

Civitas Public Policy Briefing

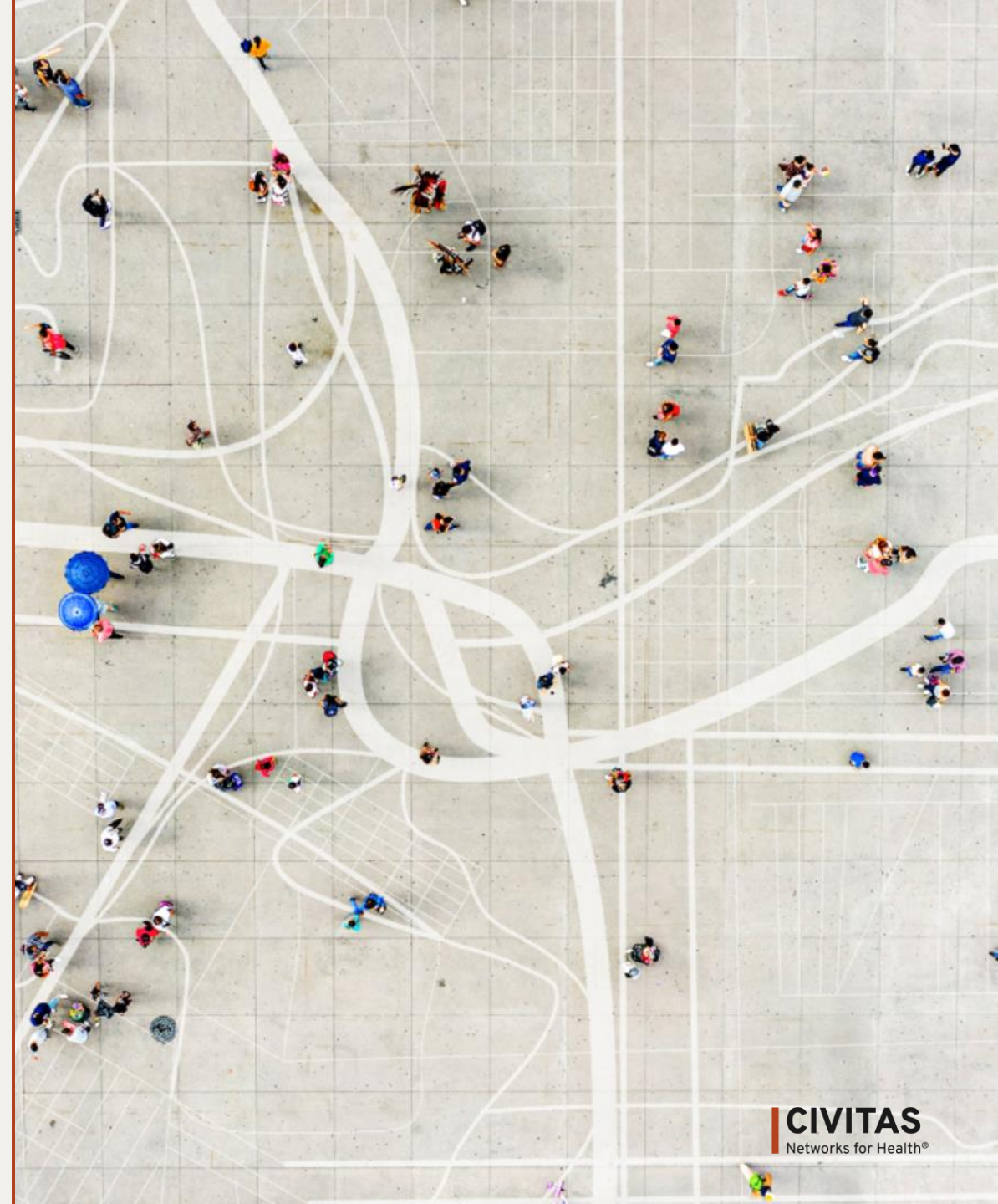
Troutman Strategies

July 8, 2026



Housekeeping Reminders

- This is a webinar where all participants are automatically muted and your video is not displayed.
- If you would like to ask a question, please use the Q&A function on the right-side taskbar.
- This webinar is being recorded, and the recording will be shared after today's event.
- For questions following the webinar, please reach out to contact@civitasforhealth.org.



