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Capital Snapshot: *August Recess Approaches*

July 2026

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119th Congress Calendars

2026 Senate Calendar

- There are currently 56 legislative session days scheduled for the remainder of 2026.
- There are only 34 legislative session days before election day on November 3.
- The Senate's annual August recess is scheduled from August 10 to September 11, though there is a chance the chamber could begin its recess a few days earlier.
- The Senate will have its biennial election year October recess from October 2 to November 6.
- The Senate's last day of session for the 119th Congress is currently scheduled for December 18, with the possibility of extending if Congress needs to pass an omnibus package or continuing resolution (CR) before the end of 2026.

JOHN BARRASSO
Majority Whip

DICK DURBIN
Democratic Whip

UNITED STATES SENATE
119th Congress, 2nd Session
2026

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	①6	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	①9	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				
Senate Convenes January 5, 2026																				
APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
				1	2	3						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	①9	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	②5	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
				1	2	③							1	1	2	3	4	5		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	⑦	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	①1	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	①2	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	②6	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	②5	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Red days = Senate not in session

○ = Federal Holiday

2ND SESSION CONVENES - JANUARY 5, 2026

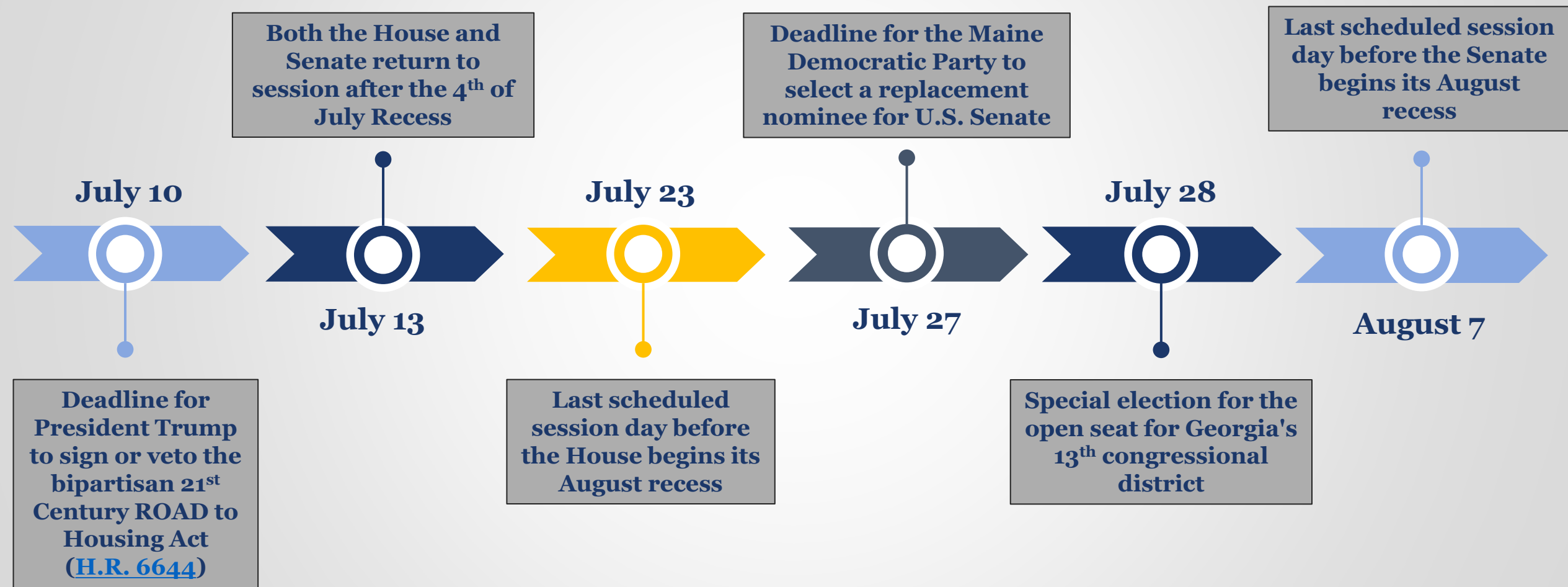
TARGET ADJOURNMENT - DECEMBER 18, 2026

2026 House Calendar

- There are currently 44 legislative session days [scheduled](#) for the rest of 2026.
- There are only 24 legislative session days before election day on November 3.
- The House's annual August recess will run from July 27 to August 28. As of now, the House's August recess will begin and end two weeks earlier than the Senate's.
- The House, like the Senate, will have its biennial election year October recess from October 2 to November 6.
- The House's last day of session for the 119th Congress is currently scheduled for December 17, with the possibility of extending if Congress needs to pass an omnibus package or CR before the end of 2026.

STEVE  SCALISE			MAJORITY LEADER		
January			February		
	1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		
April			May		
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11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				
July			August		
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5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			
October			November		
	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				
December			January		
	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				

Congressional Key Dates for July 2026





Congressional Updates

Rep. Diana DeGette Loses Primary Election

- On June 30, Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) lost the Democratic primary election for Colorado's 1st congressional district to challenger Melat Kiros (D-CO) by a tally of 53.2% - 39.8%.
- Rep. DeGette will depart Congress at the end of the 119th Congress.
- Rep. DeGette has represented Colorado's 1st district in the U.S. House since 1997; she is currently in her 15th term.
- She is the Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee's Health Subcommittee. Her primary election defeat will create an opening for the position of top Democrat on the powerful and influential Health Subcommittee.
 - The senior House Democrat who secures this position could have the opportunity to be the subcommittee Chair if Democrats win control of the House in November.
- Melat Kiros will very likely be the next Congresswoman for Colorado's 1st district, as the seat, which includes the urban core of Denver, is rated as **Safe Democratic**. She will face Christy Peterson (R-CO) in the November general election.



Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-1)

Rep. Dan Goldman Loses Primary Election

- On June 23, Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY) lost the Democratic primary election for New York's 10th congressional district to challenger Brad Lander (D-NY) by a sizable margin of 65.8% - 34.0%.
- Rep. Goldman will depart Congress at the end of the 119th Congress.
- Rep. Goldman is in his second term in Congress, having first taken office in January 2023.
- Prior to becoming a Congressman, he was notably the lead counsel for the House Democratic Managers in President Trump's first impeachment trial.
- He is a member of the House Judiciary Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee.
- Brad Lander will very likely be the next Congressman for New York's 10th district, as the seat, which includes Lower Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn, is rated as **Safe Democratic**. He will face Jennifer E. Moore (R-NY) in the November general election.
 - Mr. Lander is a former Comptroller of New York City (NYC) and a former NYC Councilman.
 - He is a progressive and was endorsed in the primary race by NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani.



Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY-10)

Rep. Adriano Espaillat Loses Primary Election

- On June 23, Rep. Adriano Espaillat lost the Democratic primary election for New York's 13th congressional district to democratic socialist challenger Darializa Avila Chevalier (D-CO) by a narrow margin of 49.4% - 45.9%.
- Rep. Espaillat will depart Congress at the end of the 119th Congress.
- Rep. Espaillat has served in the House since January 2017 and is the current Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a leadership role he has held since the start of the 119th Congress in January 2025.
- He is also a member of the House Appropriations Committee.
- Darializa Avila Chevalier will very likely be the next Member of Congress for New York's 13th district, as the seat, which includes Upper Manhattan and parts of the Bronx, is rated as **Safe Democratic**. She will face Jomo M. Williams (R-NY) in the November general election.
 - She is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and was endorsed in the primary race by NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who is also a DSA member.
 - She was one of two DSA candidates who won their primary in New York City, the other being Claire Valdez (D-NY) in New York's 7th congressional district.



Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13)

Two Democrats Advance to Runoff in CA-14 Special Election

- On June 16, a special election was held for the open congressional seat for California's 14th district. The seat is currently vacant after the resignation of former Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) earlier this year.
- California State Senator Aisha Wahab (D-CA) won 42.8% of the vote. While this is significantly higher than the next highest candidate's vote percentage, it was shy of the 50% needed to avoid a runoff.
 - Ms. Wahab has served in the State Senate since December 2022. She also was once a member of the Hayward City Council from December 2018 to December 2022.
- Coming in second place was Melissa Hernandez (D), with 16.8% of the vote.
 - Ms. Hernandez is a former Mayor of the city of Dublin, California, and is currently the President of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Board of Directors.
- The special election runoff between Wahab and Hernandez will take place on **August 18**. The winner is expected to be sworn into office and take their seat in Congress when the House returns from August recess during the week of August 31.
- The swearing in of Ms. Wahab or Ms. Hernandez would bring the House to **219 Republicans** (including an independent) and **213 Democrats**, decreasing Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) majority from three votes down to two.



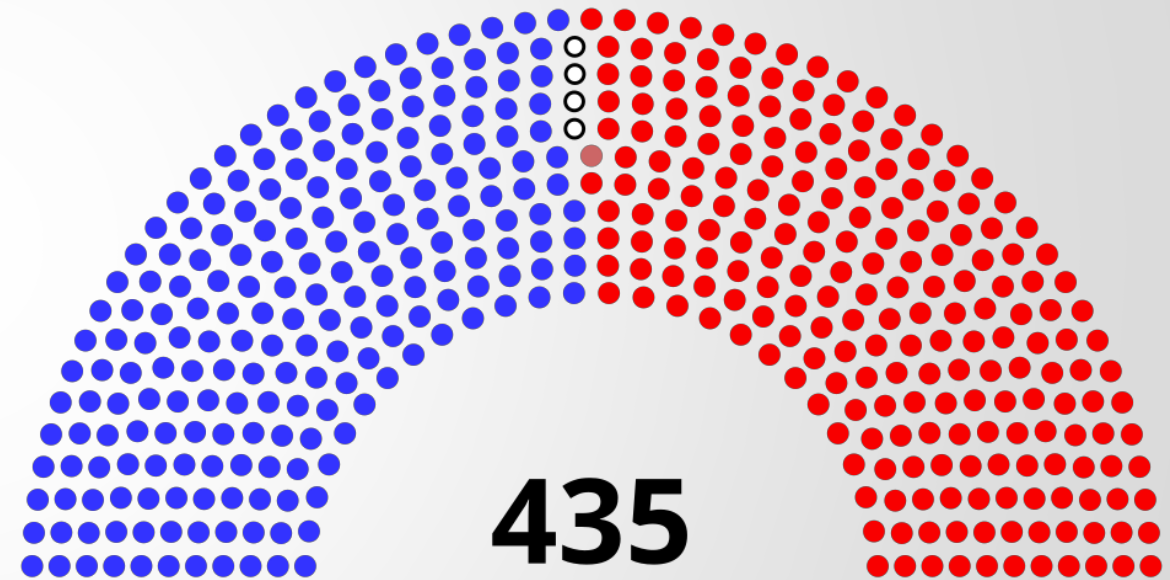
State Senator
Aisha Wahab
(D-CA)



BART Board of
Directors
President Melissa
Hernandez
(D-CA)

Current U.S. House – 119th Congress

- There are now a total of 62 Members of the House who have announced their plans to not run for re-election in 2026, either to retire or to seek another public office, comprising 24 Democrats and 38 Republicans.
- **The number of GOP retirements is the highest since 1930, the second-most being in President Trump's first midterm year of 2018.**
- Seven incumbents have also lost their respective primary elections: five Democrats and two Republicans.
- Additionally, eight Members have already left office in the 119th Congress, while five Members have passed away.
- The House currently stands at **218 Republicans**, **1 independent** (who caucuses with the Republicans), **212 Democrats**, and five vacancies. This is just a **three-vote majority** for House Republicans (ties result in a failed vote).
- Once vacancies are filled in various special elections in the coming months, the tally will likely be **220 Republicans** (accounting for **1 independent**) and **215 Democrats**, a narrow two-vote majority.



Overview of Current House Vacancies and Special Elections

District	Former Representative	Special Election Date	Race Rating
California-14	Former Rep. Eric Swalwell (D)	August 18, 2026 (runoff) [Aisha Wahab (D) vs. Melissa Hernandez (D)]	Safe D
Texas-23	Former Rep. Tony Gonzales (R)	TBA	Likely R
Florida-20	Former Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D)	TBA	Safe D (seat being redistricted though)
Georgia-13	Late Rep. David Scott (D)	July 28, 2026 August 25, 2026 (runoff, if necessary)	Safe D

Senator Michael Bennet Loses Gubernatorial Primary Election

- On June 30, Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) lost the Democratic primary election for Colorado Governor to the state's Attorney General, Phil Weiser, by a tally of 56.9% – 43.1%.
- Senator Bennet's U.S. Senate seat is not up for re-election until 2028, and following his gubernatorial defeat, he is now expected to remain in his seat for the remainder of the current term. It is unclear if he will run for re-election to his seat in 2028 though; he has not announced his intentions yet.
- Senator Bennet is a member of the following committees:
 - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - Finance
 - Intelligence
 - Rules and Administration
- Given the Colorado Governor's race is rated as **Safe Democratic**, Attorney General Phil Weiser will very likely be the next Governor of the state. He will face pastor and Marine veteran Victor Marx (R) in the November general election.



Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Senator John Hickenlooper Wins Primary Election

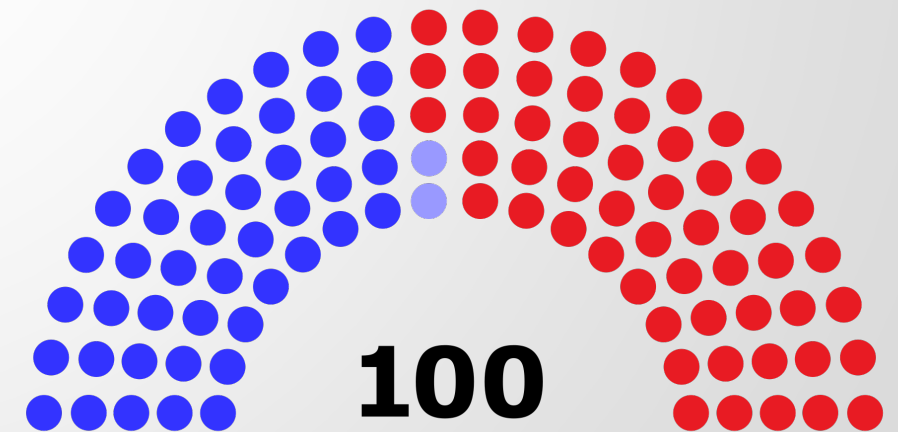
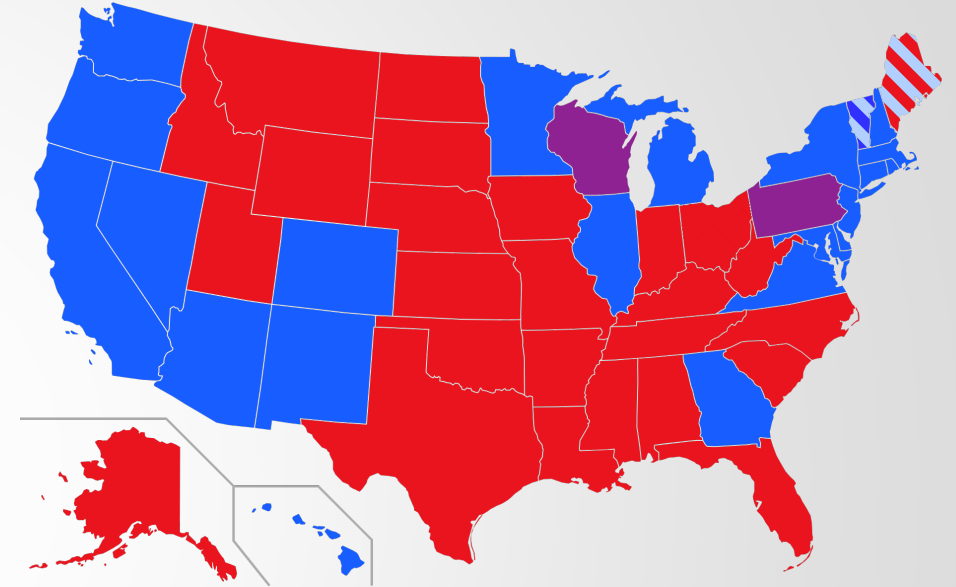
- Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO) faced a competitive Democratic primary for re-election to his U.S. Senate seat, but he ultimately prevailed against challenger Julie Gonzales, a State Senator, by a tally of just 52.9% - 47.1%.
- Senator Hickenlooper was first elected to his seat in 2020 and is seeking a second term. He was previously the Governor of Colorado from 2011 to 2019 and was the Mayor of Denver from 2003 to 2011.
- Senator Hickenlooper is a member of the following committees:
 - Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 - Energy and Natural Resources
 - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)
 - Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Given the Colorado Senate race is rated as **Safe Democratic**, Senator Hickenlooper will very likely win re-election to his seat in November. He will face State Senator Mark Baisley (R-CO) in the general election.



Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

Current U.S. Senate – 119th Congress

- Republicans hold a 53-47 majority, which is the same majority they held when they last controlled the Senate in January 2021.
- Two independent Senators caucus with the Democrats: Senator Angus King (I-ME) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT).
- Vice President J.D. Vance, who also serves as the Senate President, can cast a tie-breaking vote if the final vote on any legislation or nominee is tied at 50-50.
- Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) is the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
 - He previously held the position from Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2021.
- To date, 11 sitting Senators have announced they will not be seeking re-election in 2026.
 - This comprises seven Republicans and four Democrats.





Key Legislative and Policy Updates

Appropriations – State of Play



House Appropriations Chair
Tom Cole (R-OK)

- On June 24, the House Appropriations Committee advanced its final spending bill, Defense ([H.R. 9495](#)) on a party-line vote (34-27), completing markups for all 12 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations bills by Chair Tom Cole's (R-OK) goal of July 1.
- On June 29, the House failed to advance the FY27 National Security-State appropriations bill ([H.R. 8595](#)) after Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) could not secure Republican votes to pass a rule to bring the bill to the floor.
 - The House also pulled floor votes on the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill ([H.R. 9022](#)) on June 23 after House Republicans were unable to advance legislation due to conservative member disputes regarding the SAVE America Act.
 - House Republican appropriators expressed frustration that repeated setbacks have delayed consideration of the remaining 10 appropriations bills. Only the FY27 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Ag-FDA; [H.R. 8646](#)) and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA; [H.R. 8469](#)) have cleared the House floor.

Appropriations – State of Play



Senate Appropriations Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) [left]
& Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) [right]

- The Senate Appropriations Committee has yet to mark up any of its 12 FY27 appropriations, with less than 30 legislative days remaining before the September 30 fiscal year deadline.
 - The Senate was scheduled to consider four FY27 appropriations bills, including Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Ag-FDA); Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS); Legislative Branch, and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA), however, the markup was postponed four times in June due to stalled topline funding negotiations between Senate Appropriations leaders due to disagreements over defense and non-defense spending allocations. Throughout the month, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) both accused one another of negotiating in bad faith.
 - Additionally, Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) hospitalization has created complications, leaving the committee equally divided (14 Democrats to 14 Republicans) for votes without his attendance.
- On June 24, the White House [submitted](#) an \$87.6 billion supplemental funding request to replace munitions expended in the Iran War, funding for responding to the Ebola outbreak, and addressing assistance for American farmers. The Trump administration has requested Congress move a supplemental funding package in July, though House appropriators from both parties have expressed frustration over a lack of information from the Pentagon on the defense supplemental. Republicans are exploring a third reconciliation package as a potential vehicle for defense funding.

Appropriations – Look Ahead

- Government funding runs out on September 30, 2026. While the House Appropriations Committee has made progress on its FY27 appropriations bills, the Senate remains stalled. Congress will need to pass a CR to fund the government before the end of September, likely to extend current funding until after the midterm elections. However, there is already some speculation amongst lawmakers about a potential government shutdown before the midterm elections if Congress is unable to pass a CR.
- Under pressure from the White House and Pentagon, Congressional Republicans look to move supplemental defense funding. The package includes \$67 billion for the Pentagon and additional funding for the Ebola outbreak in Central Africa, economic assistance for farmers, and Penn Station reconstruction in New York. Despite these add-on provisions to appeal to Democrats, prominent appropriators, including Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), have publicly dismissed the request.
 - Chair Collins intends to hold hearings on the supplemental funding request.
- When Congress returns from recess on July 13, Senate appropriators will have limited time to advance their FY27 appropriations bills.
 - Given the short legislative calendar before the upcoming midterm elections, it is possible the Senate will not release all 12 of its FY27 appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year. The Senate Appropriations Committee may forgo markups and release partisan-drafted spending bills if topline spending agreements are unable to be reached.



