



National Association of Workforce Boards

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# A Washington Update

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and  
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# NAWB

NAWB believes that through the influence of committed private and public sector leadership, a high performance, quality workforce development system can be developed to meet the human resource needs of the competitive global economy that increasingly demands highly skilled workers.



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# NAWB – What we do

- Technical Assistance
  - Strategic planning
  - Board & staff development
- Advocacy
  - Capitol Hill Partners
  - Congressional & Administration contact
- Communications



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# Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO)

- NAWB is a member of the IGO along with:
  - National Governor's Assoc
  - National Association of State Workforce Administrators
  - National Council of State Legislators
  - National Assoc of Counties
  - US Conference of Mayors
- IGOs meet regularly among themselves & with Assistant Secretary Jane Oates & Deputy Assistant Secretary Gerri Fiala from USDOL to develop coordination



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# What are we working on?

- WIA Re-authorization
- “Jobs” Bill
- American Graduation Initiative
- Credentialing



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# What's on the Minds in DC?

- Unemployment and the lack of jobs is the dominant issue for voters across party lines
- 85% of voters still believe we are in a recession
- 83% say current unemployment levels are a major problem
- 61% believe unemployment will still be high a year from now
- More voters believe unemployment is a bigger issue than the deficit.



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# Unemployment a long term problem

- Fed Chairman Bernanke – The recession is over but the recovery will be long and painful.
  - “We are in a recovery – but unemployment will be slow to come down... It will be down, but it may take some time.”
  - On average, unemployment begins to recede 18 months post positive GDP growth.
  - **As a result, unemployment & jobs will remain a national focus through 2010.**



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## **Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010**

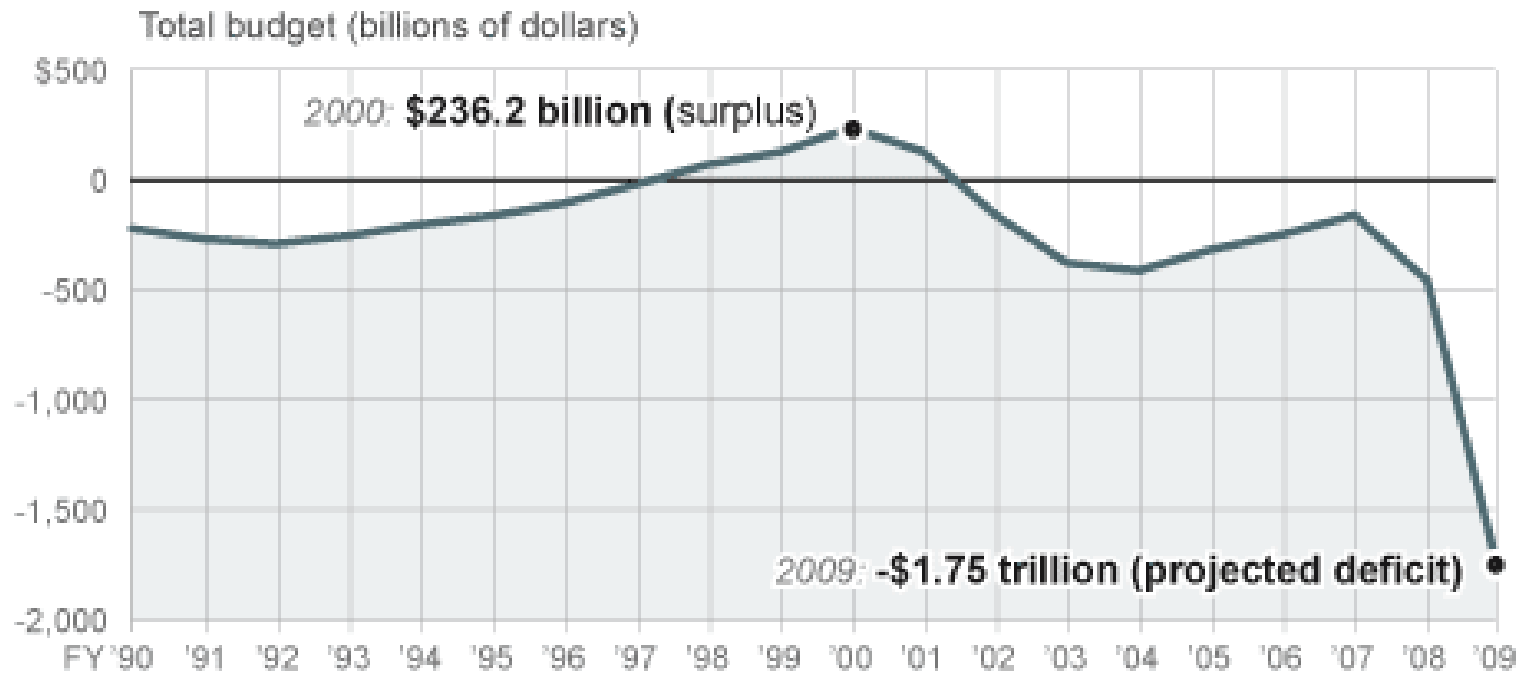
- **Summer Youth Employment:** \$500 million for a summer employment program for youth
- **Job Training for High Growth Fields:** \$750 million
- **Unemployment Insurance:** \$41 billion
- **Help with Health Insurance for Unemployed Workers (COBRA):** \$12.3 billion





