



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



House of Representatives 117th Congress



- 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))

Senate 117th Congress



- 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

Biden Regulatory Agenda (Anticipated)



- 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
 - Reinstate 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?

www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy



David Baime
dbaime@aacc.nche.edu

Jim Hermes
jhermes@aacc.nche.edu

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