

Gray & Oscar LLC

TO: TIM BRINK / JIM GAFFNEY / CATIE SCOTT
FR: MICHAEL OSCAR
DT: 9/26/18
RE: CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

This Week in Congress: The House and the Senate returned this week to resolve funding issues for the new fiscal year before the government shuts down on September 30th and resumed negotiations on the new Farm Bill and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Bill, which is also carrying an emergency supplemental for disaster relief after Hurricane Florence brought devastating flooding to the Carolinas. Finally, Senate Majority Leader McConnell highlighted upcoming floor action on a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act, another bipartisan deal that “will bolster the efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers and make commitments to improving water quality and advancing hydropower.”

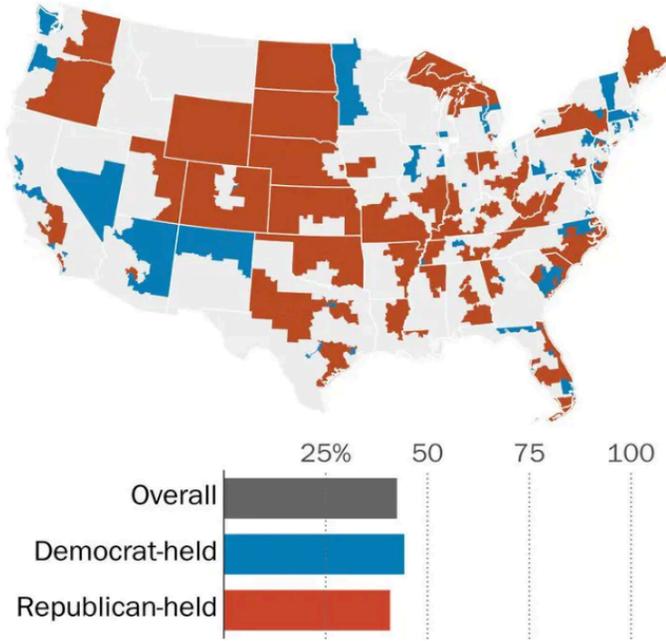
TRADE: The U.S. and China showed no interest in reducing trade tensions as U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods and retaliatory Chinese tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods took effect this past Monday. Economists warned that a long trade dispute would depress economic growth not only in those two countries but also across the globe.

IMMIGRATION (New Proposed Restrictions): This past Saturday, the Trump administration unveiled proposed new restrictions that would allow the government to deny visas and green cards to immigrants, who have used public benefits designed for low-income people, such as Medicaid, food stamp and housing assistance. The controversial proposal is described by the administration as a deterrent to migration and a budget savings for taxpayers and states. Per Department of Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen, “this proposed rule will implement a law passed by Congress intended to promote immigrant self-sufficiency and protect finite resources by ensuring that they are not likely to become burdens on American taxpayers.” The Trump administration's plan to divert hundreds of millions of dollars from health programs to pay for housing for detained migrant children could have lasting consequences, advocacy groups warn. Advocates worry that the administration will continue raiding public health accounts, leaving fewer resources for federal research and emergencies such as the Zika virus and hurricane response.

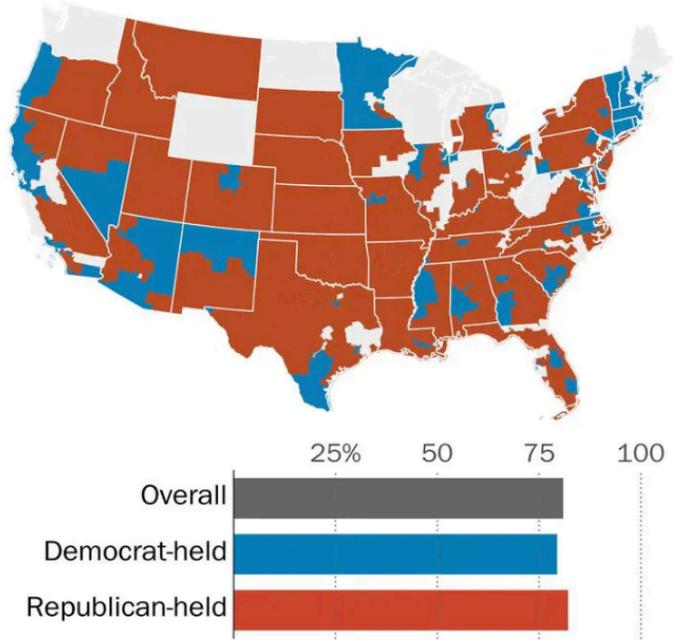
Health care is top issue

Washington Post analysis of Google search data

2017 baseline



Mid-September 2018



(Philip Bump/The Washington Post)