

# Seattle's Federal Agenda

*Legislative and Policy Priorities for 2017-2018*

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# OUTLINE FOR TODAY

- Highlights from Federal Agenda
- Federal Priorities Letter
- Next Steps – The Federal Budget Process
  - FY2017 Appropriations
  - FY2018 Budget and Appropriations
  - Next Steps for Seattle
- Questions, Feedback

# Federal Legislative and Policy Priorities

- » Civil Rights and Equality
- » Economic Development and Labor Standards
- » Environment and Public Utilities
- » Housing Affordability
- » Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
- » Public Health
- » Public Safety and Emergency Management
- » Technology and Innovation
- » Transportation

# BUDGET/APPROPRIATIONS OVERVIEW

- The federal fiscal year, begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.
- At the end of 2016, Congress could not agree on spending levels for FY 2017.
- Instead, last December, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR), which continues FY 2016 funding levels through April 28, 2017.
- Currently, lawmakers are trying to decide whether to pass a package of appropriations bills, such as Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Commerce, to fund the government for the rest of FY 2017 or to pass another continuing resolution for the rest of 2017.

# FY 2017 APPROPRIATIONS

- The CR expires on April 28. Congress will take a two-week recess beginning April 10, leaving one week to pass legislation before the expiration. If lawmakers cannot come to an agreement, the government will shutdown.
- The only FY 2017 appropriations bill that has been signed into law is Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.
- Many appropriations bills—including Interior and Environment and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education—remain controversial because of legislative riders.
- Despite having bipartisan consensus on several bills, the question is whether there is enough political will to pass anything other than a full-year CR.

# FY 2018 BUDGET

- On March 16, President Trump released his “skinny” budget, a blueprint of the full budget proposal, which will be released in final form in May.
- The President’s budget is symbolic, and does not have force of law.
- The budget is a discretionary proposal, and does not look at any mandatory spending like social security, nor does it include revenue projections or larger policy statements.
- The budget proposal includes a \$54 billion increase in defense, and increases defense functions across all agencies, such as funding for the nuclear arsenal. The defense spending increase is offset by equal reductions in non-defense programs.

# FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS

- Sequestration caps will come back into effect for FY 2018, which will put Republicans in a difficult place politically.
- Senate and House Appropriations Committees have begun accepting appropriations requests from member offices.
- Committees will begin to hold Appropriations hearings over the next few months.
- Next Steps



# Questions?