



Congressional Timeline

October 1, 2009 – The start of the federal government's Fiscal Year 2010 (which runs through September 30, 2010). It is quite likely that Congress will have passed the Defense Appropriations Bill (which contains funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) by this date.

October 30, 2009 – The target date for the adjournment of Congress. However, it is entirely likely that the House and Senate will continue to be in session beyond this date.

November and December 2009 – After Congress adjourns, you may be able to schedule a meeting directly with your Representative and Senators at their office in your state.

January 5, 2010 (approximately) – The House and Senate will begin work again in Washington, D.C.

February 2, 2010 – The date by which President Obama should (by law) submit his budget request for Fiscal Year 2011 to Congress. This budget request will almost certainly include funding for the wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

February 15 to February 19 – The House and Senate should be in recess this week as both bodies normally take a recess during the week of President's Day. This will be another opportunity to try to meet with your Representative and Senators in person or to raise the issues of the Peaceable Assembly Campaign at any town hall forums they might organize.

March 29 to April 9 (approximately) – The House and Senate will likely be in recess during this period since normally a spring recess occurs starting the Monday before Easter and concluding the Friday following Easter. This could change, however, and the exact dates of the spring recess likely won't be known until early January when the House and Senate release their calendars for the year.

March, April (and maybe May) – The Armed Services Committees in the House and the Senate will develop their version of the Defense Authorization bill for Fiscal Year 2011. This bill states which programs are authorized to be funded and the monetary level at which the programs are authorized to be funded. However, this bill does not actually grant the Department of Defense the ability to expend these funds. That is done with the Defense Appropriations Bill.

March, April and May (and maybe June) – The Defense Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate will develop their versions of the appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2011. These appropriations bills will almost certainly include funding for the wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. If your Representative or Senator sits on the Defense Appropriations Committee, this will be the time to engage her / him in discussions about ending funding for these wars.

May, June and July – Sometime during these months the Defense Authorization Bills and then the Defense Appropriations Bills will more than likely be voted upon by the full House and the full Senate.

It is possible that final passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill could be delayed until September 2010. However, given that it is an election year in 2010, almost certainly both the House and Senate will want to wrap up their session sooner rather than later so that Representatives and Senators up for re-election can be campaigning as much as possible.