

# Washington Legislative Update

May 18-19, 2026

The Mayflower Hotel, Autograph Collection  
Washington, D.C.



## OPENING KEYNOTE:

*Political Landscape Heading Into  
the 2026 Midterm Election Cycle*

with political commentator  
Michael S. Steele

[www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington)

International Foundation   
OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

# Washington Legislative Update

**May 18-19, 2026**

The Mayflower Hotel, Autograph Collection | Washington, D.C.

The **Washington Legislative Update** is THE conference that leaders in benefits attend to learn “what’s happening inside the beltway,” who the players are, and what direction health and retirement policy is headed. With the 2026 midterm election cycle heating up, now is the time to start paying attention. Big social, economic and geopolitical issues will be at the forefront of discussion with significant implications for the benefits industry and the plan participants you are responsible for. Don’t miss this chance to gather with experts and fellow industry leaders as you learn about the issues and potential outcomes. Take away the knowledge you need to be prepared, educate your participants and keep your plans in compliance.

Register today and plan to connect with your peers—the community of leaders committed to providing access to quality health and dignified retirement for plan participants and their families. Share your experiences and learn from others about best practices, new ideas and challenges to avoid.

## **Who Attends the Washington Legislative Update**

First and foremost, the lineup of speakers includes D.C. insiders and benefits industry leaders, allowing you direct access to those “in the know.”

The program is designed for those who need to understand the legal, legislative and regulatory environments surrounding employee benefits. It is especially valuable to decision makers who are involved in the leadership, oversight and strategic planning of employee benefit plans.

Your fellow conference attendees come from across the country and represent single employer, multiemployer and public sector plans. This exposure will give you perspective on geographic differences and how different plan types operate.

## The content is designed for trustees, administrators and plan professionals who work with the following types of plans.

- **Multiemployer**—In the multiemployer arena, both labor and management trustees will benefit from attending, and if you are an administrator (salaried or TPA), association executive or union president, this conference will be especially valuable.
- **Single employer**—Leaders in corporate benefits, human resources, compensation or finance will find this conference of high value. Managers and staff of single employer plans will also benefit from attending.
- **Public sector**—Appointed and elected public sector trustees will benefit from attending, as will leaders and staff who work in benefits, human resources, compensation and finance.

## Why You Should Attend

- **DUTY**—You have a fiduciary responsibility to stay informed of the issues impacting your plans.
- **KNOWLEDGE**—Complying with legislation and regulations significantly impacts your operations and your plan beneficiaries. This can be complex and costly. The more you know, the better you can manage your resources and stay in compliance.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING**—Your benefits are impacted by the economy, politics, policy and compliance requirements. Take away an understanding of the issues so you can plan for the future.
- **RESOURCES AND NETWORKING**—Learn from experts, insiders and your peers about what to avoid, resources to tap into and best practices to implement.
- **HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD**—The conference is scheduled to end at 3:00 p.m. each day, allowing for time to meet with your elected representatives . . . Make your appointments now!

# Opening Keynote for the Washington Legislative Update: **POLITICAL LANDSCAPE HEADING INTO THE 2026 MIDTERM ELECTION CYCLE**

**Michael S. Steele**, political analyst for MSNBC and host of the *Michael Steele Podcast*, will headline Monday's keynote session: Political Landscape Heading Into the 2026 Midterm Election Cycle.



A trailblazer in American politics, Steele was the first African American elected to statewide office in Maryland and served as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Today, Steele is a respected national commentator, known for his thoughtful analysis and ability to engage audiences across perspectives. In this year's keynote, he will share dynamic, solutions-focused insights on the evolving political landscape in Washington, D.C.

**Don't miss this opportunity to gain firsthand insights from one of today's most influential political voices**—Secure your spot at the Washington Legislative Update and save \$300 when registering prior to April 6, 2026.

# Hear Why Your Peers Attend the Washington Legislative Update

“I found the insider perspectives of how legislative process works for our industry and the different viewpoints on specific topics highly valuable.”



