

Astra Academy: State and Federal Policy Roundup

Moderator: Nate Lichte, Services Solution Manager, Ad Astra
Presenters: Teri Lyn Hinds, Director, Policy Research and Advocacy, NASPA
Diana Ali, Assistant Director, Policy Research and Advocacy, NASPA

Presentation Overview

- Introduction (5 Minutes)
- State and Federal Policy Roundup (40-45 Minutes)
- Comments, Questions, Survey (10-15 Minutes)



- Ad Astra is a course scheduling and enrollment management organization that partners with over 500 institutions of higher education annually to improve scheduling accessibility and efficiency for students.
- Ad Astra offers unique solutions designed to graduate more students faster.
- Astra Academy is a webinar series that brings together diverse stakeholders across the higher education landscape to share with you how their work is helping to improve student outcomes with a focus on student retention, time-to-completion, or graduation.

NASPA Policy & Advocacy Team



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DISCLAIMER: It's Alive!



The Man in Question, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via
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The NASPA RPI blog:
<http://www.naspa.org/RPI>

NASPA Public Policy
Agenda:
<https://bit.ly/2GKP1Er>

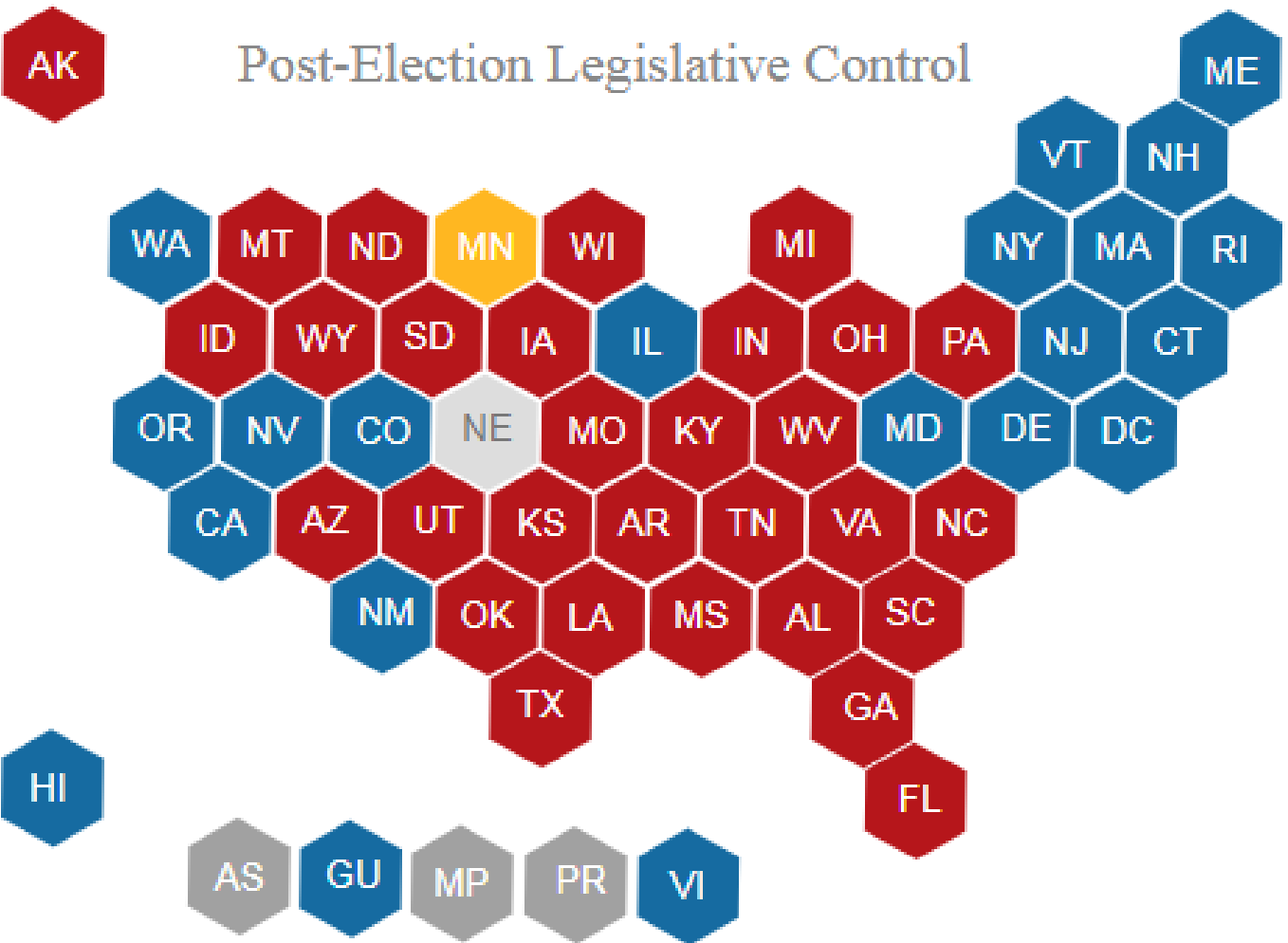


Current Federal Policy Atmosphere

- Election 2018
 - Record voter turnout, most diverse class of new legislators
 - House flipped control to Democrats, Committee chairs investigating
 - Senate stayed Republican, added votes to majority
- Continuing partisanship
 - January shutdown effects for higher ed, research enterprise
 - DACA solution still in limbo, SCOTUS not hearing a case this term
