

Chuck Grassley Sets the Dates for Jeff Sessions' Confirmation Hearings

On Day 1 of his new administration, President-elect Donald Trump will likely have at least one of his Cabinet members ready to get to work.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) has announced confirmation hearings for Attorney General-designate Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) will be held Jan. 10 and 11, more than a week before Inauguration Day. According to Grassley's office, Sessions has already returned his confirmation questionnaire.

The chairman's office made the following statements:

The hearings for the last four attorneys general lasted one to two days with anywhere from three to nine outside witnesses testifying at each. The hearing for the nominee for attorney general for every new president dating back to President Dwight Eisenhower has been held before the presidential inauguration, with the exception of President George H.W. Bush, who retained President Ronald Reagan's attorney general, who had been confirmed five months earlier. Attorney General Eric Holder's hearing was held the week prior to President Barack Obama's inauguration, 31 days after the committee received his questionnaire. Sessions' hearing will occur 32 days after he returned his questionnaire, affording adequate time for committee members to prepare for the hearing.

Grassley sent the questionnaire to Sessions on November 22, four days after President-elect Donald Trump announced his intention to nominate him. Sessions returned his questionnaire to the committee a week earlier than former

Attorney General Holder, who returned his questionnaire to the Committee on December 15.

"I appreciate Senator Sessions' prompt response," Grassley said. "We will begin reviewing his questionnaire and going through the documents so we're ready to hold a fair and thorough hearing on Jan. 10.

"We all know Senator Sessions to be an honorable man who has held public office for more than 20 years. I look forward to hearing from him next month." {eoa}