Trade – Recent Trade and Tariff Developments

- **IEEPA Refunds Continue.** On June 29, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) [began accepting](#) reconciliation-entry declarations through Phase 2 of the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (CAPE) system for International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariff refunds. The government maintains that, while CBP is authorized to build the Phase 3 system, it cannot refund finally liquidated entries without an importer-specific court order.
- **Section 122 Litigation Persists.** On June 11, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) [stayed](#) the Court of International Trade (CIT) order that both blocked Section 122 tariff collection and ordered refunds to named plaintiffs.
- **SCOTUS Denies China Section 301 Tariffs Challenge.** On June 15, the U.S. Supreme Court [declined](#) to review *HMTX Industries, et al. v. United States*, which challenged an expanded modification of Section 301 tariffs on China implemented during the first Trump administration.
- **Administration Issues Customs EO.** On June 3, President Trump [issued](#) an EO, titled “Strengthening Customs Enforcement,” which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to strengthen customs enforcement and could impact requirements on importers of record.
- **De Minimis Treatment of Low-Value Imports Indefinitely Suspended.** On June 24, CBP published two interim [final rules](#) indefinitely suspending the de minimis exemption from tariffs for individual shipments valued at \$800 or less.
- **Senate Finance Holds ITC Nominees Hearing.** On June 25, the Senate Finance Committee held a [hearing](#) to consider David Foley, Jr., Brett Doyle, Peter-Anthony Pappas, Bartholomew Thanhauser, and Samuel Negatu for Commissioner seats on the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC).

Trade – Section 301 and 232 Updates

- **Section 301 Forced Labor Investigations Conclude.** On June 2, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) released its [report](#) and [proposed actions](#) in the Section 301 forced labor investigation. USTR found that all 60 of the investigated countries either lacked a prohibition on imports made with forced labor or failed to effectively enforce one. USTR proposed duties of either 10% or 12.5% on nearly all imports from the 60 countries.
- **USTR Concludes Brazil Section 301 Probe.** On June 1, USTR [released](#) its determinations and proposed actions in the Section 301 investigation into Brazil. USTR determined Brazil's trade practices in all six areas under investigation were unreasonable and burdened U.S. commerce and proposed a 25% tariff on Brazilian imports.
- **USTR Launches Section 301 Investigation into German Pharmaceuticals.** On June 18, USTR [announced](#) a Section 301 [investigation](#) into Germany's "underpayment" for innovative pharmaceuticals.
- **President Trump Adjusts Steel and Aluminum Derivative Tariffs.** On June 1, President Trump signed a [proclamation](#) to adjust Section 232 steel, aluminum, and copper tariffs on certain derivative products. The proclamation decreases the tariff rate on certain agricultural equipment, such as combines and harvesters, from 25% to 15%.
- **Commerce Launches Section 232 Investigation into Coal.** On July 7, the U.S. Department of Commerce published a [notice](#) for a new 232 investigation into the imports of anthracite coal. The notice states that the investigation was initiated on Monday, June 29, meaning that Commerce would have until March 26, 2027, to submit its report to the president with its findings and recommendations. Comments are due Tuesday, July 21, 2026.
- **Trump Threatens DST Tariffs.** On June 26, President Trump [threatened](#) on Truth Social to impose a 100% tariff on all goods from countries imposing a digital services tax (DST) on U.S. companies, which would supposedly supersede existing trade deals. At the time of this writing, official action has not taken place.

Trade – Bilateral Updates

- **China.** On June 2, USTR [issued](#) a notice seeking public comments on the proposed U.S.-China “Board of Trade” that emerged from the May 2026 U.S.-China summit. The Board of Trade is intended to serve as an ongoing bilateral mechanism for reviewing and modifying tariff treatment on designated categories of goods.
- **EU.** On June 25, the Council of the European Union (EU) [adopted](#), in a unanimous [vote](#), [legislation](#) to implement tariff reductions on U.S. goods under the August 2025 [U.S.-EU Framework Agreement](#).
- **India.** On June 22-24, USTR Jamieson Greer led a U.S. delegation to New Delhi, India to try to finalize the bilateral [Interim Agreement](#) of February 2026. [According](#) to the Indian government, the two sides discussed "enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors."
- **Uzbekistan.** On June 25, the United States and Uzbekistan [announced](#) “an early harvest of trade commitments” for a bilateral trade and investment agreement. According to USTR, Uzbekistan agreed to “eliminate or reduce tariffs on a wide range of U.S. industrial goods and agricultural products,” in exchange for “favorable consideration in tariff actions” for Uzbek goods.



Indian Minister of Commerce and
Industry Piyush Goyal

Trade – USMCA Update



USTR Jamieson Greer

- **USMCA Renewal Lapses.** On July 1, the United States, Mexico, and Canada [virtually met](#) to conduct a joint review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The United States did not agree to renew the USMCA, thus triggering an annual review process that will last 10 years before the agreement sunsets in 2036. President Trump [previously indicated](#) the United States would not renew the agreement.
- **U.S.-Mexico Negotiations Continue.** From June 15-17, the United States and Mexico completed a second formal round of bilateral negotiations related to the USMCA, separate from the trilateral joint review.
 - USTR [reported](#) the two countries “advanced” discussions on rules of origin for certain industrial goods and on economic security; “began conceptual discussions” on agriculture, labor, and environment; and “discussed” trade in steel, aluminum, and automobiles. The two governments also agreed to create a committee for reviewing “regulatory compatibility” issues under the USMCA.
 - A third bilateral negotiation round is [scheduled](#) for the week of July 20 in Mexico. No formal bilateral discussions with Canada have been held yet.

Defense – FY27 NDAA Outlook

- On June 10, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) [completed](#) its closed-door markup of the draft National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). SASC approved the bill by a vote of 18-9.
 - On June 16, SASC Chairman Roger Wicker (R-MS) formally [filed](#) the Senate version of the FY27 NDAA ([S. 4784](#)). Over 700 amendments have been filed thus far.
- On June 30, the House attempted to set up a floor vote for the FY27 NDAA ([H.R. 8800](#)), but passage of the rule failed by a vote of [198-224](#). Fourteen Republicans joined Democrats in voting against the rule.
 - On June 29, the House Rules Committee made 312 amendments for floor consideration and favorably reported the [rule](#) by a vote of 8-4. House Members filed almost [1,400 amendments](#) to the bill.
 - Of note, in the rule, the committee stated that once the NDAA is passed by the House, it will be combined with the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act ([H.R. 7296/S. 1383](#)).
- **Next Steps:** The House and Senate are aiming to pass their respective NDAA bills by the end of July, before Congress adjourns for August recess. The two chambers will then conference the bills before final passage, likely after the midterm elections and before the end of the calendar year.
- On June 24, the House Appropriations Committee [advanced](#) the FY27 Defense Appropriations bill to the House, as amended, by a vote of 34-27. The bill would provide almost \$1.1 trillion in discretionary budget authority for the U.S. Department of Defense.



