



# Congressional Week Ahead

## November 30 – December 4, 2009

This week, Congress returns from the Thanksgiving recess to continue debate on healthcare in the Senate and begin consideration of the estate tax in the House.

**Afghanistan** – On Tuesday, President Obama is expected to announce an increase in troop levels in Afghanistan at a speech at West Point. The increase is expected to be around 34,000 troops.

This week's hearings of note:

- House Select Committee on Energy Independence on the state of climate science.
- House Foreign Affairs on Afghanistan strategy, featuring Secretary of State Clinton, Defense Secretary Gates, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mullen.
- House Foreign Affairs Africa and Global Health Subcommittee on US policy in Sudan.
- Senate Agriculture on derivatives market reform.
- Joint Economic Committee on regulating unregulated financial markets.

### House Floor

The House returns on Tuesday and will consider seven bills under suspension of the rules, an additional ten suspension bills are scheduled for Wednesday. The House will also consider HR 4154, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act, a bill to permanently extend current estate tax provisions of a top rate of 45% and a per-person exemption of \$3.5 million. A provision in the Bush tax cuts of 2001 will eliminate the estate tax entirely beginning in 2010, only to have the tax return in 2011 at a top rate of 55% and a \$1 million per-person exemption. Republicans and some conservative Democrats are opposed to the estate tax entirely and it is unclear how much support HR 4154 will receive. If the votes are not there for passage, it is likely the House will consider a one- or two-year patch which will prevent the expiration of the tax in 2010.

### Senate Floor

The Senate returns on Monday and will resume consideration of their version of healthcare overhaul legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. A cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the bill was successful on November 21, by a vote of 60-39. Although the Democratic Caucus was able to remain united on the vote to proceed to the bill, several senators remain opposed to various provisions in the bill. Negotiations will continue over the course of the week between wavering Senators, leadership, and the White House. Roll

call votes on amendments are possible as early as Tuesday, and the Senate is expected to spend the entire week considering the healthcare bill.

## **House Committees**

Monday, November 30

### **Improving Responsible Small Businesses Lending**

*House Financial Services Committee - Hearing*

11:00 am – 11/30/2009

#### **Revised**

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee field hearing on "Improving Responsible Lending to Small Businesses."

**Witness(es):** Tammy Carnrike, COO of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce; Dave Andrea, vice president of industry analysis and economics at the Original Equipment Suppliers Association; Thomas Anderson, senior director of the Automation Alley; Ned Staebler, vice president of capital access and business acceleration at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Herbert Trute, president of T&W Tool & Die Corporation, and chairman of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association; Art Johnson, president and CEO of the United Bank of Michigan and United Community Financial Corp, and chairman of the American Bankers Association; Doug Chaffin, president and CEO of the Monroe Bank & Trust, and immediate past president of the Michigan Bankers Association; Michael Kus of Kus, Ryan & Associates, PLLC, and legal counsel for the Michigan Association of Community Bankers; Dave Adams, CEO of the Michigan Credit Union League; Jon Greenlee, associate director of the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Anthony Lowe, director of the Chicago Region Office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Bert Otto, district deputy comptroller in the Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; and Ken Ross, commissioner of the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, testify

**Location:** Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan, 21000 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, Mich.

Wednesday, December 2

### **Financial Protection Bills**

*House Financial Services Committee - Markup*

9:30 am – 12/02/2009

#### **Revised**

Full committee markup of H.R.2609, the "Federal Insurance Office Act of 2009" and H.R.3996, the "Financial Stability Improvement Act of 2009."

**Location:** 2128 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Commercial Space Transportation**

*House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Aviation Subcommittee hearing on "Commercial Space Transportation."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2167 Rayburn House Office Building

**Climate Change - Farm Sector Economic Impacts**

*House Agriculture Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research Subcommittee hearing on the potential economic impacts of climate change on the farm sector.

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 1300 Longworth House Office Building

**Indian Arts/Crafts Protection**

*House Natural Resources Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on H.R.725, the "Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2009," which is intended to protect Indian arts and crafts through the improvement of applicable criminal proceedings.

