

## **WEEKLY WASHINGTON JANUARY 3TH – JANUARY 7TH, 2010**

**Below is an informal overview of the Weekly Washington activities of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.**

### **112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS SWORN IN**

This week, the South Florida Congressional Delegation was sworn into office including new Members, Senator Marco Rubio, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, and Congressman David Rivera. Commissioner Rebeca Sosa was part of a delegation that traveled to Washington to be part of the swearing in activities. The commissioner also took this opportunity to hold meetings with Members of the South Florida Congressional Delegation to advocate for the Deep Dredge at the Port of Miami. As the new Chairwoman of the Economic & Social Services Committee, Commissioner Sosa illustrated the economic impact and job creating possibility that the dredge can bring to South Florida.

On Wednesday, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio became the 53<sup>rd</sup> Speaker of the House of Representatives as he took the gavel from Nancy Pelosi. The Speaker is joined by 242 Republicans and 193 Democrats in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. Republicans were able to win the majority this past November for the first time since 2006 by electing 85 new members of congress compared to just nine new Democrats.

### **HOUSE**

#### **Republican Leadership**

Speaker of the House - Rep. John Boehner

Majority Leader - Rep. Eric Cantor

House Majority Whip - Rep. Kevin McCarthy

House Republican Conference - Rep. Jeb Hensarling

#### **Democratic Leadership**

Democratic Leader - Rep. Nancy Pelosi

Democratic Whip - Rep. Steny Hoyer

House Democratic Caucus - Rep. John Larson

Assistant Democratic Leader - Rep. James E. Clyburn

In the Senate the leadership remains unchanged as Senator Harry Reid retains his post as Majority Leader, albeit by a smaller margin of 51 Democrats (joined by 2 Independents) and 47 Republicans, and Senator Mitch McConnell continues as Minority Leader.

### **SENATE**

President of the Senate - Vice President Joseph R. Biden

President Pro Tempore - Sen. Daniel K. Inouye

#### **Democratic Leadership**

Majority Leader - Sen. Harry Reid

Assistant Majority Leader - Sen. Richard Durbin  
(Democratic Whip)

## **Republican Leadership**

Minority Leader - Sen. Mitch McConnell

Assistant Minority Leader - Sen. Jon Kyl

(Republican Whip)

## **WHITE HOUSE STAFF CHANGES**

President Obama announced this week that former Clinton Administration Commerce Secretary William Daley will serve as his new chief of staff. Daley, son of legendary Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and brother of the city's current mayor, Richard M. Daley, will replace Rahm Emanuel. Pete Rouse, who served as interim chief of staff to Obama, will remain in the White House as counselor to the president. Other changes within the White House were announced this week as well. Gene Sperling will replace Lawrence Summers as chairman of the National Economic Council and senior advisor David Axelrod will leave in early 2011 to begin preparations for the president's re-election campaign. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs also announced on Wednesday his intention to leave the administration at the end of the month.

## **CLIMATE COMMUNITIES WEEKLY CALL**

Climate Communities weekly conference call reviewed the makeup of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and the implications of the Republican controlled House on energy initiatives. Initially the call highlighted the clean energy provisions contained in the 2010 Tax Relief Act passed before Congress adjourned for the holidays. These included extensions of 1603 renewable energy grants, the New Energy Efficient Home Tax Credit, tax credits for biodiesel, energy efficient appliances and for homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient.

Looking to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, Climate Communities has concerns that several programs are at risk for elimination. Those included the EPA Climate Showcase Communities Program, HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative, DOT TIGER Grant Program, EPA Global Climate Change Mitigation Initiative Fund and the DOE Clean Cities Program. Additionally, the Select Committee on Global Warming was eliminated as part of the new rules governing the House that Republicans introduced and adopted this past week. Under the leadership of new Chairman Fred Upton, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to attempt changes to several energy policies. Congressman Upton has targeted preventing the EPA from regulating gas emissions, cutting federal subsidies for renewable energy and expanding domestic oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and in ANWR. Upton also opposes the EPA's tightening of national ozone standards.

Going forward, Climate Communities has identified several priorities for the next year. These include FY2011/FY2012 Federal sustainability funding for DOE EECBG, EPA Climate Showcase Communities, HUD Sustainable Communities and DOT TIGER. Climate Communities would also like to see PACE fixed as well as addressing the Natural Clean Energy Standard and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Tax Credits.

## **TRANSPORTATION SPENDING**

The House of Representatives rejected a bid Tuesday to soften a provision in their rules package that will make it easier to cut highway and transit spending on the House floor.

If adopted by the full House, the new rules will eliminate an existing point of order that prevents the House from taking up any legislation that shortchanges spending levels for highway and transit programs guaranteed in authorization law. That means the new language, which will eliminate the point of order but guarantee that all funds in the Highway Trust Fund be spent on surface transportation programs, will stand. Supporters say the provision is intended only to prevent the government from being forced to spend more on surface transportation projects than the Highway Trust Fund collects. That's exactly what has happened in recent years, as the trust fund has needed billions of dollars in transfers from the general fund to meet its obligations. Surface transportation authorization bills are unusual in that they actually spend money rather than just authorizing it. While that money is doled out annually through appropriations bills, appropriators cannot spend less than the totals authorized for that year. The current framework was created to ensure that money in the trust fund is spent on transportation and infrastructure rather than being tapped for other purposes or allowed to help offset government deficits.

