

# Labor forum will plan our post-election path



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By the time you read this, barring some last-minute insurrection at one of the two major political conventions, it will be clear that either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton will be president of the United States (POTUS) in 2017. Which way the congressional elections go is still an open question, but it is very possible that the Senate will flip back to a Democrat majority that would leave us pretty much in the situation we are in now if POTUS is a Republican, and in a different dynamic if POTUS is a Democrat.

It is too early to predict the outcome of the November election and its multiple impacts, but from the agricultural employer standpoint there will be issues that will either ratchet tighter or remain just as onerous, regardless of who is elected, because the regulations and rules are in place and cannot be undone overnight. Among the rules that could be improvable, but would not change quickly enough for the 2017 season, are those governing the H-2A visa program, the Affordable Care Act and the continuing demand for more border and internal security.

Another thing that will take several years to improve, even if a new administration and Congress want to improve it, is our crumbling infrastructure.



By “infrastructure,” I mean physical highways, bridges, waterways and railroads, as well as the infrastructure internal to regulatory bodies that gives them the people, technology, training and other resources to serve us effectively.

The bottom line to this is that regardless of who is elected in November, your problems as agricultural employers will not be magically resolved for the 2017 season. For these reasons, you must prepare this year to experience many of the same labor, regulatory and legal issues and delays in 2017. Preparation is the key to your business survival.

NCAE and other associations can teach you what to prepare for and how to prepare for it. At NCAE's Ag



Labor Forum III, scheduled for Nov. 31-Dec. 2 in Las Vegas, we will know who controls the administration and Congress. At that point, we will be able to make educated forecasts to fine-tune the program to help you best prepare for 2017 and the next four years.

Check our website ([www.ncaeonline.org](http://www.ncaeonline.org)) for details. Register and make your hotel reservations now, as we expect the Tropicana to sell out early. As an added incentive, the National Finals Rodeo ([www.nfrexperience.com](http://www.nfrexperience.com)) starts just as the NCAE Ag Labor Forum concludes, so many of our attendees will stay the weekend and enjoy the rodeo, too. VGN