

WEEKLY HORIZON

September 21-25, 2020

This Week's Driving Events

- **RBG's Death a Catalyst on the Left and Right:** After the death on Friday of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) are full steam ahead in filling her seat. A nominee is expected this week, with the top two contenders being Judges Amy Coney Barrett and Barbara Lagoa. The odds are in the GOP's favor for a nominee to be confirmed before the end of the year, with serious implications for outstanding Supreme Court cases and what Democrats would do if they win unified control of government.
- **Powell's Talk is Getting Cheaper:** Federal Reserve Board Chair Jay Powell will testify three times on Capitol Hill this week. The Fed's actions at the start of the pandemic went a long way in stabilizing the markets and boosting liquidity, but the politically astute Powell has fewer options in his toolkit to help the recovery in the near term, leaving it up to Congress to pass more fiscal relief.
- **With Vaccine Development Ongoing, Distribution and Cooperation Challenges Loom:** With the pandemic ongoing and new hot spots emerging around the country and on college campuses, the Trump administration remains focused on developing a vaccine and continues to release guidance and plans for the yet-to-be approved shot(s). While planning is necessary as distributing a vaccine requires deep coordination and logistical planning, friction has already developed between states and the federal government as the challenges of politicization and vaccine hesitancy linger.

RBG'S DEATH IS EARTH (BUT MAYBE NOT ELECTION) SHATTERING:

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on Friday. Fondly (and notoriously) called RBG, she was the most iconic justice for progressives. Not since the death of President Kennedy has a passing rocked the foundations of American politics and society. This may sound hyperbolic, but the implications are hard to overstate. The reverberations may be far reaching for the election, the markets, and our governing institutions.

But first things first, can President Trump nominate and Senate Republicans confirm a new Supreme Court justice? Ginsburg's death 46 days before November 3rd is the closest a Supreme Court seat opened up before Election Day [since 1864](#) (a nomination wasn't announced and confirmed until after the 1864 election). On average, it takes about [70 days](#) for a final Senate vote after someone is nominated. Today marks 43 days until Election Day and 104 days until the 117th Congress is sworn in on January 3rd.

It's an unprecedented vacancy and there is a clear hypocrisy from Senate Republicans who denied President Obama his nominee, Merrick Garland, in 2016 from a hearing or a vote during an election year. But hypocrisy has little power in DC. **Right now, we wouldn't bet against Republicans getting a nominee confirmed, even before the election.**

This is Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) moment, more so than the other confirmation battles under his leadership. It's one thing for getting Neil Gorsuch confirmed for Antonin Scalia's seat and Brett Kavanaugh confirmed for Anthony Kennedy's seat. But the ideological distance between Ginsburg and a conservative nominee will be vast. He has the opportunity to switch a seat on the Supreme Court from staunchly progressive to conservative, thereby instilling a 6-3 conservative majority that could last for decades. As long-time DC reporter Paul Kane [noted](#), McConnell has two overarching goals in life: a Senate Republican majority and a conservative judiciary. But this is a moment where those goals may come into conflict. Pushing for a confirmation now could jeopardize Republican incumbents like Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Susan Collins (R-ME), and thus, the Senate majority. **However, the lasting legacy of a conservative Supreme Court may be worth the price of losing a Senate majority for McConnell.**

For Trump, a conservative court doesn't matter one iota for him in and of itself. But it matters a great deal for him as he sees coalescing his base as the key to winning reelection. To that end, Trump is expected to announce his nomination this week. At a campaign rally in North Carolina on Saturday, Trump said, "I will be putting forth a nominee next week, it will be a woman." **The top two contenders are believed to be Judges Amy Coney Barrett of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago and Barbara Lagoa of the 11th Circuit in Atlanta.** Barrett is a favorite among religious conservatives. She once said "Your legal career is but a means to an end, and. ...that end is building the kingdom of God." Trump once said he was "saving her for Ginsburg." Her Appeals Court confirmation in 2017 was along party lines, with Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) as the only current Democrat voting for her. Lagoa plays to Trump's penchant for winning Florida. She is a conservative Cuban-American from Miami. She was confirmed to her current seat last year in a broad bipartisan vote.