Agenda

- Welcome and Updates
 - Jolie Ritzo, CEO, *Civitas Networks for Health*® (*Civitas*)
 - Karen Ostrowski, Director, Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs, *Civitas*
 - Lindsay Austin, Principal, *Troutman Strategies*
 - Christopher W. Baxter, Senior Manager, Federal Affairs, *Troutman Strategies*
- Public Policy Briefing Presentation

Upcoming Workgroup Meetings

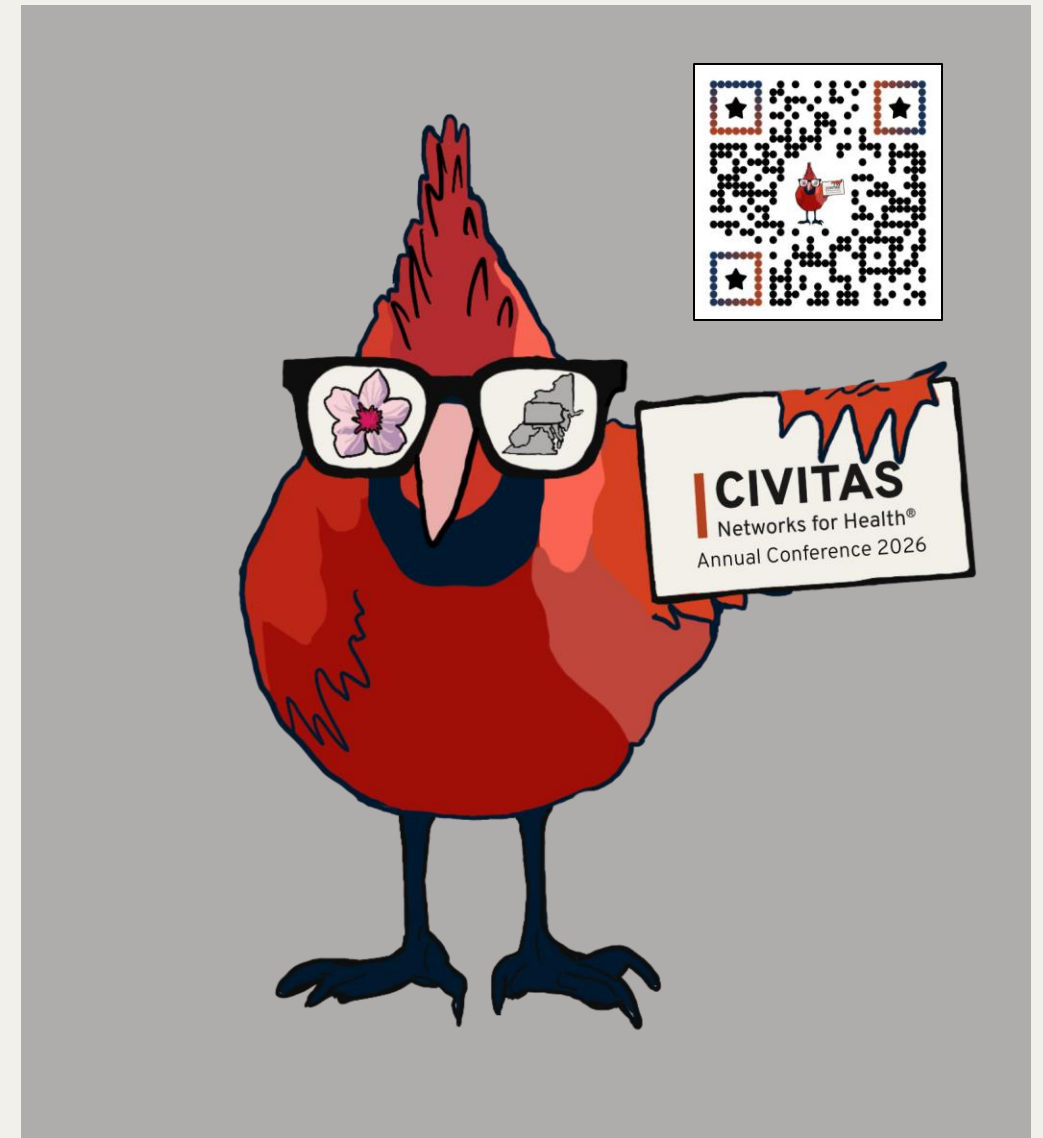
Register for all Council and Workgroup meetings [here](#)

- **July 10, 1-2 p.m. ET** – SDOH and Interoperability Workgroup
- **July 15, 3-4 p.m. ET** – Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Workgroup
- **July 17, 12-1 p.m. ET** – Marketing and Communications Workgroup
- **July 21, 3-4 p.m. ET**– Standards and Technology Workgroup

Early Bird Registration for the Civitas 2026 Annual Conference is Open!

Join 750+ leaders from across the health data and improvement ecosystem. Hosted in collaboration with our Mid-Atlantic Host Committee, just minutes from Washington, D.C. in Arlington, VA.

