Transportation (and some Prognostication) during the 115th Congress

Drew Marrs
Director, Government Relations
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Political Presentations in the 115th Congress
Since We Last Met...
Influencers on Policy, Politics Has Changed.
Major Activity in 115th Congress

- **March 2018 Omnibus Bill ($1.3 Trillion)**
  - $1.3B in new funding for border security but not for a wall along the US-Mexico border or ICE agents
  - $380M voting systems upgrades, $307M for FBI to combat cyberattacks
  - $4B to combat the opioid crisis
  - $1.3B increase in funding for Census 2020
  - $320M for IRS and Tax Cuts and Jobs Act staffing/systems changes
  - "Fix NICS" bill (updates to national gun background check system)

- **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**
  - Defines the next year’s military strategy and funding levels, and usually includes reforms to other government entities
Major Activity in 115th Congress

- Senate Confirmation (Advice and Consent) of Judiciary
  - Trump nominees to appeals court: 29
    - Most since 1891
  - Trump nominees to district court: 53
  - Trump nominees to the Supreme Court: 2

- “Regular Order” of Appropriations Bills (12 total)
  - “Minibus” of three bills (Energy & Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction & VA) signed by Pres. Trump 9/21
  - “Minibus” of two bills (Defense and Labor-HHS-Education) along with a continuing resolution for the remaining bills ‘til Dec. 07 signed into law on 9/28.
Transportation Initiatives in 115th Congress

- **THUD Appropriations Bill (House and Senate conference)**
  - House: $71.8 billion; Senate: $71.4 billion
  - Conferees announced and negotiations underway

- **FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018**
  - Primarily aviation-related programs, such as FAA, NTSB, drones
  - Railroad items, too: critical infrastructure designation, tower markings

- **March 2018 Omnibus**
  - Funding for high-speed internet development, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, others

- **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) last week**
  - Harbor/waterway investment, flood protection, USACE, hydropower
Speaking of Moving... Who’s Leaving Congress?

- Members of Congress not running for re-election:
  - 39 Republicans and 18 Democrats
  - However... 13 Republicans and 10 Democrats are seeking another office (Governor, U.S. Senate, state office)

- True retirements: 26 Republicans, eight Democrats
  - Most Republican retirements since 2008; fewest among DEMs.
  - Open seats = competitive primaries and general elections

- But Why Leave?
  - Chairmanship ending, swamp creatures bite, tough re-election
Favorite Halloween Movie

M. Night Shyamalan's
S I O N S

Original Score by
James Newton Howard
Signs of the Times... for Political Parties

HUMANS ARE 90% WATER - BASICALLY CUCUMBERS WITH ANXIETY

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Good Signs for House Democrats
Bad Signs for House Republicans

Since the end of World War II, the party in control of the White House has had an average net loss of 26 House seats in midterm elections.

Presidential approval ratings vs. House seats lost, 1966-2014

Presidents with a sub-50% approval rating lose an average of 40 House seats in the midterms.

Presidential job approval vs. midterm results since 1966

- Over 60%: +3 Seats
- 50%-60%: -12 Seats
- Under 50%: -40 Seats

Good Signs for House Democrats
Bad Signs for House Republicans

House Republicans are defending 98 competitive seats to only 13 competitive Democratic seats

## Democratic Seats

- **CA-10** Denham
- **CA-25** Knight
- **CA-39** Royce*
- **CA-45** Westers
- **CA-48** Rohrabacher
- **FL-15** Ross*
- **FL-26** Curbelo
- **IA-3** Young
- **IL-14** Hultgren
- **KS-2** Jenkins*
- **KY-6** Barr
- **ME-2** Poliquin
- **MI-8** Bishop
- **NC-9** Wittigter*
- **NC-13** Budd
- **NJ-3** MacArthur
- **NJ-7** Lance
- **NJ-19** Pearce*
- **NY-11** Donovan
- **NY-24** Katko
- **NY-27** Collins
- **PA-10** Perry
- **PA-16** Kelly
- **SC-1** Sanford*
- **TX-22** Olson
- **TX-23** Hurd
- **VA-5** Garrett*
- **WA-3** Beutler
- **WA-5** McMorrisRodgers
- **WA-8** Reichert*