Once Trump announces his nomination this week, the wheels will be set in motion to set up a hearing with the Senate Judiciary Committee and then to line up a vote.

With 53 seats, McConnell can afford to lose three Republican votes (although, there's a remote possibility that the margin for error is just two as 51 senators are required for a quorum of the Senate to confirm a nominee if the GOP opposition decides to play hardball, which we view as unlikely). **Right now, Senators Collins and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) are opposed to voting on a nominee. But that still leaves McConnell with a two-vote margin. The other two to watch are Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO).** Romney sees himself as the anti-Trump institutionalist of the party. **However, this is less of a Trump issue; this is being pushed by conservatives and the Republican Party writ-large, two groups where he firmly belongs and does not feel a need to oppose.** The decision is purely political for Gardner. But he was already facing an uphill battle in Colorado. Gardner, like so many other Republicans, will have to consider the long-term implications of this vote. **Gardner wants to have a future in Republican politics and confirming the nominee while losing his reelection is better for his future than voting against the nominee and losing his reelection.**

In terms of timing, McConnell and Trump would like to get the nominee confirmed before Election Day, but it's very possible it won't happen until the lame duck session. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), a member of the GOP leadership team, yesterday said "Everything will have to get done pretty precisely," for a vote to be held before Election Day. **But a challenge for McConnell is that he may be down a Senate seat as early as November 30th.** That's because the Arizona Senate race is classified as a special election to finish the final two years of the late John McCain's term. If Democrat Mark Kelly wins the race against Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ), he could be sworn in by the end of November, according to [Arizona election lawyers](#). **This won't matter if only Collins and Murkowski defect, but a lame duck where Trump lost his reelection and Senate Republicans lost their majority could put added pressure on Romney to hold off on a vote.**

Then there is the question of what, if anything, Democrats can do to stop this. **Right now, there's little Democrats can do to directly stop the vote.** In an interview yesterday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said she's "not ruling anything out" and will "use every arrow in our quiver." She did not rule out the possibility of impeaching Trump again or Attorney General Bill Barr. Impeachment could theoretically hold precedent on the Senate floor, thereby delaying a Senate confirmation vote. However, one [impeachment expert](#) said this tactic wouldn't slow the Senate down. **Senate Democrats are threatening future action on the Senate filibuster and the number of Supreme Court seats if Republicans go ahead with the vote.** Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) over the weekend said, "Let me be clear: if Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans move forward with this, then nothing is off the table for next year." Of course, Schumer already used the phrase "nothing is off the table" before Ginsburg's death about what Democrats would do if they won the majority. Such a threat is unlikely to dissuade Republicans. **But there is an increased prospect that the threat could become a reality if this confirmation pushes moderate Democrats to being open to a rules change on the filibuster, and thus on hot button issues like**

expanding the size of the Supreme Court or admitting new states into the US (i.e. D.C. or Puerto Rico) that would only require a simple majority vote. More broadly, a Senate rules change on the filibuster will open the door to a whole host of progressive policy priorities (although 50 votes will still be needed).

The electoral implications of Ginsburg's death and the Republican push to fill the seat remain unknown for now. This certainly qualifies as the

September/October election surprise that could theoretically change the trajectory of the race. However, given the historical steadiness of the election in a historic year of events (e.g., impeachment, Covid-19, recession), it's good to be skeptical of anyone saying this creates a major change in the race. Of course, a marginal change in the race could lead to a major difference in the battleground states. The [one poll so far on this by YouGov](#) shows 42 percent supporting and 51 percent opposing Trump appointing a new Supreme Court justice before the inauguration. This is in line with Trump's general approving rating. Biden also leads Trump by a nine-point margin based on who would do a better job selecting a Supreme Court justice. **But Trump is looking for ways to change the conversation away from Covid-19 and this could prove to be a useful distraction.** His strategy for reelection is firmly rooted in appealing to his base in every way. This could further bolster his support among conservatives and evangelical voters, particularly if he nominates Barrett. **Yet, a critical component of Trump's election in 2016 was that he was seen as more moderate than Hillary Clinton, helping him with white independent voters.**

More than a fifth of Trump's 2016 support in battleground states were ostensibly pro-choice. Nominating a conservative, especially one who could overturn Obamacare or *Roe v. Wade* may not help Trump expand his base. Democratic leadership keenly understands this, as former Vice President Joe Biden is less focused on the culture wars of the Supreme Court fight and more on the implications for healthcare, a message that was a big winner in the 2018 midterms. **For the history of the Supreme Court being a greater motivator for Republican voters, this may be a time where Democrats are just as motivated, if not more so.** Since Ginsburg's death on Friday, the small-dollar progressive platform ActBlue has received [more than \\$100 million](#) in donations. That is an unprecedented figure.