- Mueller report, trade war & tariffs



Current State Policy Overview



LEGEND:

Red	Republican
Blue	Democrat
Yellow	Split
Light Grey	Nonpartisan
Dark Grey	Not decided

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

Agenda

- Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- Free College & College Promise Programs
- Sexual harassment prevention and response
- Immigration & international students
- Avenues for advocacy
- Q&A





Higher Education Act Reauthorization

History of HEA

- Created as part of Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" plan in 1965
 - Higher Education Act of 1965: 52 pages long; 8 Titles
- Reauthorized 9 times, usually every 4-6 years
 - Higher Education Opportunity Act (2008): 432 pages long; 11 Titles
 - 10th reauthorization scheduled for 2013



What's does HEA do?

- HEA authorizes federal spending for a variety of higher education programs
 - Authorization ≠ appropriations
 - Each section or program may have its own reauthorization language
- Major HEA Titles for student & institutional financial support
 - Title IV: Student Assistance
 - Titles III and V: Support for minority-serving institutions



NASPA Priorities for HEA Reauthorization

- Protect, preserve, and modernize student financial aid
 - Expand Pell (amounts and access) for today's students
 - Maintain programs that reduce the burden of student loans
 - Preserve SEOG & PSLF programs
 - Support graduate education
 - Simplify the FAFSA, verification process/burden
- Close equity gaps
- Update Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, Title IX regulations
- Maintain responsibilities for voter registration, civic engagement





