

February 4, 2022



**THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:**

Delay, Delay, Delay...

While most of the headlines this week focused on the 3,000 U.S. troops sent to bolster Ukraine's ongoing border crisis with Russia, it's been "death by a thousand" cuts around D.C., especially for the Appropriations process.

The first monkey-wrench in the works was news of Sen. Lujan (D—NM) suffering a stroke. His absence complicates the already slim majority, but with two other Senators out with COVID (one from each party), the capacity for the Senate to get work done is even slimmer than before. Who knew that was possible? Depending on how long Sen. Lujan is out, his absence could slow the nomination and confirmation process of the upcoming Supreme Court nominee as well.

With the looming February 18 deadline of the current Continuing Resolution (CR), Appropriators held a series of discussions this week to try and hammer out agreements on issues such as policy riders, top-line numbers, and the balance between defense and non-defense spending. Reports of these discussions were conflicting at times, but the calendar is starting to tell the story. With only 14 calendar days to go, the likelihood of another short-term CR grows with each passing day. Fortunately, talk of any kind of "shut-down" seems to be tamped for the time being, and the rumor mill is citing dates in the "early April" timeframe.

Unfortunately, Congress isn't the only delay-artist these days. The White House recently announced that the tradition roll-out of their budget request the first week of February will likely be pushed to at least March. "Pass-back" (the time at which agencies get to review OMB's ideas) typically happens over Thanksgiving Weekend, but just occurred this week. Given the internal adjudication process, your NEMA-DC prognosticators wouldn't be surprised to see that budget delayed yet again, maybe even toward May.

**Hearings the Week of February 7, 2022**

[The Nonprofit Security Grant Program And Protecting Houses Of Worship: A View From The American Jewish Community](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 10am ET

[Oversight: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Environmental Policy Making: The Role of Environmental Organizations and Grantmaking Foundations](#)

House Committee on Natural Resources  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 10am ET

[Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Stakeholder Priorities](#)

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 11am ET

[Responding to and Learning from the Log4Shell Vulnerability](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 10am ET

*More News from the Nation's Capital...*

**HUD Opens Access To \$2B In Climate, Disaster Resilience Grants**

On Monday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued the Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice, a critical step taken by the department to open access to more than \$2 billion in federal funds to help communities equitably recover and improve long-term resilience to disasters and future climate impacts. This amount is part of the \$5 billion in CDBG-DR funds that were appropriated for a focus on mitigation for major disasters that occurred in 2020 and 2021.

This notice requires grantees to incorporate disaster mitigation measures into all recovery activities involving construction and to advance equitable distribution of the disaster recovery assistance.

More information can be found in [HUD's press release](#) and in the [Federal Register notice](#).

**FEMA Seeks New Members for National Advisory Council**

FEMA is seeking qualified individuals to lend their expertise and serve on the agency's National Advisory Council. The National Advisory Council includes a geographically diverse and substantive cross-section of 35 members who advise the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management, ensuring input from and coordination with state, local, tribal and territorial governments as well as the private and nonprofit sectors.

FEMA Administrator Criswell will appoint up to 14 members who will begin serving on the council in December. Council members selected will guide future recommendations on topics including equity, climate, readiness and workforce. The agency is accepting applications for 11 discipline-specific positions and three administrator-selected positions. Discipline-specific positions include climate change, cybersecurity, disabilities, access and functional needs, elected state officials, emergency management, emergency medical provider, non-elected local official, non-elected state government officials, public health and standards setting and accrediting.

If you are interested in applying to serve on the National Advisory Council, please follow the [instructions](#) found in the Federal Register for submitting an application package no later than midnight ET on March 31.

**Oversight Committee Passes Legislation to Bolster Federal Cybersecurity**

On Wednesday, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), the Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, released a statement after the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2022 (FISMA) passed her committee. Introduced on January 25, 2022, this Act would clarify and streamline federal cybersecurity roles, improve detection and reporting of cyberattacks, and promote cybersecurity modernization and next generation security principles. This is the first time since 2014 that FISMA has been updated.

The full [press release](#) by the Chairwoman can be found on the Committee website. A one-pager of the bill can be found [here](#). Full text is available [here](#).

**DHS Establish Cyber Security Review Board**

On Wednesday, DHS released a notice to the Federal Register on the establishment of the Cyber Security Review Board (CSRB). The CSRB was born out of an executive order by President Biden last summer and will convene following significant cyber incidents that trigger the establishment of a Cyber Unified Coordination Group.

The membership of the CSRB will be no more than 20 members who are appointed by the CISA Director, in coordination with the DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans. The DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans shall serve as the inaugural Chair of the CSRB for two years. Members will include at least one representative from the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, DHS, CISA, the National Security Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. CSRB members will also include individuals from private sector entities to include appropriate cybersecurity or software suppliers.

For more information, see the full [Federal Register notice](#). If you want to see the full DHS press release, click [here](#).

**DHS and FEMA Host IPAWS Webinar**

DHS and FEMA are hosting a quarterly webinar series on the new phase of emergency alerting for the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). The webinar, "[IPAWS Equips Emergency Management with Tools to Protect the Public](#)," will be from on February 3 from 1-2:15pm ET. Attendees will learn about the new program planning toolkit and leave with an understanding of how a three-fold increase in IPAWS usage in 2020 better equipped first responders, emergency managers and alert originators with tools to protect the public.

If you are interested in attending the webinar, you can register [here](#).

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

Government Executive: [FEMA Experiences 'Mass Exit' of Employees Amid Surge in Disasters](#)

NPR: [FEMA Wants to Give Families Up To \\$9,000 For COVID Funerals, But Many Don't Apply](#)

Route Fifty: [Local Concerns Muddy a FEMA Flood Insurance Overhaul](#)

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