

# Federal Update

Squire Patton Boggs  
City of Commerce City



- FY 2019 Appropriations Legislation
  - Seven of the 12 appropriations bills have yet to be passed
    - Agriculture
    - Commerce, Justice and Science
    - Financial Services and General Government
    - Interior and Environment
    - Labor, HHS and Education
    - State and Foreign Operations
    - Transportation and HUD
  - Fight over border wall funding
  - Partial shut-down

- 2018 Farm Bill
  - SNAP funding
- Tax Break Extenders
- National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization
- Affordable Care Act health tax provisions
  - Cadillac tax, medical device tax, and the health insurance tax (HIT)

- U.S. House – Controlled by Democrats
  - Picked up 38 seats – 235-200
  - Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- U.S. Senate – Additional Republicans in the Chamber
  - 53-47 advantage
- Colorado's Delegation Changes
  - Blue wave victim: CD 6 – Republican Mike Coffman lost to Democrat Jason Crow
  - First African American member: CD 2 – New Democratic Congressman Joe Neguse
- Record number of women serving in the next Congress
  - Shift in priorities owing to new member's gender, generational status, racial composition, and ideological orientation
- Election shift
  - Women tilted Democratic by nearly 20 points
  - Suburban women defected from Republicans

## Key Issues to start the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Raising the debt ceiling before it expires on March 1, 2019
- Establishing another two-year discretionary spending cap agreement

## Administration Attention

- President Trump in re-election mode
- Administration shake ups
- Mueller investigation
- NAFTA

## Democratic House

- Combative with the President
  - Investigations – think back to the Clinton Administration with the Republican Congress
    - Tax returns and ethical issues
- Legislation:
  - Healthcare
  - Immigration
  - Infrastructure
    - Surface transportation and water
  - Campaign finance and ethics laws
  - Restricting gerrymandering of congressional districts
  - Voting rights

## Republican Senate

- Administration confirmations
- Judicial appointments will continue to be controversial though not held up as much
- Infrastructure plan and paying for it (gas tax increase?)
- Energy legislation

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## Discuss Council Expectations and Desired Outcomes



# Contact Info Slide

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