- [Registration is open](#) – secure your spot today at a discounted rate!
- Plan early and save with [discounted hotel and flight options](#)
- Interested in sponsoring? Review the [Sponsorship Prospectus](#) and email contact@civitasforhealth.org if you're interested in learning more



Register to Attend Virtual Preconference Sessions (Open to the Public!)

Join us for virtual preconference sessions designed to deepen learning and spark meaningful discussion ahead of the Civitas Annual Conference. Register to attend:

- **August 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Building Healthier Communities Through Coordinated and Highly Collaborative Statewide Action](#)
- **August 18, 2:30-4 p.m. ET** – [Using Real-Time Data to Drive Proactive Postpartum SUD Care and Strengthen Rural Care Continuity](#)
- **September 10, 3-4:30 p.m. ET** – [From Data to Impact: Using APCD Analytics to Shape Policy and Improve Population Health](#)
- **September 16, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Co-Designing Trusted CIEs: Privacy, Coordination, and Data Systems for Whole Person Health](#)

Thank you to our returning virtual preconference sponsor, J2 Interactive!



Submit a Community Excellence Award Nomination by August 31

The Civitas 2026 Community Excellence Awards recognize outstanding Civitas member organizations and individuals advancing community health through innovation, leadership, and partnership. These awards highlight impactful contributions in areas such as data use, quality improvement, governance, and mentorship. Please browse this year's award categories below and submit a Civitas member organization or one of your peers that you think exemplifies the award description.

Thank you in advance for helping us recognize the amazing organizations across our networks!

[Learn more](#) and [submit a nomination](#) by August 31 to be considered.



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...And Thank You to Our Civitas 2026 Annual Conference Silver Sponsors



2026 Member Satisfaction Survey Now Open

We want to hear from you. The [Civitas Member Satisfaction Survey](#) is now open and takes just 5–7 minutes to complete.

Your feedback helps shape member benefits and programming for the year ahead.

- **Open:** Now– August 14
- **Goal:** 80 responses | 90% satisfaction
- **Incentive:** Enter to win free registration to the 2027 Annual Conference or one of two \$100 gift cards

