
TO: AIRPORT COMMISSION

FROM: Matthew Kazmierczak
Division Manager

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

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FEDERAL

Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Appropriations

Current resolution for Federal funding ends on December 20, 2024. Two options:

Option 1 – Finish FY25 Spending bills this year

- Finish spending bills to create a clean slate for the new administration
- Only 5 weeks
- House and Senate are only \$100 billion apart on topline numbers

Option 2 – Push into 2025

- Pass another short-term continuing resolution to fund the government until March
- Include disaster supplement
- Creates timing and budgetary challenges with the first 100 day priorities

Other Lame Duck Items

- Finish the National Defense Authorization Act
- Democratic Senate expected to focus on approving judicial nominees

Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

- Expect White House and Republican Congress to push for deep spending cuts that could impact airport priorities
- Extending the tax cuts may look for offsets as it has the potential to cost \$15 trillion
- Limit/eliminate congressional earmarks
- Diversion of security fees for deficit reduction could be extended
- More cost-shifting to focus on border could impact airports

- With potential for Sen. Cruz to be Chair of Senate Commerce Committee, he could push for security escorts for politicians
- Potential to prohibit or restrict TSA from using biometrics at security checkpoints (facial recognition)
- Much tighter budget as debt, deficits, tax cuts, and spending will matter

Infrastructure Budget Targets for Savings

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - \$20 billion
- Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Program - \$15 Billion
- Airport Terminal Program - \$5 Billion

Airport Related Appointments

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Governor Kristi Noem (South Dakota)
 - Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
 - Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Representative Lee Zeldin (New York)

Federal laws require that vacant House seats be by a special election. However, vacant Senate seats can be filled by the Governor if the state allows (6 states require a special election).

Potential Changes – Looking Ahead

- Focus on reducing federal regulations
- Expansion of regulatory relief in FAA reauthorization
- PFAS rules could be impacted (current challenges in court)
 - Drinking water standards
 - Designation as a hazardous substance
 - Storm water permits
- PFAS liability protection is more likely – would protect airports for PFAS mitigation given that it was regulatorily required
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) changes
- Changes to the Clean Air Act
- Regulatory freeze of FAA Reauthorization Implementation – new administration would review and potentially revise the rule making process
 - Could impact rules regarding family seating and wheelchair accessibility
- Delayed timelines for leaded aviation gas, sustainable aviation fuel, and noise reports.
- Federal employees could be required to be in office more often or even full-time
- Changes to federal employee structure – could be job cuts and/or relocations
- Push for increased investments in Air Traffic Control

Key Dates

- December 20, 2024 – Current FY25 Funding Expires
- January 1, 2025 – Debt Limit Resets
 - Requires vote by April to increase the debt limit
- January 3, 2025 – Swearing in of the 119th Congress
- January 20, 2025 – Inauguration Day
- December 31, 2025 – Tax Cuts Expire
- September 30, 2026 – Federal Highway Programs Expire
- September 30, 2028 – Current FAA Programs/Taxes Expire