“I appreciate how this program presents both sides of the opinions that will shape what happens next in our industry.”

“Excellent conference, my first legislative with the International Foundation. I’ll be back!”

“I always enjoy the classes and the depth of knowledge of the chosen speakers for each topic.”



# SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

<b>MONDAY</b>   May 18, 2026			
<b>7:30-9:00 a.m.</b>	Political Landscape Heading Into the 2026 Midterm Election Cycle		
<b>9:15-10:30 a.m.</b>	Shifting Federal, State and Local Approaches to Benefits		
<b>10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon</b>	Rx Industry Update	Congressional Interest in ESOPs	
<b>12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.</b>	EBSA Update		
<b>1:45-3:00 p.m.</b>	Multiemployer Challenges and Opportunities	Public Sector Challenges and Opportunities	Single Employer Challenges and Opportunities
<b>TUESDAY</b>   May 19, 2026			
<b>7:30-9:00 a.m.</b>	Economic Outlook		
<b>9:15-10:30 a.m.</b>	Health Care Legislation and Regulation	Retirement and Investment Legislation and Regulation	
<b>10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon</b>	Litigation Reform Prospects and Impact		
<b>12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.</b>	Mental Health		
<b>1:45-3:00 p.m.</b>	Artificial Intelligence in Benefits		

(All times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time.)

Please note that session topics and speakers may change based on evolving and late-breaking issues of importance to Foundation members.

**Register online at**  
[www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington)

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

(All times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time.)

## SUNDAY | May 17, 2026

4:00-6:00 p.m.

### Registration

## MONDAY | May 18, 2026

7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### Registration

7:30-9:00 a.m.

### Breakfast Session: Political Landscape Heading Into the 2026 Midterm Election Cycle

This session will feature reflections and insights on the evolving political environment in D.C. as we head into the midyear elections. You can expect a candid assessment of what's happening and what lies ahead.

9:15-10:30 a.m.

### Shifting Federal, State and Local Approaches to Benefits

This panel discussion will consider how and why our approach to benefits is shifting. Topics for discussion may include:

- What is changing
- How are people thinking about benefits (employers, employees, legislators)
- Universalizing of accounts
- Moving away from employers
- Emergency savings accounts
- Out-of-plan action
- State IRA programs
- Retirement security for all—mandate with public option
- Change in economic policy
- Focus on regulatory side
- Executive orders.

## MONDAY | May 18, 2026 *(continued)*

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10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon | *concurrent sessions*

### **Rx Industry Update**

This session will examine what is happening in the world of prescription drugs, including:

- PBM transparency
- Trump Rx go-live
- State actions
- Fertility drugs
- Direct purchasing
- GLP-1 in HRA.

### **Congressional Interest in ESOPs**

Employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) seem to be in favor. This session will review:

- ESOP bills
- Models of EE ownership
- KSOP
- State ownership models
- Need and prospects for reform.

12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.

### **Lunch Session: EBSA Update**

Daniel Aronowitz, assistant secretary of the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) of the U.S. Department of Labor, has been invited to share the latest initiatives and enforcement activity as well as address issues of concern to the employee benefits industry.

1:45-3:00 p.m. | *concurrent sessions*

### **Multiemployer Challenges and Opportunities**

Join your peers to discuss the unique issues impacting your plans. Topics may include:

- Withdrawal liability
- Roth
- Surprise billing and IDR
- GLP-1 coverage.

### **Public Sector Challenges and Opportunities**

Join your peers to discuss the unique issues impacting your plans. Topics may include:

- Investment restrictions
- Tax bills and possible revenue raisers
- Federal oversight
- Constraints on federal grant/awards
- Social Security reform and expanded coverage

### **Single Employer Challenges and Opportunities**

Join your peers to discuss the unique issues impacting your plans. Topics may include:

- Litigation standards
- Policymaking through regulations
- Defined benefit pension plan reforms
- 401(k) investments.

## TUESDAY | May 19, 2026

7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### Registration

7:30-9:00 a.m.