HASC Chair
Mike Rogers (R-AL)



SASC Chair
Roger Wicker (R-MS)

Defense – Iran

- A Memorandum of Understanding ([MOU](#)) signed by President Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on June 17 had generally been in effect from the time of signing through July 7.
 - The MOU had set up a 60-day ceasefire period for negotiating a final deal, including a 60-day reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.
 - On June 21, Vice President JD Vance led a U.S. delegation to Switzerland for negotiations with an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, and Qatari and Pakistani officials in attendance as mediators.
 - On June 26, though, the U.S. [conducted](#) strikes on Iran in retaliation for a June 25 Iranian drone strike on a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - Iran contends that the U.S. strikes violated the terms of the MOU and retaliated with additional strikes on U.S. facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait, causing condemnation from the Bahraini and Kuwaiti governments.
 - On July 8, while at the NATO summit in Turkey, President Trump declared the ceasefire to be “over,” and indicated that negotiations had largely broken down. He also warned of additional military action against Iran, and suggested further strikes would come very soon.
 - The Pentagon announced strikes on dozens of Iranian military targets, including air-defense systems, missile sites, and other military infrastructures. U.S. officials said the attacks were retaliation for recent Iranian attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.
- On June 23, the Senate adopted ([50-48](#)) a war powers resolution, [H.Con.Res.86](#), directing President Trump to remove U.S. forces from Iran barring congressional authorization for further military engagement, marking the first time a war powers resolution on the conflict has cleared both chambers.
 - Four Republicans, including Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Rand Paul (R-KY), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), supported the measure alongside nearly all Senate Democrats.
 - The House previously passed the measure on June 3 in a [215-208](#) vote, with four Republican Members joining House Democrats.
- On June 24, the White House sent a \$87.6 billion supplemental funding [request](#) to Congress, which includes \$67 billion for military programs. The letter, signed by OMB Director Russell Vought, states that “most of this request will address urgent needs related to Operation Epic Fury (OEF).”

Tax – Congressional Updates

- **Tax Package Momentum Stalls.** The Senate Finance Committee's bipartisan tax administration package, the Taxpayer Assistance and Service Act (TAS Act, [S. 3931](#)), has been delayed by recent discussions over President Donald Trump's [settlement](#) with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
 - The committee [called off](#) plans to mark up the package on June 13, after Senate Finance Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) demanded a vote on an amendment blocking President Trump's IRS audit immunity deal.
 - The House Ways and Means Committee has taken an incremental approach, [passing](#) bipartisan tax administration bills individually. On July 1, the Ways and Means Committee held a [markup](#) to consider additional tax administration legislation in the same manner.
 - Assuming the dispute over the settlement is resolved, floor consideration of any bipartisan tax administration bill will most likely be post-election.
- **Rep. Estes, a Vocal Opponent to DSTs in Congress.** On June 5, Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS) [introduced](#) a bipartisan resolution ([H.Res. 1340](#)) “expressing strong opposition to the imposition of digital services taxes and other relevant similar measures by other countries that unfairly discriminate against United States companies.”
 - The measure has bipartisan support from five additional members of the House Ways and Means Committee.
 - Subsequently, Rep. Estes penned an [opinion piece](#) arguing that DSTs unfairly target U.S. companies and praised the February 2025 [executive action](#) opposing DSTs.



Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR),
Ranking Member of the
Senate Finance Committee



Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS),
member of the House Ways
and Means Committee

Tax – Administration Updates

- **Trump Nominates IRS Chief Counsel.** On June 23, President Trump [nominated](#) Jim Gadwood to serve as Chief Counsel for the IRS and Assistant General Counsel at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.
 - The nomination is uncontroversial, but the confirmation process will likely draw scrutiny from Democrats over the President's IRS settlement shielding his family and his businesses from tax audits.
 - The role of IRS Chief Counsel is one of only two Senate-confirmed positions at the agency, along with the Commissioner, which both remain vacant. Acting-Chief Counsel Ken Kies, who is also the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at Treasury, reportedly claimed he will continue serving in the role despite his tenure [expiring](#) on June 17.
 - The role of IRS CEO is an innovation of the Trump administration and not a statutorily created office.
- **IRS Merges Tax Professional Offices.** On June 8, the IRS [announced](#) that the agency will create a new Tax Professional Management Office (TPMO), merging the Return Preparer Office and Office of Professional Responsibility.
 - The move has drawn criticism from former IRS officials and tax preparer groups who [argue](#) that combining offices creates a conflict of interest.



Jim Gadwood, nominated to serve as IRS Chief Counsel



IRS CEO Frank Bisignano

Financial Services – Key Policy Updates

- **Crypto Market Structure Bill Enters Critical Period.** The next two weeks will determine whether the Digital Asset Market Clarity (CLARITY) Act ([H.R. 3633](#)) can reach the Senate floor before the August recess and whether it will be presented to the president before the mid-term elections.
 - [Disagreement](#) on including the Blockchain Regulatory Certainty Act ([H.R. 3533](#)) remains a key hurdle, with law enforcement groups warning the provision would make on-chain investigations difficult.
 - If the Senate finds a way to pass the CLARITY Act, it would go back to the House, where it originated ([H.R. 3633](#)). House leadership will likely face pressure to adopt the Senate version rather than risk further delays.
- **Trump Holds Out on Housing Bill.** President Trump [canceled](#) the signing ceremony for the 21st Century Road to Housing Act ([H.R. 6644](#)), demanding that the SAVE America Act ([H.R. 7296](#)) be attached or passed first. The House overwhelmingly passed the housing measure ([358-32](#)) on June 23.
 - On June 29, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) [sent](#) the bill to President Trump for his signature. Absent action, the bill automatically becomes law in 10 days. If the president elects to veto the bill instead, the House has the necessary 2/3 threshold to override the veto.
 - We expect the measure, as passed, to become law.



Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC), Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee

Financial Services – Administration Updates

- **CFTC Reasserts Prediction Market Jurisdiction.** The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) has sued Kentucky and New Mexico in an escalating campaign to defend the agency's claimed exclusive federal jurisdiction over prediction markets and event contracts.
 - On June 23, the CFTC [sued](#) Kentucky to block the state from using state law to shut down CFTC-registered contract markets. CFTC Chair Mike Selig said Kentucky is attempting to shut down federally regulated event contracts, arguing that prediction markets provide useful information about future events and serve as risk management tools.
 - The agency [sued](#) New Mexico on similar grounds, seeking to block the state from applying its gaming laws to CFTC-registered contract markets and prediction market offerings.
- **CFTC Investigates Polymarket.** Amid rising scrutiny of prediction markets, the CFTC is [conducting](#) an “extensive investigation” into the platform Polymarket.
 - Polymarket's offshore markets have drawn particular concern from lawmakers over bets linked to the Iran war and concerns about potential insider trading.
- **SEC and CFTC seek input on harmonizing portfolio margining rules.** On June 26, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and CFTC [issued](#) a joint request for public comment on ways to harmonize portfolio margining frameworks across securities, security-based swaps, futures, swaps, and related positions.
 - SEC Chair [Paul Atkins](#) and [CFTC Chair Selig](#) said harmonization could ensure overlap, does not impede innovation or efficiency, and said enhanced cooperation could free up capital while supporting stronger risk management and market protections.



