

## American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries

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## ***ASPPA Sees Opportunity in Change***

Arlington, Va. – The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries ([ASPPA](http://www.asppa.org)) sees the election of Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) as the 44<sup>th</sup> president and the seating of many new faces in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as an opportunity to address retirement issues in the months ahead. ASPPA looks forward to serving as an advocate to push policy makers to grow and strengthen the employer-sponsored retirement system for Americans.

According to Brian H. Graff, ASPPA executive director and chief executive officer, no other list of challenges affects so many Americans as the components of retirement. “As the first wave of the baby boom generation continues to enter retirement, the global financial crisis continues, and the political landscape settles from the election of 2008, how will the United States face crucial questions about retirement security? How will the new Congress and administration address these challenges?” Graff said.

ASPPA continues to encourage expanding the availability of workplace retirement savings, supporting initiatives such as payroll-deduction individual retirement accounts, an improved Saver’s Credit, and incentives to help employers, especially small-businesses, establish and contribute to qualified retirement plans for their employees. ASPPA would like to see the federal government require that plan sponsors and participants get the information they need to make sound investment decisions. ASPPA also hopes to see effort out of Washington to create a public policy and financial tools that help retirees make their retirement savings last a lifetime.

Two ASPPA conferences will focus on the issues that concern all Americans contemplating retirement, financial industry trends, and economic factors affecting the ever-changing 401(k) marketplace. ASPPA will host its [Cincinnati Pension Conference](#) next week, working with pension and retirement professionals in a part of the country hit hard by the economic downturn and employment issues. The [ASPPA Benefits Conference of the South](#) is January 15-16, 2009, in Atlanta, Ga.

As Congress and the new administration consider priorities for the country, ASPPA will continue to urge national leaders to pass retirement and pension legislation and formulate federal regulations that help Americans plan for retirement. ASPPA embraces the opportunity for change in a direction that will make a positive difference in the retirement plans for millions of Americans.

[e-photograph available of Brian Graff]

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ASPPA is a national organization of more than 6,400 retirement plan professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering millions of American workers. ASPPA members are retirement professionals of all disciplines including consultants, administrators, actuaries, accountants, and attorneys. The large and broad-based membership gives it unusual insight into current practical problems with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and qualified retirement plans with a particular focus on the issues faced by small- to medium-sized employers. ASPPA membership is diverse and united by a common dedication to the private retirement plan system.