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## Congressional News

### President-Elect Trump and a New Majority Congress: 2025 Policy Outlook

With the results of the 2024 Presidential election cycle nearing completion, Former President Donald Trump pulled out an electoral victory with 312 electoral college votes compared to Vice President Kamala Harris's 226. In addition, Republicans outperformed expectations in the Congressional races, taking control of the Senate and still in contention to hold on to the majority in the House (although not all races have been called), potentially giving President-elect Trump an ideal landscape in which to enact his policy agenda after the transition.

#### Presidential Transition

With the presidential race decided, attention now turns to the presidential transition. The President-elect has yet to launch a transition website, however, key official positions are being announced as Trump prepares for a second term. The transition is primarily being led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., former Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard, Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump, and Vice President-elect JD Vance. COSSA will continue to provide updates on plans for the transition, including notable policies and appointments for the social and behavioral science (SBS) community.

#### Senate Races

The Republican party gained four seats in the Senate elections, including the contentious

Pennsylvania seat that belonged to Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP). This race was a significant loss for the Democratic Party as one of the previously held Democrat seats that was predicted to be a toss-up. Another notable race was Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), who managed to hold onto her seat despite the competitive nature of her race, remaining a champion for the SBS community as the Democratic leader of the Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee. Republicans will hold a 53-47 majority in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### House Races

As the House races continue to be called, as of this writing, the Republicans hold 214 of the required 218 seats needed to secure the majority, while the Democrats hold 205 seats. While many of the races left to be called are leaning Republican, most are too close to predict. Notably, SBS champion and Democratic leader of the House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Subcommittee Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA), lost his seat in a competitive race against Republican Rob Bresnahan. If the Republicans successfully keep control of the House, the White House and both chambers will be Republican.

### The Appropriations Process

[As previously reported by COSSA](#), in late September, Congress passed a stopgap funding measure to push the appropriations deadline for fiscal year (FY) 2025 to December 20. As Congress returns for the lame duck session, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has [indicated](#) that he is seeking to extend the continuing resolution (CR) to March, offering the new Republican majority more decision-making power. If the CR deadline is pushed to March, the appropriations process for FY 2026 would be pushed, including the Presidential Budget Request (PBR), which is normally released in February, and the House and Senate bills, which are normally released in the following months in anticipation of the October 1 deadline. While a delayed start to the appropriations process is not unusual, some Congressional members have indicated a preference to complete the FY 2025 appropriations process by the December 20 deadline so the new Congress can focus on the FY 2026 appropriations process.

With so many unknowns, close monitoring over the next several weeks will be critical to determining a path forward for social science advocacy. Join COSSA on December 5 at 2:00pm EST for our [Post-Election Headlines](#) webinar to discuss the election results and their effect on the social and behavioral science research community.

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## Executive Branch News

### Deadline Extended: NSF Seeking Input on Research Ethics

In September, the National Science Foundation (NSF) issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) requesting public input into the agency's efforts to improve its merit review process to mitigate the potential harms of emerging technologies as required by the [CHIPS and Science Act of 2022](#). The deadline for the Request for Information (RFI) has been extended to December 13 in response to feedback requesting more time.

The RFI contains several guiding questions to assist with public response, such as: "Describe ethical, social, safety, and/or security risks from current or emerging research activities that you believe might be of concern to the community, profession, or organization with which you are connected," and "How might NSF work with stakeholders to promote best practices for governance of research in emerging technologies at every stage of research?"

Comments are sought by December 13 and should be submitted through the [online form](#).

### BLS and Census Bureau Pause Decrease in CPS Sample Size Following Friends of BLS Letter

[As previously reported by COSSA](#), the Friends of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) coalition sent a [letter](#) urging the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to modernize the [Current Population Survey](#) (CPS) with additional funding in FY 2025. On October 29, BLS and the Census Bureau, who jointly sponsor the survey, [announced](#) that they have paused intent to decrease the CPS sample size in January 2025. A \$6 million anomaly in the continuing resolution (CR) passed by Congress in late September ([see previous COSSA coverage here](#)) was provided to fund the sample size assuming the funding remains in any final bills or future CR's passed by Congress for fiscal year (FY) 2025. Community action likely played a part in this positive outcome.

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## Science Community News

### COSSA Participating in Development of New Vision for U.S. Science and Technology

Throughout the fall, a [task force](#) of more than 60 leaders in science, technology, industry, government, and philanthropy has been meeting to discuss and develop a new Vision for American Science and Technology (VAST). The bipartisan group includes representatives spanning the various sectors that touch the U.S. scientific enterprise. The near-term goal is to develop a draft of the vision that can be shared with the incoming Presidential Administration and Congress in the coming weeks with the final vision slated to be complete by early 2025. COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus is serving on the Task Force.

According to a press release, the VAST Taskforce is “working to identify opportunities and challenges facing the [scientific and technological] enterprise; assess the steps needed to ensure the enterprise can meet incoming challenges in an increasingly competitive world; and lay out actions that will best position the United States for future prosperity.”

Axios covered VAST in a [recent piece](#).

### CNSTAT Releases Eighth Edition of Principles & Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released the eighth edition of [Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency](#), a report released every four years to coincide with presidential terms. The consensus study report provides an explanation of the federal statistical system and offers guiding principles and best practices for federal statistical agencies. While the practices and principles remain largely the same as past versions ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)), the most recent report includes updated information on the changes made to the federal statistical system in the past four years. The full report can be found on the [CNSTAT website](#).