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 1324 Longworth House Office Building

**Human Space Flight Safety**

*House Science and Technology Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee hearing on "Ensuring the Safety of Human Space Flight."

**Witness(es):** Bretton Alexander, president of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation; Joseph Fragola, vice president of Valador Inc.; Jeff Hanley, program manager, Constellation Program in NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate; John Marshall, council member in NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel; Bryan O'Connor, chief of safety and mission assurance for NASA; and NASA astronaut retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Stafford, testify

**Location:** 2318 Rayburn House Office Building

**State of Climate Science**

*House (Select) Energy Independence and Global Warming Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on "The State of Climate Science."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** B-318 Rayburn House Office Building

**Minority Owned Radio Ratings Decline**

*House Oversight and Government Reform Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on "Will Arbitron's Personal People Meter Silence Minority Owned Radio Stations?," focusing on Arbitron's radio audience measurement device, the Portable People Meter, and its effect on diversity in radio broadcasting.

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Walter Reed Army Medical Center**

*House Armed Services Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Joint Readiness Subcommittee and Military Personnel Subcommittee joint hearing on "The New Walter Reed: Are We on the Right Track?"

**Witness(es):** Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Al Middleton, for health affairs; Deputy Defense Undersecretary Dorothy Robyn, for installations and environment; Navy Vice Adm. John Mateczun, commander of the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical; and Ken Kizer, chairman of the Defense Health Board National Capital Region Base Realignment and Closure Health Systems Advisory Subcommittee, testify

**Location:** HVC-210, U.S. Capitol

### **Breast Cancer Screening Recommendations**

*House Energy and Commerce Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Health Subcommittee hearing on "Breast Cancer Screening Recommendations."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

### **FY2009 FHA Actuarial Report**

*House Financial Services Committee - Hearing*

10:30 am – 12/02/2009

**New**

Full committee hearing on "FY2009 FHA Actuarial Report."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2128 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Delphi Bankruptcy**

*House Education and Labor Committee - Hearing*

10:30 am – 12/02/2009

Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Delphi Bankruptcy's Impact on Workers and Retirees."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2175 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Guam War Claims Process**

*House Armed Services Committee - Hearing*

1:00 pm – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on assessing the Guam war claims process.

**Witness(es):** Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony Babauta; Mauricio Tamargo, former chairman of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; Vicente Panelinan and Frank Blas Jr., senators in the 30th Guam Legislature; and Tom Barcinas, survivor of Guam's World War II's Occupation, testify

**Location:** HVC-210, U.S. Capitol

### **Over-the-counter Derivatives Reform's Energy Impacts**

*House Energy and Commerce Committee - Hearing*

1:00 pm – 12/02/2009

Energy and Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Impacts of H.R.3795, the Over-the-Counter Derivatives Markets Act of 2009, on Energy Markets."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

### **U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan**

*House Foreign Affairs Committee - Hearing*

1:30 pm – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on "U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan."

**Witness(es):** Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Defense Secretary Robert Gates; and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen, testify

**Location:** 2172 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Economic Stimulus - GSA Border Station**

*House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Hearing*

2:00 pm – 12/02/2009

Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on "Stimulus Tracking Hearing #4: Ensuring Money Means Security when Building GSA Border Stations to Protect the U.S.A."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2167 Rayburn House Office Building

**Contact:** 202-225-4472 [Note: Rescheduled from November 18.]

### **2010 Census**

*House Oversight and Government Reform Committee - Hearing*

2:00 pm – 12/02/2009

Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee hearing on "The 2010 Census: How Complete Count Committees, Local Governments, Philanthropic Organizations, Not-For-Profits, and the Business Community Can Contribute to a Successful Census."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Thursday, December 3

### **Calling Card Consumer Protection**

*House Energy and Commerce Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on the "Calling Card Consumer Protection."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

### **VA Health Care Funding**

*House Veterans Affairs Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Full committee hearing on "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Funding: Appropriations to Programs."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 334 Cannon House Office Building

### **Agriculture Offsets Costs and Benefits**

*House Agriculture Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research Subcommittee hearing on costs and benefits of agriculture offsets.

