BGR | GROUP

Washington • Austin • Atlanta • London

QUARTERLY OUTLOOK

January 10, 2025

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS | PUBLIC RELATIONS | ADVISORY SERVICES

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

KEY DATES AND FISCAL DEADLINES

TRUMP 2.0 PREVIEW

119TH CONGRESS PREVIEW

POLICY PRIMERS

BGR POLICY OUTLOOKS

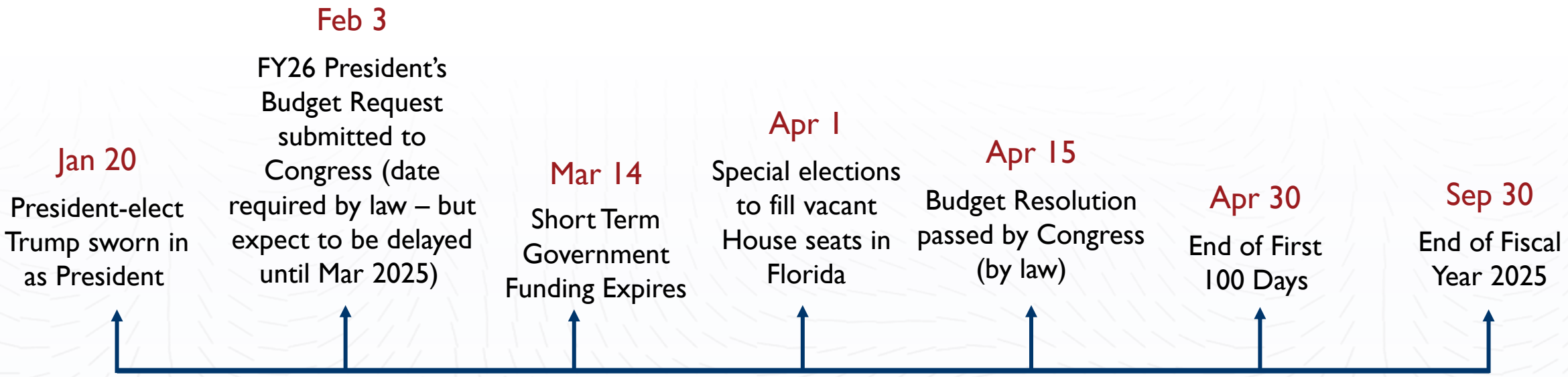
Overview

As President-elect Trump is set to begin his second term, Republicans are poised to take control of Washington but with historically narrow majorities.

President-elect Trump has an ambitious agenda and is poised to roll back many policies implemented by the outgoing Biden administration. He will seek to implement through Executive Orders and the Budget Reconciliation process in Congress.

BGR's Policy experts offer insights on what to expect in the First 100 Days of Trump 2.0, and the 119th Congress.

2025 Key Dates



Fiscal Deadlines

READ MORE HERE – How will fiscal deadlines impact legislative action in 2025?

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Jan 2: Federal Debt Limit Reinstated		Mar 14: Short-Term Government Funding Patch Expires	

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST

Mid-Summer: *Debt Ceiling Part II:* Extraordinary Measures Pushed To the Limit

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Sep 30: Fiscal Year 2025 Ends			Dec 31: TCJA and ACA Subsidies Expire

TRUMP 2.0 OVERVIEW

The First 100 Days – Executive Orders

President-elect Trump will use Executive Orders to jump start his agenda beginning on day one. Key areas of focus will include:

Energy

President–elect Trump will place a heavy emphasis on energy production right away. He will likely use executive orders to open up oil and gas leasing, expediting permits for drilling and fracking, and reducing or eliminating "green energy" regulations impacting auto manufacturers.

