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Capital Snapshot:
The 119th Congress and the
Trump Administration Begin

February 2025

This Month's Capital Snapshot Deck Includes:

- Recent major developments in politics, including the inauguration of President Trump
- President Trump's White House and administration appointments
- Overview of the 119th Congress, including party breakdown, party leadership, committee leadership, and the upcoming congressional schedules
- A recap of where things stand with congressional Republican planning for reconciliation
- A summary of the state of play for both FY25 and FY26 federal appropriations
- Legislative and policy updates across a variety of key policy areas

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Recent Major Developments in Politics

President Donald Trump is Sworn Into Office for his Second Term

- On January 20, 2025, at 12 noon, President Donald Trump (R) was sworn into office as the 47th president of the United States; he previously served as the 45th president from 2017-2021.
- With his second inauguration, President Trump became only the second president in U.S. history to serve two non-consecutive terms as president, the first being President Grover Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897).
- President Trump's inauguration officially completed the Republicans' trifecta in Washington over the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives, giving Republicans full control of the federal government for the next two years.



President Donald J. Trump (R) taking the oath of office

President Donald Trump Begins His Term by Signing a Plethora of Executive Orders

- Shortly after his inauguration, President Trump began signing a wave of Executive Orders, and in the days since, he has continued signing a high volume of Executive Orders, proclamations, and binding presidential memoranda – a total of over 70.
- His new orders cover various policy areas, including border and immigration, national security, energy and environment, technology, social issues (such as DEI and transgender policies), trade and tariffs, the economy, foreign affairs, federal employees, justice, and health care and life sciences.
- The president has also issued various pardons and commutations, including for all individuals convicted of offenses at or near the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.



President Trump signing multiple Executive Orders in the Oval Office

Marco Rubio Becomes Secretary of State; Ashley Moody Appointed to his Senate Seat

- On January 16, 2025, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) announced he would appoint Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody (R) to the U.S. Senate to fill Sen. Marco Rubio's (R-FL) seat.
- When announcing Sen.-designate Moody, Governor DeSantis praised her work on illegal immigration, the opioid crisis, human trafficking, defending law enforcement, and standing up for conservative principles.
- Moody has been a loyal supporter of President Donald Trump, having joined the lawsuit that sought to overturn Trump's previous 2020 election loss.
- Before becoming Florida's Attorney General in 2019, she was a Florida Circuit Court Judge for 10 years from 2007-2017
- Sen. Rubio was sworn in as Secretary of State on January 21, 2025, and Sen. Moody was then sworn in as Florida's junior U.S. Senator later that same day.
- If Ms. Moody wants to stay in this Senate seat, she would be required to run in a special election in 2026, and then again two years later in 2028 to run for a full six-year term.



Vice President JD Vance, who is the President of the Senate, administering the oath of office to Sen. Ashley Moody (R-FL)

JD Vance Becomes Vice President; Jon Husted Appointed to His Senate Seat

- On January 10, 2025, then-Vice President-elect JD Vance (R-OH) formally resigned as a U.S. Senator from Ohio, meaning that Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R) needed to appoint Mr. Vance's successor to the U.S. Senate seat.
- On January 17, 2025, Governor DeWine announced that he is appointing Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted (R) to fill VP-elect Vance's Senate seat.
- Husted's appointment comes after Vivek Ramaswamy, a key ally of President Trump and former Co-Chair of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), made a late push for the Senate appointment. Governor DeWine ultimately decided to stick with his original preferred choice of Lt. Gov. Husted.
- Sen. Husted was sworn into office as Ohio's junior U.S. Senator on January 21, 2025.
- Similar to Sen. Moody, if Sen. Husted wants to maintain the Senate seat in the future, he will need to run in a special election in 2026, and then again in 2028 for a full six-year term.



Vice President JD Vance
administering the oath of office
to Sen. Jon Husted (R-OH)

Michael Waltz Departs the U.S. House to Join the Trump White House

- Immediately after President Trump was sworn into office on January 20, 2025, Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL) resigned from the House to become the next U.S. National Security Advisor.
- The position, which serves as the principal advisor to the president on all national security issues, does not require confirmation by the U.S. Senate, allowing Mr. Waltz to assume the role immediately after the inauguration.
- Mr. Waltz's departure from the House means House Republicans' already narrow majority was further reduced to 218-215, or a one-vote margin. Further complicating matters for House Republicans is Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) is expected to be confirmed by the Senate very soon to become President Trump's U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (UN). After Rep. Stefanik is confirmed, which is widely expected, House Republicans' margin will be a zero-vote margin in the House.
- The good news for House Republicans is the three seat vacancies that need to be filled are in Congressional districts that lean heavily Republican and thus are "Safe R" seats.



U.S. National Security Advisor
Michael Waltz

President Trump's White House and Administration Appointments

Announced White House Appointments – Senate Confirmation Not Required

President Trump’s key appointments to White House political positions that do NOT require Senate confirmation:



Susie Wiles
Chief of Staff



Stephen Miller
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Policy; Homeland Security
Advisor



James Blair
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Legislative, Political,
and Public Affairs



Dan Scavino
Deputy Chief of Staff



Taylor Budowich
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Communications
and Personnel



Michael Waltz
National Security
Advisor



Tom Homan
Border Czar



David Warrington
White House Counsel



Elon Musk
Department of
Government Efficiency
Chair

Announced White House Appointments – Senate Confirmation Not Required

President-elect Trump's key appointments to White House political positions that do NOT require Senate confirmation:



Steven Cheung
White House
Communications
Director



Karoline Leavitt
White House
Press Secretary



Alex Wong
Principal Deputy National
Security Advisor



Sebastian Gorka
Deputy Assistant to the
President and Senior
Director for
Counterterrorism



James Braid
Director of the Office of
Legislative Affairs



Alina Habba
Counselor to the
President



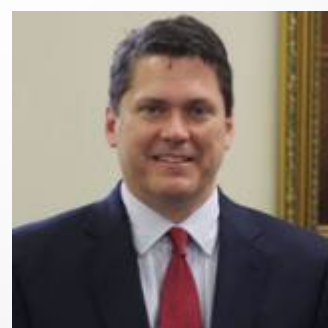
Brendan Carr
Chairman of the Federal
Communications Commission



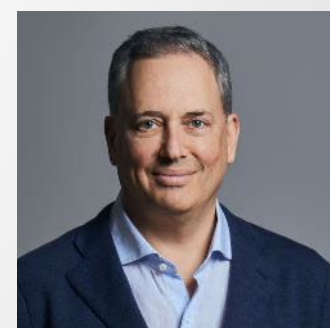
Andrew Ferguson
Chairman of the
Federal Trade
Commission



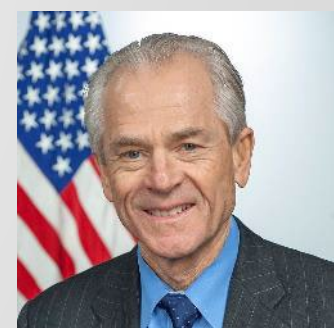
Kevin Hassett
Director of the
National Economic
Council



Vince Haley
Director of the Domestic
Policy Council



David Sacks
Chair of the President's
Council of Advisors on
Science and Technology
(AI and Crypto Czar)



Peter Navarro
Senior Counselor to the
President, Trade and
Manufacturing

Trump Administration and Cabinet Nominees

President Trump’s key administration and cabinet nominees – these positions require Senate confirmation. Highlighted nominees have been confirmed by the Senate to their respective positions:



Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
Confirmed, 99-0



Scott Bessent
Treasury Secretary
Confirmed, 68-29



Pete Hegseth
Defense Secretary
Confirmed, 51-50



Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Confirmed, 54-46



Doug Burgum
Interior Secretary
Confirmed, 80-17



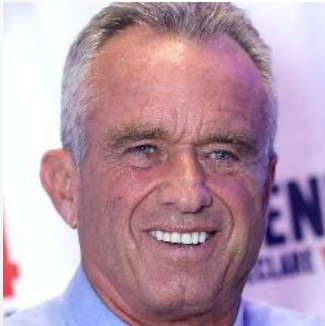
Brooke Rollins
Agriculture Secretary
Confirmed, 72-28