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## COSSA Member Spotlight

### SRCD Accepting Applications for Policy Fellowship Program

The [Society for Research Development](#) (SRCD) is accepting applications for their U.S. Policy Fellowship Program. This fellowship provides postdoctoral placements for postdoctoral child development experts for one to two years in a US federal or state agency, or a congressional agency, with a focus on child and family policy. Fellows work in fast paced environments on policy implementation programs, drafting memos, developing research funding, and more. SRCD is seeking researchers that are passionate about evidence-based policymaking, who are open to learning, and want to explore policy-related fields.

Interested applicants can apply [here](#). The application process includes a written portion, an interview, and a match-making process with your perspective agency. The deadline to apply is January 6. SRCD is a COSSA governing member.

*This article was contributed by COSSA Intern Paige Kirkham.*

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## Social Science Advocacy Day 2025 News

COSSA's annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) will be taking place March 24-25, 2025 in Washington, DC! This signature, members-only event brings together social and behavioral science researchers, faculty, students, association professionals, and other advocates from across the country to meet with their elected officials in Congress to discuss the value of our sciences and the importance of federal funding.

Early bird registration will be here before you know it! Until then, mark your calendars and share this exciting opportunity with your colleagues.

Visit the [COSSA website](#) for the latest information on Social Science Advocacy Day.

### Resources & Opportunities

#### COSSA Letters & Statements

- 10/23/2024: [Multi-Signatory Letter Urging Immediate Senate Confirmation of IES Director](#)
- 10/21/2024: [Census Project Letter to Congressional Appropriators on FY 2025 Funding for the Census Bureau](#)

#### Nomination Opportunities

- NSF: [Advisory Panel Call for New Members](#) (Ongoing)

#### Funding Opportunities

- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)

#### Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NASEM: [Call for Experts: Workplace Barriers, Solutions, and Policies for STEM and STEM Education Professionals and Postsecondary Students with Disabilities](#) (Closes: November 15, 2024)
- NIJ: [Request for Comment on NIJ's Draft Public Access Plan](#) (Closes: November 29, 2024)
- **NEW:** DOJ: [Seeking Comments on a "new national security regulatory program"](#) (Closes: November 29, 2024)
- **DATE UPDATED:** NSF: [Request for Information on the Chips and Science Act Research Ethics](#) (Closes: December 13, 2024)
- FAS: [Day One Project Open Call for Ideas](#) (Ongoing)

#### Notices, Resources, & Reports

- White House: [Biden-Harris Administration Outlines Coordinated Approach to Harness Power of AI for U.S. National Security](#)
- NASEM: [The State of the U.S. Biomedical and Health Research Enterprise: Strategies for Achieving a Healthier America](#)

- AAAS: [Multidisciplinary Working Group: Empowering Career Pathways in STEM](#)
- OSTP: [Quadrennial Science and Technology Review Report](#)

## Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- STPI: [2025 Science Policy Fellowship](#) (Closes: January 6, 2025)
- **NEW:** SRCD: [Policy Fellowships](#) (Closes: January 6, 2025)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI): [Chief of the Health Behaviors Research Branch](#) (Open until Filled)
- NSF: [Science Advisor for Public Access](#) (Open until Filled)
- [Program Director for the Social Psychology Program](#) within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)
- [Program Director for the Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\) Program](#) in the BCS Division within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)
- NASEM: [Board Director - Board on Environmental Change and Society](#) (Open until Filled)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Open until Filled)

## Upcoming Events

- NIH: [Scientific Management Review Board](#), November 12, 2024, Virtual and Bethesda, MD
- Research!America: [Post-Election Briefing](#), November 13, 2024, Washington, DC
- [ASC Annual Meeting](#), November 13-16, 2024, San Francisco, CA
- **NEW:** AAAS: [America's Trust in Science: What's Changed, What's Next?](#), November 14, 2024, Virtual
- **NEW:** NIH: [Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Virtual Townhall](#), November 15, 2024, Virtual
- COSSA Headlines Webinar: [The Future of Social and Behavioral Science in Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), November 19, 2024, Virtual
- **NEW:** NIH: [Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Virtual Townhall](#), December 4, 2024, Virtual
- COSSA Headlines Webinar: [Election 2024: Implications for Social and Behavioral Science Research](#), December 5, 2024, Virtual

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the [COSSA events page](#). COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to [ebailey@coffa.org](mailto:ebailey@coffa.org).

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## COSSA Members

### Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association  
 American Association for Public Opinion Research  
 American Economic Association  
 American Educational Research Association  
 American Political Science Association  
 American Society of Criminology  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Statistical Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 Midwest Political Science Association  
 National Communication Association  
 Population Association of America  
 Society for Personality and Social

### Colleges and Universities

Boston University  
 Brown University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 CSUSB College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
 Duke University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 Harvard University  
 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University



## Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
African Studies Association  
American Association of Geographers  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Evaluation Association  
American Historical Association  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of American Law Schools  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Division for Research of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Economic History Association  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council on Family Relations  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southwestern Social Science Association

## Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Stanford University  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Georgia  
University of Illinois  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
Yale University

## Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social Science  
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

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## About COSSA

*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.*

## Our Team

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