Washington, D.C. Outlook & 2018 Election

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Washington, D.C. Outlook & 2018 Election

- Administration
- USDA
- Congressional Agenda
- Issues Important to Agriculture
- 2018 Election Year
Administration

• Agenda
  o Infrastructure
  o Immigration
    ▪ DACA
    ▪ Wall
    ▪ El Salvador
  o Welfare reform
  o Health care
  o Regulatory reform
Administration

• Nominations
  - USTR
  - USDA
• **Nominations**
  - Confirmed
    - Secretary Perdue
    - Steve Censky, Deputy Secretary
    - Ted McKinney, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
    - Greg Ibach, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
USDA

• Nominations
  o Waiting
    ▪ Under Secretaries for Farm Production and Conservation
    ▪ Food Safety
    ▪ Nutrition and Consumer Affairs
    ▪ Natural Resources; and Research, Economics, and Education
    ▪ General Counsel
    ▪ Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
• Reorganization
  o Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
  o CODEX Office
  o Rural Development
• Priorities
  o Nominations
  o Farm Bill
  o Agriculture and Rural Prosperity
CONGRESS

• House – in session 27 weeks prior to election

• Senate – in session 33 weeks prior to election
CONGRESS

• Important Dates
  o January 30 – State of the Union
  o February 8 – CR Expires
  o February 12 – Administration to Present FY ‘19 Budget
  o March 5 – DACA
  o March – Primaries begin
  o March/April – Debt ceiling
  o September 30 – Farm Bill expires
  o November 6 – Election Day
CONGRESS

• Agenda
  o Government Funding – FY ‘18
    ▪ CR
    ▪ Budget Caps
  o FY ‘19 Budget and Appropriations
  o Debt Ceiling
CONGRESS

• Agenda
  o DACA/Immigration
  o Disaster Assistance for hurricanes and wildfires
  o Infrastructure
  o Welfare Reform – House
  o FAA
  o Flood Insurance
  o Farm Bill
Important AG/Meat Issues

- Trade
  - NAFTA
  - KORUS
  - China
  - Rest of the World Not Waiting
Important AG/Meat Issues

• Farm Bill
  o Farm Economy
  o Budget
  o Commodities
    ▪ Cotton
    ▪ Dairy
    ▪ Sugar
  o Crop Insurance
  o Livestock title
Important AG/Meat Issues

- Farm Bill
  - Vaccine bank
  - Animal welfare
  - Cattle Markets – GAO Study
  - GIPSA
  - Labeling
  - COOL
  - Trade Promotion Programs – FMD & MAP
  - SNAP
Important AG/Meat Issues

• DACA/Immigration

• ADUFA-antibiotics
  o Eliminate the use of antibiotics for prevention
  o Record keeping
  o San Francisco
2018 Election

• Public’s Attitude
  o Very Divided Nation
    ▪ 95% Democrats say Trump is stirring up new discord
    ▪ 70% Republicans say he is doing more to unite
  o Trump approval – 40-56
  o Direction of the country – 33-59
  o Congressional approval – 15-75
    ▪ Leadership approval
      • Ryan – 30
      • Pelosi – 29
      • Schumer – 26
      • McConnell – 21
2018 Election

• Public’s Attitude
  
  o Congressional generic ballot – +8 Democrats
  
  o Intensity
  
  o Trade
Continued partisan divides in views of the impact of free trade agreements

% who say free trade agreements have been a good thing for the U.S.

% who say free trade agreements have definitely/probably helped their financial situation


Dem/Lean Dem
57
53
67

Rep/Lean Rep


Dem/Lean Dem
54

Rep/Lean Rep
35

Note: Don’t know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER
2018 Election

- Congressional Retirements/Open Seats
  - Senate – 3
  - House – 33 Republicans & 15 Democrats
*The two independents caucus with Democrats, so practically speaking the Democrats are defending 25 seats.
2018 Election

• Senate

  o 33 seats – 23 Democrats, 8 Republicans, & 2 Independents

  o Key races – AZ, IN, FL, MO, MT, ND, NV, OH, WI, WV

  o Ag committee – IN, MI, MN-2, NE, NY, ND, OH, & PA

  o Primaries
2018 Election

• House
  ○ Midterm elections
    ▪ 23 – average seats lost for President’s party in last 100 years (1934, 1998, and 2002 exceptions)
    ▪ 40 – average seats lost for President’s party when President’s approval is below 50% (since 1962)
  ○ 24 – seats Democrats need to gain to take control
2018 Election

• House

  o Key races
    ▪ Clinton – Republican Members – 23
    ▪ Trump – Democrat Members – 12
    ▪ Dems – Suburban and Urban Districts
  • CA, NY
    ▪ Reps – white, blue-collar districts
    ▪ Primaries
Questions