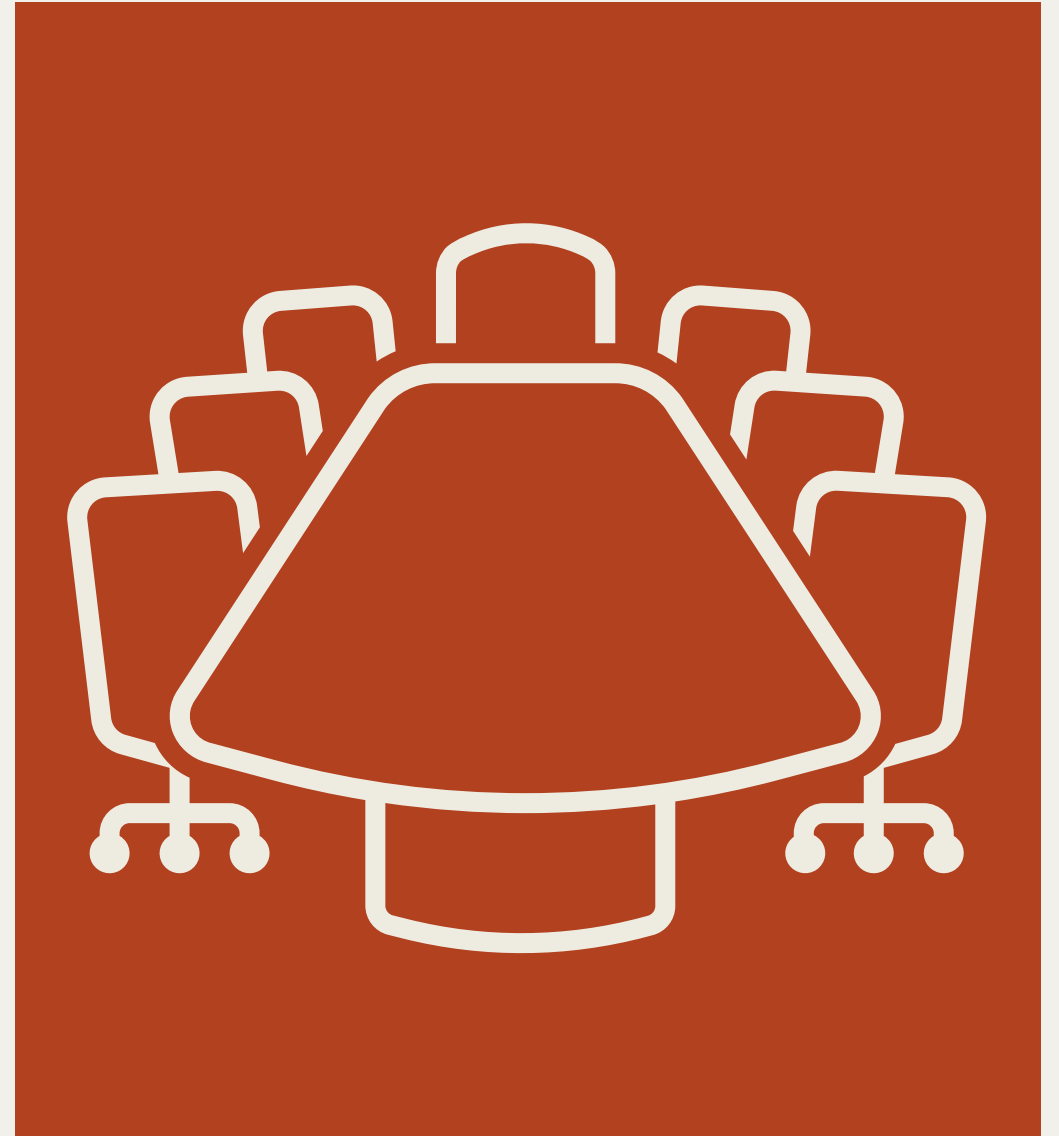


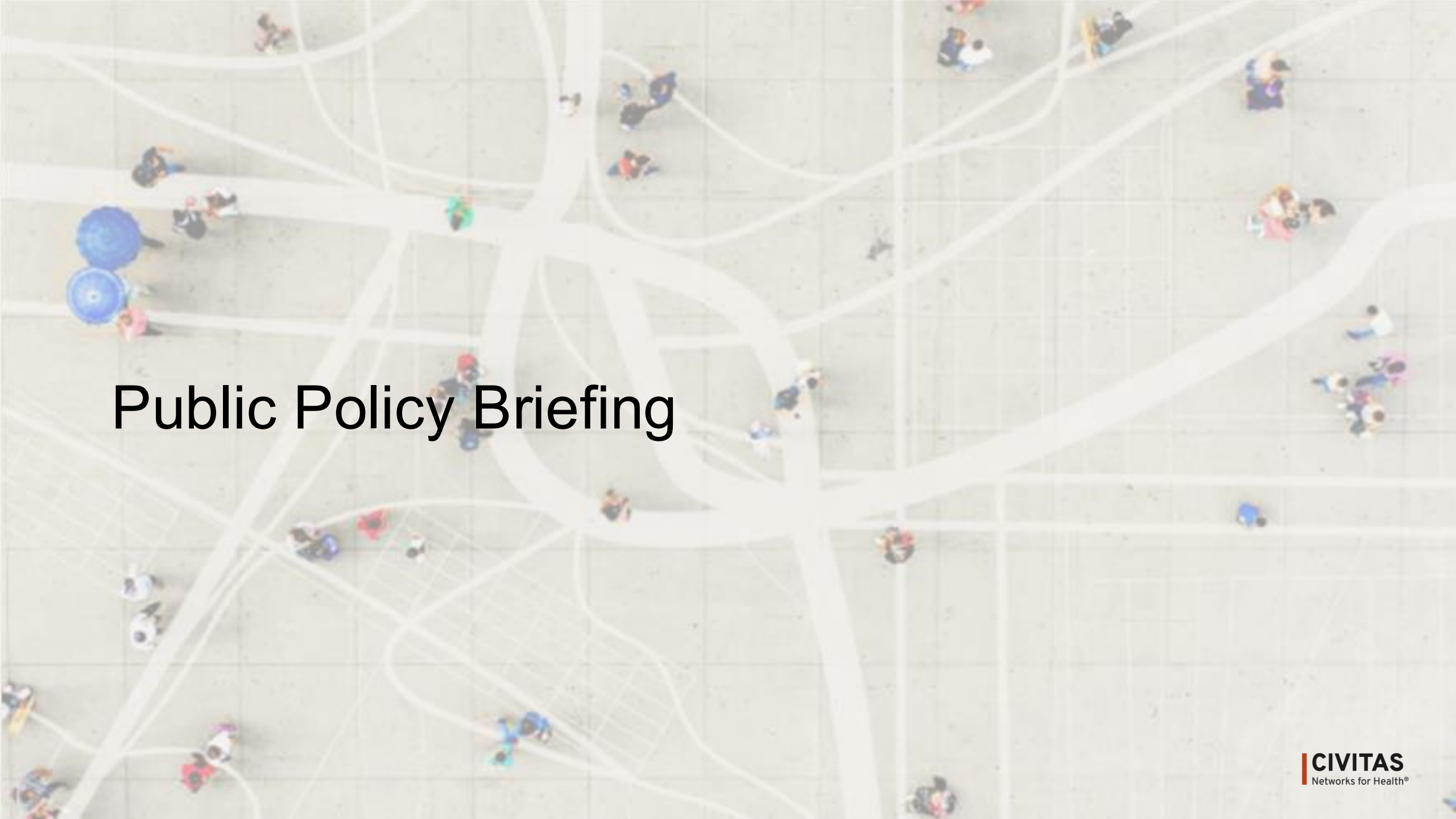
Civitas Board of Directors 2027 Nominations Now Open