Howard Lutnik
Commerce Secretary



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Labor Secretary



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
HHS Secretary
Confirmed, 52-48



Scott Turner
HUD Secretary
Confirmed, 55-44



Sean Duffy
Transportation Secretary
Confirmed, 77-22



Chris Wright
Energy Secretary
Confirmed, 59-38

Announced Trump Administration and Cabinet Nominees

President Trump's key administration and cabinet nominees – these positions require Senate confirmation. Highlighted nominees have been confirmed by the Senate to their respective positions:



Linda McMahon
Education Secretary



Doug Collins
Veterans Affairs Secretary
Confirmed, 77-23



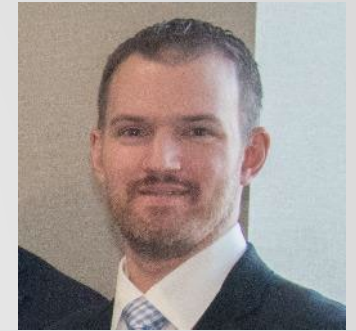
Kristi Noem
Homeland Security
Secretary
Confirmed, 59-34



Lee Zeldin
EPA Administrator
Confirmed, 56-42



Tulsi Gabbard
Director of National Intelligence
Confirmed, 52-48



Jamieson Greer
U.S. Trade
Representative



Rep. Elise Stefanik
U.S. Ambassador to the UN



Former Sen. Kelly Loeffler
Small Business
Administrator



Russell Vought
OMB Director
Confirmed, 53-47



John Ratcliffe
CIA Director
Confirmed, 74-25



Dr. Mehmet Oz
CMS Administrator

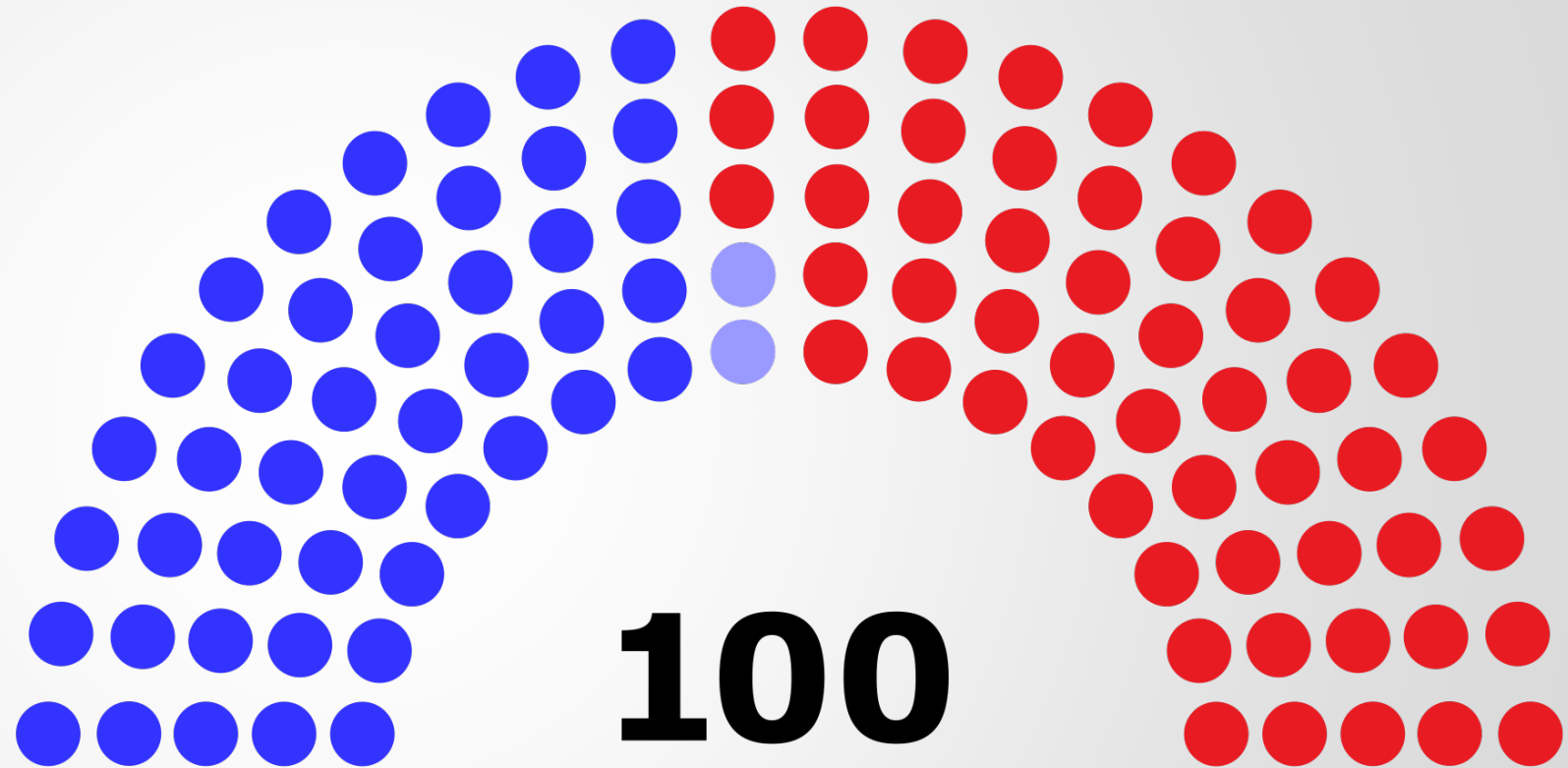


Dr. Martin Makary
FDA Commissioner

Current State of Play for the 119th Congress

Composition of the U.S. Senate

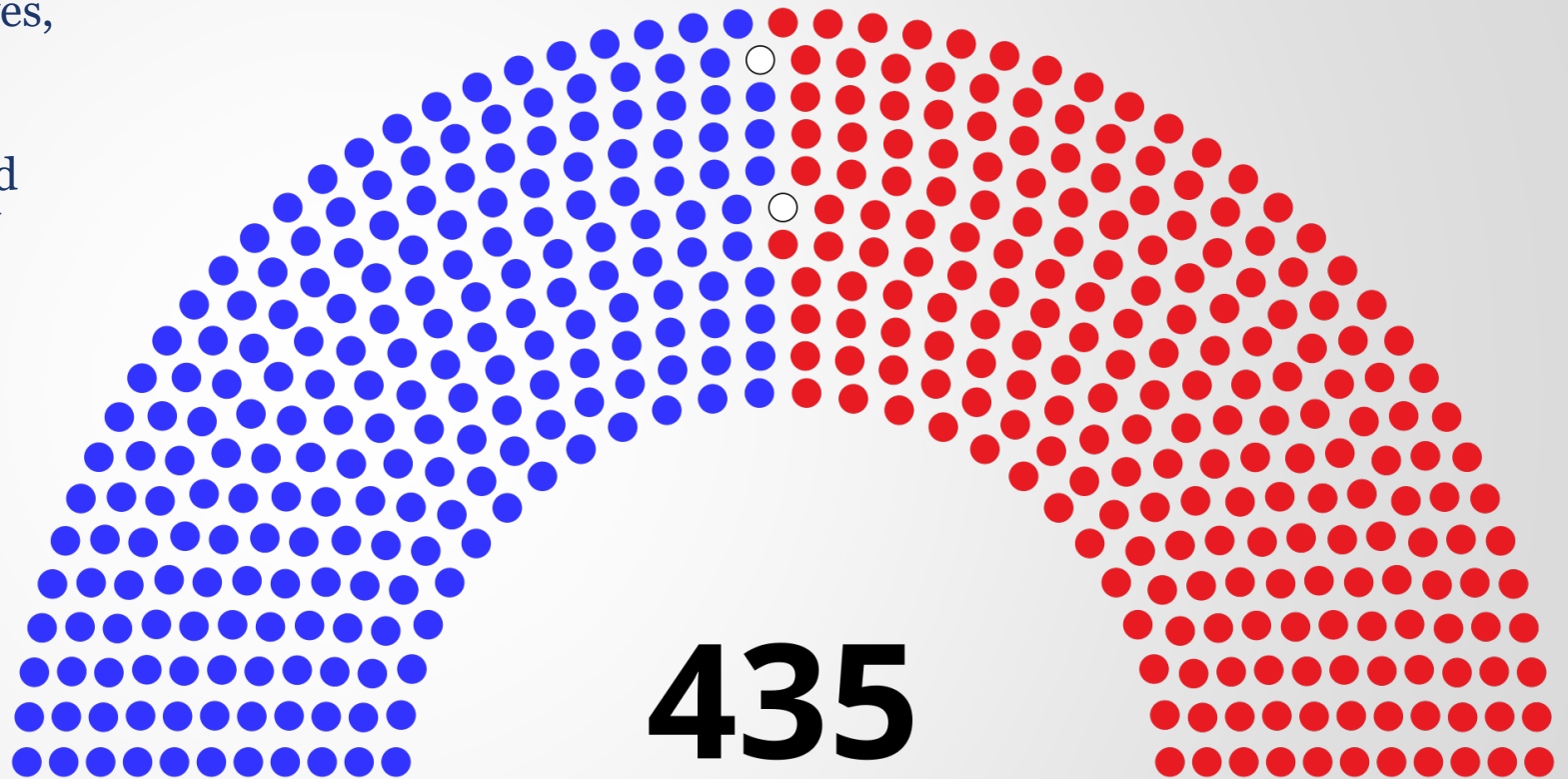
- Republicans currently hold a 53-47 majority in the U.S. Senate.
- This is the same margin Republicans had the last time they held the Senate majority (116th Congress, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2021).
- The Senate Democratic Caucus includes two independent Senators who caucus with the Democrats – Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Angus King (I-ME).



Source: Parliament Diagram Tool

Composition of the U.S. House of Representatives

- Republicans currently hold a 218-215 majority in the House of Representatives, which is just a one-vote margin. This majority will shrink to 217-215 once Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) is confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to the UN by the Senate. A 217-215 majority is a zero-vote margin.
- All three vacancies are in very Republican districts, so when those seats are filled in April, Republicans will have a 220-215 majority, which will still just be a two-vote margin.
- The 220-215 Republican majority is the smallest full capacity House majority for either party since Republicans held a 215-214 majority in the 65th Congress (1917-1919).



Source: Parliament Diagram Tool

119th Congress Congressional Party Leadership

House Republican Leadership – 119th Congress

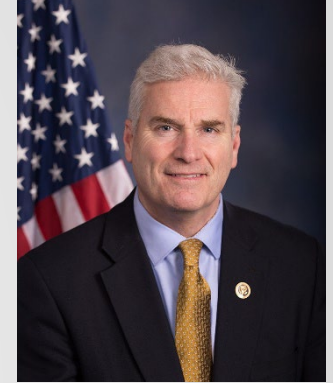
- On January 3, 2025, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) was re-elected as Speaker in a very close [218-215-1](#) vote.
- Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) were re-elected to their respective roles via an internal House Republican Conference vote.
- Current House Republican Conference Secretary Lisa McClain (R-MI) was elected by House Republicans as the new Conference Chair over Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL), and Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT) was re-elected as House Republican Vice Chair.
