



July 30, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Crunch Time

The Senate voted Wednesday night to take up the infrastructure bill negotiated by a bipartisan group of senators and the Biden Administration. The \$1.2 trillion legislation includes \$550 billion in new spending and is only the first part of this legislative push, the second being a \$3.5 trillion budget proposal that Democrats are expected to try to push through later this summer via the reconciliation process. This infrastructure deal is approximately a quarter of the size originally proposed. Notably, one of the few pieces of the proposal that didn't shrink over the course of talks was \$50 billion for water infrastructure and resiliency measures for climate change. Additional climate change spending is expected to be included in the reconciliation plan. You can see an excellent breakdown of spending and the original proposal in the [New York Times article here](#).

This is significant progress, but some Senators are balking at the idea of remaining in Washington during August recess to vote on both bills. The way out of that predicament is a smooth passage of the infrastructure votes and a vote-a-rama on the budget proposal late next week which will raise many unpleasant issues on which Senators will have to vote. Given the many legislators still unhappy with one part or another of this process, it seems unlikely.

Any of this will also need to pass the House, where some Democrats have been vocal about feeling boxed out of negotiations. A busy few weeks lie ahead, and it's crunch time if legislators want to save their summer vacations.

Hearings the Week of August 2, 2021

[Domestic Terrorism and Violent Extremism: Examining the Threat of Racially, Ethnically, Religiously, and Politically Motivated Attacks: Part I](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Tuesday, August 3, 10:00am ET

[Examining the Threat of Racially, Ethnically, Religiously, and Politically Motivated Attacks: Part II](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Thursday, August 5, 10:15am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

New National Security Memorandum on Cybersecurity

The Biden Administration released a National Security Memorandum on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems. The goal is to improve critical infrastructure cybersecurity via increasing use of technologies and systems that provide threat visibility, indications, detection, and warnings for control systems and operational technology networks. It expands the Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Cybersecurity Initiative from just the Electricity Subsector to natural gas pipelines and later this year to Water and Wastewater Sector Systems and the Chemical Sector. It also directs that DHS and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the Department of Commerce develop preliminary cybersecurity performance goals for critical infrastructure by September 22, 2021 and final goals in one year. [Read the memorandum here](#).

NHSC Webinar on Communicating Effectively in Risk, Crisis, and High Concern Communications

The National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC) which is administered by NEMA and brings together 22 national associations related to protecting public safety in the 21st century is hosting a webinar on **August 24, 2:00pm EST**. The webinar will focus on ways for officials to effectively communicate in complex, crisis-based environments. Dr. Vincent Covello, founder and Director of the Center for Risk Communication, will guide the discussion. [Register here](#).

FDA Authorizes Shelf-Life Extension for Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized an extension of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine from 4.5 months to six month (an increase of 45 days). Studies have determined the vaccine is still stable at six months when kept at a refrigerated temperature of 36-46 degrees Fahrenheit. Vaccine providers can check the latest expiration dates of vaccines [here](#). More information on the J&J extension is [available here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

GovTech: [Judge Keeps State Emergency Management Law in Place](#)

GovTech: [Lifesaving Wildfire Satellite Program Could Expire](#)

The Hill (Opinion): [A Plan to Secure America's Supply Chains](#)

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