Civitas is pleased to share that our open call for 2027 Civitas Board of Directors nominations has opened!

The 2027 Board will be comprised of strategic, innovative, and pragmatic thinkers leading Civitas full member organizations from across the national network.

[Apply here](#) to apply for the 2027 Board of Directors.





Public Policy Briefing

Your Civitas Government Relations Team



Lindsay Austin – Principal, Troutman Strategies



Chris Baxter – Senior Manager, Troutman Strategies

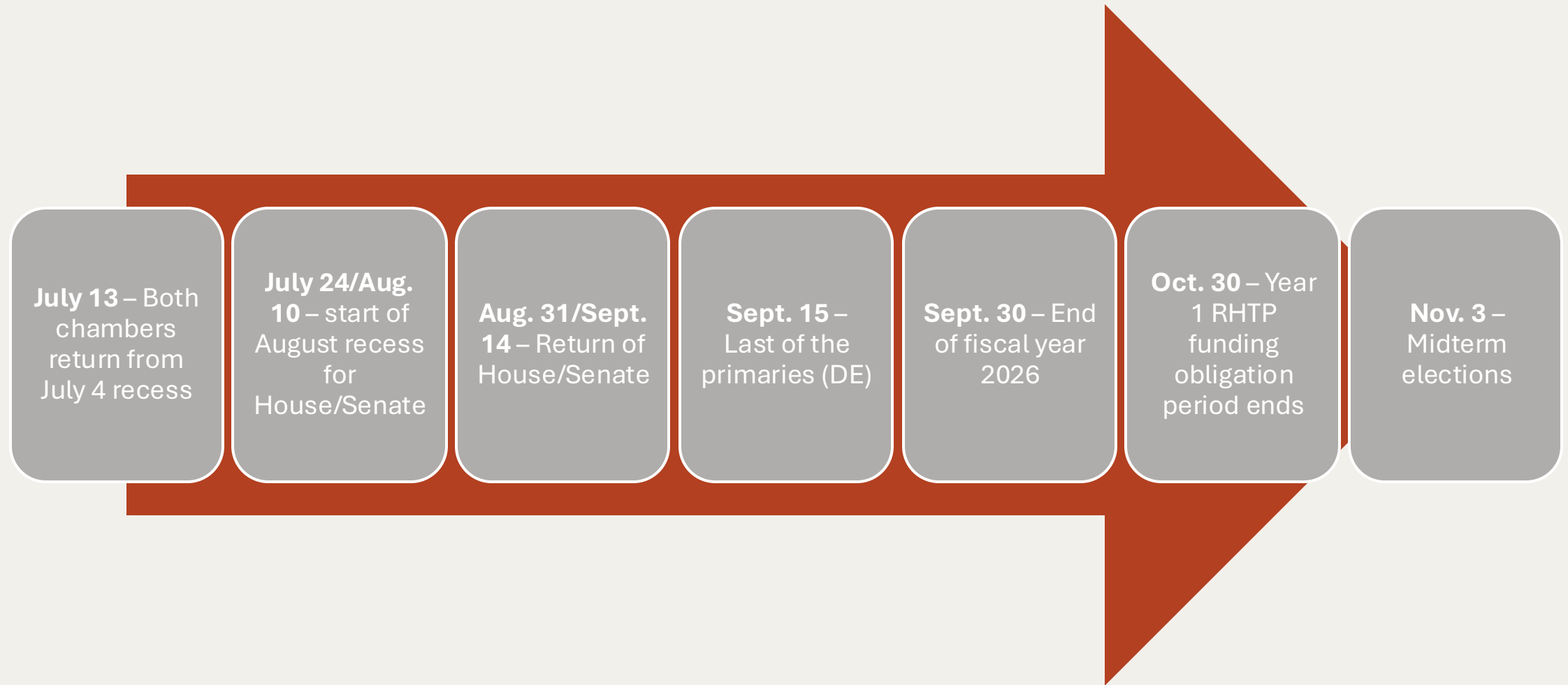


Jolie Ritzo – CEO, Civitas Networks for Health®



Karen Ostrowski, Director, Health Policy and Partnerships, Civitas Networks for Health®