The implications for the race for the Senate is a bit trickier. **Given the tipping point state for the Senate majority is further to the right than the tipping point state for the presidency, the Supreme Court vacancy could play to the GOP's advantage.** Several GOP senators were polling behind Trump in respective state polling. This gives an opportunity for these candidates to better consolidate Republican support in states where Trump is ahead or competitive. Senators Martha McSally (R-AZ), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Steve Daines (R-MT), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) have already come out in support of Trump nominating a Supreme Court justice. All are in tough elections where they are underperforming Trump's level of support. However, this will cause nothing but headaches for Gardner and Collins.

In terms of the judicial implications, the consequences of a 6-3 conservative Supreme Court could be far-reaching on issues ranging from gun laws, civil

rights, regulations, and abortion. But the impact on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on just one week following Election Day, is not clear cut. Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Chief Justice John Roberts could join the three liberal justices in upholding most of the ACA even if some of the provisions are unconstitutional, based on the legal concept of "severability." If the Supreme Court rules the ACA is unconstitutional, it still stays in existence and goes back to Federal District Court Judge Reed O'Connor in Texas who has to determine how to implement the ruling. His decision can then be appealed and the case can go back up through the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court, but on the matter of application of his ruling to dismantle it. Under this scenario, a lengthy period of uncertainty is nearly guaranteed, possibly lasting a year or more.

POWELL OMNIPRESENT BUT NOT OMNIPOTENT ON CAPITOL HILL: Federal Reserve Board Chair Jay Powell will be up on Capitol Hill quite a bit this week. He is testifying three times: before the House Financial Services Committee on Tuesday, the House Oversight and Reform Committee's Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis on Wednesday, and the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday.

Capitol Hill has become a second home for the Fed chair. Even before the pandemic, Powell was known to frequent Republicans and Democrats on the Hill. Despite the bombastic tweets from President Trump, Powell has been the most politically astute Fed chair since Alan Greenspan, earning plaudits from both sides of the aisle. In the midst of the Covid-19 market panic back in March, the Fed's announcement of unlimited asset purchases and creation of emergency lending facilities had a [major impact](#) on the equity, corporate credit, and municipal bond markets. In the CARES Act, Congress allocated \$454 billion to backstop more than an estimated \$4 trillion in potential Fed lending to help corporations, mid-sized businesses, and municipalities.

But that was then, when there was a liquidity crisis in the markets and a show of force from the Fed was a real confidence booster. Today, Powell's main message is that the Fed can only do so much in this economic recovery and it's up to Congress to pass further fiscal relief.

Powell last week emphasized the importance of Congress to act. He said, "We've also got struggling small businesses, especially those in the business of facing directly to the public. And we have state and local governments dealing with a drop in revenue at the same time spending has gone up, much of it related to the pandemic and economic effects. So again, I would say the fiscal support has been essential in the good progress we see now. And finally, I'll note that just about all, the overwhelming majority of private forecasters who project an ongoing recovery, are assuming there will be a substantial additional fiscal support."