## **EARMARK REFORM**

One of the first messages delivered privately from incoming Speaker John Boehner to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was that spending bills with earmarks won't see the light of day in the House. The fact that lawmakers refuse to declare an end to earmarks shows a lingering conflict between their calls to cut spending and what many still see as a key priority in their jobs, taking care of their states and their districts with line items that fund roads, bridges, sewers, military installations and local universities. While the House leadership's steadfast opposition to earmarks ensures that spending bills won't emerge from the chamber with pet projects, how that issue will be resolved after Senators engage in the appropriations process remains an open question. Majority Leader Reid has maintained that it's their constitutional right to set spending priorities. During their first face-to-face meeting after the midterm elections, Boehner told Reid that he wouldn't allow House spending bills with earmarks to advance. Republicans have adopted a broad definition of what constitutes an earmark, including "a specific amount" of discretionary spending for contracts, loans or other expenditures targeted to a state or locality beyond the competitive bidding process. Senator Lindsey Graham, who also backed the earmark moratorium, said he'd pursue funding to help deepen the harbor at the Port of Charleston if the Obama administration doesn't fund the effort.

## **CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR**

The Senate will be in recess from January 10th through the 21st as Senators head home for the state work period and observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on January 17th. The House returns on Tuesday for two days of work before leaving town as the Republicans hold their Policy Retreat and return after the holiday on the 18th. The chamber adjourns again on the 20th as Democrats hold their retreat as well. The House convenes the following week before traveling home for the district work period through the first week in February.

## **CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SWEARING IN CEREMONIES**

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Congressman Ted Deutch, and Congresswoman Frederica Wilson will be having a swearing in ceremony on Monday, January 10, 2011 at the Broward Federal Courthouse at 9:00am. The address of the courthouse is: 299 East Broward Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301.

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Congressman David Rivera, and Senator Marco Rubio will be having their swearing in ceremony on Monday, January 10, 2011 at the Miami-Dade County Federal Courthouse at 10:00am. The Honorable Federico A. Moreno will swear-in the Congressional Delegation using the same oath that is delivered in Washington. The swearing in ceremony will take place at The Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse which is located at 400 North Miami Avenue in downtown Miami.

## **RUBIO STAFFERS**

Senator Rubio announced several staff hires this week as well as the opening of five regional offices in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando and Miami. Additional offices will be opened during the coming weeks. Senator Rubio's staffers include the following:

### **Sally Canfield**

*Chief Policy Advisor & Legislative Director*

Sally served as senior director for policy at Sanofi-Aventis US as well as senior program officer in the Global Health Division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She has also held various senior positions in the federal government, including deputy chief of staff for policy at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, counselor to the Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, and senior policy advisor to the Speaker of the House. In the 2000 campaign, she served as domestic policy advisor to then-Governor George W. Bush and in the 2008 campaign cycle, she served as policy director to Governor Mitt Romney. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

### **Leonard Collins**

*General Counsel*

Collins previously served as a senior attorney in the Florida Department of Transportation's Office of the General Counsel. From 2006 to 2008, he served as Parliamentarian of the Florida House of Representatives. Additionally, he worked as an assistant state attorney in the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami. Raised in Miami, Collins earned his Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad Law Center, as well as his Bachelor of Arts in political science and international relations from Florida International University.

### **Todd Reid**

*State Director*

Reid previously served as deputy chief of staff to Florida House of Representatives Speaker Dean Cannon. Prior to that, for four years, he was director of the Florida House Majority Office. He has also served as communications director for the Florida House and with the Florida

Department of Financial Services. Reid has also worked for the Office of the Governor of Virginia, the Republican Party of Virginia and as a regional director for the Republican National Committee. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Hampden-Sydney College.

**Joe Pounder**

*Communications Director*

Pounder previously worked on Marco Rubio for U.S. Senate, where he served as deputy campaign manager for communications. In 2009, he worked on Capitol Hill as strategic communications director for U.S. House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) and as deputy communications director for U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson's (R-TX) gubernatorial campaign. He also served on John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. He began his career on the White House staff of President George W. Bush where he worked in both Communications and Presidential Personnel.

**Alex Burgos**

*Director of Media Affairs*

Burgos previously served as communications director on Marco Rubio for U.S. Senate. Prior to that, he was the senior communications manager at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center. He also was director of specialty media on former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's 2008 presidential campaign, and deputy press secretary at the National Republican Congressional Committee. Burgos is a graduate of the University of Florida, where he earned a Master of Arts in international business and a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

**Bexie Nobles**

*Director of Scheduling & Executive Assistant*

Nobles previously served in the Washington office of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX), as well as Director of Operations for her 2010 primary campaign for governor. Prior to these roles, she worked on Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign and Rudy Giuliani's presidential campaign.

**Theresa Young**

*Administrative Director*

She has served in this capacity under former U.S. Senators Mel Martinez (R-FL) and George LeMieux (R-FL). Prior to this, she served in the office of the U.S. Senate Sergeant at Arms.

**Luke Marchant**

*Special Assistant*

Marchant served as political director on Marco Rubio for U.S. Senate. He also served as communications director for Congressman Pete Olson (R-TX) and as campaign manager for Olson's congressional campaign. Marchant has served on the staffs of Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), Attorney General Greg Abbott (R-TX) and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples (R-TX).