



# Congressional Spending and the Federal Budget

A Primer on Navigating  
The Return of Earmarks

# THE KINDS OF SPENDING

## ▶ Programmatic Spending

- ❑ State Revolving Loan Fund
- ❑ Water Recycling
- ❑ Combined Sewer Overflows/Stormwater
- ❑ National Estuary Program

## ▶ Targeted Project Funding

### ❑ Congressionally Directed Project Funding

“Any congressional directed spending, tax benefit, or tariff benefit be considered an earmark if it would benefit a specific entity or state, locality, or congressional district other than through a statutory or administrative formula or competitive process”

- ❑ Unauthorized assistance

# EARMARKS - A CAUTIONARY TALE

- ▶ Abuses in the funding of projects led to public interest groups and Members of Congress to call for elimination
- ▶ Republicans take control of House
- ▶ House adopts a formal rule against “earmarks” in 2010
- ▶ Senate adopts a rule against the practice
- ▶ Placed significant power in the Executive Branch

# RETURN TO CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING - EARMARKS 2.0

- ▶ House Rule failed to renew Anti-Earmark Policy
- ▶ Priority spending now referred to as “Community Project Funding”
- ▶ New process developed to ensure no abuses and limit overall number of projects benefitting
- ▶ Senate process yet to be finalized due to challenges of Senators’ jurisdiction (statewide needs)
- ▶ Key Points
  - ❑ Limitation to 10 projects
  - ❑ Public Transparency
  - ❑ Limited Approach
  - ❑ Rigorous Reviews of Requests
  - ❑ Limitation to state or local governments (or Not-For-Profit)

# SUBMITTING A REQUEST

- ▶ Most offices have electronic submission form for constituents
- ▶ Form must identify project, benefits, and past federal support
- ▶ Letters of support from requesting entity and stakeholders
- ▶ Deadlines
  - ❑ Member Offices
  - ❑ Appropriations Committee



# QUESTIONS