- Additionally, Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK) was elected as the Policy Chair of the House Republican Conference, unseating the incumbent Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL), and Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN) was elected as Conference Secretary over Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO).
- Furthermore, Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) was re-elected to another term as the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC).



House Speaker
Mike Johnson



Majority Leader
Steve Scalise



House Majority
Whip Tom Emmer



Conference Chair
Lisa McClain



Republican
Policy Committee
Chair Kevin Hern



Conference Vice
Chair Blake
Moore

House Democratic Leadership – 119th Congress

- House Democratic Caucus elections were drama-free and straightforward, as the top five House Democratic leaders all ran unopposed for their positions, and were thus re-elected to their respective posts.
- House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Minority Whip Katherine Clark (D-MA), and House Democratic Caucus Chairman Pete Aguilar (D-CA) will all maintain their positions in the 119th Congress.
- Caucus Vice Chairman Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Assistant Democratic Leader Joe Neguse (D-CO) both kept their spots as well.
- While Democrats did not win the House, party leadership in the chamber did not face significant pushback since most of the caucus' vulnerable incumbents held on in their respective races, and House Democrats picked up one seat in the November elections, as the House went from 221-214 to 220-215.



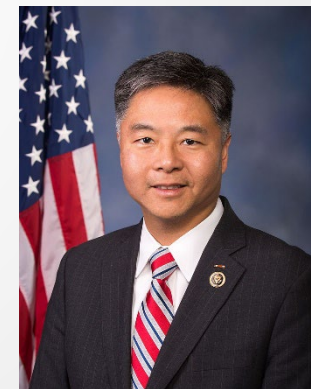
Minority Leader
Hakeem Jeffries



Minority Whip
Katherine Clark



Caucus Chair
Pete Aguilar



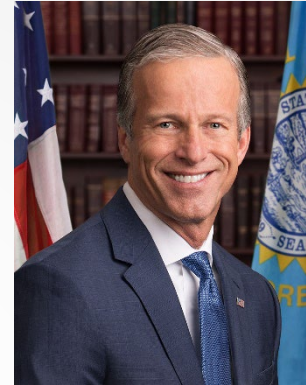
Caucus Vice Chair
Ted Lieu



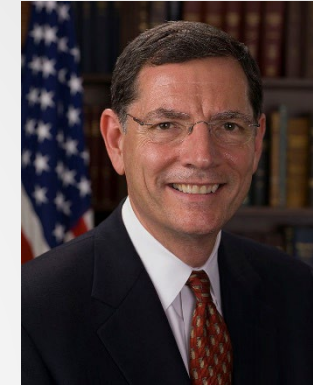
Assistant
Democratic Leader
Joe Neguse

Senate Republican Leadership – 119th Congress

- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) previously announced he will step down from his leadership post at the end of the 118th Congress. He has been the top Senate Republican since January 2007, so his decision to step down created an opening at the top of the Senate Republican Conference for the first time in 17 years.
- On November 13, 2024, Senate Republicans held their leadership elections for the 119th Congress.
- For the new Senate Republican Leader, the candidates were Republican Whip John Thune (R-SD), former Republican Whip John Cornyn (R-TX), and Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL). On the first ballot, Sen. Thune received 23 votes, Sen. Cornyn received 15 votes, and Sen. Scott received 13 votes; Sen. Scott was eliminated. Sen. Thune was then elected as the new Senate Republican Leader on the second ballot by a vote of 29-24. He later became the new Senate Majority Leader on January 3, 2025.
- The rest of Senate Republican leadership consists of: Republican Whip/Assistant Majority Leader John Barrasso (R-WY), Republican Conference Chair Tom Cotton (R-AR), Republican Policy Committee Chair Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Republican Conference Vice Chair James Lankford (R-OK), and National Republican Senatorial Committee Chair Tim Scott (R-SC).



