

Holland & Knight

As the general election on November 3, 2020 rapidly approaches and the second session of the 116th Congress comes to a close, Holland & Knight will regularly update this document to keep interested parties up to date on major dates and deadlines.

Congressional Calendar																				
October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

House only; Senate only; Both in session

Note: The calendar is subject to change due rapidly evolving circumstances.

On October 12, 2020, Senate Judiciary Committee kicked off four days of confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett, President Donald Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court. The contentious hearings in the Republican-led Senate could draw battle lines that reverberate through the election.

On September 30, 2020, President Donald Trump signed a continuing resolution (CR) into law to extend current federal funding levels through Dec. 11, 2020. The measure included one COVID-19 related provision by extending COVID-19 related nutrition benefits that would have expired on Sept. 30 for another year. The next two years will include several predictable fiscal policy deadlines that will force congressional action.

Key Dates	
October 12	Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Opening Statements - Judge Barrett and Senators.
October 13, 2020	Deadline for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) recipients to submit detailed quarterly report (for period July 1-Sept. 30, 2020).
October 13	Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Senators Q/A with Judge Barrett
October 14	Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Senators Q/A with Judge Barrett
October 15	Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Testimony and Q/A with outside witnesses.
October 15, 2020	CANCELLED: Second Presidential Debate
October 22	Report the nominee out of the Committee
October 22, 2020	Third Presidential Debate

October 23	Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell could file cloture as early as Friday, October 23, and if so, the Senate would likely vote on Tuesday, October 27. McConnell has not said to date whether he will hold a final vote before or after the election.
October 31, 2020	Census enumeration completion date; last day for households to self-respond online, by phone or by mail.
November 3, 2020	Election Day
November 4 - December 14, 2020	[Electoral College] Counting the popular vote and filing Certificates of Ascertainment
November 20, 2020	Congress adjourns for Thanksgiving holiday.
December 8, 2020	[Electoral College] Safe Harbor deadline
December 11, 2020	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care Entitlement to States programs expire.
December 11, 2020	Fiscal Year 2020 funding expires (Extended in 2020 CR (Public Law 116-159)).
December 11, 2020	Health extender programs expire.
December 14, 2020	Electoral College delegations meet and vote.
December 31, 2020	Tax extenders and several coronavirus programs expire, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student loan repayment and interest accrual suspension • Emergency sick, family leave, and other pandemic unemployment assistance programs • Federal payroll tax payment deferral for employees
December 31, 2020	Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program Expires (Some UI recipients may exhaust all UI benefits before deadline)
January 6, 2021	Joint Session of Congress to count electoral votes and declare official election results.
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January 11, 2021	Deadline for CRF recipients to submit detailed quarterly report (for period Oct. 1 - Dec. 30, 2020).
January 20, 2021	Inauguration Day
April 2021	Census Bureau to deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.
July 31, 2021	Census Bureau delivers count to States for legislative restricting.
September 30, 2021	Surface transportation and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) extensions included in 2020 CR expire.

Presidential Election 2020 Dates to Watch	
Thursday, October 15, 2020	CANCELLED: Second Presidential Debate
Thursday, October 22, 2020	Third Presidential Debate
Tuesday, November 3, 2020	Election Day
Wednesday, November 4 - Monday, December 14, 2020	[Electoral College] Counting the popular vote and filing Certificates of Ascertainment
Tuesday, December 8, 2020	[Electoral College] Safe Harbor deadline
Monday, December 14, 2020	Electoral College delegations meet and vote.
Wednesday, January 6, 2021	Joint Session of Congress to count electoral votes and declare official election results.
Wednesday, January 20, 2021	Inauguration Day

Many states are turning to mail-in ballots to allow people the option to vote without potentially exposing themselves to coronavirus at their polling stations. Some states do not allow poll workers to open these ballots until Election Day, while others are allowing ballots postmarked - but not received - Nov. 3 to be counted once they trickle in.