Immigration

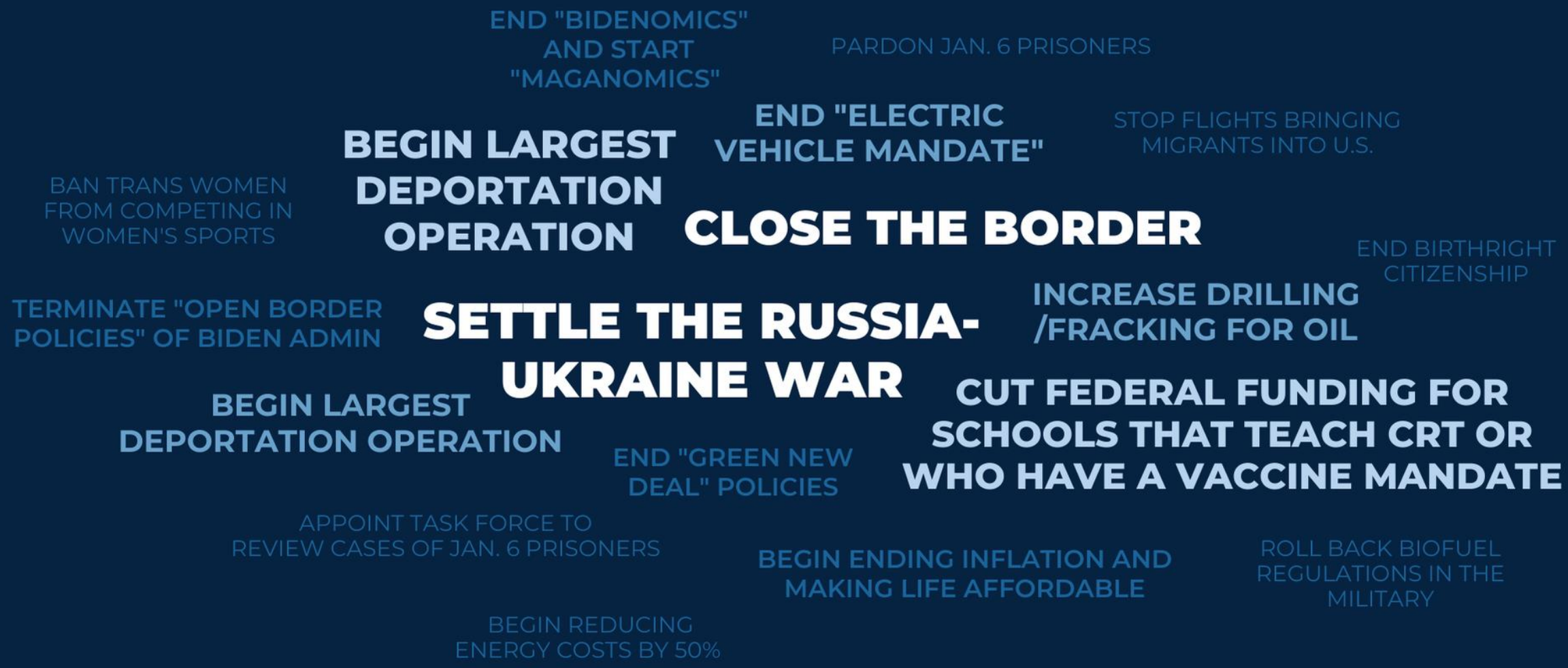
Border security and immigration were a key focus of the campaign for President-elect Trump and his team. Expect multiple actions on this issue on the President's first day in office including ending ordering deportations for migrants with criminal convictions, introducing stricter requirements on amenesty, and ending birthright citizenship.

Culture Wars

President-elect Trump has discussed taking several actions related to cultural and hot button political issues. Specifically, he has suggested that he may issue a mass pardon of those convicted of breaking into the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and a ban on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs across the federal government.

READ ABOUT EXECUTIVE ORDERS HERE →

Potential Trump Actions on Day One



Source: Axios

The Trump 2.0 Cabinet

Confirmation hearings for President-elect Trump's Cabinet nominees are scheduled to begin even before he takes office. Confirmation votes could occur by mid-January. See the current list of hearing dates **here.**

MARCO **RUBIO**
Secretary of State

SCOTT **BESSENT**
Treasury Secretary

PETER **HESGETH**
Defense Secretary

PAM **BONDI**
Attorney General

DOUG **BURGUM**
Interior Secretary

BROOKE **ROLLINS**
Agriculture Secretary

HOWARD **LUTNICK**
Commerce Secretary

LORI **CHAVEZ-DEREMER**
Labor Secretary

ROBERT F. **KENNEDY** JR
HHS Secretary

SCOTT **TURNER**
HUD Secretary

SEAN **DUFFY**
Transportation Secretary

CHRIS **WRIGHT**
Energy Secretary

LINDA **MCMAHON**
Education Secretary

DOUG **COLLINS**
Veterans Affairs Secretary

KRISTI **NOEM**
Homeland Security Secretary

Trump 2.0 Appointees

President-elect Trump continues to fill out his administration team with key appointees in the White House and agencies.

