



BEING YOUR OWN LOBBYIST: NAVIGATING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN LAW CENTER INC.
9TH ANNUAL TRIBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
TRANSITIONS



The Mapetsi Policy Group

OVERVIEW

- Makeup of Congress and the Administration
 - ▣ Key Committees and Agencies
- Federal Legislative Process (authorizing)
- Federal Appropriations Process
- Effective Advocacy
 - ▣ Telling your story: Documents / Visuals
 - ▣ Meeting preparation
 - ▣ Follow up

United States Congress

- Congressional Term lasts 2 calendar years:
 - 115th Congress opened 01/2017 ends 12/2018
 - 116th will open 01/03/2019 end 12/31/2020
- U.S. House of Representatives (435 Members)
- U.S. Senate (100 Members)
- 20 House Committee, 21 Senate Committees, and 4 Joint Committees
 - Key Indian Country Committees: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Sen. Environment & Natural Resources; House Natural Resources; Interior Appropriations
- House Native American Caucus

United States Congress

- Helpful links for Congress and committees:
 - ▣ Bills, co-sponsors, reports
 - ▣ SCIA: hearings, markups, news, archives
 - ▣ HNR: IANA Subcommittee
 - ▣ House Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee
 - ▣ Senate Appropriations: Interior Subcommittee

United States Congress

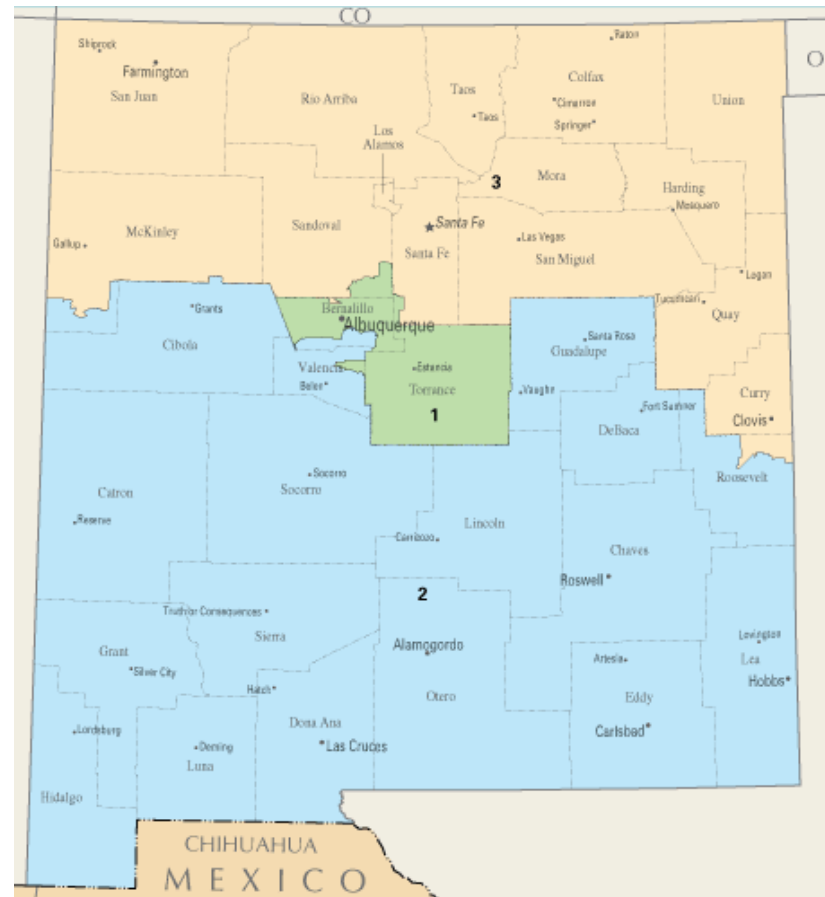
“All politics is local.” *former Speaker Tip O’Neill*

New Mexico Delegation

- Senator Tom Udall
- Senator Martin Heinrich*
- Rep. Lujan Grisham (NM-1)**
- Rep. Pearce (NM-2)**
- Rep. Lujan (NM-3)*

* *Up for re-election*

** *Running for Governor*



Administration / Executive Branch

- The White House (Executive Office of the Pres)
- 15 Cabinet-Level Departments
- 30 Independent Agencies + 30 Boards/Commissions
 - ▣ Federal Register Lists 444 agencies and sub-agencies
- **Key Indian Country agencies:**
 - ▣ Interior: AS-IA, BIA, BLM, BOR, NIGC
 - ▣ HHS: IHS, SAMHSA, ANA
 - ▣ DOJ: OTJ, OJP, ENRD, SOL
 - ▣ USDA: OTR, FS-OTR, RD

Administration / Executive Branch



- Helpful Links
- White House: OMB other
- Interior
- BIA
- NIGC
- IHS
- DOJ

Indian Country Policy

- Helpful Links
- Indianz.com
- Turtletalk.com
- Politico
- Rollcall
- theHill
-

Federal Legislative Process (Authorizing)