Free College Programs

Key Terms & Considerations

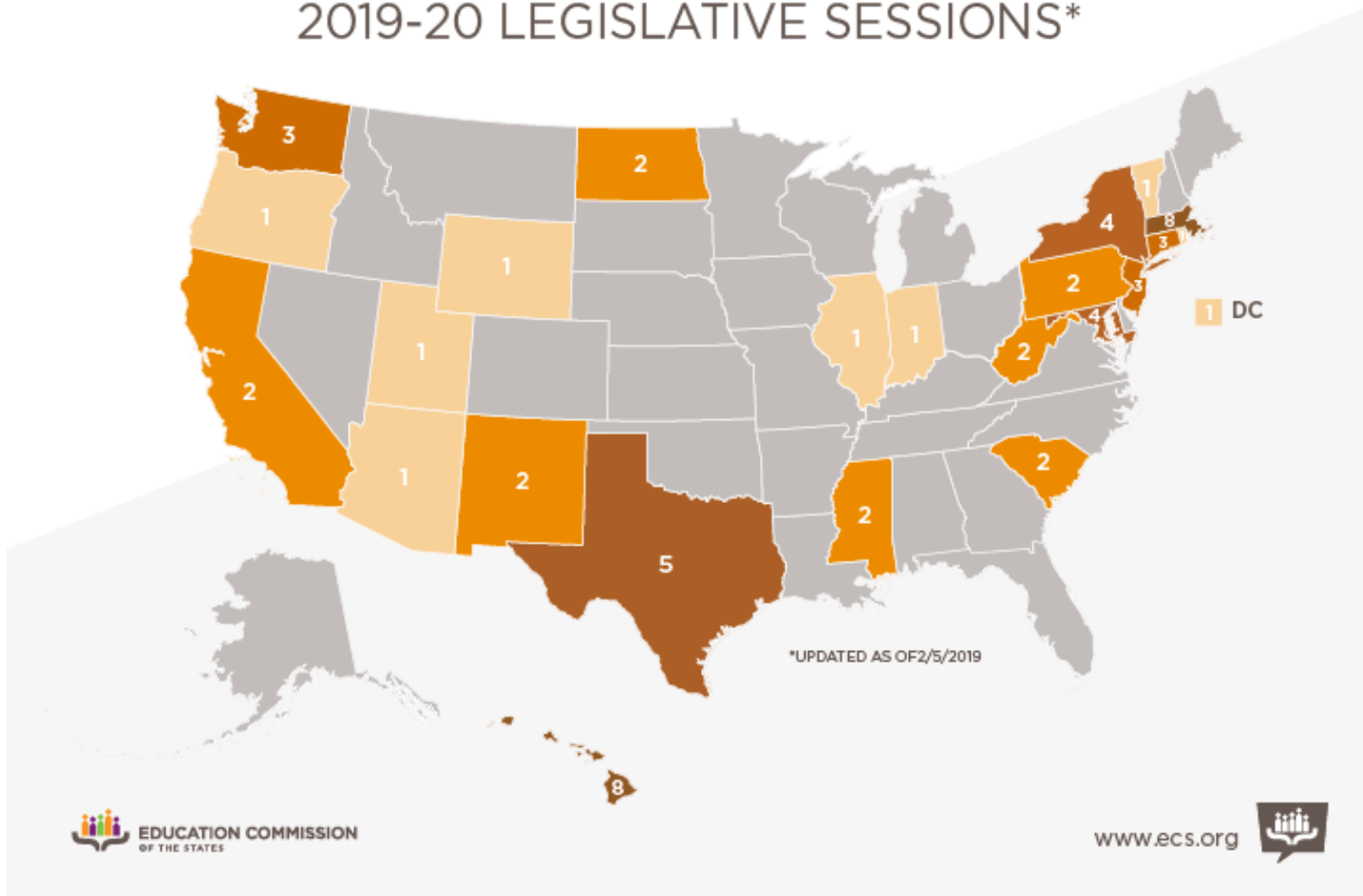
Free college vs.
college promise
program vs. debt-
free college

First-dollar vs.
last-dollar

Equity &
allocations of
resources

Proposed Legislation Across the States

STATES CONSIDERING FREE COLLEGE LEGISLATION, 2019-20 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS*



- 81 bills across 29 states (3/19/19)
- 8 failed (MS, MD, WV, WY)
- 6 passed first chamber (HI, MD, WA)
- 2 passed both chambers (UT, WV)



