

# Lame duck 101

An overview of the lame duck period and  
Democratic legislative priorities

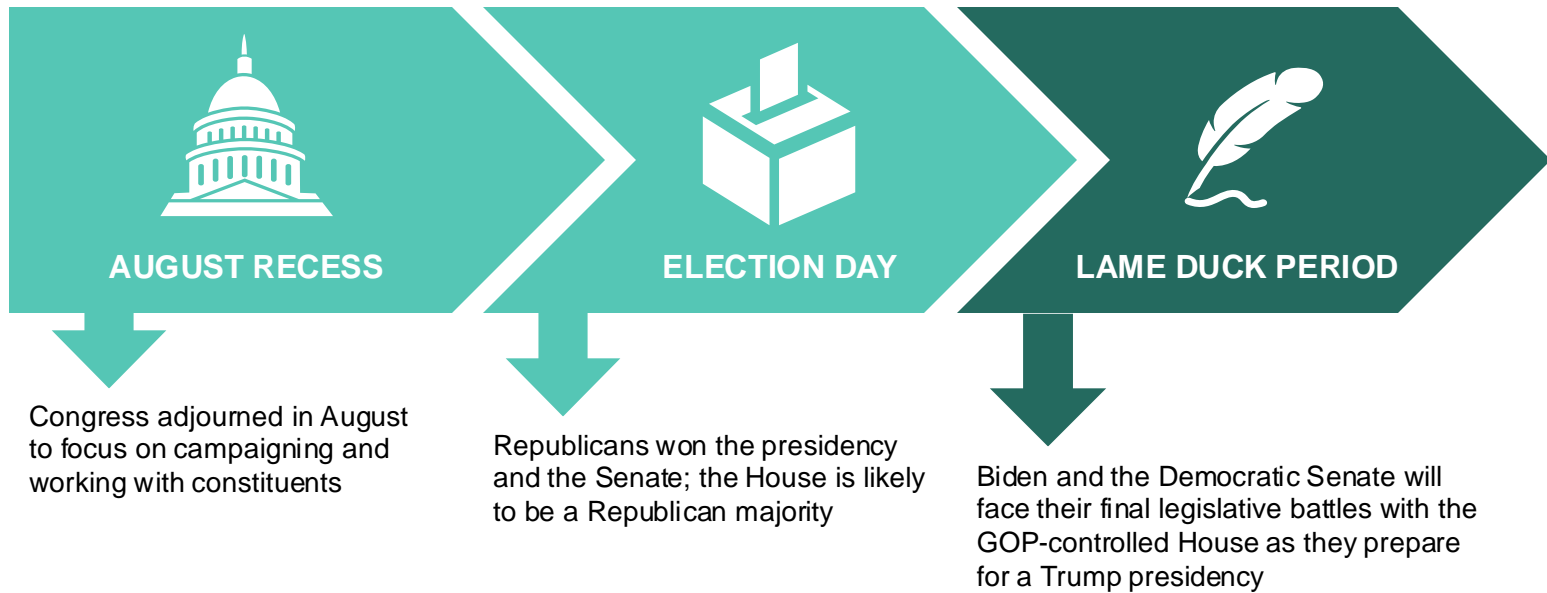
November 13, 2024

## The lame duck period began after Election Day and will last until Inauguration Day

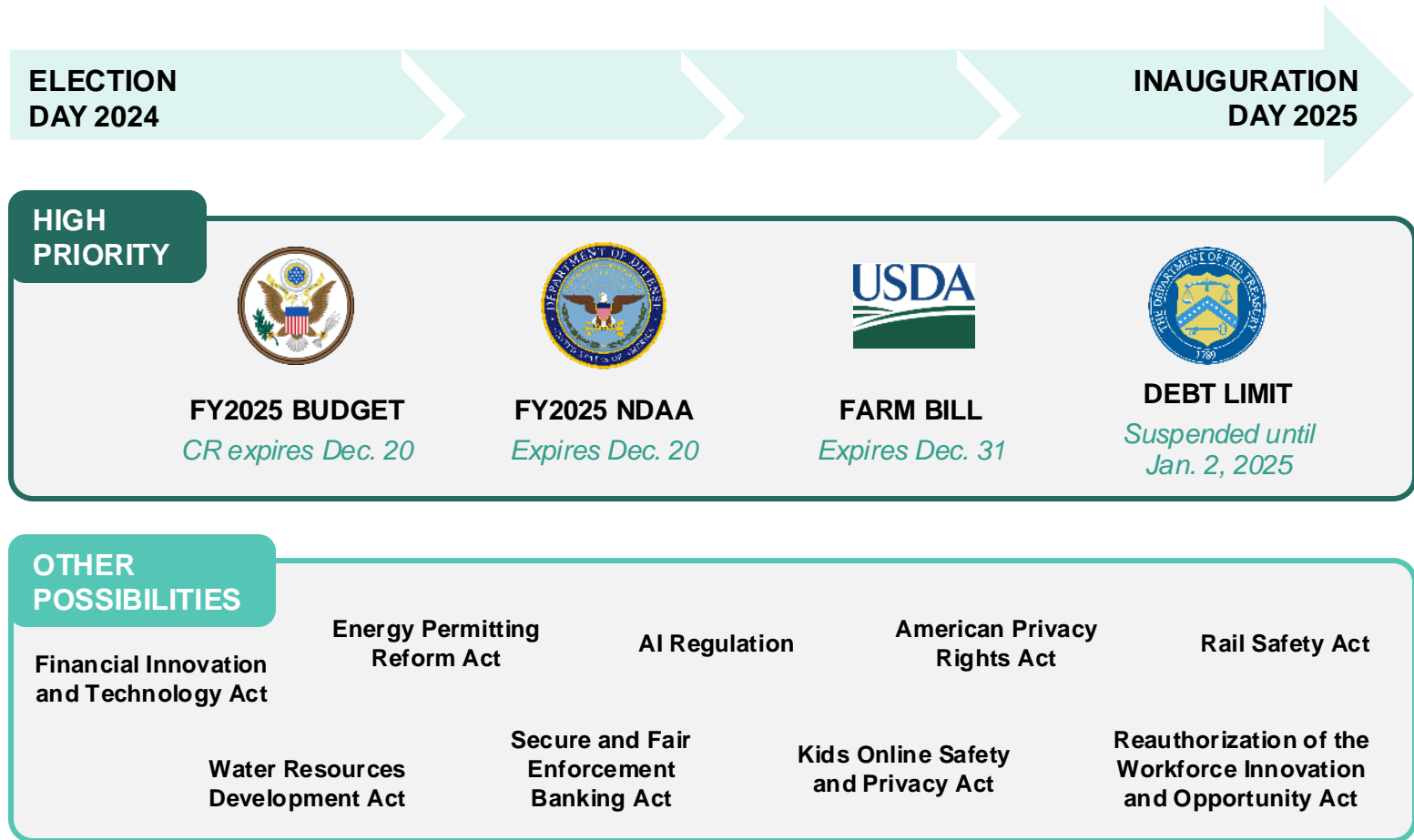
### WHAT IS THE LAME DUCK PERIOD?

The lame duck period spans from the **November election** until the **new presidential administration and Congress take office in January**; during this time, the **outgoing administration and Congress work to advance final legislative efforts** and **prepare for the incoming leadership**

### THE ELECTION SEASON INCLUDES THREE PARTS



## The lame duck session is likely to be packed



## Congressional priorities will focus on must-pass legislation



### Federal budget

Congress must pass federal funding by Dec. 20, but another CR lasting through March is most likely; the CR gives time for the Senate to confirm Trump's cabinet members and for the House to begin reviewing tax legislation set for 2025



### NDAA

Top defense legislators aim to swiftly pass the annual defense policy bill; to do so, they must reconcile the House's conservative version with the Senate's bipartisan but costly proposal



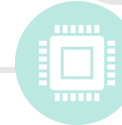
### Farm Bill

With the farm bill expiring this year, the GOP-led House Agriculture Committee is pushing for passage, and Democrats may negotiate now while they still have some leverage