- Authorizing Committees set fed. law & policy
- Appropriations Committees fund those laws
- *Oversight* is also an important function
- **Path to authorize federal law:** identify issue – develop policy – introduce bill
- Parliamentarian refers bill to committee(s)
- Authorizing Committee holds oversight and legislative hearings
- Authorizing Committee holds “markup” (vote)
- If passed → then bill Report is filed

Federal Legislative Process (Authorizing)

- Leadership sets calendar to bring “Reported” bills to the floor for debate and possible amendments
- House bills: a structured rule (amendments); suspension of the rules (no amendments)
- Senate: unanimous consent/hotline (Senate) or amendment
- Once a bill is approved, it moves to the other chamber to repeat this process (hearings, markup, floor vote)
- If different versions are passed, Leaders can appoint a “Conference Committee” to reconcile differences. Both chambers must vote on reconciled language.
- Identical bills passed move to the President, who can sign it into law; 10 days deemed approve; or veto (2/3 override)

Federal Appropriations Process

- Federal FY runs from October 1 – September 30
- The FY funding process begins with the Budget
- President releases proposal in February*
- Authorizing Committees send “views and estimates” letters (priorities) to the Budget and Appropriations Committees
- House and Senate Budget Committees set “allocations” for 12 approps subcommittees
- Appropriations Subcommittees hold hearings—
Administration Officials defend Budget

Federal Appropriations Process

- Congress must pass 12 funding bills each

Regular Appropriations (Budget Authority)			
Subcommittee	FY 2018 Appropriation	FY 2019 House Committee	FY 2019 Senate Committee
Agriculture	\$23.3 billion	\$23.3 billion	\$23.2 billion
Commerce, Justice, Science	\$59.6 billion	\$62.5 billion	\$63.0 billion
Defense	\$589.5 billion	\$606.5 billion	\$607.1 billion
Energy and Water	\$43.2 billion	\$44.7 billion	\$43.8 billion
Financial Services and General Government	\$23.4 billion	\$23.4 billion	\$23.7 billion
Homeland Security	\$47.7 billion	\$52.5 billion	\$48.3 billion
Interior and Environment	\$35.3 billion	\$35.3 billion	\$35.9 billion
Labor, HHS, Education	\$177.1 billion	\$177.1 billion	\$179.3 billion
Legislative Branch*	\$4.7 billion	\$4.9 billion	\$4.8 billion
Military Construction and VA	\$92.0 billion	\$96.9 billion	\$97.1 billion
State, Foreign Operations	\$42.0 billion	\$46.0 billion	\$46.4 billion
Transportation, HUD	\$70.3 billion	\$71.8 billion	\$71.4 billion
TOTAL	\$1.208 trillion	\$1.244 trillion	\$1.244 trillion

Source: [House Appropriations Committee](#), [Senate Appropriations Committee](#), [CBO](#).

*Appropriation includes House-only and Senate-only items.

Federal Appropriations Process

- House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees develop bills, adopt Reports
 - ▣ Congressional ban on “earmarks” (2011)
 - ▣ Must work to gain support for projects outside process
- If any of the 12 must-pass bills do not pass by September 30, Congress resorts to CR
- CRs can be short term or year long if no agreement can be reached
- Final funding bills move as stand alone or are grouped into “Minibus” or “Omnibus” bills

Federal Appropriations Process

- **Current Federal Funding**
- Congress is considering 3 Minibus packages that include 9 of the must-pass bills
- *Most IC funding: Interior, THUD, Fin. Services, Agriculture (Minibus III)*
- Trump signed Minibus I (3 bills) on 9/21/18
- Minibus II pending in House + CR for remaining
- September 30 deadline to avoid shutdown
- President Trump sends conflicting messages

Preparing your Outreach

- Request Member meetings at least 2 weeks in advance, provide range of dates if possible
- Gather background on all meeting participants
- Schedule breaks, arrive early, and prepare for schedule changes.
- Staff meetings do not lessen importance of the issue to the office. Many conflicts arise (votes, meeting conflicts, emergency issues)

Preparing your Outreach

- One Pagers: bring a concise summary of your issue along with detailed explanation
- Bring the Reservation to the office: photos, videos, and testimonials help bring the Member to Indian Country
- Invite Members to your community: visits to Indian Country open the eyes of policy makers

Preparing your Outreach

- Follow up: Members and staff face dozens of constituent and national issues. “The squeaky wheel gets the grease” is an adage that holds true in Congress and the Administration.
- Request time frames, send thank you letters, and make follow-up calls
- Invite Members to your community: visits to Indian Country open the eyes of policy makers

Preparing Your Outreach: Authorizing Bills

- Once a bill is introduced:
- Focus on Committee Member support (co-sponsorship; hearing support)
- Work with Administration: support / non-opposition
- Build coalitions: tribal and non-Indian groups
- Prepare for hearings: build record; background information; testimony; Q&A
- Committee Markup = vote on the bill
- If approved = Bill Report is filed, ready for floor

QUESTIONS

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