CFTC Chair Mike Selig

Financial Services – Administration Personnel Updates

- **CFTC Announces Senior Appointments, Omits Additional Commissioners.** On June 15, the CFTC [announced](#) senior staff appointments for Donald Battle as Chief Data Innovation Officer and J. Matthew Haws as Senior Advisor and Chicago Regional Administrator. CFTC Chairman Mike Selig [remains](#) the only Senate-confirmed Commissioner at the agency.
 - Lawmakers have [called](#) on the president to nominate a full slate of bipartisan commissioners. The CFTC may have up to five Commissioners, of whom no more than three can be from the same political party.
- **SEC Names International Affairs Office Director.** On June 24, the SEC [appointed](#) Kathleen Hutchinson as Director of the agency's Office of International Affairs (OIA), making permanent a role she has held in an acting capacity since January 2025.
- **Treasury Names Chief of Staff.** On June 2, U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [announced](#) the appointment of Kate Tyrrell to serve as the agency's Chief of Staff.

Artificial Intelligence – Administration Updates

- On June 2, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) (EO), “Promoting Advanced Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Security,” to address artificial intelligence (AI) cybersecurity threats. The final EO is a scaled-back version of a draft circulated in late May.
 - The order directs various agencies within 30 days to take steps to bolster protections against cyber threats. Additionally, the order asks AI companies to enter their frontier models into a voluntary government review program 30 days prior to public release.
- In June, the Trump administration took several direct actions to curb the release of frontier AI models with potential cybersecurity risks:
 - After the public release of Anthropic's Fable 5 and Mythos 5 models, the Trump administration issued an export control directive on June 12, suspending access to the new models by any foreign national, including foreign nationals inside the United States and foreign national employees of the company. On June 30, the administration [informed](#) Anthropic that the models were no longer subject to an export control license.
 - OpenAI similarly restricted the release of their GPT-5.6 model at the request of the White House, a change in the initial release plan for the new model.



President Donald Trump

Artificial Intelligence – Congressional Updates



House Energy and Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

- On June 4, Reps. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) and Lori Trahan (D-MA) released a [discussion draft](#) of the Great American AI Act (GAAIA, [section-by-section](#), [FAQs](#)). The 269-page bill is a comprehensive AI legislative framework that includes new guardrails for AI developers and would preempt state laws related to AI development for three years.
- After the discussion draft was met with a pessimistic response in Washington, the White House began working with Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) on a legislative package to implement state preemption combined with several kids' online safety and AI bills, including the Kids Online Safety Act ([S. 1748](#)) and the App Store Accountability Act ([S. 1586/H.R. 3149](#)).
- On June 29, the House passed the Kids Internet and Digital Safety (KIDS) Act ([H.R. 7757](#)), a comprehensive kids' online safety package. The bill includes new regulations for AI chatbots, which are relatively minimal in comparison to proposals being considered in the Senate. The bill would require chatbots interacting with minors to not pretend to be licensed professionals, remind users they are not human, encourage breaks, and provide suicide prevention resources.
- On June 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), during a subcommittee session, called for a moratorium on new data center construction. Ranking Member Pallone is now the most senior Democratic politician to support the policy and will be the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee next Congress if Democrats win the House.

Technology – Congressional Updates

- On June 29, the KIDS Act ([H.R. 7757](#)) passed the House 267-117. The bipartisan agreement was announced on June 22 by House Energy and Commerce Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ). The revised legislation includes portions of the following bills:
 - Shielding Children's Retinas from Egregious Exposure on the Net (SCREEN) Act ([H.R. 1263](#))
 - Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) ([H.R. 6484](#))
 - Safe Messaging for Kids Act ([H.R. 6257](#))
 - Stop Profiling Youth and Kids (SPY Kids) Act ([H.R. 6273](#))
 - Safer Guarding of Adolescents from Malicious Interactions on Network Games (Safer GAMING) Act ([H.R. 6265](#))
 - Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitative BOTs (SAFE BOTs) Act ([H.R. 6489](#))
 - Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0) ([H.R. 6291](#))
 - Safe Social Media Act ([H.R. 6290](#))
 - No Fentanyl on Social Media Act ([H.R. 6259](#))
 - Assessing Safety Tools for Parents and Minors Act ([H.R. 6499](#))
 - Promoting a Safe Internet for Minors Act ([H.R. 6289](#))
 - AI Warnings And Resources for Education (AWARE) Act ([H.R. 5360](#))
 - Kids Internet and Safety Partnership Act ([H.R. 6437](#))
- The path for Senate passage is unclear as Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) is working with the White House to pair AI state preemption with various kids' online safety measures, including KOSA. Several key Democratic Senators have expressed opposition to the legislation.



House Energy and Commerce Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY) [left] and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ) [right]

Technology – Congressional Updates

- On June 30, the House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) on “Oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).” Republican committee leadership focused on spectrum private use availability, and commended the restructuring of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Republicans also focused on preparations for the next World Radiocommunication Conference and competition with China. Democratic committee leadership opposed the restructuring and said the Trump administration was attempting to delay broadband buildout and preempt state laws.
 - Notably, NTIA Administrator Roth told members that guidance for spending unused BEAD program funds will come this summer, after previous self-imposed deadlines passed.
- On June 30, the House Energy and Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) on “American Global Competitiveness at 250: Legislative Proposals to Secure U.S. Technology Leadership.” Committee leadership of both parties emphasized the need to maintain U.S. dominance in emerging technologies, and Democratic leadership criticized the Trump administration's cuts to research funding.
 - Members largely focused on robotics competition with China. Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) discussed his bill, the National Commission on Robotics Act ([H.R. 7334](#)), which would direct the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish a commission on robotics developments and manufacturing competitiveness.



NTIA Administrator Arielle Roth

Technology – Administration Updates

- **Quantum Computing EO.** On June 22, President Trump [signed](#) an EO entitled, "Ushering in the Next Frontier of Quantum Innovation." The EO:
 - Encourages interagency coordination to update the National Quantum Strategy and ensures U.S. leadership in quantum information science and technology, as well as encourages public-private partnerships
 - Establishes a national effort to develop a quantum computer capable of accelerating quantum commercial capabilities and assisting with scientific discoveries
 - Prioritizes the development of a strong quantum workforce, reconstitutes the National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee, expands the Quantum Counterintelligence Protection Team, and reinforces quantum supply chains with allies
- **Cybersecurity EO.** On June 22, President Trump [signed](#) an EO entitled, "Securing the Nation Against Cryptographic Attacks." The EO:
 - Directs the National Cyber Director and OMB Director to lead an accelerated nationwide migration to encryption that can withstand quantum computers' decryption, known as post-quantum cryptography (PQC), and issue regulatory guidance
 - Directs the U.S. Department of Commerce to issue a PQC pilot program by December 31, 2027
 - Requires covered contractors to meet certain federal cybersecurity and vulnerability disclosure policies by the end of 2030