Senate Majority
Leader John Thune



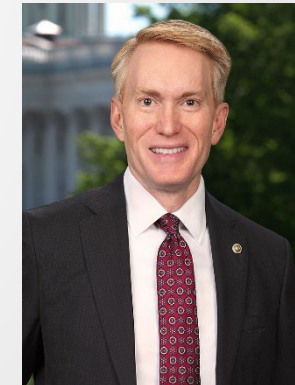
Assistant Majority
Leader / Majority
Whip John Barrasso



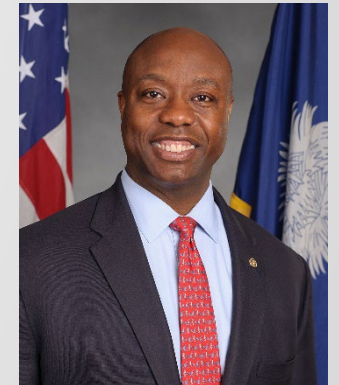
Republican
Conference Chair
Tom Cotton



Republican Policy
Committee Chair
Shelley Moore Capito



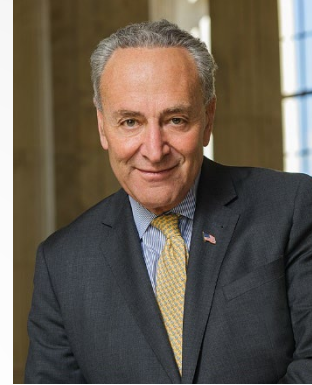
Republican
Conference Vice
Chair James
Lankford



National Republican
Senatorial Committee
Chair Tim Scott

Senate Democratic Leadership – 119th Congress

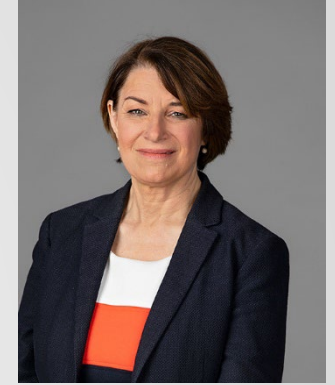
- Leadership is largely staying the same, with Sen. Schumer remaining as the Democratic Leader, and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) staying on as the Democratic Whip; these are the top two positions in Democratic leadership, respectively.
- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) has replaced the retired Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) as the Chair of the Steering and Policy Committee, which is the #3 Senate Democrat.
- Additionally, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) was elected as the new #4 Senate Democrat, in a newly created position titled “Chair of the Strategic Communications Committee.”
- Overall, there will be 11 Senators in Democratic leadership for the 119th Congress.



Democratic Leader
Chuck Schumer



Democratic Whip
Dick Durbin



Steering and Policy
Committee Chair
Amy Klobuchar



Strategic Communications
Committee Chair
Cory Booker



Conference Vice
Chair Mark Warner












Conference Vice Chair
Elizabeth Warren



119th Congress House Committee Leadership













House Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Agriculture	 <p>Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA)</p>	 <p>Rep. David Scott (D-GA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)</p>
Appropriations	 <p>Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)</p>	 <p>Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)</p>	 <p>Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)</p>	 <p>Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)</p>
Armed Services	 <p>Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)</p>	 <p>Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)</p>	 <p>Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)</p>
Budget	 <p>Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)</p>	 <p>Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)</p>	 <p>Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)</p>

House Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Education and the Workforce	 <p>Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)</p>	 <p>Rep. Robert "Bobby" Scott (D-VA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)</p>	 <p>Rep. Robert "Bobby" Scott (D-VA)</p>
Energy and Commerce	 <p>Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)</p>	 <p>Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)</p>	 <p>Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)</p>
Financial Services	 <p>Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC)</p>	 <p>Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)</p>	 <p>Rep. French Hill (R-AR)</p>	 <p>Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)</p>












House Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Foreign Affairs	 Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)	 Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)	 Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL)	 Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
Homeland Security	 Rep. Mark Green (R-TN)	 Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS)	 Rep. Mark Green (R-TN)	 Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Judiciary	 Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)	 Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)	 Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)	 Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

House Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Natural Resources	 Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)	 Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)	 Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)	 Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)
Oversight and Accountability	 Rep. James Comer (R-KY)	 Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)	 Rep. James Comer (R-KY)	 Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)
Rules	 Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)	 Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)	 Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)	 Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)













House Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Science, Space, and Technology	 <p>Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK)</p>	 <p>Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)</p>	 <p>Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)</p>
Small Business	 <p>Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX)</p>	 <p>Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)</p>	 <p>Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX)</p>	 <p>Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)</p>
Transportation and Infrastructure	 <p>Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)</p>	 <p>Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)</p>	 <p>Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)</p>
Veterans' Affairs	 <p>Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL)</p>	 <p>Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)</p>	 <p>Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL)</p>	 <p>Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)</p>

House Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

















Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Ways and Means	 Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)	 Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)	 Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)	 Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence	 Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH)	 Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT)	 Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)	 Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT)
Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party	 Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)	 Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)	 Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)	 Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)



119th Congress Senate Committee Leadership

Senate Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Aging	 <p>Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)</p>	 <p>Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)</p>	 <p>Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)</p>	 <p>Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)</p>
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry	 <p>Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)</p>	 <p>Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)</p>	 <p>Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)</p>	 <p>Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)</p>
Appropriations	 <p>Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)</p>	 <p>Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)</p>	 <p>Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)</p>	 <p>Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)</p>
Armed Services	 <p>Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)</p>	 <p>Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)</p>	 <p>Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)</p>	 <p>Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)</p>


Senate Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Banking, Housing, and Urban Development	 Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	 Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)	 Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)	 Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
Budget	 Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	 Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	 Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	 Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	 Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	 Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)	 Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)	 Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

















Senate Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources	 <p>Sen. Joe Manchin (I-WV)</p>	 <p>Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)</p>	 <p>Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)</p>	 <p>Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)</p>
Environment and Public Works	 <p>Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)</p>	 <p>Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)</p>	 <p>Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)</p>	 <p>Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)</p>
Ethics	 <p>Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)</p>	 <p>Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)</p>	 <p>Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)</p>	 <p>Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)</p>

Senate Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Finance	 Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)	 Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)	 Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)	 Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Foreign Relations	 Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)	 Sen. Jim Risch (R-ID)	 Sen. Jim Risch (R-ID)	 Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions	 Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	 Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)	 Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)	 Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Homeland Security and Government Affairs	 Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)	 Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)	 Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)	 Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

Senate Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Indian Affairs	 Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)	 Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	 Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	 Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Intelligence	 Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)	 Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)	 Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)	 Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
Judiciary	 Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	 Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	 Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	 Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Senate Committee Leadership

Yellow highlight = new GOP or Dem leader of Committee

Committee	118 th Chair	118 th Ranking Member	119 th Chair	119 th Ranking Member
Rules and Administration	 Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	 Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)	 Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	 Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)
Small Business and Entrepreneurship	 Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	 Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)	 Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)	 Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)
Veterans' Affairs	 Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)	 Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)	 Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)	 Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

2025 Congressional Schedules for the 119th Congress

2025 Senate Calendar

- The Senate plans to be in session for 37 weeks in 2025, with a total of 179 legislative days, a period longer than each year of the previous Republican Senate majority from 2015 to 2020.
- By comparison, in 2024, the Senate was in session for 29 weeks with a total of just 102 legislative days.
- A notable feature of the new Senate calendar is how many session Fridays there are. In the past, the Senate has usually ended its weeks on Thursdays even when that respective Friday is listed as a session day. For 2025 though, Sen. Thune has said he is serious about keeping the Senate in session on Fridays of session weeks, especially during the first half of the year when the Senate will be holding a high volume of confirmation votes
- The Senate will not have its first recess week until the week of March 17, when the House will also be on recess.