## Tracking the deficit

President Obama's budget outline projects a record deficit of \$1.75 trillion in fiscal year 2009



Source: Office of Management and Budget

MSNBC



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# Introduction to DC

- “You Lie”
- – Emblematic of the polarization between the two parties
- Seemingly a more partisan environment than even before the election

**BUT....**We have a non-partisan issue – education & training

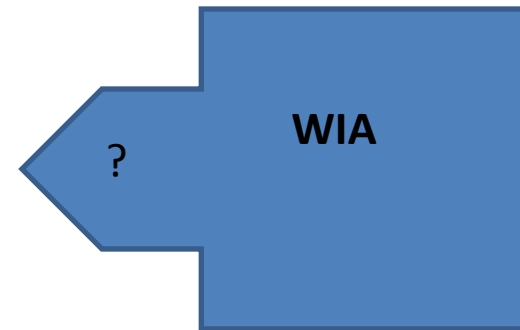


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# Timing in 2010

- When for Re-Auth?
- On the agenda
  - Healthcare
  - Jobs legislation
  - Climate change
  - Regulatory reform
  - TANF (welfare)
  - No Child Left Behind





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# WIA Re-Auth

- Mission
- Designation
- Governance
- Roles
  - WIBs: state & local
  - One-stop operations
  - Education
- Innovation



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# Administration Priorities: WIA Reauthorization

- Innovation fund in WIA
  - Greater Accountability
  - Better Coordination with Adult Education and Literacy
  - Robust One Stops
  - Outreach to Business
  - Role for Labor
  - Get a bill enacted



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# Expectation for WIA in the Senate

- Senator Murray will take the lead
- Bipartisanship
- Better align WIA programs
- Build on previous efforts
- No desire to eliminate current governance structure
- Pass a consensus bill with support from labor movement –



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# WIA Reauthorization – expectations in the House

- Chairman Miller told us he is willing to introduce a bill as soon as it is ready.
- Interested in more comprehensive services for dislocated workers
- More comprehensive reform anticipated than in the Senate
- For profit One Stop providers may be eliminated
- Organized Labor support for bill a key priority
- Bipartisanship not a priority



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# Republican Bill Introduced - Changes

- Deletes state WIBs authority over the development of state criteria for appointment and certification of local boards,
- Requires states & local WIBs have a quorum of business representatives in order to pass any recommendations
- Increases funds to local areas (95%) by reducing Secretary's hold back from 7.5% to 5%,
- Reintroduces WIRED funding & repeals Green Jobs Act
- Extends authorization to 2015