Cabinet & Cabinet Level Nominees

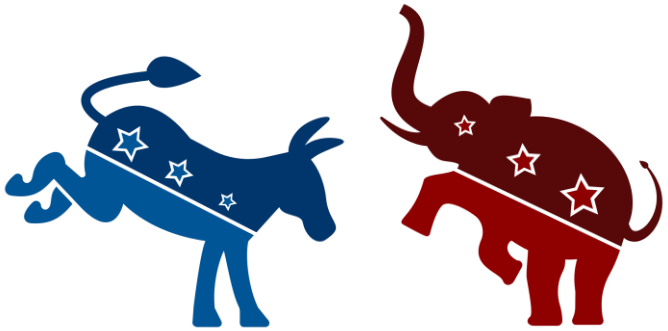
Senior White House Officials

Senior Administration Officials

International/Foreign Policy Officials

119TH CONGRESS OVERVIEW

Congressional Majorities



The 119th Congress will have historically narrow majorities.

SENATE

HOUSE

*The House Republican Majority is set to shrink even further once President-elect Trump takes office. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) opted not to return to Congress after withdrawing his nomination for Attorney General. Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Mike Waltz (R-FL) have been nominated to fill roles in the Trump administration and will vacate their seats once confirmed. With these vacancies, House Republicans will not be able to lose a single vote if advancing legislation along party lines.

The two Florida seats will be filled by special elections to be held on April 1, 2025. The New York special election date has not yet been set.

119th Congressional Leadership

House and Senate leadership at a glance

U.S. SENATE

Leader
John Thune (SD)

Whip
John Barrasso (WY)

Conference Chair
Tom Cotton (AR)

Leader
Chuck Schumer (NY)

Whip
Dick Durbin (IL)

Caucus Chair
Amy Klobuchar (MN)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker
Mike Johnson (LA)

Leader
Steve Scalise (LA)

Whip
Tom Emmer (MN)

Conference Chair
Lisa McClain (MI)

Leader
Hakeem Jeffries (NY)

Whip
Katherine Clark (MA)

Caucus Chair
Pete Aguilar (CA)

Committee Chairs and Ranking Members

SENATE

AGING

Rick Scott (FL)

Kristen Gillibrand (NY)

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

John Boozman (AR)

Amy Klobuchar (MN)

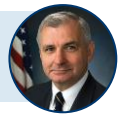
APPROPRIATIONS

Susan Collins (ME)

Patty Murray (WA)

ARMED SERVICES

Roger Wicker (MS)

Jack Reed (RI)


BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Tim Scott (SC)

Elizabeth Warren (MA)

BUDGET

Lindsey Graham (SC)

Jeff Merkley (OR)

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, & TRANSPORTATION

Ted Cruz (TX)

Maria Cantwell (WA)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Jerry Moran (KS)

Richard Blumenthal (CT)

SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Joni Ernst (IA)

Ed Markey (MA)

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mitch McConnell (KY)

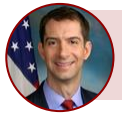
Alex Padilla (CA)

JUDICIARY

Chuck Grassley (IA)

Dick Durbin (IL)

INTELLIGENCE


Tom Cotton (AR)

Mark Warner (VA)

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Lisa Murkowski (AK)

Brian Schatz (HI)

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Rand Paul (KY)

Gary Peters (MI)

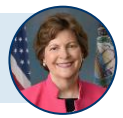
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Bill Cassidy (LA)

Bernie Sanders (VT)

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Jim Risch (ID)

Jeanne Shaheen (NH)


FINANCE

Mike Crapo (ID)

Ron Wyden (OR)

ETHICS

James Lankford (OK)

Chris Coons (DE)

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Lee (UT)

Martin Heinrich (NM)

Committee Chairs and Ranking Members

HOUSE

AGRICULTURE

Glenn Thompson (PA)