Title IX & Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

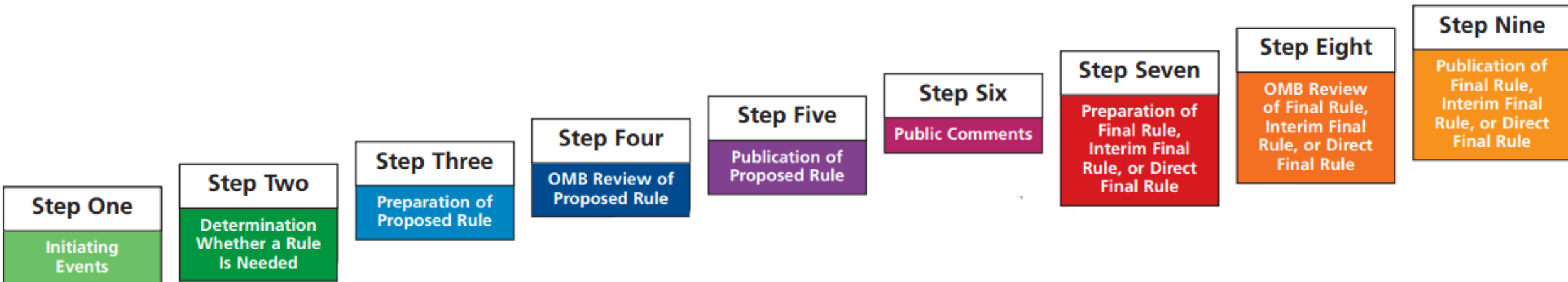
Title IX: What to Watch

- **VAWA not reauthorized in spending resolution; renewal expected**
- **ED proposed new Title IX regulations in late 2018**
 - Over 100,000 public comments submitted (including by NASPA)
 - Comment period closed in January with additional comments received on Feb. 15th
 - Final rule may come in Fall, may be later...
- **Until a final rule is released and goes into effect, current guidance remains in place**
 - Effective date of any final rule is unknown
 - ACE, NASPA comments requested at least 8 months & start of academic year
- **Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization and Title IX**