Dates to Watch



2026 Midterm Election Preview – House

- **Current Party Breakdown**

- 219 Republicans (1 Independent caucusing with Rs)
- 212 Democrats
- 4 vacancies (*D. Scott, Swalwell, Gonzales, Cherfilus-McCormick*)
- 220 Rs – 215 Ds if you count the vacancies

- **Current Ratings (Sabato's Crystal Ball)**

- 213 seats rated as safe, likely, or leans Republican
- 206 seats rated as safe, likely, or leans Democrat
- 16 seats rated as toss-up
- Democrats need a net gain of 3 seats to win the majority

- **Key House Races**

- Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1, W&M Health)
- Buddy Carter (R-GA-1, E&C Health, lost GA Senate primary)
- Diana DeGette (D-CO-1, E&C Health, lost primary)
- Josh Harder (D-CA-9, Approps Labor-H)
- Mariannette Miller-Meeke (R-IA-1, W&M Health)

- **Historical Context**

- In midterm elections from 1986-2022 (10 cycles), the president's party lost an average of just over 20 House seats

2026 Midterm Election Preview – Senate

- **Current Party Breakdown**

- 53 Republicans
- 47 Democrats (2 Independents caucusing with Ds)

- **Seats and Ratings (Sabato's Crystal Ball)**

- 22 Republican-held seats up for reelection (including FL & OH special elections)
- 13 Democratic-held seats up for reelection
- 3 currently rated as toss-up; ME, MI, and OH
- Other competitive races; AK, GA, IA, NC, NH, and TX
- Democrats most likely path to the majority – winning AK, ME, NC and OH

- **Key Senate Races**

- Bill Cassidy (R-LA, lost primary)
- Susan Collins (R-ME, chair of Senate Appropriations)

- **Historical Context**

- In midterm elections from 1986-2022 (10 cycles), the president's party lost an average of just over 3 Senate seats



House Committee Leaders – Republicans in the 120th Congress

House Energy & Commerce

- Chair – Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
- Health Chair – Morgan Griffith (R-KY)
- Committee priorities:
 - Privacy & Cybersecurity
 - Prevention of waste, fraud, and abuse in federal programs
 - Oversight of AI in healthcare
 - Price transparency in healthcare
 - Value-based care

House Ways & Means

- Chair – Jason Smith (R-MO)
- Health Chair – Adrian Smith (R-NE), Mike Kelly (R-PA), and Greg Murphy (R-NC) are the leading contenders to replace retiring Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
- Committee priorities:
 - Lowering healthcare costs
 - Prevention of waste, fraud, and abuse in federal programs
 - Reducing regulatory burden
 - Fiscal sustainability
 - Tax policy (HSAs)

House Appropriations

- Chair – Tom Cole (R-OK)
- Labor-HHS Chair – Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
- Committee priorities:
 - Fiscal restraint and program accountability
 - Public health data modernization and funding
 - Biomedical research funding
 - Rural health funding

House Committee Leaders – Democrats in the 120th Congress

House Energy & Commerce

- Chair – Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
- Health Chair – Raul Ruiz (D-CA), a physician, or Debbie Dingell (D-MI), could potentially replace Dianna DeGette (D-CO), but other subcommittee leaders hold seniority and could choose
- Committee priorities:
 - Oversight of OBBBA cuts
 - Healthcare and prescription drug costs
 - Revival of ACA subsidies
 - Improving patient access to care

House Ways & Means

- Chair – Richard Neal (D-MA)
- Health Chair – Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Judy Chu (D-CA) are senior members and could replace retiring Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
- Committee priorities:
 - Lowering healthcare costs
 - Oversight of OBBBA cuts
 - Protecting and expanding Medicare/Medicaid

House Appropriations

- Chair & Labor-HHS Chair – Rosa DeLauro
- Committee priorities:
 - Robust investments in HHS
 - Building long term public health infrastructure
 - Health equity and SDOH

Senate Committee Leaders – Republicans in the 120th Congress

Senate HELP

- Chair – Bill Cassidy (R-LA) lost his primary and will likely be replaced by either Roger Marshall (R-KS), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), or Rand Paul (R-KY)
- Committee priorities:
 - Nominations
 - Patient privacy, data security, cybersecurity
 - Reducing provider burden
 - Rural healthcare access

