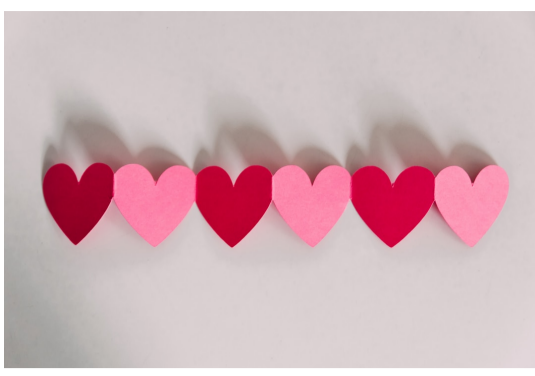




February 12, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Quite a Week

As we head into a weekend geared toward celebrating love and presidencies past, the impeachment trial of former president Trump is expected to wrap up tomorrow. While there is no love lost between a number of senators and the former president, it is expected that the vote tomorrow will result in another acquittal.

While the Senate has been thus occupied this week, House committees made progress on markups for coronavirus relief legislation that will then be put together next week for a vote that is currently expected the week of February 22. Notably, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's portion currently includes \$50 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund. NEMA partnered with International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and Big City Emergency Managers (BCEM) on a [letter](#) this week supporting the inclusion of this funding in the proposal.

President Biden also announced this week as part of the federal vaccination procurement effort that options in previous vaccine contracts with Pfizer and Moderna have been exercised to allow for the procurement of an additional 200 million vaccine doses in the coming months. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be up for federal review later this month.

Finally, a reminder that responses to the EMPG Return on Investment survey are due next Friday, February 19, at COB in your state. Please contact [Lauren Goodwillie](#) with any questions.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Spending \$3 Billion to Hire Thousands of Medical Personnel at Vaccination Sites

FEMA is seeking bids on two contracts totaling \$3 billion to hire thousands of medical personnel to help staff federal and state COVID-19 vaccination sites nationwide. It is estimated these contracts will fund approximately 5,000 licensed medical workers who will be deployed to various locations. Facilities that could receive staffing through the contracts include local and community-based hospitals, state-managed sites, and federally supported and managed sites. The contracts are likely for six months but could be extended to 18 months if necessary.

FEMA is set to start accepting bids next week and hopes to award the contracts in early to mid-March.

House Homeland Security Committee Holds Hearing on Cyber Threats

On Wednesday the House Homeland Security Committee held a hearing centered around cyber threats to the nation and strategies to build resilience. Witnesses for the hearing were former Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Chris Krebs, former Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Sue Gordon, President and CEO of the Cyber Threat Alliance Michael Daniel, and Executive Chairman of the Silverado Policy Accelerator Dmitri Alperovitch.

Central to the discussion was the rise of ransomware attacks and the role CISA should play in defending federal civilian networks, as well as the threat to domestic infrastructure. Recommendations included leveraging existing grant programs such as the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) as much as possible to strengthen cyber resilience at all levels of government.

[View the hearing playback and witness testimonies here.](#)

FEMA is Accepting Volunteers for BRIC Virtual National Review Panels

With the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) application period closed, FEMA is convening a virtual National Review Panel to score subapplications. FEMA is looking for volunteers from state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments and other federal agencies with the hope of increasing transparency in the decision-making process. Panelists will evaluate to what degree the subapplications meet the qualitative evaluation criteria: Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness; Future Conditions; Implementation Measures; Population Impacted; Outreach Activities; and Leveraging Partners.

The virtual panels will run from March 8 - April 2, with panelists expected to be available for a minimum of one week. If eligible, those interested in volunteering should submit name, title, unit of affiliation, phone number, and email to the BRIC team at hma-ndi-bric-review@fema.dhs.gov. Expressions of interest must be submitted by February 16.

The full announcement is [available here](#).

NGA Policy Academy to Advance Whole-of-State Cybersecurity

The National Governors Association (NGA) is making available a technical assistance opportunity for states around strengthening cybersecurity in strategic priority areas. As part of this policy academy, states will receive technical assistance from the NGA Resource Center for State Cybersecurity including two workshops (which may be virtual). The strategic priority areas are below:

- Cybersecurity governance;
- Cybersecurity workforce development;
- Critical infrastructure security;
- Local engagement and partnership; or
- Innovations in state cybersecurity.

NGA will work with the selected states' governor's offices to build capacity around objectives related to strengthening whole-of-state cybersecurity. Up to four states can be selected.

The RFA with more information is [available here](#). An informational call will take place on **Thursday, Feb. 18th at 2:00pm ET**. Zoom link to join is here: <https://zoom.us/j/97589112213> and the dial-in is: 3017158592,,975.8911.2213#

Applications are due by **March 5 at 8:00pm ET**. For more information or to submit an application, contact [Maggie Brunner](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Headwaters Economics: [Wildfire Risk Report for Every Community](#)
The Hill: [COVID Shows U.S. Needs Stronger Legislation for Effective Public Health Agencies](#)

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