JOHN BARRASSO
Majority Whip

DICK DURBIN
Democratic Whip

UNITED STATES SENATE
119th Congress, 1st Session
2025

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				①	2	3	4							1							1	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
<small>SENATE CONVENES JANUARY 3, 2025</small>														30 31								
APRIL					MAY					JUNE												
1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30										
JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER												
				④	5					1	2	①	2	3	4	5	6					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30								
							31															
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER					DECEMBER										
												1	1	2	3	4	5	6				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31						
												30										

Red dates = Senate not in session
○ = Federal Holiday

1ST SESSION CONVENES—JANUARY 3, 2025
TARGET ADJOURNMENT—DECEMBER 19, 2025

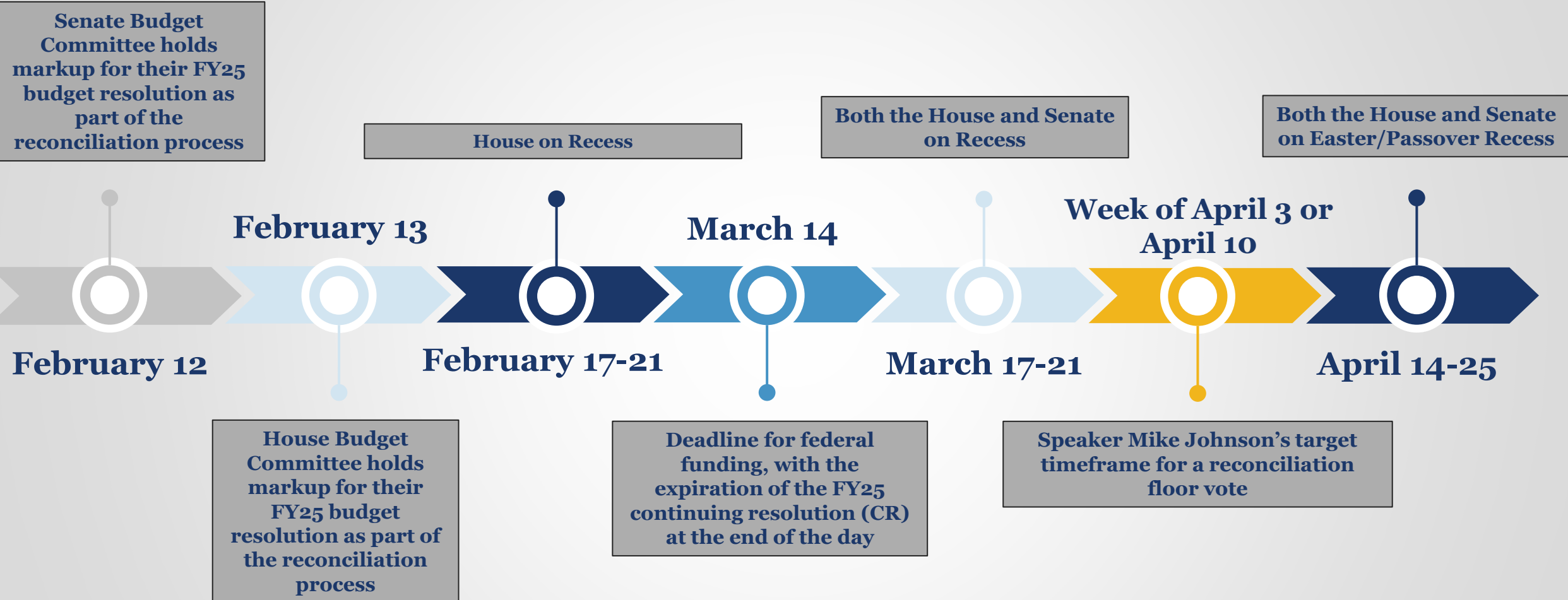
GPO: 2024 57-753 (mac)

2025 House Calendar

- This will be a busy year for the House, as the House will be in session for 33 weeks in 2025, with a total of 136 legislative days.
- By comparison, in 2024, the House was in session for 28 weeks, with a total of just 110 legislative days.
- Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Scalise have set an ambitious and busy schedule for 2025 as they work to advance President Trump’s priorities in the Republican trifecta of the House, Senate, and White House.
- The busiest in-session stretch will come from October 7 to November 6, when the House will be in session for five straight weeks.
- For the remainder of February, the House will be in session for the weeks of February 10 and February 24, but will be on recess during the week of February 17 (Presidents’ Day).



Congressional Key Dates to Watch – Winter and Spring 2025



Legislative and Policy Updates

Republican Reconciliation Plans

- Since Republicans have a trifecta between the White House, House of Representatives, and Senate for the 119th Congress, party leaders have started planning how to utilize the reconciliation process to pass much of President Donald Trump's and congressional Republicans' collective policy agendas.
- The budget reconciliation process enables the majority party in the Senate to bypass the filibuster, meaning a reconciliation bill only needs a simple majority of 50+1 to pass, rather than 60 votes, which is required to pass nearly all other bills in the Senate. This enables the majority party to pass a reconciliation bill in the Senate without a single vote from the minority party.
- However, reconciliation bills face certain subject matter constraints. Provisions inconsistent with those limitations may be struck from the bill by the Senate parliamentarian.
- Recent notable reconciliation bills include the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* ([P.L. No: 117-2](#)) and the *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022* ([P.L. No: 117-169](#)), which were two of President Joe Biden's biggest legislative achievements, and the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017* ([P.L. No: 115-97](#)), which was President Donald Trump's signature legislative achievement from his first term.

Republican Reconciliation Plans – One Bill vs. Two Bills

- Many House Republicans, including Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO) and Speaker Mike Johnson, favor a one-bill strategy, whereas many Senate Republicans, including Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), generally favor a two-bill strategy.
- Those who favor a two-bill plan believe they can quickly pass a reconciliation bill that includes funding and policies for border security, defense, and energy in the first couple months of the new Congress to give President-elect Trump an early win. They argue that after the first bill is passed, they can give themselves more time to figure out the specifics of a tax reconciliation bill, which will be much more complex and costly.
- However, those who favor the one-track route argue it is easier to hold the Republican conference together on a single measure that contains most key legislative interests, so they want to include everything in a single bill.
- No matter which strategy Republicans ultimately decide to move forward with, Republicans are expected to address priorities such as tax cuts, border security, immigration funding and policy changes, defense funding, and energy policy changes.

Reconciliation – Senate GOP Releases Budget Resolution

- On February 7, 2025 Senate Budget Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC) [released](#) Senate Republicans' Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 [budget resolution](#), laying the groundwork for a reconciliation bill that will contain provisions to “secure the border, bolster our military, increase American energy independence, and begin the process of fiscal sanity.”
- The Chairman notes that the bill's projected increased annual spending of \$85.5 billion over four years will be paid for by a projected \$85.5 billion in reduced annual spending. Of note, this budget resolution does not contain provisions pertaining to tax policy, with Senate Republicans preferring a two-bill reconciliation strategy.
- The Senate budget resolution includes “reconciliation instructions” for various committees in both chambers of Congress. In total, the budget resolution instructs eight House committees and nine Senate committees to identify measures that increase spending by \$520 billion over 10 years, and measures that reduce spending by \$4 billion over the next 10 years, for a net total of \$516 billion in new spending over 10 years.
- Chairman Graham asserts that this reconciliation package would be fully paid for, despite the reconciliation instructions calling for far more spending than cuts. He [argues](#) that this budget resolution will be fully paid for based on “anticipated revenues,” but does not provide additional details as to how the bill will be fully paid for.

Reconciliation – Senate GOP Releases Budget Resolution

- The committees must submit their budget reduction or spending recommendations to the House and Senate Budget Committees by March 7, 2025. Charts of the full reconciliation instructions for each chamber are located below.

SENATE	
Agriculture	\$1 billion reduction
Armed Services	\$150 billion spending
Commerce	\$20 billion spending
Energy / Nat. Resources	\$1 billion reduction
Environ. / Public Works	\$1 billion reduction
Finance	\$1 billion reduction
HELP	\$1 billion reduction
HSGAC	\$175 billion spending
Judiciary	\$175 billion spending

HOUSE	
Agriculture	\$1 billion reduction
Armed Services	\$150 billion spending
Education & Workforce	\$1 billion reduction
Energy & Commerce	\$1 billion reduction
Natural Resources	\$1 billion reduction
Homeland Security	\$175 billion spending
Judiciary	\$175 billion spending
Transportation	\$20 billion spending

Reconciliation – Senate GOP Releases Budget Resolution

- Chairman Graham [announced](#) that the Budget Committee would mark up Senate Republicans' FY25 budget resolution on February 12, 2025. Senator Graham's [markup](#) announcement and posting of the budget resolution came after mounting delays from House Republicans in coming to an agreement on the contours of a Republican budget resolution. Senator Graham and other Senate Republicans hope that by moving things forward in the Senate, they can speed up budget reconciliation deliberations overall.
- The Senate Budget Committee [favorably reported](#) the budget resolution to the Senate Floor in a party-line vote of 11-10.
- In order to break the log jam among House Republicans and jumpstart negotiations between various factions of the House Republican Conference, President Donald Trump hosted members of House Republican leadership and various rank and file House Republicans at the White House for a reconciliation meeting on February 6, 2025.
- We have heard that on February 10, 2025, Speaker Johnson indicated to the House Republican leadership team that he would *not* bring up Chairman Graham's Senate budget resolution if the Senate clears the measure and sends it to the House.