### Breakfast Session: Economic Outlook

This presentation will provide insight and analysis to help glean where the economy is moving in the short and long term. Topics will include the up-to-date issues of concern, which will likely include how government policy is moving markets, the midterm elections, economic indicators, the global economy, geopolitical risk, monetary policy, inflation and jobs.

9:15-10:30 a.m. | *concurrent sessions*

### Health Care Legislation and Regulation

This session will provide an overview of legislative and regulatory activities relating to health care. Potential topics include:

- ACA subsidies
- Association health plans
- Health savings accounts
- No Surprises Act
- Pharma-related issues and action.

### Retirement and Investment Legislation and Regulation

This session will provide an overview of legislative and regulatory activities relating to investments. Potential topics include:

- Cryptocurrency and private equity in 401(k) plans
- Trump accounts
- New plan designs
- Real estate
- PBGC update.

Register online at  
[www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington)

## TUESDAY | May 19, 2026 *(continued)*

10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon

### **Litigation Reform Prospects and Impact**

This session will examine litigation relating to employee benefits and consider the prospects for reform. Topics include:

- Health care and Rx litigation update
- Investment and 401(k) litigation update
- Changes tied to ERISA litigation
- Reforms to encourage this
- Regulatory environment.

12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.

### **Lunch Session: Mental Health**

Mental health continues to be a crisis in this country. This session will feature a discussion on how both government and plan sponsors are approaching the many issues and challenges associated with mental health.

1:45-3:00 p.m.

### **Artificial Intelligence in Benefits**

This session will examine how the explosion in AI is impacting the benefits industry. Topics include:

- How plans are using (service delivery)
- How it impacts health and retirement industry
- State initiatives
- Fraud prevention for record keepers
- Use in prior authorization and litigation
- Government role in setting boundaries and oversight.

**Register online at**  
**[www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington)**

# Learn More

The International Foundation provides more than just educational conferences and events. Check out some of our most popular resources below, many exclusive for Foundation members. Learn more at [www.ifebp.org/membership](http://www.ifebp.org/membership).



## STAY COMPLIANT

**Legislative and Regulatory Updates**—Find vetted, expertly curated updates out of Washington and Canada on issues impacting the employee benefits landscape.

**Today's Headlines**—Stay ahead of benefit regulations with daily compliance alerts, benefits news stories, and industry legislative and regulatory updates.



## MAKE CONNECTIONS

**Jobs in Benefits/Career Resource Center**—Find your next great hire, develop your career as a benefits professional, learn the latest trends in benefits and get an idea of salaries in your field.

**Foundation Community**—Chat directly with your peers, and learn from others' conversations.



## SAVE TIME AND MONEY

**InfoQuick**—Instantly access resources amongst over 100 frequently asked questions about industry topics, saving hours of searching time.

**Sample Documents**—Enough starting from scratch. View sample policy, forms, checklists and other documents first.

**Personalized Research Service**—Save hours of time by letting one of our information specialists handle your complicated benefits questions.



## LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

**Webcasts**—Gain just-in-time information on developing benefit issues, delivered by experts, with unlimited live and on-demand webcasts.

**Benefits Magazine (U.S.) and Plans & Trusts (Canada)**—Understand emerging trends affecting benefit plans through best practices, case studies and expert analysis, delivered to your door every other month.



## JOIN US IN WASHINGTON AND SPEAK UP AT CAPITAL HILL

The Washington Legislative Update offers more than policy insights— It gives you the chance to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill. With both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in session during the conference and the following day (May 19-21, 2026), attendees have a timely opportunity to connect directly with their congressional representatives.

The conference concludes early at 3:00 p.m., allowing time for pre-arranged meetings with lawmakers and staff. Be sure to schedule your appointments in advance and take advantage of this opportunity to share your perspective.

While you're in Washington, D.C., enjoy everything the nation's capital has to offer. From the iconic monuments and memorials along the National Mall to vibrant neighborhoods, world-class museums and scenic waterfronts, the city is filled with history and energy. Explore the Smithsonian museums, walk the Georgetown waterfront or experience the city's celebrated dining scene.

