



# MEMORANDUM

**TO: IEDA Board**  
**RE: Federal Legislative Committee Report**  
**DATE: November 15, 2024**

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## Election Results

**President Trump Tears Down that (Blue) Wall**– With an apparent sweep of the battle ground states, it became evident early in the election results coverage that the best (and maybe only) path to victory for Vice-President was via the Blue Wall states. Trump overcame an unvetted comedic set at his Madison Square Garden rally that offended Puerto Ricans that could have hurt him in Pennsylvania. Wisconsin has been called for Trump and Michigan is trending heavily in that direction. Post election seems to be a mix of disbelief on the Democratic side and a sigh of relief from Republicans.

**Stocking the Cabinet** – It seems that the next course of action is filling his cabinet. Some have already been alluded to, like RFK Jr. for health secretary. Others are yet to be determined, as Trump has been cautious not to get ahead of the election results. It is likely that some of his ardent supporters (Elon Musk, Tulsi Gabbard, etc.). It is likely too early to tell who will land where but included below are a list of cabinet positions with possible high-profile appointments. Trump had a history of losing or firing cabinet members, but so have most presidents, maybe not as many as Trump. Let's see if the discipline brought to this election cycle will help increase the shelf life of most of the cabinet members.

- Secretary of State – **Marco Rubio**
- Defense Secretary –**Pete Hegseth**
- Attorney General –**Matt Getz**
- Interior Secretary – **Doug Burgum**
- Secretary of Agriculture – Charles Herbster, Thomas Massie

- Commerce Secretary - Linda McMahon, Robert Lighthizer
- Treasury Secretary – Howard Lutnick, Scott Bessen
- Labor Secretary – Rep Brandon Williams, Johnny C. Taylor
- HHS Secretary – **Robert F Kennedy Jr.**
- Transportation Secretary – Sam Graves, Tom Graves
- Energy – Chris Wright (Fracking), Dan Brouillette, Dan Brouillette
- **White House Chief of Staff –Susie Wiles**
- **Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy – Stephen Miller**
- **EPA – Lee Zeldin**
- **Homeland Security – Kristi Noem**

**Senate Flipped** – While a few races remain to be called, one thing is for certain, the Senate has flipped to the Republicans. Chuck Shumer had threatened to selectively eliminate the filibuster, but that can't happen now. The GOP took seats in WV, OH & MT. Arizona is still yet to be called. It is looking like a 53-47 GOP Controlled Senate.

**House Holds** – If the Republicans are able to hold the House, there will be opportunities for major changes, as long as the Freedom Caucus (or other groups) don't scuttle progress due to the likely narrow majority.

Early results have R's winning 214 of the 218 necessary for a majority (compared to 203 for the D's), with D's having to defend almost twice as many competitive districts to win. Given the popular vote and a Cook Report article, it is likely that R's have accomplished the trifecta, paving a way for Presidential and Republican priorities.

**Presidential Prerogatives** – Donald Trump has been big on the economy, and this has been a mainstay of his election campaign (along with immigration). It is expected that an extension of Trump's tax rates will be renewed. He has touted tariffs against foreign imports, which could raise prices or reduce imports could have inflationary impacts.

Trump is keenly aware of the cost of energy in the economy, and he has mused about cutting the cost of energy in half (gasoline, etc.). We benefitted from

this during his first term, when the mantra of “drill, baby drill” was heard often. Expect to see oil and gas leases return to normal, if not above normal levels. I would expect the possibility of LNG export terminals being built and the US taking advantage of its resources (and the associated revenue) instead of what was shaping up to be Mexico taking advantage of our environmental policies to profit.

He has speculated that Elon Musk could probably slash \$2T in federal spending. This may include a lot of claw backs of previously approved but yet to be executed grants. This could be problematic for some projects important to our members.

Immigration, or mass deportation, was a 2024 version of “build the wall.” I am not sure if or how that will be executed, but it wouldn’t surprise me if a wall is authorized in his first two years. The threat of deportation may impact availability of farm workers, no matter what their status is, as some may fear profiling in the future, especially with the AZ proposition that was passed (still faces legal challenges).

Regulations will likely again be in the crosshairs, as was practice during his first term. Eliminating two regulations for every one new one was the goal. The interesting issue is the elimination of frivolous lawsuits. Could the repeal or modification to the equal access to justice act be a possibility? How about modifications to the endangered species act (finally)?

**Arizona** – Senate seat goes to Gallego. Lake closed the gap in recent weeks, but the early lead and previous image problems may have been too much to overtake in this election.

CD-06 went to Juan Ciscomani in a race too close for comfort. Juan has been a strong supporter of public power.

**Help Hoover Dam Act** – The CBO scoring and the election results impacted the viability of success this year. I have been talking to our AZ sponsors. The Democratic leadership (thanks to Susie Lee’s & Rueben Gallego’s offices) is okay moving the bill forward with the score (seeking a waiver). Representative Ciscomani is working with HNR-WWF to attempt to advance the bill. There is a Senate ENR markup on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. The HNR is having a hearing on the 20<sup>th</sup>, which will give us a shot to mark-up the bill if necessary. The Republican’s sweeping the control has eliminated the need for a omnibus bill for a compromise bill. It is likely that a CR will be extended to at least March, if not a full year to give the Republicans a chance to get their priorities aligned and implemented.