Senate Budget Committee Chairman
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)



House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)

Reconciliation – House GOP Releases Budget Resolution

- On February 12, 2025, House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) released House Republicans' FY25 [budget resolution](#), and also announced that the Budget Committee will be [marking up](#) the measure on February 13, 2025.
- House Republicans' budget resolution calls for a single reconciliation package, including tax cut policies, in contrast to the Senate [budget resolution](#), which calls for a smaller initial reconciliation bill not including tax policies. Of note, the House budget resolution:
 - Gives the House Ways and Means (W&M) Committee instructions to draft \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts.
 - There is a policy statement in the budget resolution that stipulates if the overall combined budget deficit *reduction* of the committees comes in below \$2 trillion, then the \$4.5 trillion amount “should be reduced by a commensurate amount to offset the difference.”
 - However, it is our understanding that this policy statement is not officially enforceable.
 - Instructs the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee to reduce spending in their jurisdiction by \$880 billion.
 - We understand that House Republicans believe a majority of these fiscal cuts will come from the Medicaid program, though the specific spending cuts and reforms are not quite clear at this time.
 - Calls for the Agriculture Committee to reduce spending in their jurisdiction by \$230 billion, some of which would likely come from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
 - Instructs the House Education and the Workforce Committee to reduce spending in their jurisdiction by \$330 billion; many of the cuts from this committee could be in the education space.
 - Includes a \$4 trillion increase in the debt ceiling, which is a provision that President Donald Trump has advocated for.
- On February 13, 2025, the House Budget Committee [favorably forwarded](#) the House Republican budget resolution in a party-line vote of 21-16.

Reconciliation – House GOP Releases Budget Resolution

- House committees must submit their budget reduction or spending recommendations to the House Budget Committee by March 27, 2025. The chart of the full reconciliation instructions for each committee is located below.

HOUSE	
Agriculture	\$230 billion reduction
Armed Services	\$100 billion increase
Education & Workforce	\$330 billion reduction
Energy & Commerce	\$880 billion reduction
Financial Services	\$1 billion reduction
Natural Resources	\$1 billion reduction
Homeland Security	\$90 billion increase
Judiciary	\$110 billion increase
Oversight & Gov. Reform	\$50 billion reduction
Transportation	\$10 billion reduction
Ways & Means	\$4.5 trillion increase

FY25 Appropriations



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)

- On December 20, 2024, Congress avoided a government shutdown by passing a Continuing Resolution, extending current government funding levels through March 14, 2025.
- The CR included over \$110 billion in disaster aid and a one-year extension of the Farm Bill.
- The final package was ultimately slimmed down after President Trump opposed the bipartisan funding package that included extensive health care policy provisions and other stand-alone bills.
- The CR also excluded a last-minute request from President Trump to temporarily lift the debt limit, which was reinstated on January 2, 2025.

FY25 Appropriations



Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA)

- House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders resumed discussions on an FY25 funding agreement, but have not reached an agreement on a topline spending number.
- Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) noted to reporters that negotiations were “moving slowly.”
- The Trump administration moved to temporarily pause all federal grants and loans (with certain exceptions) on January 27, 2025, which led to widespread concern and confusion regarding what programs would be impacted.
- The White House rescinding the memorandum on the funding pause two days later following pushback from lawmakers and legal action to block the pause. The administration’s continued foreign aid pause and efforts to reorganize USAID under the Department of State has further complicated federal funding negotiations.
- Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) told reporters it “is extremely difficult to agree to a compromise on anything if the White House is going to assert that they control the funds and [Congress does not].”

Negotiations on FY25 Appropriations Continue



House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)

- House and Senate Republican leadership are reportedly weighing an option to combine FY25 spending with other spending priorities, including a suspension of the debt limit, border security spending, and California wildfire aid.
- Since several House conservatives are unlikely to vote for funding bills or an increase to the debt ceiling without deep cuts across agencies, Republican leaders are expected to need Democratic support to address the debt ceiling and advance appropriations.
- When asked if Republicans will indeed seek a debt limit increase in an appropriations package in late January, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) told reporters he is “looking at all options” and has not “made that decision yet.”

Appropriations Subcommittee Leadership in the 119th Congress

- The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have announced their chairs – also known as “cardinals” – for the 119th Congress:

Subcommittee	House Chair	House Ranking Member	Senate Chair	Senate Ranking Member
Agriculture-FDA	Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)	Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)	Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Commerce-Justice-Science	Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY)	Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)	Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)	Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Defense	Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)	Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)	Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
Energy-Water	Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)	Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)	Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)	Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
FinServ-General Government	Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH)	Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)	Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN)	Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)
Homeland Security	Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV)	Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL)	Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)	Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Interior-Environment	Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)	Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)	Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Labor-HHS-Education	Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)	Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Legislative Branch	Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)	Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)	Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)	Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Military Construction-VA	Rep. John Carter (R-TX)	Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)	Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)	Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA)
State-Foreign Operations	Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)	Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)	Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Transportation-HUD	Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR)	Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC)	Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

FY26 Appropriations



House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee Chair
Robert Aderholt (R-AL)

- The expected delay of the president’s FY26 Budget Request and ongoing work to complete the FY25 appropriations bills is expected to delay the start of the FY26 appropriations process and committee deadlines for member submissions.
- With Republicans in control of both chambers, Republican appropriators may consider adjustments to the guidance for congressionally directed spending (also known as “earmarks”).
- While it remains unclear whether appropriators will revise or restore eligible accounts for earmarks, Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL), who has historically been opposed to earmarks for the L-HHS bill, recently told reporters that he is open to loosening earmark restrictions.
- It also remains unclear how the Trump administration's actions surrounding federal funding pauses and agency reorganization efforts may influence guidance on earmark accounts.

Tax Update

- House and Senate leadership plan to use the budget reconciliation process to avoid the Senate filibuster and advance the Trump administration’s legislative priorities on a partisan basis.
- President Trump has continued to defer to House and Senate leadership on the reconciliation strategy. President Trump has also indicated he will support proposals to raise or eliminate the cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions, include measures to exempt tip income from tax, remove favorable tax incentives for sports venues, and close the “carried interest” loophole.
- SALT relief, which GOP members from high-tax jurisdictions are insisting on, will make it harder for Republicans to pay for their tax bill, something demanded by Republican deficit hawks. Other Republican members continue to express support for many of the clean energy tax measures included or expanded in the Inflation Reduction Act that have led to jobs and manufacturing in their districts.
- As a result, the tax portion of the reconciliation process is likely to lose significant revenue over the next decade, either forcing challenging budget reductions elsewhere, reliance on significant offsetting tariff revenues, creative accounting, or all of the above to meet their budget targets.



Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)



Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)

Tax Update

- Internationally, the Trump administration has withdrawn from international tax forums, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Pillar Two negotiations and the United Nations' international tax convention.
- The Trump administration has also vowed to retaliate against nations that impose the Pillar Two global minimum tax on U.S. companies, including by doubling the tax rates on foreign corporate operations in the U.S. through authorities under Sec. 891 of the USC.
- Ways and Means Republicans endorsed this proposal, and are reportedly working to advance legislation to provide additional retaliatory measures, including [H.R. 591](#), the Defending American Jobs and Investment Act, which would increase taxes by up to 20% on entities from countries that have applied “discriminatory” taxes.



Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-MO)



Senate Finance Committee Chair Mike Crapo (R-IA)

Financial Services – What to Watch



House Financial Services Chairman
French Hill (R-AR)

- **Stablecoins and Market Structure:** Advancing legislation to create a regulatory framework for stablecoins and market structure for digital assets is a top priority for Congressional Republicans and the White House.
 - On February 4, 2025, Senate Banking Chair Tim Scott (R-SC), House Financial Services Chair French Hill, Senate and House Agriculture Chairs, and White House Advisor David Sacks announced a joint effort move quickly on stablecoins and market structure legislation. Last Congress, the House passed on a bipartisan basis the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act (FIT21), which required the buy-in of both the Financial Services and Agriculture Committees; there was no action in the Senate.
- **Oversight of Bank Regulators:** Republicans are stepping up oversight over the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and undo many of the Biden administration’s rulemakings.
 - The House Financial Services and Senate Banking Committees recently held hearings to examine debanking, the practice of banks cutting customers off from financial services. Republicans focused on criticizing Biden-era regulations, which they claim were used to pressure banks to cut ties with cryptocurrency businesses.

Defense Updates

- Defense Leadership Changes:
 - With Republicans leading the Senate following the 2024 elections, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) takes the gavel of the Senate Armed Services Committee for the first time.
 - The Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee is now led by Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Chris Coons (D-DE) after Republican leadership changes and Sen. Jon Tester's (D-MT) 2024 election loss.
 - The Senate confirmed Peter Hegseth to be President Trump's Secretary of Defense on January 24, 2025.
- The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):
 - The FY25 NDAA, signed into law on December 23, 2024 by President Biden, authorized \$895.2 billion in overall defense spending.
 - The House and Senate Armed Services Committees will soon begin the process of drafting the FY26 NDAA, taking committee member request letters and scheduling the annual budget hearings.



SASC Chair Roger Wicker (R-MS)



HASC Chair Mike Rogers (R-AL)

Artificial Intelligence Update

- In January, the Trump administration replaced the Biden administration's Artificial Intelligence (AI) EO with an order requiring the development of a strategic plan to “sustain and enhance America’s global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security.”
 - The administration published an RFI to inform the plan on February 6, 2025.
- President Trump also indicated he plans to leverage the executive branch to support the Stargate project, a joint venture between OpenAI, SoftBank, Oracle, and others to develop AI infrastructure.
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) indicated he is actively working with Republicans to advance bipartisan AI legislation, but did not provide details.
 - The legislation may include provisions of the CREATE AI Act, bipartisan legislation to codify the National AI Research Resource.
- White House AI Czar David Sacks indicated advancing stablecoin legislation as his top priority, shifting away from the AI industry.



White House AI Czar
David Sacks



Senate Minority Leader
Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Tech Update

- This month, the Senate voted to confirm Howard Lutnick to serve as the Trump administration's Secretary of Commerce.
- During his confirmation hearing, Lutnick underscored his commitment to reshoring semiconductor manufacturing to the U.S., including through the CHIPS Act, but refused to commit to honoring CHIPS Act contracts as they stand.
- The Trump administration announced a 10% tariff on all Chinese goods, including those used by the tech sector, to encourage China to limit the flow of fentanyl precursors into the U.S., effective February 4, 2025.
- In response, China imposed retaliatory tariffs on a variety of U.S. goods and launched an antitrust investigation against Google. The Chinese tariffs are scheduled to go into effect on February 10, 2025, which leaves room for the two sides to potentially work out an agreement to delay the tariffs.
- Additionally, this month, Senate Republican leadership indicated they are working to include legislation to provide the private sector access to mid-band spectrum currently in use by the Department of Defense in a forthcoming reconciliation package. The details of the proposal have not been revealed publicly.



Howard Lutnick earned bipartisan support during his confirmation hearing.

Energy and Environment – Energy Secretary



Energy Secretary Chris Wright

- On January 15, 2025, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing for Chris Wright to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) under then-President-elect Donald Trump. Discussion focused on the nominee's views on climate change and clean energy, fossil fuel production, grid resiliency.
- In his opening testimony and throughout the hearing, Wright pledged to “unleash American energy at home and abroad to restore energy dominance.” He also committed to fostering domestic energy innovation, including through supporting DOE's national laboratory network.
- The Senate confirmed Wright in a 59-38 vote on February 2, 2025, with seven Democrats and Sen. Angus King (I-ME) joining Republicans in approving Wright.

Energy and Environment – Interior Secretary



Interior Secretary Doug Burgum

- On January 15, 2025, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing for North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI). During the hearing, Governor Burgum promised to protect public lands while fostering natural resource development, including domestic fossil fuel production, to lower energy costs and support the growth of the artificial intelligence industry.
- Governor Burgum also committed to easing the permitting and environmental review process, both for generation and transmission projects.
- Then-President-elect Trump also named Burgum as chair of the new National Energy Council. When asked the responsibilities of the new council, Burgum said its focus will be on deregulation of energy, lowering energy costs, and facilitating energy exports to allies.
- On January 30, 2025, Burgum was confirmed by the Senate in an overwhelmingly bipartisan 79-18 vote.

Energy and Environment – EPA Administrator



EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin

- On January 16, 2025, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) held a hearing to consider the nomination of former Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY) to be administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- During the hearing, former Rep. Zeldin emphasized his commitment to ensuring clean air and water while continuing to “support an all of the above energy” approach, and stated EPA must protect the environment “without suffocating the economy.”
- On January 29, 2025, the Senate confirmed Zeldin in a 56-42 vote. Three Democrats — Sens. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), and John Fetterman (D-PA) — joined Republicans in approving the nomination.
- Democrats, including EPW Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), cited Zeldin’s ties to the oil and gas industry as the reason for voting against the nominee.

Energy and Environment – Executive Action, Part 1

- In his first week in office, President Trump signed several Executive Orders (EO) and memoranda aimed at expanding fossil fuel energy production and undoing Biden administration policies. The orders include:



President Donald Trump

- [Unleashing American Energy](#). Among other directives, the EO directs agencies to pause the disbursement of funds under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), restarts the review of liquefied natural gas export approvals, and eliminates the consideration of the social cost of carbon in agency decisions. Additionally, the EO requires agencies to develop recommendations to roll back “unduly burdensome” legislation related to energy and expediting the permitting processes. The EO also revokes a dozen Biden administration EOs focused on climate change, clean energy, and IRA implementation.
- [Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements](#). The EO orders the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement and directs the UN Ambassador to rescind any related finance commitments.

Energy and Environment – Executive Action, Part 2



President Donald Trump

- [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#). The EO declares a national energy emergency, directing federal agencies to use emergency authorities to expedite energy projects, including by using authorities under the Defense Production Act. Agencies and the Secretary of the Army are required to identify actions to increase energy supply that may be subject to emergency treatment.
- [Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential](#). The EO rescinds previous restrictions on resource development in Alaska and directs federal agencies to expedite the permitting and leasing of energy and mineral resources in the state, prioritizing liquified natural gas.
- President Trump also signed a [presidential memorandum](#) directing agencies to halt consideration of any areas on the offshore continental shelf from new or renewed wind energy leasing. The memorandum also suspended federal wind leasing and permitting until agencies complete a comprehensive review of offshore wind permitting practices, including consideration of its environmental and economic costs.

Education – Administration Update

- The beginning of President Trump’s second term saw a flurry of executive actions that impact the education sector. This included rescinding many Biden Executive Orders while issuing new ones:
 - Rescinding 78 EOs from the Biden administration largely related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and COVID rules, including rescinding White House Initiatives housed at the Department of Education (ED) targeting support for underrepresented students
 - Stepping up immigration enforcement
 - Building on a previous EO to combat antisemitism
 - Preventing transgender women from playing in college sports
 - Focusing on “ending radical indoctrination in K-12 schooling” that would prioritize “patriotic education”
 - Expanding access to school choice programs
- These actions are a prelude to a much-anticipated expected EO that aims to dismantle ED, in addition to putting several ED employees on leave.

Education – Administration Update

- Outside of these EOs, the administration has initiated new investigations by ED’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) into five institutions “where widespread antisemitic harassment has been reported,” including: Columbia University, Northwestern University; Portland State University; The University of California, Berkeley; and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
- As the administration contemplates ways to wind down ED, staffing the agency with senior-level appointments continues, including many appointees who previously worked for the American First Policy Institute (AFPI) or in the first Trump administration.
- The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for President Trump’s nominee for Education Secretary, Linda McMahon, on February 13, 2025.