Senate Finance

- Chair – Mike Crapo (R-ID)
- Committee priorities:
 - Nominations
 - Healthcare tax policy
 - Medicare/Medicaid reform and oversight
 - Healthcare costs and affordability

Senate Appropriations

- Chair – Susan Collins (R-ME) could be replaced by the next senior member, either Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) or Lindsey Graham (R-SC) if she loses her reelection
- Labor-HHS Chair – Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
- Committee priorities:
 - Continue bipartisan approach to funding
 - Rural healthcare funding (RHTP supplemental)

Senate Committee Leaders – Democrats in the 120th Congress

Senate HELP

- Chair – Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
- Committee priorities:
 - Expanding Medicare/Medicaid
 - Oversight of HHS and Secretary Kennedy
 - Expand Medicare drug price negotiation program
 - Expanding the healthcare workforce
 - Oversight of OBBBA cuts

Senate Finance

- Chair – Ron Wyden (D-OR)
- Committee priorities:
 - Lowering prescription drug costs and healthcare affordability (RFI)
 - Oversight of HHS and Secretary Kennedy
 - Capping Medicare costs
 - Oversight of OBBBA cuts

Senate Appropriations

- Chair – Patty Murray (D-WA)
- Labor-HHS Chair – Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
- Committee priorities:
 - Parity for HHS funding
 - Continue bipartisan approach to funding
 - Ensuring OMB is spending appropriated funding

Congressional Activity

E&C Considers Price Transparency Bills

- On June 25, the E&C Health Subcommittee marked-up the bipartisan *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (H.R. 9393)* which would require hospitals, laboratories, imaging centers, and ambulatory surgery centers to publicly publish their pricing information, including negotiated rates and cash prices
- The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the bipartisan *Patients Deserve Price Tags Act (H.R. 5582)* which would require hospitals to publish standard charges and shoppable services

SECURE Data Act (H.R. 8413)

- On June 3, the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee held a hearing to examine legislation to establish a comprehensive federal privacy and data security law
- The GOP-led effort does not currently have any Democrat support, with key issues including the lack of private right of action for individuals to sue over privacy violations and its preemption of stronger existing state laws (like in California)
- The bill includes broad exemptions including, but not limited to, nonprofits, health records, HIPAA covered health information, and substance use disorder patient records

Fiscal Year 2027 Labor-HHS-Education

- On June 5, the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee approved its FY27 funding bill.
- The bill funds HHS at \$110B, a roughly \$4B cut from FY26 and includes:
 - \$60M for the ONC, a decrease of \$9M
 - \$3M for ONC “to work with industry to develop matching standards that prioritize interoperability, patient safety, and patient privacy.”
 - \$8.1B request for the CDC, down roughly \$1B
 - \$230M for CDC’s Public Health Data Modernization activities, a \$45M increase
 - \$35M for CDC’s Ready Response Enterprise Data Integration Platform & Center for Forecasting Analytics, an increase of \$5M
- Although the House has passed all 12 bills out of committee, the Senate remains stalled
- Congress will more than likely pass a continuing resolution (CR) extending funding into late fall
- *Vetting Participants in the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA).*—The Committee supports ONC allocating sufficient resources to vet organizations seeking to join TEFCA, including Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs), participants, and subparticipants. The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that entities participating in TEFCA meet rigorous standards for security, privacy, and operational integrity. As TEFCA scales nationally, appropriate safeguards are necessary to maintain trust in nationwide health information exchange. This vetting should include, but is not limited to, strengthening eligibility verification procedures for applicants, reviewing publicly available business descriptions, implementing ongoing compliance monitoring and auditing mechanisms, and coordinating with other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to assess security and fraud risks. The Committee requests that ONC include the following information in the fiscal year 2028 congressional justification: (1) current participant vetting procedures; (2) identified gaps in oversight or risk management; and (3) planned enhancements supported by funds provided in this Act.

Agency Activity

Trump Nominates Chris Klomp as HHS Deputy Secretary

- Klomp was promoted in February as chief counselor for the department, concurrently serving as director of the Center for Medicare at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Klomp has already overseen personnel moves, such as the nomination of a new director for the CDC
- The nomination requires Senate approval

2026 CMS Interoperability Standards and Prior Authorization for Drugs Proposed Rule (CMS-0062-P)

- Released on April 10, the proposed rule updates several certification program HL7 FHIR standards that were finalized in its HTI-4 last year
- If finalized, ONC plans to expire older versions of those HL7 FHIR standards on January 1, 2028
- Civitas submitted a [comment letter](#) on the proposed rule

