

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update Friday, November 6, 2020

The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

## Schedules: White House and Congress

### WHITE HOUSE

- President Trump has no scheduled public events
- Vice President Mike Pence has no public events

### CONGRESS

- House, Senate out
- Democratic prospects of taking control of the Senate remain dim; Republicans got 48 seats, compared to 48 senators who align with Democrats, with four races yet to be resolved
  - Earlier: GOP Shreds Democrats' Senate Hopes by Holding Key States

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Modern Healthcare: Veterans Health Administration Takes Steps To 3D Print Medical Devices:** The Veterans Health Administration is building up processes to 3D print its own medical devices, striking a new contract with a 3D printing company. Under the contract, the Veterans Health Administration will purchase 3D printers, software and other printing materials from company 3D Systems. 3D Systems will also work with the Veterans Health Administration to set up a manufacturing program that complies with regulations from the Food and Drug Administration.
- **Bloomberg Government: Where Things Stand in Remaining States:** The contest now depends on the outcomes of a handful of states, each with varying rules on counting votes and contesting results -- delaying the declaration of a winner. Wisconsin is prepared for a recount and Pennsylvania is among several states subject to legal battles. Five others have yet to be called by at least some major networks -- Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Nevada and Arizona. Excluding those, Biden has 253 electoral votes of the 270 required for victory, with Trump at 217 including Alaska.
- **Bloomberg Government: What to Watch Next Week:** The Senate returns to work on Monday, with plans to resume consideration of the nomination of James Ray Knepp to be a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. The House will not return until the following week, but will hold a pro forma session on Monday at 10 a.m.
- **Bloomberg Government: Senate Control in the Balance Until January:** Both Republicans and Democrats are preparing for the possibility that both of Georgia's Senate races will go to runoffs, which would leave control of the Senate in limbo until January. Incumbent Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.) was just shy of the 50% vote threshold needed to claim the seat outright, with most ballots counted. If that holds, he would once again face off against

Democrat Jon Ossoff, who trailed in the race by less than 100,000 votes out of about 4.9 million cast as of yesterday.

- With Georgia's other Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler already headed to a Jan. 5 rematch against Democrat Raphael Warnock, Democrats would still have a narrow, if unlikely, path to win the control of the Senate by winning both Georgia seats.
- **Stat: Pharma Experts Weigh In On The Next 4 Years Of Drug Pricing Policy:** Results from Tuesday's presidential election remain unclear – but that didn't stop a panel of experts from trying to parse the consequences for the pharmaceutical industry. At a virtual event hosted by the Massachusetts trade group MassBio Thursday, three panelists were skeptical that either potential president would immediately push aggressive drug pricing legislation. But no one assumed the election would end the issue, either.
- **Bloomberg Government: Jobs Market Set to Extend Rebound:** The U.S. labor market probably extended its rebound last month, though the outlook for continued job growth is weakening for whichever candidate wins the White House. The Labor Department is set to release its October report this morning, with the figures forecast to show payrolls grew by 585,000 in October. That would be the weakest pace since pandemic lockdowns vaporized nearly 21 million jobs in April. The unemployment rate may have edged down to 7.6% from 7.9%. That would be around half of the April level that was the highest since the Great Depression era -- and a better decline than economists expected earlier this year -- but still more than double the half-century low in February.
- **Bloomberg Government: House Plans Expanded Covid Testing:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is rolling out measures meant to bring the House into compliance with new travel restrictions being implemented by Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, according to a Democratic aide. House lawmakers and staff will receive 2,000 RT-PCR tests at no cost from the U.S. Air Force. The attending physician will perform an additional test if there is a positive result. A longer-term solution is being explored.
- **AP: Hospital: Not Enough Nurses To Address Virus Outbreak:** Health officials in northeastern Tennessee say they do not have enough nurses to combat COVID-19 inside its hospital system. "There are no longer enough nurses to fill the need that we have," Ballad Health Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Lisa Smithgall told WJHL-TV. According to Ballad Health, the hospital system is looking to hire 350 registered nurses to fill its nurse shortage.