The Federal Reserve has "lending powers, not spending powers," as Powell often says. Small business solvency, evictions and foreclosures, and direct relief are not in the purview of this Fed. **But when Powell implores Congress to act (in as politically of a neutral way as possible), his testimony is unlikely to rejigger the negotiating dynamics over Phase Four.**

Powell is also likely to face some criticism for the lackluster uptake in the emergency lending facilities. The follow through on these programs has been, in a word, underwhelming. \$259 billion of the \$454 billion remains uncommitted and the Fed has lent just around \$16.4 billion through the facilities. **But this is what happens when the Fed gets involved in direct lending and Congress hasn't acted on further state and local aid or business assistance — they enter the political realm of the recovery.**

Democrats and some Republicans [are upset](#) that the Fed isn't lending more and that the Fed's actions have only helped investors and large corporations while leaving behind many small businesses and workers. But several fiscal conservatives and some progressives are concerned the Fed is doing too much to intervene in the markets and for the companies that don't need assistance. **There seems to be no good option for the Fed on these lending programs that won't receive political blowback. The Fed is looking to encourage banks to participate in its Main Street Lending Program but they are also [asking Congress](#) to explicitly lay out how much risk they should be able to take. As of now, it doesn't seem as if any greater clarity will be coming from Congress anytime soon.**

COVID-19 RESPONSE REMAINS CENTERED ON VACCINES: The Trump administration's Covid-19 response remains focused on developing and distributing a vaccine at warp speed. The continued emphasis and public discussion around the vaccine with President Trump, former Vice President Joe Biden, and other government officials and health agencies weighing in on timing has revealed the discrepancies between Trump's pledges and the actual expected timing of a vaccine, the increasing threat of vaccine hesitancy, and the extensive coordination that will be required between states and the federal government in distributing a vaccine.

In the continuing debate over the timing of a vaccine, Trump said last week that all 300 million Americans should expect to have access to a coronavirus vaccine in April. However, this contradicted the timeline that was previously set out publicly by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Robert Redfield, who said it is likely that the American public would be able to be vaccinated in late spring or early summer. When making his own assertions on the timeline, Trump suggested that Redfield had been "confused" when making this prediction. **The exchange shows the internal conflicts at the federal level that have also**

plagued public perception of the ability of the government to execute developing and distributing a safe and effective vaccine. Growing vaccine hesitancy and concerns over a politicized emergency use authorization have continued to pressure pharmaceutical manufacturers to build public trust. Over the weekend, in attempts to dispel hesitancy and restore public trust, **AstraZeneca (AZT)** released an 111-page “trial blueprint” or protocol containing detailed data on its vaccine candidate that normally would not be shared with the public.

The planning and coordination requirements are vast and states are beginning to express their uneasiness with various aspects of the ongoing plans. States are expected to be middlemen in the vaccine distribution efforts, and will have to supply critical items including gloves, the means to dispose of the vaccine after it has been given, and items as basic as band-aids, with the federal government supplying the vaccine itself as well as syringes and alcohol swabs. The CDC has begun to formalize these plans and last week published an interim playbook with guidance for states crafting their distribution plans. The guidance is far from complete though, and some states say they are still without needed federal funding to stock up on supplies and personnel to oversee the vaccination campaign. **The complexities and funding requirements will necessitate states to work closely with a second-term Trump or first-term Biden administration.**

The many unknowns about the vaccine also complicate preparedness efforts. If multiple vaccines are approved, different plans will need to be developed since the vaccines might require more than one dose or need to be stored or transported in different ways. While most vaccines require very cold temperatures, the **Pfizer (PFE)** vaccine being developed requires at least -70 degrees Celsius while the **Moderna (MRNA)** vaccine only requires -20 degrees Celsius. **The pace of vaccine development and unknowns over approval combined with the politicization and high tensions over the pandemic mean that there will still be much work to be done even after the approval of a vaccine.**

The latest CDC guidance comes as federal government and states are increasingly at odds over their roles in planning for a vaccine. The Trump administration recently announced a new program, to be called the Vaccine Administration Management System, that is a data system for use by the federal government that would track given immunizations and vaccine supplies nationwide. This new system will supersede existing state level information systems that already have these functions. Some state officials have expressed concerns that there will not be enough time to work with the program before having to use it, and comes as states are already skeptical of the federal government’s ability to monitor and distribute data related to the coronavirus because of the rocky implementation of a Trump administration initiative earlier in the summer to circumvent the CDC’s coronavirus reporting system. Some state officials have also recently begun to discuss plans for states to have their own vaccine vetting and approval process, which would be a break from precedent. **This again shows the likely challenges to come with the**

level of required cooperation and coordination between states and the federal government in rolling out a coronavirus vaccine.