## Republican Seats

- **AK-AL** Young
- **AR-2** Hill
- **CA-50** Hunter
- **CA-50** DeSantis*
- **CA-6** Buchanan
- **CA-7** Woodall
- **IL-12** Bost
- **IL-13** Davis
- **IL-16** Wagner
- **IL-16** Gianforte
- **IL-16** Holding
- **NE-2** Bacon
- **NY-11** Donovan
- **NY-24** Katko
- **NY-27** Collins
- **PA-10** Perry
- **PA-16** Kelly
- **SC-1** Sanford*
- **TX-22** Olson
- **TX-23** Hurd
- **VA-5** Garrett*
- **WA-3** Beutler
- **WA-5** McMorrisRodgers
- **WA-8** Reichert*

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- **MN-1** Walz*

- **MN-8** Nolan*

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- **PA-14** OPEN (Lamb)

- **CA-10** Denham
- **CA-25** Knight
- **CA-39** Royce*
- **CA-45** Westers
- **CA-48** Rohrabacher
- **FL-15** Ross*
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- **NV-3** Rosen*
- **NV-4** Kihuen*
- **AZ-2** McSally*
- **CA-49** Issa*
- **CO-6** Coffman
- **IL-6** Roskam
- **FL-27** Ros-Lehtinen*
- **KS-3** Yoder
- **MI-11** Trott*
- **PA-8** Cartwright
- **MN-3** Paulsen
- **NJ-11** Frelinghuysen*
- **PA-7** VACANT-Dent
- **VA-10** Comstock
- **AZ-1** O’Halleran
- **CA-16** Costa
- **FL-7** Murphy
- **MN-7** Peterson
- **NH-1** Shea-Porter*
- **NJ-5** Gottheimer
- **PA-8** Cartwright
- **PA-17** Rothfus/Lamb
- **NJ-2** LoBiondo*
- **PA-5** VACANT-Meehan
- **PA-6** Costello*
- **AZ-6** Schweikert
- **AZ-8** Lesko
- **CA-4** McClintock
- **CA-21** Valadao
- **CO-3** Tipton
- **FL-18** Mast
- **FL-25** Diaz-Balart
- **IA-04** King
- **IN-2** Walorski
- **MI-1** Bergman
- **MI-3** Amash
- **MI-6** Upton
- **MI-7** Walberg
- **NC-8** Hudson
- **NY-1** Zeldin
- **NY-2** King
- **NY-21** Stefanik
- **NY-23** Reed
- **OH-10** Turner
- **OH-14** Joyce
- **OK-05** Russell
- **TX-2** Poe*
- **TX-21** Smith*
- **TX-24** Marchant
- **TX-31** Carter
- **WI-6** Grothman

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One line, infinite possibilities.
Good Signs for House Republicans
Bad Signs for House Democrats
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Bad Signs for House Democrats
What Am I Watching on (or before) Election Day?

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What Am I Watching on (or before) Election Day?
What Am I Watching on Election Day?
What Am I Watching on Election Day?
The Lame Duck is Near, and the Duck Has Chores.

| **Budget and appropriations** | • Congress needs to pass appropriations for Agriculture, Financial Services, Interior/Environment, and Transportation/HUD by 12/7  
• Trump has pledged to demand funding for a border wall, threatening a partisan brawl over the budget |
| **Farm Bill** | • The Farm Bill has not been resolved between the House and Senate; SNAP program, agricultural programs included in Bill |
| **Tax policy** | • Republicans want to pass technical corrections to legislation that would fix errors, oversights, omissions, extenders in 2017 tax law |
| **Criminal justice reform** | • Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has signaled that he will address criminal justice reform and combine the House’s First Step Act with the reform provisions in the Senate |
| **JOBS Act 3.0** | • Omnibus package of bills aimed at decreasing regulations governing capital market access for small business |
| **Nominations** | • President Trump’s cabinet and judiciary nominees |
Questions? Comments? Pssst: it’s almost 2020!