Education Secretary nominee
Linda McMahon

Education – Congressional Activity

- On January 15, 2025, the House Education and Workforce Committee held a meeting to organize for the 119th Congress.
 - The new Chairman of the Committee, Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), indicated he will focus on (1) college affordability; (2) expanding school choice; (3) calling out “woke” institutions of higher education and cracking down on antisemitism; (4) prioritizing K-12 students and families over labor unions; and (5) bolstering workforce legislation.
 - He also wants to work with Democrats on a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – likely using last Congress’ bipartisan bill, A Stronger Workforce for America Act ([H.R. 6655](#) – 118th), as the foundation.
- As House and Senate members contemplate a path forward on a reconciliation bill, the House Budget Committee revealed a detailed list of potential federal programs and policy options that could provide potential cost savings to offset costs for reconciliation.
 - The menu includes proposals to: (1) increase the expansion of the endowment tax, (2) eliminate the deduction for student loan interest, (3) modify research and development expenses, (4) eliminate certain child care and education tax credits, including the American Opportunity Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and (5) create an accountability system for institutions of higher education similar to what was proposed in the College Cost Reduction Act (CCRA) ([H.R. 6951](#) – 118th).
 - While it is unlikely all these options will be included in a reconciliation bill, it is unclear at this time which of these proposals are most likely to remain during negotiations given the controversial nature of many of these policy provisions.
- Legislatively, an all-Republican Congress is expected to continue to focus on legislation that impacts the education space and aligns with President Trump’s policy priorities. One of the first bills the House passed this Congress was the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025 ([H.R. 28](#)), which would prohibit athletic programs from allowing biological males at birth from participating in sports with women and aligns with the recent EO on the same topic.



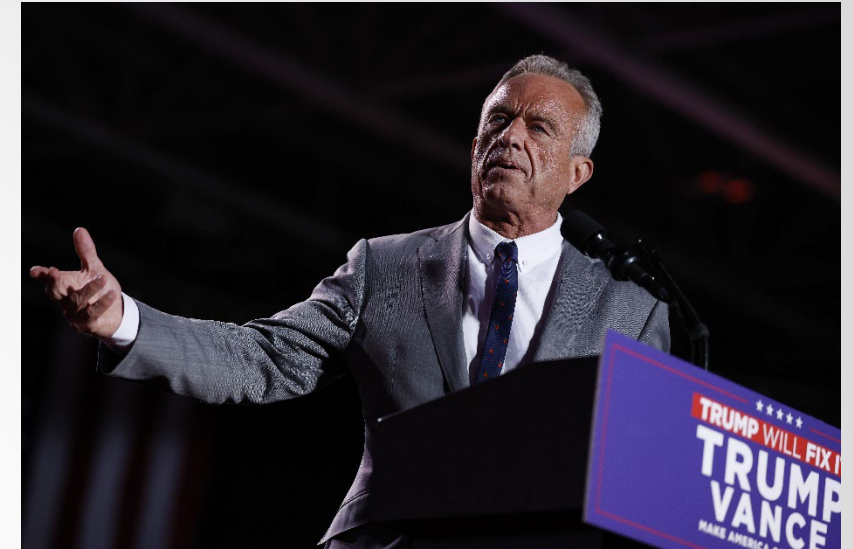
House Education and the
Workforce Committee
Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI)

Health Legislative State of Play

- Several health care reforms and reauthorizations were included in a proposed December 2024 Continuing Resolution, but the provisions were removed due to disagreement between President Trump and Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA).
- Several drug pricing provisions, including pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms, were originally included:
 - Ban on spread pricing in Medicaid
 - PBM oversight and Part D Delinking (from the Modernizing and Ensuring PBM (MEPA) Act)
 - Pass-thru of PBM rebates
 - Transparency in generic drug applications
 - Patent thicket provisions
- Additional health provisions of note that were removed from the December 2024 CR include the Give Kids a Chance Act (which included a reauthorization of the Pediatric Priority Review Voucher) and the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Response Act (PAHPA).
- Congressional Republicans, including House Energy (E&C) Health Subcommittee Chair Buddy Carter (R-GA), have indicated a desire to move on a health care package “as soon as possible,” but timing is uncertain given the ongoing focus on Trump administration nominees and budget reconciliation.
- Several health proposals have been floated as budgetary offsets in budget reconciliation, including Medicaid caps and work requirements, Affordable Care Act (ACA) reforms, and the repeal of various Biden administration health rules.

Incoming Health Agency Leadership

- President Trump has announced the following key health nominations:
 - **Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Jr. as Secretary of Health & Human Services (HHS):** RFK Jr. has promoted an outspoken range of health issues under the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement.
 - **Dr. Marty Makary as Commissioner of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA):** Dr. Makary is a professor and surgeon at Johns Hopkins Medical School.
 - **Dr. Mehmet Oz as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS):** Dr. Oz is a former heart surgeon who later ran for Senate in Pennsylvania in 2022.
- The Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held confirmation hearings to consider Mr. Kennedy’s nomination on January 29 and 30, 2025.
 - During both hearings, lawmakers questioned Mr. Kennedy on his past statements on vaccine safety, with Mr. Kennedy asserting that he is “pro-safety... and not against vaccines, industry, or food producers.”
- On February 3, 2025, the Senate Finance Committee favorably forwarded Mr. Kennedy’s nomination in a 14-13 vote along party lines.
- On February 13, 2025, the Senate confirmed Mr. Kennedy as the next HHS Secretary in a [52-48 vote](#).
- Drs. Oz and Makary are expected to have confirmation hearings in late February or early March.



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



Dr. Mehmet Oz

Health-related Executive Orders

- On January 20, 2025, President Trump [issued](#) broad rescissions of several of President Biden's Executive Orders. The following health policies were included in the rescissions:
 - Executive Order 13987 (Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government To Provide a Unified and Effective Response To Combat COVID-19 and To Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security)
 - Executive Order 13990 (Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis)
 - Executive Order 13996 (Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats)
 - Executive Order 13999 (Protecting Worker Health and Safety)
 - Executive Order 14070 (Continuing To Strengthen Americans' Access to Affordable, Quality Health Coverage)
 - Executive Order 14087 (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans)
- On January 20, 2025, President Trump [issued](#) an Executive Order to withdraw the U.S. from the World Health Organization and cease all activities in partnership with the World Health Organization.
- President Trump issued two Executive Orders on highly polarizing political matters in health care. On January 25, 2025, President Trump [issued](#) an Executive Order instating new enforcement policies under the Hyde Amendment. On January 28, 2025, President Trump [issued](#) an Executive Order banning federal funds for and eliminating insurance coverage of gender affirming care for minors.



President Donald J. Trump

Health Agency Updates



The Hubert Humphrey Building, headquarters for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- On January 21, 2025, Acting HHS Secretary Dorothy Fink [issued](#) a pause to each health agency on all external communications and public documents.
 - The communications freeze has halted public health surveillance data, certain agency staff travel, NIH study selections, and more. Similarly, all rulemaking has been paused.
- Inflation Reduction Act Updates:
 - On January 17, 2025, HHS [announced](#) the 15 new drugs selected for the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program (MDPN). The respective drug manufacturers will opt in or out of the MDPN and negotiations will occur over 2025 before negotiated prices go into effect in 2026.
 - Following President Trump’s inauguration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a statement declaring that lowering the cost of prescription drugs is a priority for the president. Notably, the statement highlighted the MDPN and suggested President Trump could pursue changes to the program particularly for transparency.
- On January 20, 2025, President Trump [issued](#) broad rescissions of several of President Biden’s Executive Orders, including Executive Order 14087 (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans).
 - Executive Order 14087 directed the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to pursue payment and delivery models that would lower drug costs.

Thank you

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