### Debt limit

The debt limit will reset on Jan. 2, pressuring new lawmakers to act on raising or suspending it; following their election gains, fiscal conservatives are expected to push for budget cuts as part of any debt limit deal

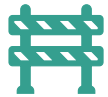


### AI regulation

Congress and the Biden administration have weighed AI legislation this term, with bipartisan measures advancing in committees; these could be attached to must-pass bills like the NDAA

## The Biden administration prepares for a Republican-led government in their final months

### POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE ACTIONS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION COULD TAKE



#### IMMIGRATION

Quickening the citizenship application process, reversing an executive order restricting asylum, and expanding access to work permits for undocumented immigrants



#### MARIJUANA

Finalize recommendation to federal agencies to change marijuana's status from a Schedule I to a Schedule III drug, potentially pardoning persons in jail for nonviolent marijuana offenses



#### ENVIRONMENT

Declare a climate emergency, allowing Biden to sidestep Congress for climate funding through executive orders

Order the manufacturing of clean energy technology, push to develop renewable energy on military bases, and ban offshore drilling



#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Confirm as many federal judge appointments as possible; Biden has confirmed 213 judges while Trump confirmed 234



#### FOREIGN RELATIONS

Expedite aid to Ukraine

Restrict military support to Israel, depending on success of discussions about aid to Gaza