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 1300 Longworth House Office Building

### **Immigration Detention Management**

*House Homeland Security Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism Subcommittee hearing on "Moving Toward More Effective Immigration Detention Management."

**Witness(es):** Christopher Crane, vice president of detention and removal operations for the American Federal of Government Employees National ICE Council 118; Donald Kerwin Jr., vice president for programs for the Migration Policy Institute; Brittney Nystrom, senior legal advisor at the National Immigration Forum, testify

**Location:** 311 Cannon House Office Building

### **Marine/Hydrokinetic Energy Technology**

*House Science and Technology Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Energy and Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Marine and Hydrokinetic Energy Technology: Finding the Path to Commercialization."

**Witness(es):** Roger Bedard, ocean energy leader at the Electric Power Research Institute; Craig Collar, senior manager for energy resource development for the Snohomish County Public Utility District; Jacques Beaudry-Losique, deputy assistant secretary for renewable energy in the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; James Dehlsen, president of Ecomerit Technologies, LLC; Gia Schneider, CEO of Natel Energy, Inc, testify

**Location:** 2318 Rayburn House Office Building

### **New Orleans Post-Katrina Health Care Challenges**

*House Oversight and Government Reform Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Full committee hearing on "Post Katrina Recovery: Restoring Health Care in the New Orleans Region."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2154 Rayburn House Office Building



### **Internet Gambling Enforcement/Regulation**

*House Financial Services Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

#### **New**

Full committee hearing on H.R.2266, the "Reasonable Prudence in Regulation Act" and H.R.2267, the "Internet Gambling Regulation, Consumer Protection, and Enforcement Act."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2128 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Justice Department's Civil Rights Division**

*House Judiciary Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Subcommittee hearing on "The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice."

**Witness(es):** Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Tom Perez; and others, testify

**Location:** 2141 Rayburn House Office Building

### **U.S. Policy Review - Sudan**

*House Foreign Affairs Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Africa and Global Health Subcommittee hearing on "Sudan: A Review of the Administration's New Policy and A Situation Update."

**Witness(es):** Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Scott Gration, U.S. special envoy to Sudan, testifies

**Location:** 2172 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Education Roundtable**

*House Veterans Affairs Committee - Meeting*

1:00 pm – 12/03/2009

Economic Opportunity Subcommittee meeting on "Education Roundtable."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 334 Cannon House Office Building

### **Airline Bankruptcies**

*House Judiciary Committee - Hearing*

1:30 pm – 12/03/2009

#### **New**

Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee hearing on "Protecting Employees in Airline Bankruptcies."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2237 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Independent NASA Audit**

*House Science and Technology Committee - Hearing*

2:00 pm – 12/03/2009

Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee and Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee joint hearing on "Independent Audit of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)."

**Witness(es):** Acting NASA Inspector General Thomas Howard; Daniel Murrin, partner, Assurance and Advisory Business Services, Ernst & Young LLP; and NASA CFO Elizabeth Robinson, testify

**Location:** 2318 Rayburn House Office Building

## **Senate Committees**

Tuesday, December 1

### **Thompson Nomination**

*Senate Judiciary Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/01/2009

Full committee hearing on the nomination of O. Rogerice Thompson to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

**Witness(es):** The nominee testifies

**Location:** 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Aviation Safety**

*Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee - Hearing*

10:15 am – 12/01/2009

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on "Aviation Safety: Pilot Fatigue."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 253 Russell Senate Office Building

### **Goldberg/Wagner Nominations**

*Senate (Select) Intelligence Committee - Hearing*

2:30 pm – 12/01/2009

Full committee hearing on the nominations of Philip Goldberg, to be assistant secretary for intelligence and research at the State Department; and Caryn Wagner, to be undersecretary for intelligence and analysis at the Homeland Security Department.

**Witness(es):** The nominees testify

**Location:** 216 Hart Senate Office Building

Wednesday, December 2

### **Over-the-counter Derivatives Reform**

*Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee - Hearing*

9:30 am – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on over-the-counter derivatives reform.

