscores its foundational importance to infrastructure funding.

The IRA provides \$369 billion in federal funding for clean energy delivered through a combination of grants, loans, rebates, incentives, and other investments. Most IRA funds were appropriated in FY 2022 and are to remain available through FY 2030. Of the 109 programs outlined in the White House [Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#), nearly half were existing programs prior to the Act.

While some funds under IIJA and IRA have advanced appropriations (meaning they are already allocated in budgets through future years), any unobligated discretionary funds could be redirected within the allowable limits of the authorizing legislation. This could result in fewer new grants being issued in areas the administration deprioritizes.

For current grantees, it is essential to note that once awarded, federal grants are legally binding; federal agencies are obligated to fulfill the terms unless non-compliance issues arise. [Claw backs](#) of federal funds are rare and typically only occur if a grantee is found to be non-compliant with the grant's terms.

As the nation transitions to a new administration, some grant priorities may gradually shift to reflect evolving goals, with potential emphasis on infrastructure, workforce development, veterans' programs, and industrial and economic competitiveness.

Lame Duck Outlook: Grant opportunities will remain available, with new opportunities being issued and award announcements continuing.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

The **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)** is a biennial authorizing bill that provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with the legal authority to undertake water resource projects, including those for flood control,

waterway navigation, ecosystem restoration, and environmental infrastructure. These bills are considered every two years and are often quite bipartisan.

[H.R. 8812](#): The ***Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA)*** authorizes the Corps for projects to improve ports and harbors, inland waterways, flood and storm protection, and other critical water infrastructure needs. The bill authorizes 161 new feasibility studies for locally proposed projects and 12 new start construction projects. The bill will also increase project transparency, improve delivery of projects, reauthorize FEMA's National Dam Safety Program through 2028, and make changes to strengthen the High Hazard Potential Dam program. H.R. 8812 was approved by a massively bipartisan vote of 359-13 on July 22, 2024.

[S. 4367](#): The ***Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024*** would authorize billions of dollars to fund water infrastructure projects that will have a broad impact nationwide. It would direct funds for 81 feasibility studies and eight new start construction projects and expedite multiple ongoing projects and studies. The bill also directs the Corps to educate non-federal entities on operations and maintenance responsibilities, increases the maximum amount of funding the Corps can contribute to projects, and notably increases the federal cost-share for inland waterway projects from 65% to 75%. S. 4367 was approved in the Senate by unanimous consent on August 1, 2024.

[H.R. 5664](#): The ***Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Amendments of 2023*** would reauthorize and amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014. In addition to reauthorizing the WIFIA program, which provides low-interest loans for water infrastructure projects nationwide, the bill would also lower the minimum project size from \$5 million to \$1 million; clarify that federally-owned infrastructure managed and operated by a non-federal entities is eligible for WIFIA financing; and allows certain WIFIA loans to have maturity dates of up to 55 years, rather than the existing 35 year maturity date. H.R. 5664 was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) but has yet to be considered by the committee.

Lame Duck Outlook: House and Senate staff have been officially negotiating following the Senate's passage of its legislation on August 1st. Given the overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers, it is likely that a final version will be considered in the remaining weeks of the 118th Congress. WRDA 2022 was ultimately attached to the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which may be the vehicle for which WRDA 2024 is passed.

National Defense Authorization Act

The ***National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)*** authorizes major policies and funding levels for the Department of Defense. The House and Senate Armed Services Committees both released their versions of the FY 2025 legislation, though neither has been considered on the floor of either chamber. The Senate bill ([S. 4638](#)) proposes \$875 billion in funding for the Defense Department, which would allow the Department to modernize its technologies and capabilities; strengthen joint forces and the national security workforce; and ensure that the U.S. armed forces have the resources necessary to remain safe in and out of combat. The House bill ([H.R. 8070](#)) proposes \$895.2 billion in funding, and would cut billions of dollars from inefficient or obsolete programs; improve armed service recruitment; and ensure defense programs meet their requirements. The House bill also authorizes programs and additional funding that would improve the quality of life for service members, improve housing conditions, and boost compensation for service members.

Lame Duck Outlook: Congress has successfully passed the NDAA annually since it was first considered in 1961. There are no indications of any significant hurdles that would prevent Congress from negotiating these two bills

and considering them before the end of the year. The NDAA for FY 2025 will likely be the vehicle for other legislation, like WRDA 2024.

Farm Bill

The **2018 Farm Bill**, the latest iteration of the Farm Bill to be passed into law, was initially set to expire on September 30, 2023, the end of FY 2023. On November 19, 2023, Congress passed a one-year reauthorization of the bill, running through September 30, 2024, which included an additional \$177 million in mandatory funding for various programs. On September 30, 2024, the 2018 Farm Bill expired, with no reauthorization (temporary or otherwise) passed by Congress.