Angie Craige (MN)

APPROPRIATIONS

Tom Cole (OK)

Rosa DeLauro (CT)

ARMED SERVICES

Mike Rogers (AL)

Adam Smith (WA)

BUDGET

Jodey Arrington (TX)

Brendan Boyle (PA)

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Tim Walberg (MI)

Bobby Scott (VA)

ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Brett Guthrie (KY)

Frank Pallone (NJ)

ETHICS

TBD

TBD

FINANCIAL SERVICES

French Hill (AR)

Maxine Waters (CA)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Brian Mast (FL)

Gregory Meeks (NY)

HOMELAND SECURITY

Mark Green (TN)

Bennie Thompson (MS)

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

TBD

Joe Morelle (NY)

PERMENANT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mike Turner (OH)

Jim Himes (CT)

JUDICIARY

Jim Jordan (OH)

Jerry Nadler (NY)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Bruce Westerman (AR)

Raul Grijalva (AZ)

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

James Comer (KY)

Jamie Raskin (MD)

RULES

TBD

Jim McGovern (MA)

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Brian Babin (TX)

Zoe Lofgren (CA)

SMALL BUSINESS

Roger WIlliams (TX)

Nydia Velsaquez (NY)

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Sam Graves (MO)

Rick Larsen (WA)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mike Bost (IL)

Mark Takano (CA)

WAYS AND MEANS

Jason Smith (MO)

Richard Neal (MA)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

TBD

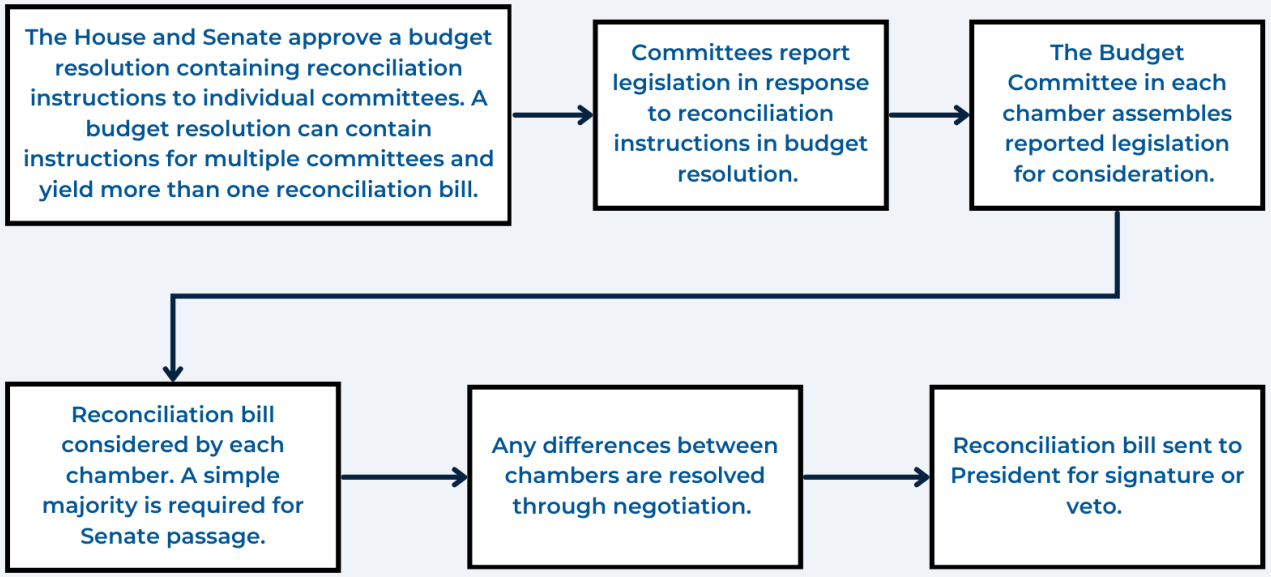
TBD

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE 119th CONGRESSS →

POLICY PRIMERS

Budget Reconciliation Process Primer

The Budget Reconciliation process provides a mechanism to advance fiscal legislation with a simple majority in both the House and Senate. Here's how it works.