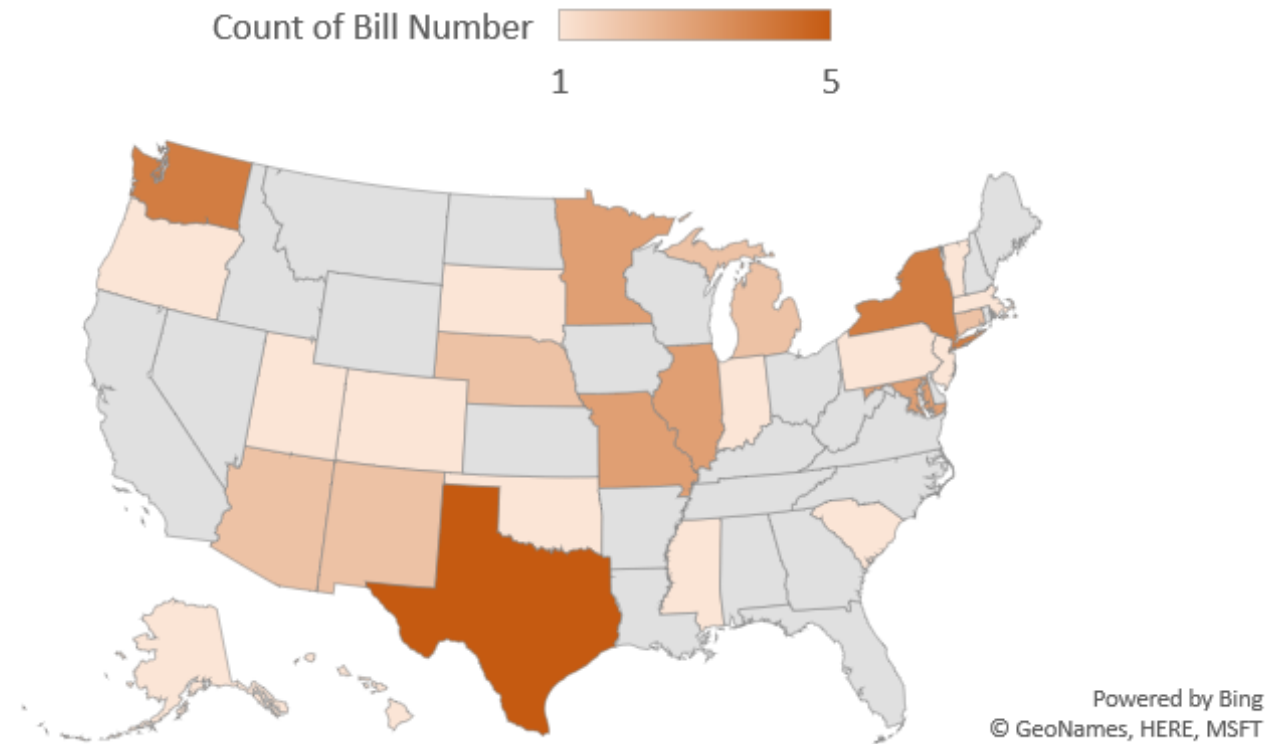
Regulatory Process & Public Comments

- **Where we are in the Rulemaking Process**
 - Purpose of the Notice and Comment Period
 - What are comments of substance?
- **Power of Public Comments**



Sexual
assault
prevention &
response:
States

Sexual Violence 2019 State Legislation as of 3.18.19



The image features two parallel diagonal stripes in shades of blue, running from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The stripes are positioned on the left side of the frame, with the word 'Immigration' overlaid on them.

Immigration

Immigration: Undocumented students, DACA

- Why does this matter?
 - DACA recipients are declining...
 - 704,000 in July 2018 to 687,000 as of December 31, 2018
 - Renewal and adjudication rates are high
- What to watch
 - The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 & the 116th Congress
 - In-State and Financial Aid State Legislation
 - SCOTUS



Immigration: In-State Tuition State Legislation

In-State Tuition for Undocumented Immigrants 2019 State Legislation as of 3.18.19

Count of Bill Number



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DACA: Policy Implications on the Ground



Check out the Historic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Community Resource Center App!

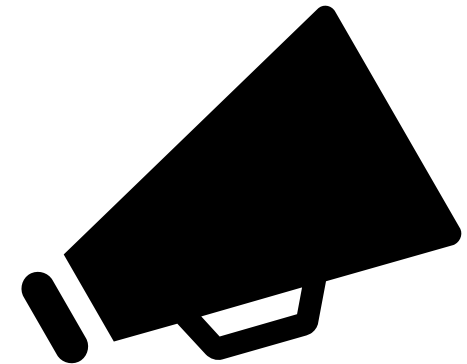




Advocacy Avenues

Increasing Capacity for Advocacy

- Why does this matter for student affairs?
 - On-the-ground perspective makes better policy
 - Model good civic engagement practices
- What to watch
 - Invite campus government or public affairs staff to chat
 - NASPA Hill Days December 2019
 - RPI blog posts





How Can you Join the Movement?

Accessing a model of:

- Learn
 - 6-4 topical issues you care about
 - Action planning
- Engage
 - Encourage civic engagement
 - Increase voting access
- Represent
 - Participation through action

APLU's Students Have an Impact

- **Seven Tips for In-Person Meetings**

- Plan Your Message
- Know Your Audience
- Balance Your Pitch
- Beware of Time Constraints
- Remain Professional
- It's OK Not to Know
- Follow-Ups are Key



*Picture retrieved from pixabay

NASPA Public Policy Agenda, annotated: <https://bit.ly/2GKP1Er>

Monthly Policy Update Email – opt in through NASPA website

Weekly posts to the RPI blog (<http://www.naspa.org/rpi>)

Monthly Public Policy Briefing Series: <https://bit.ly/2IYpMkb>

NASPA RPI/PPD Resources

Ways to Keep Engaged

ASTRA ACADEMY

webinar series



- [Research & Policy Institute Blog](#)



- [NACUBO Tuition Discounting Study](#) featuring Ken Redd

aspire¹⁹

- October 13 - 16 - [Aspire Conference](#), Kansas City, Missouri

Addressing Your Questions and Comments

- If you have any questions for Teri or Diana, please enter them into the Q&A box in the meeting panel.

