

Jan. 6, 2020

Sparse congressional calendar overshadowed by 2020 election

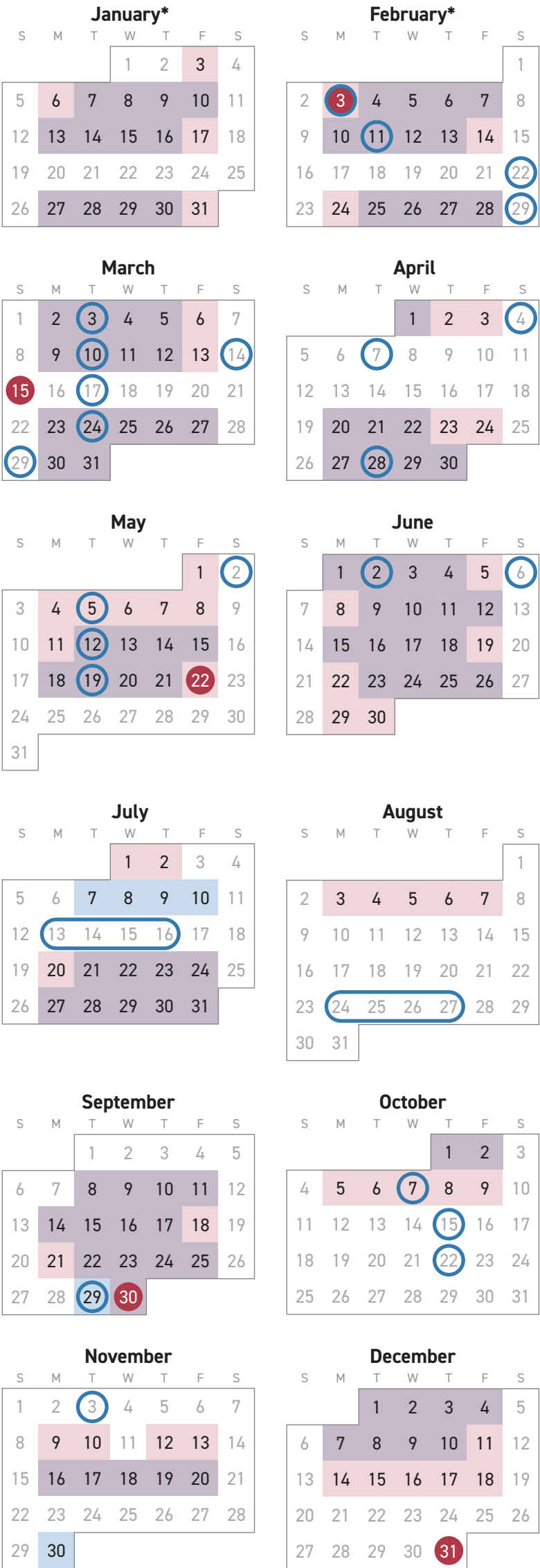
BY TUCKER DOHERTY, POLITICO PRO DATAPOINT

Following a series of compromises reached in the year-end spending deal, Congress returns with fewer looming policy deadlines — setting the stage for a political calendar that will likely be dominated by the ongoing 2020 presidential campaign. Democratic primaries during the first six months of the year will decide which candidates likely face President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence in a series of debates beginning in September.

The Senate's calendar in January and February remains uncertain while leaders debate the contours of an impeachment trial. While few expect the trial to result in the president's removal, its length and the involvement of witnesses remain undetermined. Congress will also face key spending deadlines in May and September, and will once again contemplate the expiration of key tax provisions at the end of the calendar year.

2020 Congressional Calendar with key deadlines

House in session Senate in session House and Senate in session Policy deadlines Presidential election events



- Feb. 3 — Iowa Democratic caucuses
- Feb. 3 — President's budget due (delays until March are typical)
- Feb. 11 — New Hampshire Democratic primary
- Feb. 22 — Nevada Democratic caucuses
- Feb. 29 — South Carolina Democratic primary
- March 3 — Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Virginia Democratic primaries; American Samoa Democratic caucuses
- March 10 — Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri and Washington Democratic primaries; North Dakota Democratic caucuses; End of voting period for Democrats Abroad primary
- March 14 — Northern Mariana Islands Democratic caucuses
- March 15 — FISA reauthorizations expire
- March 17 — Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio Democratic primaries
- March 24 — Georgia Democratic primary
- March 29 — Puerto Rico Democratic primary
- April 4 — Alaska, Hawaii and Louisiana Democratic primaries; Wyoming Democratic caucuses
- April 7 — Wisconsin Democratic primary
- April 28 — Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island Democratic primaries
- May 2 — Kansas Democratic primary; Guam Democratic caucuses
- May 5 — Indiana Democratic primary
- May 12 — Nebraska and West Virginia Democratic primaries
- May 19 — Kentucky and Oregon Democratic primaries
- May 22 — Major provisions of the recent spending deal expire, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Community Mental Health Services demonstration program, Sexual Risk Avoidance Education, Community Health Centers and the National Health Service Corps
- June 2 — D.C., Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota Democratic primaries
- June 6 — U.S. Virgin Islands Democratic caucuses
- July 13 to July 16 — Democratic National Convention
- Aug. 24 to Aug. 27 — Republican National Convention
- Sept. 29 — Presidential debate
- Sept. 30 — End of fiscal year deadline for government spending bills; National Flood Insurance Program and FAST Act federal surface transportation authorization set to expire
- Oct. 7 — Vice Presidential debate
- Oct. 15 — Presidential debate
- Oct. 22 — Presidential debate
- Nov. 3 — Election Day
- Dec. 31 — Major tax provisions, including several from the 2017 tax reform bill, are set to expire at the end of the year

*Note: Senate schedule subject to change due to impeachment trial
Sources: Office of the House Majority Leader; Office of the Senate Majority Leader; Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, "Upcoming congressional fiscal policy deadlines"