



FEW Washington Legislative Update November 1-15, 2024 The Election Results President-elect Donald J. Trump

The Election Results

On November 5, President-elect Donald Trump secured enough electoral college votes to become the 47th President of the United States. Republicans also flipped four Senate seats, meaning they will have a 53-47 majority entering the 119th Congress, and maintained control of the House though a small number of congressional races remain outstanding. For the first time since 2016, Republicans will have unified control of both Congress and the White House once President-elect Trump is sworn in on January 20, 2025. President-elect Trump won 312 electoral votes to current Vice President Kamala Harris' 226 electoral votes.

November 7, Washington, D.C.: President-elect Donald Trump's team is in discussions about when he should go to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Joe Biden, a source familiar tells CNN.

A source suggested that the date of the meeting was not final but could happen next week before Biden goes on a weeklong foreign trip. On November 14, Biden is scheduled to depart Washington for South America, with stops in Peru, Brazil, and the Amazon rainforest.

On the trip, Biden will attend summits with leaders from the Asia-Pacific region and the Group of 20 nations. Understanding how Trump will approach relationships with those leaders in a second term will inform Biden's bilateral meetings with close allies, as well as interactions on the sidelines with U.S. adversaries.

Trump's team are hoping he goes to Washington, D.C., on the earlier side, with the source saying it could even be next week.

Some background: A White House official said earlier today that Biden spoke with Trump on Wednesday to congratulate him on his victory and [invited him to the White House](#). During that call, Biden also “expressed his commitment to ensuring a smooth transition and emphasized the importance of working to bring the country together,” the official said.

Trump said he [“very much appreciated”](#) the call from Biden and said he planned to meet the president “shortly,” according to the campaign. (Source: CNN)

For now, as we enter the “lame duck” session of the 118th Congress, there remains a substantial laundry list of items for members to address before adjourning this session. Both the House and Senate returned the week of November 12, for the first time since the October break.

FEW Washington Legislative Update – November 1-15, 2024

Tier I

Federal Retirees Gain a Win with FEW’s Support!

The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed, 327-75, [legislation that would repeal](#) Social Security’s windfall elimination provision (WEP) and government pension offset (GPO) — tax provisions that negatively impact some federal retirees’ annuity benefits. (See FEW’s Support [Here](#))

Now, the bill heads to the Senate, where [companion legislation](#) has 62 co-sponsors. After the House passed it, Reps. Garret Graves, R-La., and Abigail Spanberger, D-Va., who are co-leading the legislation, [urged Senate leadership](#) to bring up the measure for a vote.

"A bipartisan supermajority in the U.S. House came together last night to protect Americans' earned benefits and send the *Social Security Fairness Act* to the U.S. Senate, where more than 60 Senators — a filibuster-proof supermajority — have signed on as supporters of this legislation," Spanberger said in a statement to *Government Executive*. "Now is the time to right this wrong and send this bill to the president's desk to be signed into law."

However they’re up against a tight timeline, as the Senate would need to pass the measure before the current Congress ends on January 3, and that chamber is focused on confirming President Joe Biden’s judicial nominees.

Supporters also could attach the legislation to the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which is often a vehicle for passing non-defense-related items, or a continuing resolution to fund the government past [the current Dec. 20 deadline](#).

The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of retired federal employees who spent a portion of their careers in the private sector in addition to a federal, state or local government job where Social Security is not intended as an element of their retirement income, such as the Civil Service Retirement System. The GPO reduces spousal and survivor Social Security benefits in families with retired government workers.

Graves and Spanberger in September obtained 218 signatures from fellow lawmakers [to file a discharge petition](#) that required Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who is one of the bill's 330 cosponsors, to schedule a vote on the measure.

[As of December 2023](#), the WEP applied to approximately 2.1 million individuals, and the GPO affected nearly 750,000 people.

“These are firefighters who worked a second job to make ends meet, police officers who began a second career after leaving the force, teachers who took a summer job to cover the bills and buy school supplies and they are federal employees who went on to work in the private sector,” Spanberger said during floor debate. “They are all receiving a fraction of their earned Social Security benefits.”

The articles and information posted in this publication are obtained from other qualified published sources and are protected under copyright laws.