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# NAWB – Current Thoughts

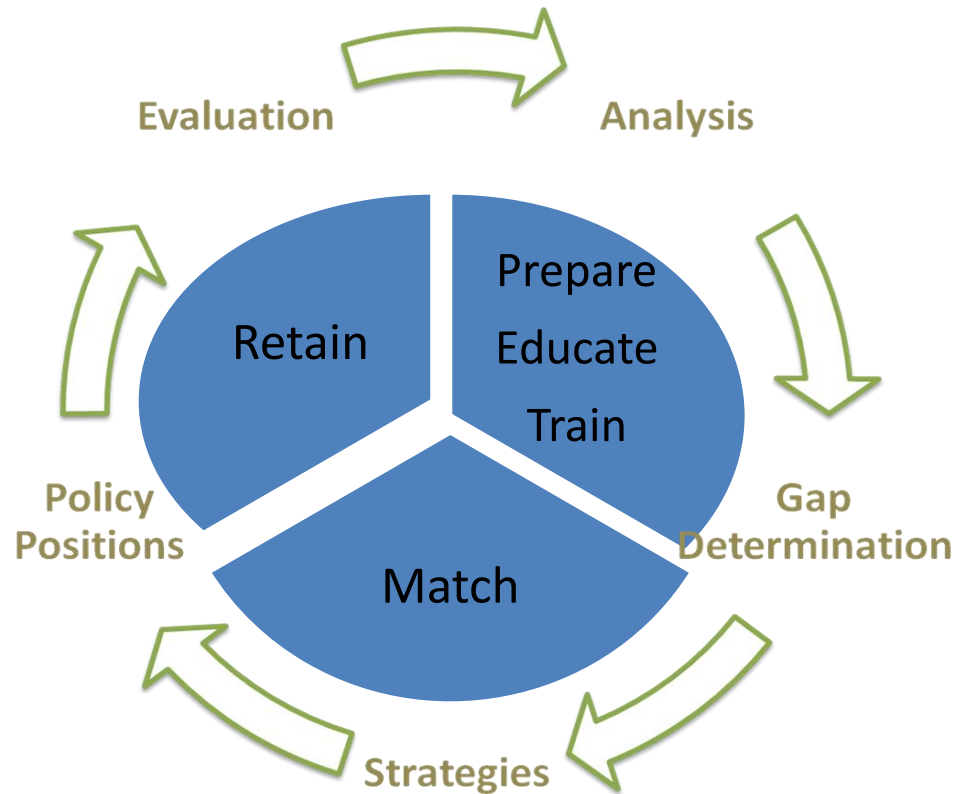
- Clear expectations & measures of success
- Adequate & dependable funding
- Genuine collaboration
  - Federal ↔ state ↔ local
- Engaged leadership
  - Employer led WIBs
- Significant, relevant & sustained innovation



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# Role for WIBs?





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# Thanks!

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# 2010 Senate Elections

<u>Leans Democratic</u>	<u>Leans Republican</u>	<u>Toss Up</u>
Boxer (CA) Bennett (CO) Specter (PA)	Vitter (LA) Bunning (KY) Bond (MO) Gregg (NH) Voinovich (OH) Hutchison (TX)	Dodd (CT) Burris (IL) Reid (NV)



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## Health care debate dominates

- Health care needs to be completed this Congress - This Congress will likely be the peak of power for the President and Congressional Democrats
- Traditionally, the party controlling the White House loses 26 House seats and at least three Senate seats.
- A number of key Democrats are vulnerable in the mid term elections, they need to pass health care to show they can accomplish key campaign promises while in power

2010 elections offer opportunities for Republicans

	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS	
Partisan Breakdown	57	40	
Seats up in 2010	17	18	Total: 38
Toss Up	8	8	Toss Up
Lean Democrat	3	1	Leans Republican
Likely Democrat	1	2	Likely Republican
Solid Democrat	12	11	Solid Republican



## 2010 Elections – Senate seats in play

<u>Leans Democratic</u>	<u>Leans Republican</u>	<u>Toss Up</u>
Boxer (CA) Bennett (CO) Specter (PA)	Vitter (LA) Bunning (KY) Bond (MO) Gregg (NH) Voinovich (OH) Hutchison (TX)	Dodd (CT) Burris (IL) Reid (NV)

## 2010 Elections - House

	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	TOTAL
	256	176	432*
Solid Democrats	185	0	185
Likely Democrats	43	0	43
<u>Lean Democrat</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Toss Up</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Lean Republican</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
Likely Republican	0	22	22
Solid Republican	0	143	143

The death of Senator Kennedy has a major impact on the Senate and the HELP Committee in particular – what does it mean to us?

## Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) HELP Committee Chair

- Harkin's leadership focus – a Tremendous Ally for the Labor Movement
  - Expect to see labor law issues such as card check rise in prominence
- Other priorities:
  - NIH
  - Disability Issues
  - Health wellness programming
  
  - Not Deeply involved in WIA
  - Iowa Issues will raise their head again

## Chairman Harkin's HELP Leadership Focus

- Unique legacy opportunity for Harkin
    - Chairs Labor-HHS Appropriations and the HELP Committee
    - Enact changes in major social policies that will last for the next generation
  - Harkin's leadership focus – a Tremendous Ally for the Labor Movement
    - Expect to see labor law issues such as card check rise in prominence
- Other priorities: NIH - Disability Issues - Health wellness programming

## Senator Murray (D-WA)

- Subcommittee Chair - Expect that Senator Murray to have Stronger Role on the HELP Committee
- Stronger leadership role on behalf of workforce system
  - Education & Training Senator
  - Leadership in both WIA, Career Pathways, Community Colleges Bill
- Role of Scott Cheney – Staff Director

## **What Will We See Passed This Year?**

- Omnibus
- House & Senate will be in session through at least mid December
- Appropriations
  - 12 Bills - None enacted so far

## Labor – HHS Appropriations

- House Passed Bill before August Recess
- Senate Passed Bill in committee
- No Floor Time Scheduled
- Issues:
  - Will the Senate Bill ever go to the Floor?
- More Likely:
  - Labor-HHS wrapped up in a multi bill “Omnibus Package”



## Labor-HHS Issues

- House and Senate staff working already to resolve differences in their bills
- Staff must resolve a \$300 million difference between the House & Senate bills
- WIA Funding Issues
  - House & Senate formula funding for WIA at same levels
    - FY 09 Levels – a hold harmless bill for workforce programs
  - As a result, we are unlikely to see any great changes to the bill
- WIA policy issues – our riders

## Other Issues to be Addressed this Year

- Health Care
- Community College Bill
- How will this move?
  
- Most other big issues (including climate change and immigration) will be pushed to next year so that health care can be completed

## **How will Democrats move contentious bills this year -- Budget Reconciliation**

- A procedural mechanism in the budget resolution
- Requires committees to cut funding in mandatory programs to create cost savings
- In recent years used to avoid filibusters on the floor - Only 50 votes needed for passage
- If Senator Snowe votes against health care on the floor, it is the only way to move health care through the Senate, as Democrats will not have 60 votes for passage under regular order
- Republicans promise to go “nuclear” if Democrats try to avoid passage under regular order

# American Graduation Initiative (Community College's Bill)

- Will be attempted in budget reconciliation
- \$87 billion in cost savings by making direct student lending
- President's goal:
  - Additional 5 million community college degrees or certificates or degrees by 2020
- AGI has already passed the House on a party line vote
- Senate negotiations - ongoing
- Bill includes \$9 billion over 10 years for community colleges

# AGI

- Role for the Workforce System is an Open Question
  - President Obama talked about developing innovative partnerships between educational and workforce investment systems and the business community through this initiative
  - House bill has limited role for the workforce system in the Senate bill's role for workforce is undermined.
  - White House – education focus – flexibility for community colleges
  - Murray championing strong workforce role in AGI

# AGI – next steps

- HELP Committee staff meeting now
- HELP Committee markup in November
- Our focus – creating strong partnerships between the workforce system, community colleges, and the business community to prepare the workforce for high wage, high demand jobs
- However, it is expected to be a bare bones bill to avoid points of order on the Senate floor for “authorizing on reconciliation” allowing great authority for DOL and DOED to craft the community college grants through regulations.

# Next steps – AGI

- AGI – if passes this year – key question will there be enough enthusiasm to move to WIA reauthorization next year?
- If AGI – not included in reconciliation – will WIA reauthorization be the vehicle to move these community college grants
- If so, a separate title in WIA for the AGI or will it be used as a mechanism to supplant the current system?

# Our Next steps

- NAWB has and will work closely with Senators Harkin and Murray on both AGI and the WIA to ensure a strong role for NAWB members
- Work with other members of the Senate HELP Comm.
- Work closely with Congressman Miller in the House
- Work across the aisle with Ranking Republicans in the Senate (Enzi) and House (Kline)



# Our Next Steps

- Labor-HHS Appropriations – FY 10 and FY 11 re NAWB priorities
- Rebuild the relationship with ETA

# Our Next Steps

- We need your help – to tell the story of the workforce system's role in the Recovery Act
  - How were these funds used?
  - How did we make a difference? – how were we effective
  - Need performance based evidence and data



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