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11/01/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Congress cleared a bill Thursday (October 25th) that will extend surface transportation programs again, this time through December 3rd, giving lawmakers a little more room to try to come to a deal on infrastructure and reconciliation bills. Lawmakers have missed the Halloween deadline that Democrats previously set out for. More pressure is being put on this new deadline as this is also the FY22 appropriations deadline and the date that the Treasury Department is scheduled to hit the debt limit. President Joe Biden pitched a new framework to resistant progressives during a visit to House Democrats' caucus meeting on Capitol Hill Thursday. Biden was hoping to have legislation in place ahead of his trip to Glasgow in order to back the United States' climate policy, but progressives like Rep. Pramila Jayapal expressed resistance and said they needed to see more details of the plan.
- Senator Joe Manchin spoke with press this afternoon (November 1st) about President Biden's \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better framework proposal. Senator Manchin did not endorse the framework, and emphasized that he would not be pressured by progressives into supporting it. His reluctance to officially endorse last week had been a key driver in progressives' decision to continue holding up the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Other News to Know

- As Election Day draws closer on November 2nd, gubernatorial races in Virginia and New Jersey have become major races to watch as polling in both states have become a tight race. Virginia's race is very close to a 50/50 split between Democrat Terry McAuliffe and Republican Glenn Youngkin. Meanwhile, in New Jersey, current polling suggests a tighter race between current Governor Phil Murphy and Republican Jack Ciattarelli. These races will serve as an important barometer to show the response to President Biden's first year in office and will be important to both parties as they look to the midterm elections next year.
- Tomorrow, November 2nd, is Election Day. The gubernatorial race in Virginia has caught the nation's attention as it is looking like an even split between Democrat Terry McAuliffe and Republican Glenn Youngkin. This election is incredibly important as even though Virginia has been trending blue over the past decade, it will demonstrate the public's response to the beginning of the Biden Presidency. In the past few elections, Virginia has been trending more and more to the left, after an overwhelming win by Biden in 2020 and a closely contested election the following year, a loss can be a strong wake-up call for Democrats as they look towards next year's midterm elections.

Other News to Know *(continued)*

- President Biden visited Rome and the Vatican last week, where he met with Pope Francis, French President Emmanuel Macron and other leaders. Currently, Biden is in Glasgow, Scotland at the COP26 U.N. Climate Change Conference, where he is calling for tougher action on carbon emissions.

This Week on Capitol Hill

Hearings of Interest:

- Wednesday, November 3rd | 10:00 AM House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth hearing on “Our Changing Economy: The Economic Effects of Technological Innovation, Automation and the Future of Work”
- Wednesday, November 3rd | 10:15 AM House Education and Labor Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee A Call to Action: Modernizing the Community Services Block Grant
- Thursday, November 4th | 9:00 AM Senate Judiciary Business meeting to consider S.2342, to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment
- Thursday, November 4th | 10:00 AM House Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development hearing on The Community College Pipeline to Small Businesses
- Thursday, November 4th | 10:00 AM Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Hearings to examine the road ahead for the COVID-19 response, focusing on next steps.
- Thursday, November 4th | 10:15 House Education and Labor Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on Closing the Courthouse Doors: The Injustice of Forced Arbitration Agreements

Schedule of Floor Activity:

- Both the House and Senate are in session this week.