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 216 Hart Senate Office Building

### **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

*Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee - Hearing*



10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Witness(es):** Ray Kopp, senior fellow and director of climate policy for Resources for the Future; Ted Gayer, co-director of economic studies at the Brookings Institution; David Hawkins, director of climate programs at the Natural Resources Defense Council; Jonathan Banks, climate policy coordinator for the Clean Air Task Force; and John Alic, independent consultant, Avon, N.C., testify

**Location:** 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Americans' Access to Courts**

*Senate Judiciary Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

Full committee hearing on "Has the Supreme Court Limited Americans' Access to Courts."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Post 9/11 Transportation Security Challenges**

*Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

**New**

Full committee hearing on "Transportation Security Challenges Post-9/11."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 253 Russell Senate Office Building

### **Federal Toxic Substances Control Act**

*Senate Environment and Public Works Committee - Hearing*

2:30 pm – 12/02/2009

Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight Hearing on the Federal Toxic Substances Control Act."

**Witness(es):** Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson; John Stephenson, director for natural resources and environment at the Governmental Accountability Office; and Linda Birnbaum, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, testify

**Location:** 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Disaster Case Management**

*Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee - Hearing*

2:30 pm – 12/02/2009

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee hearing on "Disaster Case Management: Developing a Comprehensive National Program Focused on Outcomes."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Thursday, December 3

### **Highly Enriched Uranium Medical Use Reduction**

*Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Full committee hearing on H.R.3276, the "American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009," to promote the production of molybdenum-99 in the United States for medical isotope production, and to condition and phase out the export of highly enriched uranium for the production of medical isotopes.

**Witness(es):** Parrish Staples, director of European and African threat reduction in the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration; Kevin Crowley, director of the National Research Council's Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board; and Roy Brown, federal affairs senior director for the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, St. Louis, Mo., testify

**Location:** 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Wagner Nomination**

*Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Full committee hearing on the nomination of Caryn Wagner to be undersecretary for intelligence and analysis at the Homeland Security Department.

**Witness(es):** The nominees testifies

**Location:** 342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Pending Legislation/Nominations**

*Senate Judiciary Committee - Markup*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Full committee markup of S.448, the "Free Flow of Information Act of 2009"; S.714, the "National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009"; S.1624, the "Medical Bankruptcy Fairness Act of 2009"; S.1765, the "Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act of 2009"; S.1353, the "Dale Long Emergency Medical Service Providers Protection Act"; and S.678, the "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2009"; and vote on the nominations of Thomas Vanaskie, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Third Circuit; and Louis Butler Jr., to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of Wisconsin.

**Location:** 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Bernanke Nomination**

*Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/03/2009

Full committee hearing on the nomination of Ben Bernanke to continue as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve.

**Witness(es):** The nominee testifies

**Location:** 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Pending Legislation**

*Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee - Hearing*

2:30 pm – 12/03/2009

National Parks Subcommittee hearing on S.760, to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Mo., as the "National World War I Memorial"; S.1838, to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War; S.2097, to authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of World War I; S.2722, to authorize the Interior secretary to conduct

a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, in the State of Wyoming, as a unit of the National Park System; S.2726, to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota; S.2738, to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution; H.R.1849, to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Mo., as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I; and H.R.3689, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center.

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### **Intelligence Matters**

*Senate (Select) Intelligence Committee - Hearing*

2:30 pm – 12/03/2009

#### **Closed**

Full committee closed hearing on "Intelligence Matters."

**Location:** S-407, U.S. Capitol

### **Joint Committees**

Wednesday, December 2

### **Regulating Unregulated Financial Markets**

*Joint Economic Committee - Hearing*

10:00 am – 12/02/2009

#### **New**

Full committee hearing on "Unregulated Markets: How Regulatory Reform Will Shine A Light in the Financial Sector."

**Witness(es):** Brooksley Born, former chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Robert Litan, senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution, vice president of research and policy at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and member of the Pew Task Force on Financial Reform; and James Carr, COO of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, testify

**Location:** 210 Cannon House Office Building