National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross

Data Privacy – Congressional Updates

- On June 29, the House voted [267-117](#) to pass the KIDS Act ([H.R. 7757](#))
 - The bill was [marked up](#) and passed by the E&C Committee on March 5. It was updated on June 22 to reflect a bipartisan agreement between E&C Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ). The updated text includes language on data broker disclosures not included in the initial version.
 - The bill faces key challenges to passage in the upper chamber, as Senate Republicans have taken a different approach to kids' online safety. Senate Democrats, including Senate Commerce Ranking Member Maria Cantell (D-WA) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), [oppose](#) the House's KIDS Act.
 - Data privacy advocates have raised concerns that the age-verification requirements of the KIDS Act could potentially lead to all social media platforms collecting sensitive, personal information about users and not having adequate safeguards in place to protect that information.
- On June 29, the House Rules Committee approved several cybersecurity-related amendments to the FY27 NDAA ([H.R. 8800](#)), including:
 - [Amdt. 93](#) from Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX), which requires the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to implement software-based cryptographic protections that strengthen data security and improve data ownership
 - [Amdt. 464](#) from Rep. Andrew Ogles (R-TN), which prevents DOD from entering contracts with providers that provide advance disclosure of cybersecurity vulnerabilities to entities based in countries of concern
 - [Amdt. 625](#) from Rep. French Hill (R-AR), which directs the Government Accountability Office to review DOD's cyber-related intelligence sharing with state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners
 - [Amdt. 647](#) from Rep. Nick Begich (R-AK), which strengthens cyber incident reporting requirements for operationally critical DOD contractors by adding a mandatory 72-hour reporting deadline for the discovery of any hardware, software, or firmware manufactured by or linked to Chinese entities within covered networks
 - [Amdt. 589](#) from Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA), which prohibits DOD from awarding telecommunication awards to certain entities subject to foreign ownership, control, jurisdiction, or legal obligations

Data Privacy – Administration Updates



Secretary of Homeland Security
Markwayne Mullin

- On June 12, President Trump issued a National Security Presidential Memorandum ([NSPM-12](#)) to create a new cybersecurity framework for National Security Systems (NSS), to reestablish the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS), and to impose new cybersecurity standards and oversight requirements across federal agencies.
 - The memorandum rescinds a 2022 Biden-era directive ([NSM-8](#)) and a 1990 Bush-era directive ([NSD-42](#)) and replaces them with updated authorities and accountability tools. According to the White House [fact sheet](#), the CNSS “will oversee the cybersecurity of NSS across the US Government and issue binding security directives to all NSS owners and operators” and promote information sharing across public-private partnerships.
- In a June 25 House Appropriations Committee [oversight hearing](#), Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin discussed plans to rehire approximately 600 of the 1,000 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) employees previously let go in 2025 as part of President Trump's government-wide workforce cuts.
 - He indicated that CISA will focus on rehiring cyber experts, particularly those who “have partnerships with our state and local officials.”
 - Secretary Mullin also testified that President Trump has “already met” with his likely nominee to lead CISA, which has operated without a Senate-confirmed director since January 2025. He did not reveal when the nominee may be announced.

Health Care – Appropriations and Floor Votes

- On June 4, the House passed the FY27 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Ag-FDA) funding bill ([H.R. 8646](#)).
 - The bill includes \$3.36 billion for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), totaling \$7.1 billion with user fees.
- On June 9, the House Appropriations Committee advanced the [FY27 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies \(L-HHS\) bill](#) to the House floor on a 34-28 party-line vote.
 - The bill includes an overall increase in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, with targeted increases for cancer, Alzheimer's, ALS, diabetes, women's health, and rare disease research, while cutting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by approximately \$1 billion and eliminating funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- On June 10, the House passed multiple anti-fraud bills, including the Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act ([H.R. 8464](#)) and the Fraud Prevention Accountability Act ([H.R. 8312](#)).
 - Some Democratic lawmakers joined House Republicans to pass the bills.
- **What's Next:** The Senate is slated to markup its appropriations packages for health agencies, beginning with the FDA. However, markups have been postponed due to Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) absence, threatening Senate Republicans' ability to advance the appropriations bills through committee without Democratic support.



House Appropriations Committee Chair
Tom Cole (R-OK) and Ranking Member
Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

Health Care – Congressional Updates

- On June 16, Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) [released](#) a request for information ([RFI](#)) pertaining to prescription drug pricing policies to build on drug pricing reforms from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) ([P.L. 117-169](#)).
 - The [RFI](#) focuses on three primary policy objectives: (1) lowering prescription drug prices, (2) lowering out-of-pocket costs for patients, and (3) fostering biopharmaceutical innovation and strengthening domestic research & development (R&D).
- On June 17, the Senate HELP Committee held a [markup](#) to consider eight health bills for referral to the Senate floor.
 - Of note, the Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act ([S. 1954](#)) was unanimously approved and would deem all FDA-approved biosimilars as interchangeable upon approval.
 - The Medication Affordability and Patent Integrity Act ([S. 2658](#)) would require drug application sponsors to provide certain submissions and communications to both the FDA and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), passed 16-6.
 - The Ensuring Timely Access to Generics Act ([S. 3014](#)) was considered, but no final vote was held due to contested amendments offered by Ranking Member Bernie Sanders (I-VT) related to insulin costs and drug pricing. The bill is expected to be reconsidered in July.
- On June 25, Senate HELP Committee Chairman Bill Cassidy (R-LA) released a [discussion draft](#) of the 340B Drug Pricing Integrity and Affordability for Patients Act (340B for Patients Act), his comprehensive 340B reform proposal. Stakeholder comments are due August 28.
 - The proposed measure would allow manufacturers to choose how 340B discounts are delivered to covered entities, allow covered entities to choose which method to receive 340B discounts, require covered entities to submit detailed standardized claims information, create a statutory patient definition, and include various other reforms.
- **What's Next:** While Congress remains focused on appropriations and the possibility of a third reconciliation bill, legislative activity related to biosecurity, intellectual property, program integrity, and prior authorization continues to gain momentum.

Health Care – Administration Updates

- On June 4, the FDA held a [public hearing](#) on the Commissioner's National Priority Voucher (CNPV) pilot program, through which Otarmeni – a gene therapy for a rare, genetic form of hearing loss – received accelerated approval in April.
 - Most stakeholders expressed support for the program, with one commenter praising Otarmeni's rapid approval, while several critics raised concerns about the program's lack of transparency, alleged politicization, and implications for the FDA's safety and efficacy standards.
- On June 8, the DOD [released](#) an [updated 1260H](#) list of “Chinese military companies” which now includes 188 entities.
 - Notably, the list includes WuXi AppTec and several BGI entities. The department had previously issued an updated 1260H list on February 13, 2026, but withdrew it within hours; both WuXi AppTec and the BGI entities were included in that version as well.
- On June 15, HRSA published an Information Collection Request (ICR) [notice](#) for the 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program.
 - The notice provides additional details on manufacturer and covered entity submission requirements, including certain rebate model plans and data reporting expectations. Comments on the ICR are due by July 15, 2026.
- On June 22, HHS [announced](#) Operation TrialBlazer, a multi-agency effort to strengthen U.S. leadership in clinical trials.
 - The initiative includes actions across FDA, NIH, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to accelerate domestic clinical trials, support access to participation, and modernize regulations.
- In June, CMS issued final rules for the [Guarding U.S. Medicare Against Rising Drug Costs](#) (GUARD) (Medicare Part D) and the [Global Benchmark for Efficient Drug Pricing](#) (GLOBE) (Medicare Part B) Most Favored Nation (MFN) Models to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.
- **What's Next:** OMB is expected to clear the final rules for the GUARD and GLOBE models soon, after which they will be published in the Federal Register. President Trump also nominated Chris Klomp, Chief Counsel for HHS and the lead negotiator for the MFN deals, to be the HHS Deputy Secretary. The Senate Finance Committee is slated to vote on his nomination in July.

