

# IAAPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE



As you may know, U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock (D) won the runoff election for the Georgia Senate seat last night. With the battle for the Senate settled, you may be wondering what the political and policy implications are for your business? In a word, gridlock.

Senate Democrats gained an extra seat (51-49) giving them more control over committees, judicial nominations, and the Senate's legislative agenda. But even with the extra seat, the narrow majority will make it more difficult to move partisan legislation off the Senate Floor. The dynamics are similar in the U.S. House given the narrow Republican majority.

The GOP will be able to initiate legislation, schedule hearings, and engage in oversight of the Administration. But whoever is elected Speaker of the House prior to January 3rd will have a difficult time moving partisan legislation off the House Floor.

In short, narrow margins in both chambers will mitigate the most aggressive policy initiatives IAAPA has opposed in Congress on your behalf over the last two years. Additionally, many of the industry's issues are bi-partisan and the close majorities will continue to require support from both sides of the aisle, an approach IAAPA continues to support.

With 100 new Congressional members arriving on Capitol Hill on January 3, 2023, IAAPA will host a series of D.C. based meet and greets early next year with select members to educate them about the attractions industry, IAAPA, and the needs of our members. Investing in these relationships now will pay off in the future since many of these Congressional members will elevate to positions of influence.

That's the good news.

The bad news is lawmakers in blue states - trifecta states in particular - historically double down on introducing legislation and considering rules at the state and local level that make it more difficult for businesses to operate efficiently and profitably.

IAAPA is responding in kind by doubling down on the financial and human resources required to advocate on behalf of members operating in those jurisdictions. Partnerships are also crucial, which is why we will continue to partner with our state and local attractions association

partners in those jurisdictions. On a side note, as previously reported, the public affairs team is also laying the foundation required to introduce ride safety legislation in Alabama and Montana in 2023.

Federal lawmakers are continuing negotiations over a fiscal year (FY) 2023 spending deal, as December 16 - the current deadline for enacting a federal FY23 budget - draws nearer. Congress already passed a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to maintain government funding until December 16 and will likely need to pass another CR lasting until December 23 in order to finalize and enact an FY23 spending package. In addition to finalizing an FY23 omnibus bill, members of Congress are hoping to pass an end-of-the-year tax extenders package.

We'll provide an update after congressional leaders select their leadership teams and reach consensus on a spending deal. In the meantime, our team continues to work on a 2023 business plan designed to advance the public affairs needs of IAAPA members throughout North America (with a new emphasis on Canada).

Sincerely,



Keith Stephenson  
Director of Public Affairs  
IAAPA North America

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