ONC Strengthens TEFCA Oversight

- On June 26, ONC announced it had awarded a contract “to strengthen oversight of the network and verify that organizations participating in TEFCA follow required policies and procedures”
- ONC said its also conducting additional reviews of QHINs and their participants to help ensure compliance with TEFCA’s rules and operating requirements



Agency Activity

Medicaid: 1115 Waiver Budget Neutrality (SMD #26-003)

- Beginning Jan 1, 2027 CMS Chief Actuary must certify budget neutrality *before* approving any 1115 demonstration – shifts burden from retrospective monitoring to upfront analysis
- HRSN infrastructure and delivery system investments will need rigorous savings justification
- Demonstration periods proposed to cap at 5 years
- NPRM forthcoming – as well as more expansive changes to 1115 waivers

Medicaid: State Directed Payments (Proposed rule CMS-2449-P)

- Caps SDP payment rates at Medicare levels for major service categories
- CMS estimates \$98B in current annual SDP spending affected
- States face significant renegotiation of managed care arrangements

RHTP: Payment & Fund Distribution

- \$50B federal grant program – awards announced Dec 2025; funds began flowing to states March 2026
- FY26 funds must be obligated by Sept 30, 2026 – rollout is uneven, with some states already granting funds and others still finalizing plans
- Allowable/unallowable uses are narrowly defined – funds can't replace insurance-reimbursable clinical services, backfill existing deficits, or fund new construction; direct clinical service funding requires jurisdiction that it fills a genuine coverage gap

CMS Office of Health Technology and Products

- Established in the Federal Register on June 9, the office will primarily “provide enterprise leadership for CMS healthcare technology and digital product strategy in support of Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and other CMS-administered programs”
- Part of broader move by CMS to centralize and streamline the agency’s technology functions and support the Health Tech Ecosystem
- Will work in collaboration with ONC “to advance clinical and administrative data exchange”
- Office will be led by Amy Gleason for the time being



Main groups/divisions include:

- Open Source Program Group – aggregates best practices from the private sector to transform the way new technologies are shared and delivered across CMS
- **Standards & Interoperability Group** – leads the agency’s data exchange strategy and oversees the design and development of interoperability solutions and products
 - Division of Data and Interoperability Platforms
 - Division of Policy
- Product Development Group – serves as the principal product delivery organization, responsible for the design, development, delivery, operation, and continuous improvement of the CMS portfolio of digital products
 - Division of Core Products
 - Division of External Products
- Digital Service at CMS – strategically engages on focused sets of short-term discovery sprints

Regulatory Agenda

Agency	Stage	Title	RIN
HHS/CMS	Proposed Rule Stage – Expected Dec. 2026	Administrative Simplification: Modifications to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Electronic Transaction Standards (CMS-0061)	0938-AV43
HHS/CMS	Proposed Rule Stage – Price Transparency RFI	CY 2027 Hospital Outpatient PPS Policy Changes and Payment Rates and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Policy Changes and Payment Rates (CMS-1850)	0938-AV83
HHS/CMS	Proposed Rule Stage – Released 4/10, includes HL7 FHIR updates	Interoperability Standards and Prior Authorization for Drugs (CMS-0062)	0938-AV44
HHS/OCR	Proposed Rule Stage – Expected Nov. 2026	HIPAA Privacy Rule to Promote Individuals' Timely Access to their Protected Health Information	0945-AA28
HHS/OCR	Final Rule Stage – Pending OMB review (received 4/2/2026)	HIPAA Privacy Rule: Changes to Support Coordinated Care and Individual Engagement and Reduce Regulatory Burdens	0945-AA00
HHS/ONC	Final Rule Stage – Withdrawn Dec. 2025	Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Patient Engagement, Information Sharing, and Public Health Interoperability (Remaining parts of HTI-2)	0955-AA08
HHS/ONC	Proposed Rule Stage – Final Expected Aug 2026	Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: ASTP/ONC Deregulatory Actions to Unleash Prosperity (HTI-5)	0955-AA09
HHS/ONC	Proposed Rule Stage – Expected Nov. 2026	Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Application Programming Interfaces and Information Blocking (HTI-6)	0955-AA10
HHS/OS	Proposed Rule Stage – Expected July 2026	Privacy Act Regulations	0991-AC05
HHS/OS	Final Rule Stage – Expected Feb. 2027	Health and Human Services Acquisition Regulation: Standards for Health Information Technology	0991-AC35
DOJ/DEA	Final Rule Stage – Expected Nov. 2026	Special Registrations for Telemedicine and Limited State Telemedicine Registrations	1117-AB40

Keep in Touch with the Civitas Team



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www.civitasforhealth.org