# Washington Update



## 2016 Elections Outcomes & Analysis



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### **RESULTS: Big Night for the GOP**



HOUSE: D+7*			
	114 <sup>th</sup>	115 <sup>th</sup>	
GOP	247	240	
DEM	188	195	

SENATE: D+2			
	114 <sup>th</sup>	115 <sup>th</sup>	
GOP	54	52	
DEM / IND	46	48	

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	2016	2017
GOP	31	33
DEM	18	16

## What will happen to the ACA?



## **Election Takeaways**

- Big night for the GOP
- Rural America had their voice heard
- Major health care reform is coming

# House Ready to Lead on Affordable Care Act Repeal

- House voted to repeal ACA over 60 times since 2011, but no more dry runs
- 2. Speaker Ryan's (A Better Way) blueprint will be the model for ACA repeal and replace
- 3. Freedom Caucus may resist long delays and incremental approach to replacing current ACA provisions

# Senate May Resist Quick Repeal

- Senate leadership is pursing repeal without replace through budget reconciliation as first order of business
- Growing support for defining replacement before repeal from key Senators as conservative thought leaders and stakeholders advocate for this approach
- 2018 elections may create bipartisanship: 10 of 25 Democratic Senators are up for re-election in 2018 are from states carried by Trump – some overwhelmingly.
  - FL, IN, MI, MO, MT, ND, OH, PA, WI, WV

### Trump in Transition: Mixed Messages

- Some Trump signals point to decisive action on repeal and replace
  - Repeal was key message in many swing states
  - Repeal and Replace "within the same hour"
  - Dr. Price was staunch advocate of repeal, now leads HHS
- But Trump has also emphasized "smooth transition" and "no gaps in coverage."

## **Budgetary Issues**

• Funding the government



#### TWO Reconciliation Bills possible in 2017 using FY17 and FY18 Budget Process

#### TIMELINE:

- President submits a budget request to Congress (Feb-April)
- House and Senate pass concurrent budget resolutions Budget Committees in each chamber start the process
- Committees mark up and report reconciliation bills aligned with reconciliation instructions
- Congress passes consolidated budget reconciliation bill. Final bill goes to President to sign or veto.

## **Other Budget Basics**

- The federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution (CR) through April 28, 2017.
- FY 2017 funding levels for HRSA/CMS/HHS were never signed into law so these agencies operate on prior funding levels.
- Congress will still pursue "regular order" for budget and appropriations for FY 18

### Meeting with a Member of Congress

- Assume the member is hearing about SORHs for the first time
- All politics is local
- Go easy on the numbers

# Meeting with Congressional Staff

- Average age of a congressional staffer is 28
- Staffers are overworked: Become the staffers rural health liaison
- Inform them of how SORHs help their boss
- Follow-up!