

Politics & Policy: 2024 and beyond

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Political Landscape: 2024

2024 Election

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- U.S. President
 - Executive branch nominations
 - Judicial nominations
- All 435 U.S. House Members
- 1/3 U.S. Senate (Seats up: 19 D, 10 R, 4 I)
- 13 Governors
- State-level ballot initiatives

ISSUES

- Economy
- Abortion
- Immigration
- Threats to democracy
- Hurricane response
- Foreign conflicts
- Taxes
- Student loan forgiveness
- SCOTUS decisions
- Candidate attractiveness

KEY FACTORS

- Men
- Women
- Gen Z
- Polling
- Citizen journalism vs. legacy media
- Value of debates
- Media interviews



2024 Political Battleground

PRESIDENT

- Arizona
- Georgia
- Michigan*
- Nevada*
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania*
- Wisconsin*
- Minnesota
- Virginia

SENATE

- Arizona
- Maryland
- Michigan*
- Montana
- Nevada*
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania*
- Texas
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- ~ 25 toss ups
- Redistricting impact
 - Alabama
- California
- New York
- Pennsylvania

My prediction?

- Political ads (esp. the cringy ones) will end!
- Tight elections
- Narrow margins in Senate, House

- Don't be fooled by footwork



Potential Outcomes

DEMOCRAT TRIFECTA

- Harris wins White House
- Democrats control Senate, House
- Agenda setting
- Executive branch nominations
- Executive action
- Congressional leadership, committees
- Budget reconciliation
- Judicial nominations (federal)

DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

- 6 possible scenarios
- Harris or Trump wins White House
- Either party controls one or both chambers of Congress
- Executive orders / regulations
- Oversight, government accountability
- Limited policy achievements
- Bipartisanship

REPUBLICAN TRIFECTA

- Trump wins White House
- Republicans control Senate, House
- Agenda setting
- Executive branch nominations
- Executive action
- Congressional leadership, committees
- Budget reconciliation
- Judicial nominations (federal)

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

- Environment
- Healthcare
- Energy
- Taxes

Policy Landscape: 2024 & 2025



NOWRA Advocacy Priorities

- **U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grants**
 - FY 2024 - \$5 million plus \$1 million (decentralized systems grants)
 - FY 2025
 - House: \$4 million
 - Senate: \$5 million
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
 - Grants for low/moderate income, decentralized wastewater systems
- **Farm Bill reauthorization**



2024 NOWRA Policy Wins

- EPA, USDA relationship building
- Positioning NOWRA as technical resource
- EPA expands the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap initiative
- EPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey includes decentralized wastewater
- Developing Congressional champions
- Strategic planning to position NOWRA for 2025 advocacy

Opportunities & Challenges

DEMOCRAT TRIFECTA

Opportunities

- Start EPA grants program
- USDA plus up
- Environmental justice focus
- Budget reconciliation
 - Prioritization of environmental policy

Challenges

- Noise and clutter
- Tight federal budgets

DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

Opportunities

- Coalition building / alliance development
- Bipartisanship
- Congressional committee consideration
- Targeted policy revisions

Challenges

- Fewer legislative vehicles
- Potential for regulatory threats
- Potential for Congressional oversight
- Tight federal budgets

REPUBLICAN TRIFECTA

Opportunities

- USDA program plus up / Farm Bill
- Rural policy focus
- Desire for environmental (not climate) policy wins
- Budget reconciliation

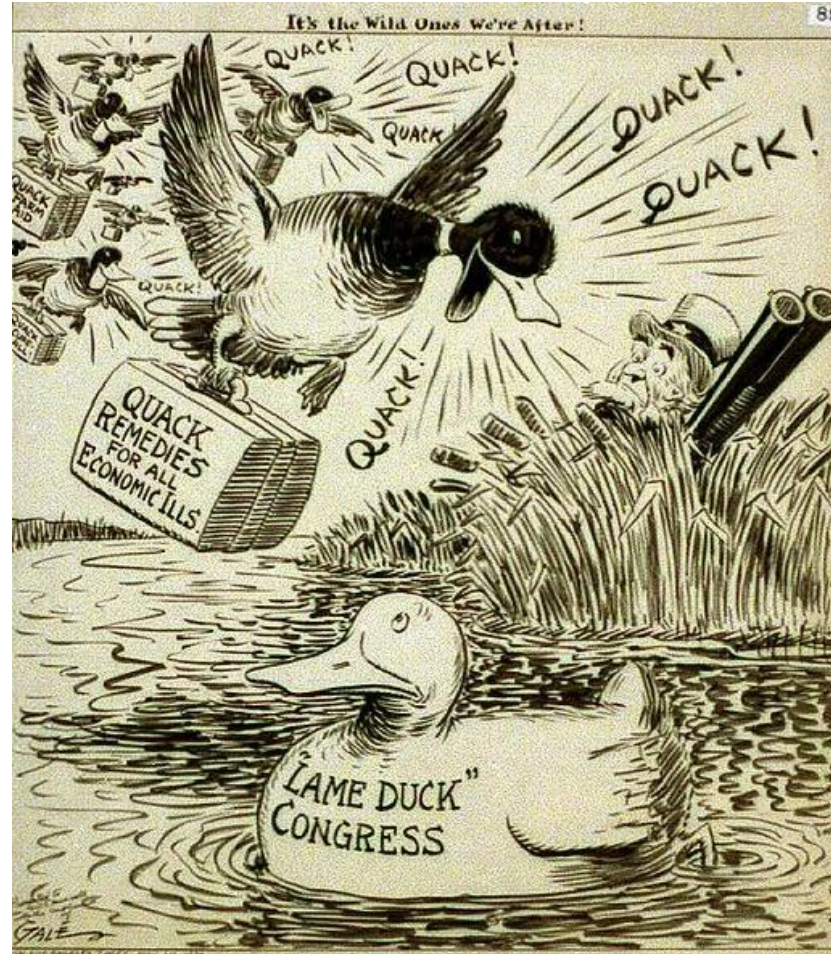
Challenges

- EPA negative perception
- EPA oversight, accountability
- Noise and clutter
- Tight federal budgets

Polycymaking Timeline

LAME DUCK SESSION

- FY 2025 federal appropriations
 - Continuing resolution or omnibus
 - Federal government shut down?
 - USDA grants program
- Extenders (e.g., healthcare, taxes)
- Farm Bill extension / reauthorization
- National Defense Authorization Act
- Hurricane recovery funding



2025 AND THE 119TH CONGRESS

- January 3, 2025
 - Elect House Speaker
 - Organizing the new Congress
- January 20, 2025
 - Presidential inauguration
- FY 2026 budget & appropriations cycle
 - President's budget request – Spring
 - Congressional proposals - Summer
- Farm Bill reauthorization?

Pulling It Together

- Vote on November 5 (if not before)!
- Attend town hall meetings or campaign events hosted by your U.S. Representative or U.S. Senators
- Develop 30-second pitch:
 - Who you are and what you do
 - Why are decentralized wastewater systems important?
- Contact your Senators / Representative and urge them to fund the USDA Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant program at the Senate amount (\$5 million)





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