



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** IEDA Board  
**RE:** Federal Legislative Committee Report  
**DATE:** September 9, 2024

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## Election Issues

**Clock is Ticking** – With 56 days until the election, polling continues to show a tight race. Certain news outlets have indicated that Vice-President’s polling momentum may have topped out.

Speaking of polls, Donald Trump has historically outperformed in the polls. In 2016, he exceeded polling expectations by 7 points in Wisconsin, and then by 6 points in 2020. It remains to be seen if pollsters have adjusted for this trend or if the polls continue to underreport actual voter sentiment. This will be a topic of debate all the way up to election day.

**Speaking of Debates** – There has been a flurry of posturing and positioning leading up to the debate on September 10<sup>th</sup>. VP Harris had requested a seated debate with notes and that the mics could be hot (instead of muted like in the Biden-Trump debate). Ultimately, the debate format will follow one like the first debate, with muted mics and no audience.

## Hill Update

**Senate ENR Hearing** – The Water & Power Subcommittee will hold a hearing on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Featured on the docket is the Help Hoover Dam Act as well as other legislation geared toward helping Colorado River issues. Senator Padilla is introducing legislation to allow for the funds contributed by non-federal parties to be interest bearing. Senator Lee is planning to introduce legislation that would limit the amount that power customers are on the hook for ESA fish compliance (RIP program). Commissioner Touton is set to testify.

**Continuing Resolution** – Federal funding is set to expire at the end of September, so expect a CR to be passed. It is likely that it will be a short-term CR, extending funding until after the election (November/December).

***APPA Lame Duck Priorities*** – During the lame duck, APPA plans to hit the hill to get ahead of possible issues with the departure of long tenured, high-ranking members of Congress. The two big issues are the prevention of dam removal and any PMA privatization pushed.