House

Today, the House will reconvene at 12:00 p.m. and will consider non-controversial measures under expedited procedures.

On Tuesday, the House will reconvene at 11:00 a.m. and will consider non-controversial measures under expedited procedures. The chamber may also begin consideration of a bill that would promote the development of clean energy, increase energy efficiency in buildings and industry, and promote carbon capture and greenhouse gas reduction technologies.

On Wednesday, the House will reconvene at 11:00 a.m. and is expected to consider a bill that would promote the development of clean energy, increase energy efficiency in buildings and industry, and promote carbon capture and greenhouse gas reduction technologies.

On Thursday, the House will reconvene at 11:00 a.m. and may consider a bill that would prohibit importation of goods from the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region of China, except goods that U.S. Customs and Border Protection certifies were not produced with forced labor, and a bill that would require publicly-traded companies that do business in China's Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region to review and publicly disclose information about their supply chains, including whether the goods they import are made in or sourced from internment camps or factories implicated in forced labor practices.

On Friday, the House will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. and may consider a measure to continue appropriations for FY21.

Senate

Today, the Senate will convene at 3:00 p.m. and will resume consideration of the nomination of Edward Hulvey Meyers to be a judge for the US Court of Federal Claims. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will hold a procedural vote on Meyers' nomination.

White House

Today, President Trump will speak at 5:00 p.m. on "Fighting for the American Worker" in Dayton, OH. He will also speak at 7:00 p.m. at a campaign rally in Swanton, outside Toledo.

On Tuesday, President Trump will deliver remarks at a campaign rally in Pittsburgh, PA.

On Wednesday, President Trump will speak at an event honoring veterans of the Bay of Pigs, and he'll meet with state attorneys general about social media.

On Thursday, President Trump will speak at a campaign rally in Jacksonville, FL.

Macroeconomic

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Federal Reserve Board will hold a virtual meeting to discuss an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on the Community Reinvestment Act regulation. [More information here.](#)

Today at 12:00 p.m., the Urban Institute will hold a webinar titled "Exploring Proposals to Update and Strengthen Community Reinvestment Act Regulations." [More information here.](#)

Today at 6:00 p.m., New York Federal Reserve Bank President John Williams will speak in a moderated discussion titled "Examining the Financial Burdens of Inequality and Striving for an Equitable COVID-19 Recovery."

Today at 6:00 p.m., Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan will discuss national and global economic issues with Richard Fisher, chair of the City of Dallas Economic Recovery Task Force and former president of the Dallas Fed.

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the Peterson Institute for International Economics will hold a webinar titled "What Reforms Does the U.S. Financial System Need?" [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., Chicago Federal Reserve Bank President Charles Evans will speak at an Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum event on the future of the US economy and the path to recovery.

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a webinar titled "Re-Envisioning Economic Statecraft and American Power." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- David McCormick, CEO, Bridgewater Associates

On Friday at 8:50 a.m., the University of Maryland's Center for Financial Policy and the Federal Reserve Board will hold its virtual third annual Federal Reserve Short-Term Funding Markets Conference. [More information here.](#)

Budget

On Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., the Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing titled "CBO's Updated Budget Outlook." Expected participants include:

- Philip Swagel, director, Congressional Budget Office

Coronavirus and Coronavirus Relief Legislation

From Monday through Thursday, the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will hold a virtual workshop titled "Population Health in Challenging Times: Insights from Key Domains." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 8:00 a.m., the Business Council for International Understanding will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Double Burden of Disease: Maintaining NCD (noncommunicable disease) Services amid COVID-19." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., the House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing titled "Oversight of the Treasury Department's and Federal Reserve's Pandemic Response." Expected participants include:

- Jerome Powell, chairman, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

On Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a webinar titled "The 2020 American Family Survey: Attitudes Toward Family, COVID-19, Politics, Race, and Economic Well-Being." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., the House Joint Economic Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Economic Impact of America's Failure to Contain the Coronavirus."

On Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., the International Trade Commission will hold a hearing by webcast titled "COVID-19 Related Goods: The U.S. Industry, Market, Trade and Supply Chain Challenges." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing titled "COVID-19: An Update on the Federal Response." Expected participants include:

- Anthony Fauci, director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- Robert Redfield, director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Brett Giroir, assistant secretary for health, Department of Health and Human Services,
- Stephen Hahn, commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Oversight and Reform Committee Coronavirus Crisis Subcommittee will hold a hearing focusing on the Federal Reserve's response to the economic crisis. Expected participants include:

- Jerome Powell, chairman, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing titled "Health Care Lifeline: The Affordable Care Act and the COVID-19 Pandemic."

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and Environment will hold a hearing titled "Green Recovery Plans for the COVID-19 Crisis."

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the House Science, Space and Technology Committee Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled "Data for Decision-Making: Responsible Management of Data during COVID-19 and Beyond."

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a webinar titled "Global Supply Chains Disrupted: Additive Manufacturing, Onshoring, and COVID-19." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship will hold a hearing titled "Immigrants as Essential Workers During COVID-19."

On Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., the Smithsonian Associates will hold a webinar with National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci to discuss science and the coronavirus. [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold its virtual conference on Brookings Papers on Economic Activity with the theme "COVID-19 and the Economy." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the House Small Business Committee Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development will hold a hearing titled "Paycheck Protection Program: An Examination of Loan Forgiveness, SBA Legacy Systems, and Inaccurate Data."

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Quarterly CARES Act Report to Congress." Expected participants include:

- Jerome Powell, chairman, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

- Steven Mnuchin, secretary, Treasury Department

On Friday at 9:00 a.m., the House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures will hold a hearing titled "Restaurants in America During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

On Friday at 9:30 a.m., the House Small Business Committee Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access will hold a hearing titled "A Review of PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Forgiveness."

Cybersecurity

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the National Science Foundation will hold a meeting by webcast of their Advisory Committee for Cyberinfrastructure. [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management will hold a hearing titled "State and Local Cybersecurity: Defending Our Communities from Cyber Threats amid COVID-19."

On Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Intellectual Property will hold a hearing titled "Examining Threats to American Intellectual Property: Cyber-attacks and Counterfeits During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Defense

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the National Defense Industrial Association will hold its virtual 2020 Undersea Warfare Conference. [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., New America will hold a webinar titled "What Science and Technology Owe the National Defense." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Threats to the Homeland."

On Friday at 10:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a webinar titled "The Future of Defense Task Force's Final Report: Reviewing the Nation's Defense Assets and Capabilities." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)
- Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)

Education

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., Politico will hold a webinar titled "Confronting Inequality in America: The A,B,C's of Education Inequalities." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)

On Friday at 1:00 p.m., the Center for American Progress will hold a webinar titled "The Opportunity and Counseling Corps: Helping K-12 Students and Young Adults Recover from the Coronavirus Crisis." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Governor Jared Polis (D-CO)

Elections

Today at 1:00 p.m., the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs will hold a webinar titled "Meddling in the Ballot Box: The Causes and Effects of Partisan Electoral Interventions." [More information here.](#)

Today at 1:30 p.m., the Center for American Progress Action Fund will hold a virtual discussion titled "States and Cities Must Lead on Voting: Governors and Mayors Talk Elections During COVID-19." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Governor Kate Brown (D-OR)
- Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan (D-MI)
- Tucson Mayor Regina Romero (D-AZ)

On Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., American University will hold a virtual media briefing titled "Insights into Upcoming Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debates." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 3:00 p.m., the Government Executive Media Group will hold a webcast titled "Secure Voting in the New Normal: State and Local Election Security Strategies." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 12:00 p.m., the Brennan Center for Justice will hold a webinar titled "The Fight to Vote." [More information here.](#)

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

Today at 10:00 a.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a webinar titled "Policies Behind Environmental Progress." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Andrew Wheeler, administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Today at 11:30 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a webcast titled "BP Energy Outlook." [More information here.](#)

Today at 12:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a conference call briefing titled "Evaluating the EPA's Proposals to Retain the Existing Particulate Matter and Ozone Standards." [More information here.](#)

Today at 3:30 p.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a webinar titled "Grid Resilience in the Face of Extreme Weather Events." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a webcast titled "Just Transition: From Aspiration to Action," focusing on moving "from emissions-intensive energy sources to more resilient communities and economies." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing titled "Offshore Energy Technologies."