This lapse reflects Congress' ongoing disagreements and lack of progress on a new Farm Bill, with updated programs and funding levels. The House Agriculture Committee, under the leadership of Chairman G.T. Thompson (R-Pa.), [first released draft text of a Republican-led Farm Bill](#) on May 17, 2024. The Senate Agriculture Committee, to date, has not released full text of a Farm Bill, though a [proposed framework](#) was released by Chairman Stabenow (D-Mich.) on May 1, 2024. The primary source of disagreement between the competing Republican-led House proposal, and Democrat-led Senate proposal revolves around the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and related policy dictating the rate/level of SNAP payments. Senate Democrats, led by Senator Stabenow have [decried the Republican bill](#) as an effort to politicize and decrease SNAP benefits. Conversely, Representative G.T. Thompson has described the reforms to SNAP in the House bill as necessary for the nutritional security of recipients and fiscal soundness of the program.

Lame Duck Outlook: It is highly unlikely that Congress will pass a Farm Bill before the end of the 118th Congress. The two parties in both the House and Senate remain significantly divided on key provisions of competing proposals. Further, the lack of full bill text from the Senate indicates that negotiations are still ongoing. Prior to the November 5th general election, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) indicated during a press briefing that the Farm Bill was one of three must-pass bills on House Democrats' agenda for the lame duck. However, given the significant rebalancing of power in the election, Congressional Republicans will likely wait until a new Congress is seated next year to pass a Farm Bill with a likely Republican governing trifecta in the House, Senate, and White House.

Disaster Relief Package

In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Milton and Helene in the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States, Congress is expected to quickly take up legislation to fund FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) and other disaster relief and mitigation programs.

On September 25, 2024, Congress appropriated \$20 billion for the DRF in the Continuing Resolution under which the federal government is currently operating. Soon thereafter, in the wake of Hurricane Helene, [FEMA leadership told media](#) that it had expended nearly half of this funding – \$9 billion – in just eight days. Given the scale and scope of the destruction caused by these disasters in close succession, remaining funds are expected to be inadequate to address recovery and relief efforts. Further, long-term relief projects also remain to be addressed by the DRF, including outstanding projects from the Maui wildfires, and cleanup/recovery efforts in the wake of the Francis Scott Key Bridge disaster in Baltimore.

The Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program exhausted its funding on October 15, 2024. North Carolina Senators Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Ted Budd (R-N.C.), along with a group of Senators, have proposed the Restoring an Economic Lifeline with Immediate Emergency Funding (RELIEF) Act, a bill to replenish the SBA Disaster Loan Program. The proposed legislation would add \$550 million to the SBA Disaster Loan Program, enabling it to provide \$2.475 billion in low-interest loans to affected homeowners and small businesses until the end of 2024. These loans would assist those without flood insurance in rebuilding and offer financial support for economic recovery in impacted areas. The Senators are urging quick action to pass the bill when Congress reconvenes.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), covering 2 million policies in areas impacted by last month's hurricanes, may deplete its \$5 billion fund and require borrowing from its \$9.9 billion Treasury limit. Lawmakers are bracing for a lame duck session debate over how to address the situation, with options including raising the NFIP's borrowing cap, appropriating additional funds, or forgiving more debt, as was done after the 2017 hurricanes. However, political disagreements complicate these solutions. House Financial Services Chair Patrick McHenry (R-N.C.) and Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) have differing views on funding and will likely play key roles in shaping the NFIP's response.

Lame Duck Outlook: Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has told allies in recent days that he's leaning toward a stopgap spending bill that would extend into March with a disaster relief package attached, although no final decisions have been made. However, some lawmakers caution packaging disaster relief with the CR, which could go as far out as December 20, would be too long to wait as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rapidly burns through cash in the wake of October's hurricanes. Of course, Congress could choose to pass the CR well before the December 20 expiration. GOP Leadership has indicated that it will monitor disaster relief programs and is willing to consider moving a larger disaster relief package separately from the CR if needed. The House expects to receive a formal disaster relief request from the White House sometime next week in the \$50 billion range. While there is talk of the many ways and timelines to pass a disaster relief package, expect Congress to prioritize the issue over the next month.

Conclusion

Updates on election results, leadership roles, and outlook for legislation are coming out regularly. TFG will continue to update this Report as the information unfolds.

For questions, please contact Chris Cummins at ccummins@tfqnet.com or visit our website www.thefergusongroup.com