

# FEDERAL UPDATE AND OUTLOOK

LEGISLATIVE AD HOC COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

E-GOV



# 2015-2016 OVERVIEW

Specific successes over the past year include:

- Preservation of the language that protects the City's ability to charge rent for the use and management of City rights-of-way in the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act;
- Increased sub-allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to metropolitan areas in the FAST Act, including growing Metroplex funding from \$89.7 million in FY 2015 to \$109.8 million in FY 2020;
- Preservation of the Transportation Alternatives Program and the federal transit program, including defeat of an anti-streetcar amendment in the House;
- Removal of language from a Senate wireless communications spectrum bill that would have preempted local zoning authority over cell phone facilities;



# 2015-2016 OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

- Turning back Senate efforts to preempt local government regulation of drones;
- Preservation of core local government programs in the face of austerity, including CDBG, HOME, Homeland Security and local law enforcement assistance;
- Preservation of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), which provides the Metroplex with \$14 million annually for disaster and terrorism preparedness and response efforts;
- Support from members of the House delegation for sales tax fairness; and
- Working with the delegation to create dialogue on the issue of ‘sanctuary cities’.



# REMAINDER OF 2016

These issues and others will continue to present opportunities and challenges in the year ahead. Most immediately, Congress will face a number of deadlines and difficult issues between Labor Day and the end of the year.

- FY 2017 begins on October 1, 2016 and Congress has yet to send President Obama any of the 12 annual appropriations bills.
- The Administration is moving forward with regulations related to fair housing, clean water, clean air, and metropolitan planning.



# 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION: KEY DATES

- January 2017: New Administration & Congress sworn in
- January: US Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting
- March: National League of Cities Meeting
- March: Debt ceiling reached
- March – September: FY 2018 appropriations process
- July: Aviation programs expire
- October 1st: FY 2018 begins



# 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION: KEY ISSUES

- **Budget**
  - Sequestration is back for FY 2018, putting pressure on all discretionary spending, especially core local government programs.
- **Tax**
  - Comprehensive tax reform; for cities, tax exemption for municipal bonds is a key issue.
- **Infrastructure**
  - Major infrastructure investment package?
  - Aviation reauthorization
  - WRDA
  - Water & wastewater
- **Local Control**
  - Telecommunications: ROW & zoning
  - Sales tax fairness
- **Public Safety**
  - Criminal justice reform
  - Grant funding
- **Regulations**
  - Will the next Administration continue President Obama's regulatory agenda? Major issues include clean air, clean water, fair housing, and workplace issues.



# GENERAL STATEMENT OF CITY LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

## Oppose any federal action that would:

- Erode the home rule authority of municipalities,
- Impose unfunded mandates on the City, or
- Constrain the ability of cities to allocate resources to locally-determined priorities.

## Support legislation that:

- Creates opportunities for individuals and businesses to thrive and prosper,
- Provides an equitable distribution of federal funds, and
- Addresses the concerns and issues confronting large metropolitan cities, including urban transportation, crime reduction, affordable housing and healthy neighborhoods.

## Deficit Reduction:

- The City generally supports a balanced approach to deficit reduction; federal deficit reduction should not disproportionately harm national defense, safety net programs or core local government programs nor should they delay much-needed investments in our nation's infrastructure.



# MONITOR

- Congressional and FCC action on communication policy
- Implementation of HUD's Fair Housing rule
- Various EPA rulemakings (clean water, ozone, clean power, etc.)
- SEC implementation of Dodd-Frank re: municipal finance and payday lending
- All grant opportunities of potential interest to the City





# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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