Steve
PFRANG
Vice President
Commerce and Infrastructure

> *Given the extremely narrow margins, House and Senate Republicans, along with the Trump White House, believe they have one shot to get reconciliation package through. To this end, they will work to include as much as possible into an initial package. It will be a tightrope walk, to be sure, and one driven by President-elect Trump's ambitious agenda.*

READ MORE HERE

Budget Reconciliation – Potential Topics

Republicans plan to move quickly to advance a budget resolution to kickstart the reconciliation process. Working with the incoming administration, Republican Leadership is working to assemble a comprehensive package that will cover multiple topics including:

Immigration

President-elect Trump is expected to take several actions on immigration via the executive order process, including reestablishing the Remain in Mexico Policy, which helped curb border crossings in his first term. Congress may seek to codify these changes via the reconciliation process.

Energy

President-elect Trump has made energy production a key objective of his second term. In addition to using executive orders, Congress will advance energy related policies through reconciliation. These could include expanded oil and gas leases, permitting reforming, and restructuring green energy-focused tax benefits provided in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Taxes

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is set to expire by the end of this year. President-elect Trump and Congressional Republicans have made renewal a top priority.

Congressional Review Act Primer

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) allows Congress to overturn agency rules and is especially useful during the first year after a change in party control of the presidency.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires agencies to report their rulemaking activities to Congress and provides Congress with a special set of procedures under which it can overturn those rules.

→

Only "major rules" can be overturned under CRA procedures. A major rule is one that is likely to have an annual economic impact of $100 million or more, will increase costs and prices for consumers or local governments, or will have an adverse effect on the economy.

→

The House or Senate can introduce a joint resolution to start the CRA process only within 60 continuous session days starting on the date on which the regulation is received.

↓

The CRA process must begin with a joint resolution of disapproval being introduced in the House and Senate. Passing the joint disapproval resolution requires a simple majority in the Senate, bypassing the 60-vote threshold needed to end a filibuster.

→

The incoming Trump administration and Republican majorities in Congress will review Biden administration regulations and determine which, if any, they will employ the CRA to revoke.

Dan
FARMER
Principal
Health and Life Sciences

> *"The Congressional Review Act is one way – but not the only way – the incoming Trump administration and Congress could undue key policies issued by the Biden administration."*

READ MORE HERE

Policy Outlooks

BGR Practice Groups –

- Appropriations
- Commerce and Infrastructure
- Defense and Critical Technologies
- Financial Services
- Health and Life Sciences
- International and Trade
- State and Local Advocacy
- Public Relations

Bipartisan Take

What to Expect in the First 100 Days of the Second Trump Administration

ANDY
LEWIN

Principal and
Practice Head

Financial Services

"This time around, Democrats may try to find some areas, like immigration reform or the new Department of Government Efficiency, where they can proactively work with Republicans, while opposing them in many other areas."

JENNIFER LARKIN
LUKAWSKI

Principal

Commerce and Infrastructure

"President-elect Trump will use the early days of his presidency, particularly through the issuance of a series of Executive Orders (EOs) to push forward an agenda that will reward his base and punish foreign adversaries. Here is what we can expect."

READ MORE HERE

Appropriations

Key Takeaways:

1) The Department of Government Efficiency has a big mandate but its actual power to implement spending reductions remains unclear.
2) Even before President-elect Trump has taken office, DOGE and its mission has picked up bipartisan support in Congress.
3) Similar committees have been created in the past, including by Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and Obama to study and make recommendations on government effectiveness.

READ MORE HERE

Keaghan
AMES
Vice President
Financial Services

> *Even before President-elect Trump has taken office, DOGE and its mission has picked up bipartisan support in Congress. Several members announced the formation of the Congressional DOGE Caucus to oversee the committee's work, findings, and recommendations.*

Commerce and Infrastructure

Jerry
STRICKLAND
Texas Director
and Principal
State and Local

Key Takeaways:

1) Trump's ambitious energy agenda relies on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to navigate a divided Congress.
2) Trump's energy agenda prioritizes reducing government oversight, boosting fossil fuel production, modernizing nuclear energy, rolling back Biden-era climate policies, and cutting red tape to accelerate project approvals.
3) Chairman Mike Lee (R-UT) and Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM) represent opposing energy visions—Lee prioritizes deregulation, while Heinrich focuses on clean energy.