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the United States Energy Association will hold a webinar titled "Dynamic Delivery - America's Evolving Oil and Natural Gas Transportation Infrastructure." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., the American Security Project will hold a webinar titled "Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold a hearing titled "Trump Administration Broken Promises on Renewable Energy."

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the Environmental and Energy Study Institute will hold a webinar titled "Growing Green Industry and Innovation." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)

On Thursday at 5:00 a.m., the International Energy Agency will hold a webinar titled "Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) in Clean Energy Transitions." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 11:00 a.m., the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment will hold a hearing titled "The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Water Management in Florida."

On Thursday at 11:00 a.m., the Washington International Trade Association will hold a webinar titled "Trade and the Environment." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 11:30 a.m., Resources for the Future will hold a webinar titled "Climate Insights 2020: Climate Change and the American Voter." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 2:00 p.m., the House Oversight and Reform Committee Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing titled "Climate Change, Part IV: Moving Toward a Sustainable Future."

On Friday at 12:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a virtual discussion titled "Supreme Court Year in Review 2019-20: The Environmental Cases." [More information here.](#)

Financial Services

On Thursday at 12:00 p.m., the House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy will hold a hearing titled "An Examination of the Administration's Implementation of Statutory Reforms to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States."

Geopolitical

Today at 9:30 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a webinar titled "Global China: Examining China's Approach to Global Governance and Norms." [More information here.](#)

Today at 11:00 a.m., the Woodrow Wilson Center's Latin American Program will hold a webcast titled "Trump or Biden: What Would it Mean for Latin America and the Caribbean?" [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a webcast titled "The China Economic Risk Matrix: Pinpointing the Dangers in China's Financial System." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a webinar titled "the intersection between current U.S. domestic challenges and America's standing and role in the world." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC)

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a webinar titled "U.S. Relations with China, Latin America and Iran." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Healthcare

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a webinar titled "Health Care Price Regulation and Public Options: Assessing Approaches to Increasing the Public Role." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 11:00 a.m., Washington Post Live will hold a webcast titled "America's Health Future." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Dr. Vivek Murthy, former US surgeon general

Judicial

Today at 12:00 p.m., the Cato Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "Supreme Disorder: Judicial Nominations and the Politics of America's Highest Court." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the Georgetown University Law Center's Supreme Court Institute will hold its annual media briefing via webcast titled "Anticipating the Supreme Court's October Term 2020." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 12:00 p.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a webinar titled "Supreme Court Preview of the 2020-2021 Term." [More information here.](#)

Social Security

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Social Security will hold a hearing titled "Save Our Social Security Now."

Tech-Media-Telecom

On Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., the National Telecommunications and Information Administration will hold its annual spectrum symposium by webcast entitled "Spectrum Sharing for the Next Decade." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., the Federal Trade Commission will host a virtual workshop titled "Data To Go: An FTC Workshop on Data Portability." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Andrew Smith, director, FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the German Marshall Fund of the United States will hold a webinar titled "Democracy in the Digital Age." [More information here.](#) Expected participants

include:

- Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a webinar titled "Could a New Digital Platform Agency Protect Consumers from Big Tech?" [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation's Center for Data Innovation will hold a webinar titled "How Artificial Intelligence (AI) Can Help People Back to Work." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet will hold a hearing titled "An Evaluation of FirstNet's Progress."

On Thursday at 11:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce will hold a hearing titled "Mainstreaming Extremism: Social Media's Role in Radicalizing America."

Trade

Today at 1:00 p.m., the Washington International Trade Association will hold a webinar titled "The Art and Science of Trade Negotiating." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Alan Wolf, deputy director, World Trade Organization

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Washington International Trade Association will hold a webinar discussing the trade agenda for the next Congress. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing titled "Revisiting the Need for Federal Data Privacy Legislation." Expected participants include:

- Julie Brill, commissioner, Federal Trade Commission

On Friday at 9:00 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a webcast titled "Trade and the Post-COVID Global Economy." [More information here.](#)



