2020 National Elections & the Community College Agenda

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & POLICY ANALYSIS
Topics

- 117th Congress
  - House of Representatives
  - Senate
  - Congressional Environment and Policy Parameters
- President
  - Vote Exit Polls—General
  - Vote Exit Polls—Education Level and Voting Behavior
- 116th Congress Lame Duck Session
  - AACC Agenda and Advocacy
- Biden Administration
  - Campaign Positions
  - Regulatory Priorities (Anticipated)
  - Political Appointment Positions
Democratic Losses - at least 6
  - Slimmer Majority
  - Reduced Pelosi Clout?
  - History Suggests Mid-term Losses in 2022

Leadership – Education & Labor Comm.
  - Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) Chair
  - Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) Ranking Member
  - New Chair Of Subcommittee On Higher Education And Workforce Investment

Leadership – Appropriations
  - Chair Vacant – Selection by Democratic Steering And Policy Committee
    (Contender: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT))
Continued Republican Control Likely
- Hinges On GA Runoffs – History Suggests Republicans Have Edge
HELP Committee
- Chair Open - Contenders
  - Rand Paul (R-KY)
  - Richard Burr (R-NC)
  - Susan Collins (R-ME)
  - Collins Has Shown Great Interest in Higher Ed.
Ranking Member
- Patty Murray (D-WA)
Congressional Environment—General

- Biden/McConnell Dynamic Key to Success; 60 Votes Needed to Move Bills
- Gridlock Likely
  - Importance of Regulatory Activity
  - True Even if Dems Gain Control
  - Budget Reconciliation Possible
- Budget Caps Gone
  - Expiration of 2011 Budget Control Act
  - Likely Resistance to Major Spending Increases by Republicans
Presidential Vote Exit Polls-- General

- **Voting Factors**
  - Economy Matters Most (35%)
  - COVID-19 Matters Most (17%)
  - 71% - Racism Important, 26% - Minor or No Problem
  - 41% - Better Off Than Four Years Ago, 20% - Worse Off
  - Expect Better Life for Next Gen. (57%), Expect Worse Life (20%)
Presidential Vote Exit Polls - General – Cont’d

- **Trump Voters**
  - Increase in African Americans, Latinos & Males
  - Family Income >$100,000 (54%)
  - Better off than Four Years Ago (72%)
  - Racism Minor or No Problem (82%)

- **Biden Voters**
  - Family Income <$100,000 (56%)
  - Worse Off Than Four Years Ago (74%)
  - Racism An Important Matter (71%)
Presidential Vote Exit Polls – Education Level and Voting Behavior

- Higher Educational Attainment Correlates with Voting Democratic
  - Never Attended College
    54% Trump – 46% Biden
  - Earned Associate Degree
    50% Trump – 47% Biden
  - Earned Bachelor’s Degree or Higher
    37% Trump – 62% Biden

- White Males
  - Without College
    70% Trump
  - College Graduates
    51% Trump
116th Congress Lame Duck Session

- Congress Reconvenes Week of Nov. 16
- Continuing Resolution Expires Dec. 11
  Will Appropriations Be For Whole Year Or Through Early 2021?
- Senate Appropriations Released Nov. 10
  - Pell Grant Maximum Increase $150
  - Perkins CTE Increase $75 Million
  - Strengthening Community College Training Grants Zero Funding
- Pandemic-directed Appropriations Legislation (CARES Act 2.0) Possible
AACC Advocacy Priorities Through 2020

- Stimulus Legislation - Funding
  - $120 Billion Direct Funding to Institutions (Up From $46.6B)
  - Maximum Flexibility for Spending
  - Estimating Institutional Need Challenging
  - Title III and V Aid Key

- Stimulus Legislation – Other Provisions
  - COVID-19-Specific Liability Protection (Republican Priority)
  - Community College Job Training Program (Senate Dems.’ Education/Child Care Bill)
  - Aid to State and Local Governments
AACC Advocacy Priorities Through 2020 – Cont’d

- FY 2021 Appropriations
  - Mostly Steady-State Outcome Expected
  - House and Senate Legislation Increase Pell Grant Maximum by $150 (From Current $6,345)
  - Strengthening Community College Training Program Grants Big Priority
    - House increases by $10M to $50M
    - Senate – No Funding
  - First Round of Applications Submitted October 8
Biden Campaign Priorities

- Debt-free Community College (Or Other High-Quality Training)
  - Free Public Colleges for Families With Incomes < $125,000
- Double Pell Grant Maximum
- Simplify Loan Repayment & Increase Income-based Repayment
- Create Community College Success Grant Program (Provision in CAA)
- $50 Billion in Workforce Training, Including Business Partnerships and Apprenticeships
Biden Campaign Priorities – Cont’d

- $8 Billion for Community College Facilities and Technology
- State Student Grants to Complete Faster (Secondary School Partnership)
- Regulate Private Loans; Allow Discharge Through Bankruptcy
- Invest in Minority-Serving Institutions and HBCUs
- Increase Support for Title III and Other Institutions
Reinstate DACA
Implement Variety of Loan Repayment Provisions (Pandemic Period and Beyond)
- Enhancing IBR
- Suspending Loan Repayments and Interest Accrual for Low-Income Borrowers During Pandemic
Make IBR Enrollment Automatic
Regulate For-Profit Sector
- Reinstating Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Regulations
- Include Veterans’ Education Benefits in 90/10 Calculation
Repeal Trump Administration’s Title IX Regulation (New Policies Pending)
Open Political Appointments: White House

- Office of Management and Budget
  - Director
  - Associate Director, Human Resources

- White House Domestic Policy Council
  - Key Policymaking Posts
Open Political Appointments: Executive Agencies - ED

- Secretary of Education
  (Historically and Likely to be K-12 Post)
- Deputy Secretary of Education
  (#2 Position, Possibly Higher Education)
- Undersecretary of Education
  (e.g., Martha Kanter, Ted Mitchell, Diane Auer Jones; May have Deputies)
- Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education
  (e.g., Robert King – Student Aid and Higher Education Program Deputies)
- Assistant Secretary for Occupational, Technical and Adult Education
  (e.g., Scott Stump)
- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges
  (e.g., Mark Mitsui and Casey Sacks)
- Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid
Open Political Appointments: Executive Agencies - DOL

- Secretary of Labor
- Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training
  (e.g., Jane Oates and John Pallasch)
Questions?

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2021 Community College National Legislative Summit
February 8-10
https://www.nls.acct.org/