



August 13, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Tightrope Walking

After a weekend of delays, the Senate passed the \$1 trillion infrastructure package on Tuesday and a budget resolution to prep for the larger \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill on Wednesday before breaking for the time-honored tradition of August recess. The House, which escaped the city on time, is scheduled to return the week of August 23 to vote on the budget resolution blueprint. However, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) aren't out of the woods yet. Forgive the mixing of metaphors, but because of the slim majority they hold in both chambers they'll be walking a tightrope to keep both pieces of legislation alive over the coming weeks.

There have been numerous reports of Democrats of differing philosophical viewpoints having (surprise, surprise) differing opinions about how the legislation should be handled, particularly in the House. Speaker Pelosi has repeatedly said she won't bring the infrastructure legislation to the floor until the reconciliation package is passed in the Senate (this week the resolution to start CREATING the reconciliation package was passed) - but a block of representatives are rumored to be planning to vote against the reconciliation package unless the infrastructure bill is passed first. And vice versa. And on and on the tightrope stretches.

It's been a messy summer of legislating, but we aren't done yet. And we still have to get through regular Appropriations. Stay tuned for more drama worthy of the newest season of Love Island.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

BRIC and FMA FY21 NOFOs Released

This week FEMA released the FY21 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs). This year's BRIC funding will be \$1 billion and scoring criteria have been adjusted to incentivize mitigation actions that consider climate change and future conditions, populations impacted, and economically disadvantaged rural communities. FMA this year will be \$160 million and include the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) as a selection factor in the competitive scoring process. The application window for both grant programs will **open September 30** and **close January 28, 2022**. There is a series of webinars to answer questions about the program and its applications - [the schedule is here](#). Search for the [grant NOFOs here](#).

Ready for National Preparedness Month?

Somehow we're almost to September 2021 and that means National Preparedness Month is on the horizon. This year's theme is "Prepare to Protect", focuses on how preparing for disasters can help you protect your loved ones. The weekly themes will follow the traditional patterns of "make a plan", "build a kit", "prepare for disasters", and "teach youth about preparedness". This year will be the first year that a series of Hispanic public service announcements in English and Spanish will be released (timed for near the start of Hispanic Heritage Month). See more information on this year's National Preparedness Month [here](#).

Cyberspace Solarium Commission Releases Implementation Report

In March 2020 the U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission, comprised of a bipartisan group of senators and other leaders in cybersecurity, released a report detailing strategic approaches to improving the nation's cyber deterrence and recommendations for improved layered cybersecurity. This week the commission released an implementation update, finding that such notable recommendations as establishing a National Cyber Director have been implemented, but that several high profile recommendations still have significant barriers to completion. These include leveraging the Defense Production Act (DPA) to foster domestic production of critical technologies and components, passing a law on data security and privacy protection, and creating permanent select committees on cybersecurity in the House and Senate. Read the [primary report here](#) and the [implementation update here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Governing (Opinion): [The Feds are Pushing Harder on Infrastructure Security, States and Localities Need to Pay Attention](#).

The Atlantic: [How the Pandemic Now Ends](#)

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