



Dear ASTA members,

It's the day after the presidential election and while there are still many unknowns at the state and local levels, we do know that President Donald Trump has been reelected to be the 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

As we continue to examine the results, one thing is for certain: as the global advocates for travel advisors for nearly a century, we have worked with numerous administrations and congresses to advance the interests of travel professionals. We're looking forward to re-introducing ourselves to the Trump administration and new Cabinet members who will affect travel policy.

As we look to next year, based on what we know today, our priorities remain largely the same:

- Educating policymakers on the key role travel advisors play in the bigger travel community, including booking 40% of all air travel to the tune of \$95.3 billion in 2023;
- Continuing to press legislators and regulators to reverse a policy that forces ticket agents to repay their clients for flight cancellations before they receive those funds from the airline;
- Strengthening the travel advisor voice within the Department of Transportation; and,
- Reevaluating a Department of Labor overtime rule which is forcing steep increases in salaries on your small businesses.

We congratulate the new members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, even as we wait on election results in several key races where ASTA champions are awaiting results, such as Senator Jacky Rosen (D) in Nevada and Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R) in Oregon. We know that Republicans will control the Senate next congress, and with his successful reelection, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) will likely be chair of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over most travel policy. As of this writing, control of the House of Representatives has not been decided, so it's premature to speculate on leadership and committee assignments. Both chambers are expected to hold leadership elections next week, when, most notably, Republican Senators will elect a new majority leader.

We offer our congratulations to the winners and our appreciation for the efforts of those who came up short. We also appreciate our members' support for ASTA's political action committee, [ASTAPAC](#). Your contributions will allow us to hit the ground running in 2025, building new relationships and strengthening old ones.

We will have a busy year ahead, so keep an eye on your inbox for grassroots alerts – sent when we most need help on the Hill or with the Administration. As more races are called and more information is available, we will provide members with additional analysis on what the election results mean for our industry and your businesses. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to ASTA's advocacy team at [Govtaffairs@asta.org](mailto:Govtaffairs@asta.org).

ASTA's Advocacy Team