

TOP TAKEAWAYS

What Do the Election Results Mean to Your Board?

- 1. The 115th Congress is Likely to be among the most Active in Recent History**
By January, Republicans will control the White House and both chambers of Congress. The most recent Congresses have stood out for the low number of bills that have been signed into law. With the return to one-party rule, the coming congressional term is likely to return to a pace of major legislative activity not seen since the first year of Obama's presidency.
- 2. The White House has Embraced the Establishment**
The announcement that Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus will serve as White House chief of staff is a sign that, rather than battling the Washington establishment, Trump has now embraced it to get results. Similarly, the decision to replace New Jersey Governor Chris Christie with Vice President-elect Mike Pence as transition team lead means the President-elect understands that, campaign rhetoric aside, his early success will depend on partnering with House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, rather than pillorying them.
- 3. First Steps for the New Administration**
In the short run, we believe the first weeks of the Trump Administration will focus on a series of quick wins nullifying the Obama Administration's executive orders. High on the list will be the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, reversal of Clean Air Act rules, an action to strike down the increased minimum wage for federal contractors, and a freeze on new, non-defense federal employees. President-elect Trump also spoke during the campaign about lifting restriction on U.S. energy development and canceling billions in payments to U.N. climate programs.
- 4. Executive Appointments**
Aside from fleshing out the Cabinet, President-elect Trump will nominate a Supreme Court justice and two members of the Federal Reserve's seven-member Board of Governors. It is worth noting that the Federal Reserve now has jurisdiction over the CFPB. Another interesting decision is whether to fill the open seats on the Export-Import Bank, where three of its five seats are open. While Congress has fought off challenges to kill the bank, President-elect Trump could effectively kill it by never filling them.
- 5. Look to the House for Legislative Direction**
The Trump transition team has been thinly staffed and has not produced the reams of position papers that the Clinton team, and even the Romney team in 2012, produced leading up to Election Day. As a result, we believe the core of the term's early legislation will be a series of bills previously passed, largely by the House, which President Obama refused to consider. For example, the House-passed "Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act" will serve as a blueprint for the reconciliation bill used to repeal the Affordable Care Act in the 115th Congress.

For more information on What Do the Election Results Mean to Your Board?, please feel free to contact the moderators directly:

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