READ MORE HERE

> *"The President-elect's campaign promises of energy independence and streamlining project approvals will serve as a guiding challenge for Congress. Critical to his success, will be how the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will work to enact his aggressive agenda, which has a completely new slate of leadership.*

Defense and Critical Technologies

Dan
GREENWOOD
Practice Head and Principal
Defense and Critical Technologies

Key Takeaways:

1) New leadership at the Department of Defense will bring new emphasis on efficiency and cost savings.
2) Defense spending will not be immune from scrutiny from the Department of Government Efficiency.
3) Congress will retain its role in overseeing and approving defense-related spending.

READ MORE HERE

> *Throughout this process, Congress will play a dual role—supporting the Administration's push for tech acceleration while guarding against budget cuts or policy shifts that could harm existing defense equities or weaken military readiness. If the DoD does decide to cut major defense acquisition programs, it will be met with fierce resistance from legislators.*

Financial Services

Matt
HOFFMANN
Practice Head and Principal
Financial Services

Key Takeaways:

1) President-elect Trump's economic team will seek to change course from the previous administration, particularly in the areas of banking regulation and digital asset supervision.
2) Many Trump nominees have a background in the digital asset industry.
3) Combined with new leadership in Congress on key committees, this marks a critical turning point, with a strong focus on fostering innovation and growth in the digital asset space while addressing emerging challenges.

READ MORE HERE

> *"This broader shift in regulatory priorities intersects with an ambitious agenda for the crypto and digital asset sector. The incoming administration has made it a priority to nominate individuals who have deep experience with technologies like blockchains, distributed ledgers, smart contracts, and bitcoin, but also believe in the transformative power they possess.*

Health and Life Sciences

John
STONE
Principal
Health and Life Sciences

Key Takeaways:

1) If confirmed as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (RFK) will seek to increase the focus of public health agencies on addressing the causes of chronic disease.
2) Initiatives to improve nutrition and food safety could garner bipartisan support.
3) The impact of RFKs previously stated views and positions across many policy areas, including vaccines and FDA financing, is yet to be seen.

READ MORE HERE

"MAHA will continue to receive media attention and be part of the health care debate. Whether RFK has a mandate to aggressively pursue positions he has taken in his previous roles is still a bit unknown. Ultimately, expect President Trump to be the decisionmaker.

International and Trade

Joe
LAI

Principal
International and Trade

Key Takeaways:

1) Most methods for imposing additional tariffs can take between six to twelve months, but the President has wider authority to modify tariffs and could impose some tariffs more expeditiously.
2) Entities reliant on imports should not bank on a trade deal being struck and should instead engage in a targeted manner to ensure the incoming administration is aware of trade priorities.
3) Congressional engagement is a crucial part of this endeavor, but it is not a panacea.

READ MORE HERE

> *Much of the use of tariffs is designed to increase leverage before bilateral trade negotiations. While the economic squeeze is intended to be temporary, Trump is willing to walk away from negotiations and leave that leverage in place. The distance of 'Tariff True Believers' from senior policy setting jobs decreases the internal resistance Trump might face when he enters bilateral negotiations.*

Public Relations

Key Takeaways:

1) Candidates and advocates are able to take their messages directly to voters through targeted communications channels.

2) Digital platforms are now the preferred source of information for senior leaders in business and politics.

3) These platforms allow for self-publication and instant news without the delay of traditional media.

READ MORE HERE

Emma
VAUGHN
Vice President
Public Relations

> *"The rise of podcasts is part of a larger trend in media consumption, where decision-makers are increasingly moving away from traditional media outlets. While newspapers, TV, and radio once dominated news distribution, digital platforms are now the preferred source of information for senior leaders in business and politics.*

State and Local Advocacy

William
CROZER
Practice Co-Head
State and Local Advocacy

Key Takeaways:

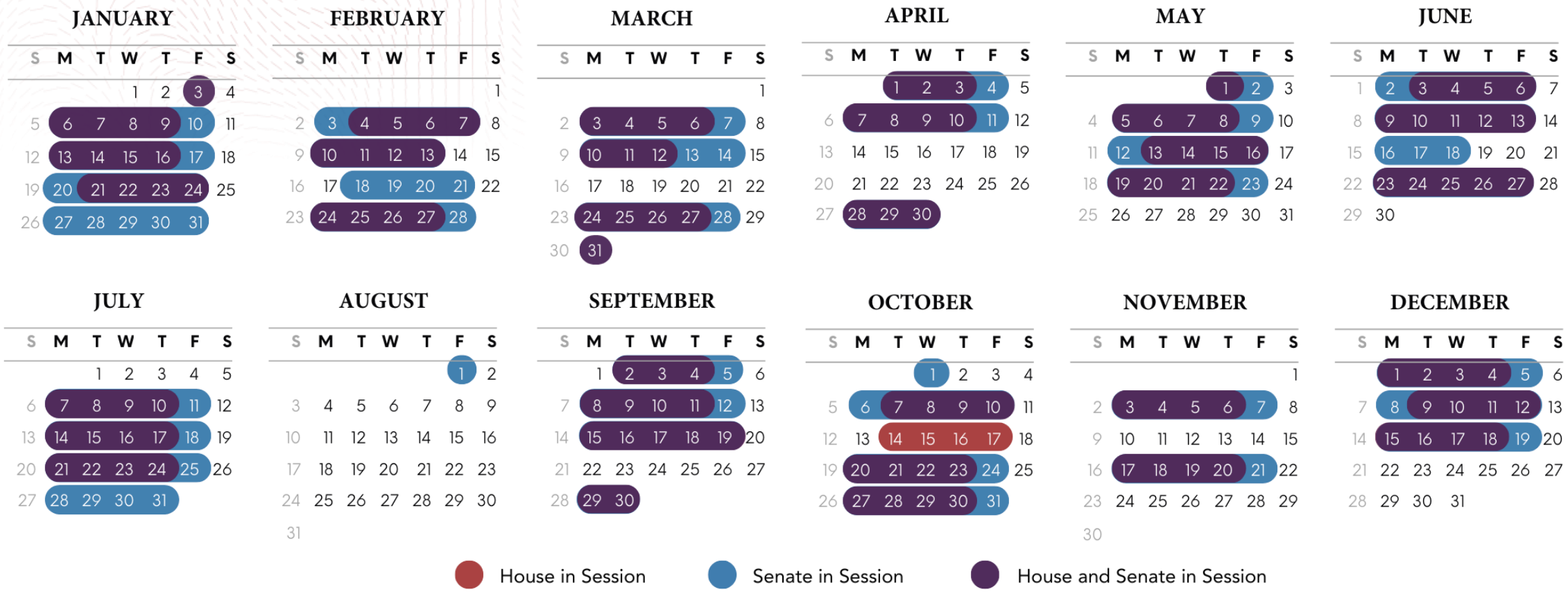
1) Republican Governors are primed to serve as governing partners with the incoming Trump administration.
2) Governors will be leaders in the Trump Cabinet.
3) Republican trifectas in 23 states will expedite action on a range of policy issues.
4) Republican Attorneys General will be on the front lines of defending the President's regulatory agenda.

READ MORE HERE

READ A 2025 STATE POLICY OUTLOOK HERE

"Expect red states to work closely with the incoming Trump administration to advance conservative policies in the states and federal government. Whereas federal action can often move slowly, Republican trifectas in 23 states, with the backing of the Trump administration - will enable expedited action on issues across the board including education, deregulation, immigration, taxes, artificial intelligence (AI), energy, cybersecurity and Medicaid.

2025 Combined Congressional Calendar



Contact

Washington

The Homer Building
601 13th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005
(202) 333-4936
DMurphy@bgrdc.com

Austin

The Smith House
502 West 13th Street Austin, TX 78701
(512) 994-7433
JStrickland@bgrdc.com

Atlanta

One Buckhead Plaza
3060 Peachtree Rd. NW Suite 1880 Atlanta, GA 30305
WCrozer@bgrdc.com

London

126 New King's Rd Office S203
SW6 4LZ Fulham, London
AKhan@bgrdc.com

BGR | GROUP

Jo Maney, Chief of Marketing and Engagement
Anna Sullivan, Policy Analyst
Skylar Rubin, Policy Analyst