What the @$#$% is Going on in D.C.???
Panelists

Eric Manke, Policy & Communications Manager
California Association of Food Banks

Jim Weill, President
Food Research and Action Center

Elizabeth Raines, Federal Legislative Assistant
Feeding America
• **Fiscal Cliff** – simultaneous increase in tax rates and decrease of government spending through sequestration that would have occurred January 2013

• **Sequester** – automatic budget cuts to specific categories of the federal spending originally set to occur January 2013
Debt limit/ceiling — the amount that the nation is allowed to borrow. Must be raised if the United States is to pay for all the things that Congress has already bought: the spending in the appropriations bills it has already passed, the Social Security checks promised to retirees, the payments due to private companies with federal contracts and the interest on bonds it has sold.
• **Farm Bill** – reauthorizes farm and nutrition programs every 4-5 years - includes SNAP/CalFresh, TEFAP, CSFP, etc.

• **Continuing Resolution** – legislation to fund government agencies if a formal appropriations bill has not been signed into law by the end of the Congressional fiscal year.
2010

November

- Republicans win Majority of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Democrats Maintain a Slim Majority in the U.S. Senate
November

- House and Senate Agriculture Committees offer over $4 billion in SNAP cuts for debt reduction
- SuperCommittee fails, setting up sequester cuts for January 2013
House Republicans Propose FY13 Budget that Block Grants and Cuts SNAP Drastically

January

Senate passes Farm Bill with $4.5 billion in SNAP cuts, increases TEFAP funding

House Committee Passes Farm Bill with $16 billion in SNAP cuts, increases TEFAP

June-July

Authorization for the Farm Bill expires, but Funding for Food Programs Continues

Continuing Resolution Passes avoiding gov't shutdown and ensuring Farm Bill Funding

October

Obama re-elected

Republicans maintain majority of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives

Democrats expand on slim majority in the U.S. Senate

November
March

- Sequester goes into Effect
- Congress passes another Continuing Resolution to fund the government through FY13
- House passes budget to block grant SNAP
- Senate passes budget restoring sequester cuts
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