# Hotel Information

[www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington)

## The Mayflower Hotel, Autograph Collection

**Reservation Deadline:** Monday, April 13, 2026

**Rates:** US\$399 (single/double occupancy)

**Hotel Accommodations:** You will be charged a US\$500 deposit upon registration. Please specify your hotel requirements on the registration form.

**Hotel Cancellation Policy:** Hotel deposit will be forfeited for reservations canceled within 72 hours prior to arrival.

For additional hotel information, visit our Hotel/Travel tab at [www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington).

*\*Note: Hotel room availability is not guaranteed outside of scheduled program dates. Hotel reservations are confirmed on a first-come-first-served basis. Best available rate/hotel will be assigned if necessary.*



## Hotel Details

The Mayflower Hotel, part of the Autograph Collection, is a historic hotel in Washington, D.C., established in 1925. Known as the “Grande Dame of Washington,” it has a storied past and a central location near the White House and National Mall. The hotel blends historic character with contemporary amenities, offering comfortable accommodations, dining options and event spaces. The Mayflower Hotel has played a significant role in the city’s history, hosting many notable figures and events over the years.

## Location Details

Washington, D.C. is the United States’ front yard and home to the White House. Enjoy the city’s beautiful monuments and memorials, waterfront and dining experiences. You can visit places such as the International Spy Museum, Ford’s Theatre and the National Mall for sights and tours. Visit the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center while you’re exploring the area! You can also take a guided tour for more information as you take everything in. Visit the official tourism site for Washington, D.C. at [www.washington.org](http://www.washington.org).

# Upcoming Programs

The International Foundation has a wide breadth of programs to serve you based off your unique needs. Learn more below.



**For those in the multiemployer sector:  
Trustees and Administrators Institutes**

June 13-17, 2026 | San Diego, California



**For service providers and those  
in the multiemployer sector:  
Accounting and Auditing Institute  
for Employee Benefit Plans**

June 15-17, 2026 | San Diego, California  
*Virtual option available*



**For those in the public sector:  
Public Plan Trustees Institute—  
Levels I and II**

June 15-16, 2026 | San Diego, California



**For corporate benefit and HR professionals:  
45th Annual ISCEBS  
Employee Benefits Symposium**

August 23-26, 2026 | Phoenix, Arizona

## REGISTRATION

Register today at [www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington).

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Through April 6, 2026	Member: US\$1,495   Nonmember: US\$1,715
After April 6, 2026	Member: US\$1,795   Nonmember: US\$2,015

**Save \$300 when you register before April 6!**

## POLICIES

Cancel and transfer fees are based on registration fee paid: 60+ days before meeting is 10%; 31-59 days before meeting is 25%; within 30 days of meeting is 50%. Registration fee is forfeited once program commences. For details and the current policy, see [www.ifebp.org/policies](http://www.ifebp.org/policies).

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

Continuing education (CE) credit for professions and designations MAY be available for attendance at live sessions. You must request CE credit on your program registration at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the program so that the Foundation can seek preapproval from the governing agency. More information is available at [www.ifebp.org/ce](http://www.ifebp.org/ce).

Note: Requests made for CE credit do not guarantee administration of credit. For further information on CE credit, please call (262) 786-6710, option 2, or email [continuinged@ifebp.org](mailto:continuinged@ifebp.org).



Educational sessions at this program can qualify for self-reported CEBS® Compliance credit. Visit [www.cebs.org/compliance](http://www.cebs.org/compliance) for additional information.

## INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

The International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans is the premier educational organization dedicated to providing the diverse employee benefits community with objective, solution-oriented education, research and information to ensure the health and financial security of plan beneficiaries worldwide.



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Register by April 6 to save \$300  
with the early registration  
discount!

## Sessions Include:

- Political Landscape Heading into the 2026 Midterm Election Cycle
- EBSA Update
- Shifting Federal, State and Local Approaches to Benefits
- Rx Industry Update.

Visit [www.ifebp.org/washington](http://www.ifebp.org/washington)  
to register.



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