Education – Congressional Updates

- On June 9, the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY27 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill (LHHS; [H.R. 9260](#)) on a party-line vote (34-28).
 - The bill includes \$70.7 billion for the U.S. Department of Education (ED) (a 10% cut from the FY26 enacted level) and rejects some changes proposed by the Trump administration in its budget request, including the consolidation of K-12 grant programs and the elimination of the TRIO grant programs.
- As Congress continues to grapple with the issue of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) in college sports, Senate Commerce Committee Chair Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) held a markup on their bipartisan bill, the Protect College Sports Act ([S. 4668](#)). The bill was approved out of committee with bipartisan support (19-9) and would create a national framework for college athletics. House Education and Workforce Chair Tim Walberg (R-MI) raised concerns that the bill does not address employment status for student athletes and, therefore, could not deliver stability to college sports.



Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz (R-TX) [left] & Senate Commerce Committee Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) [right]

Education – Congressional Updates

- On June 25, the House Education and Workforce Committee held a [markup](#) of 11 bills, including legislation addressing campus antisemitism, students' First Amendment rights, and other non-education-related measures. Given the tight legislative calendar, and lack of broad-based support, these measures are unlikely to advance in the Senate.
 - The No Antisemitism in Education Act of 2026 ([H.R. 8476](#)) and the Protecting Economic and Academic Freedom Act of 2026 ([H.R. 4795](#)), which address campus antisemitism, both passed out of committee with some Democratic support.
 - Legislation addressing students' First Amendment rights, including the Freedom of Association in Higher Education Act of 2025 ([H.R. 2555](#)) and the Equal Campus Access Act of 2025 ([H.R. 5505](#)), did not enjoy bipartisan support, in part due to partisan policy provisions.
- In June, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Ranking Member of the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, introduced a resolution to impeach Education Secretary Linda McMahon ([H.Res. 1391](#)). Rep. Bonamici alleges Secretary McMahon violated the law through her efforts to dismantle ED through interagency agreements.
 - While the resolution will not gain traction this Congress, it provides clues as to the priorities for Democratic members of the House Education and Workforce Committee should they win control of the House and take the gavel next Congress.



Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Ranking Member of the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

Education – Administration Updates



Education Secretary
Linda McMahon

- On June 16, ED announced four new interagency agreements (IAAs) with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Justice (DOJ), which would transfer implementation of various programs, including oversight responsibilities of programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Act from ED's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to the Administration for Children and Families at HHS, and civil rights enforcement and student privacy to DOJ, respectively.
- On July 1, ED published its third and [final rule](#) under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA; [P.L. 119-21](#)), related to a higher education accountability framework.
 - While the final rule featured notable changes, including an exemption for schools that are not participating in the Direct Loan program from the automatic loss of Title IV funding eligibility and delayed implementation and reform of the appeals process; other issues raised by stakeholders during the public comment period were not addressed, including the projected negative impact of accountability provisions on programs that prepare students for low-earning, high-value professions such as social work, early childhood education, religious studies, and other health care professions.
- Following a court ruling in late June blocking parts of the definition of “professional degree” in ED's Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE) loan program final rule, the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) published an [interim list](#) of programs added to the list of professional degrees. The list now includes programs such as forensic psychology, registered nursing, and occupational therapy. ED emphasized its commitment to defend the RISE final rule, and further guidance is expected once the court case is resolved.
 - While institutions of higher education and financial aid administrators have been bracing for student loan changes from OBBBA to take effect for months, this guidance and a separate court order blocking the Trump administration's [changes](#) to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program have created further uncertainty.
- Additionally, on June 18, ED [announced](#) a 1% interest rate reduction for federal student loan borrowers enrolled in autopay by September 30, 2026. Enrolled borrowers will benefit from this interest rate reduction through June 30, 2028. This initiative is part of the Trump administration's effort to get more borrowers into repayment.

Energy and Environment – Interconnection Reform

- On June 18, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) [issued](#) orders to six regional grid operators, finding their existing tariffs — formal, legally binding rules and rates governing electricity transmission — are unjust and outdated for handling big new power users like data centers.
 - Rules vary by region, but all six operators must fix five gaps FERC found:
 1. Faster, smarter connection processes, including newer technologies
 2. Clearer costs that are not unfairly shifted onto others
 3. Room for on-site and next-to-plant power
 4. New services for large users that can adjust demand
 5. A way to review power plants built to serve nearby big users



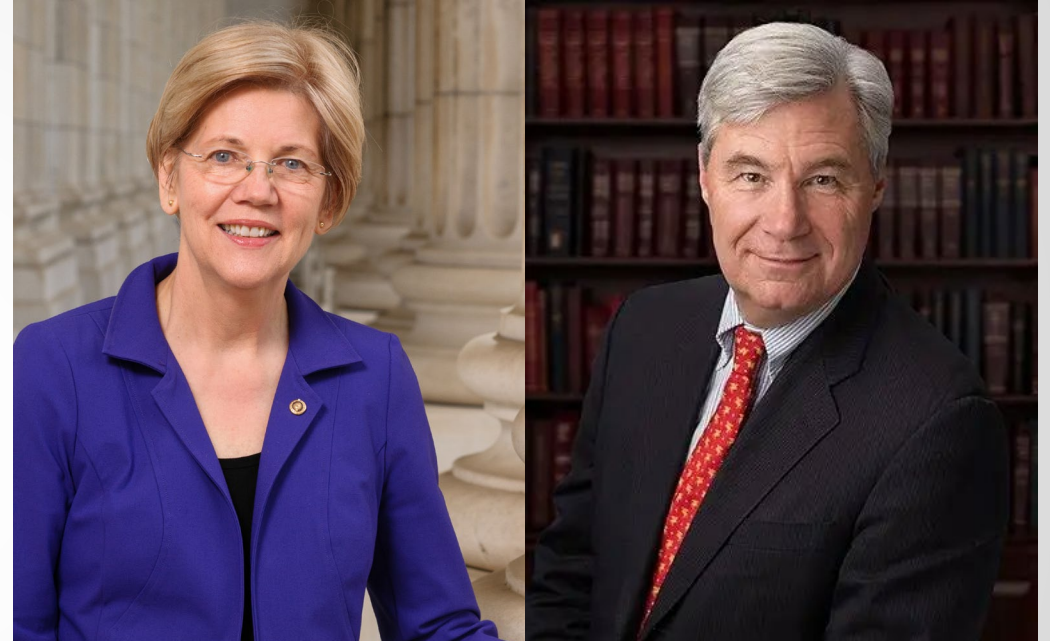
Energy and Environment – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Updates

- On June 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced](#) a [proposed rule](#) to bring its environmental-review process in line with other federal agencies. EPA also [announced reforms](#) to how it comments on other agencies' environmental reviews.
- On June 29, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) published a [notice](#) scrapping 18 sets of NEPA guidance documents, some dating back to the 1970s.
 - This follows a broader NEPA rollback under the Trump administration, including the [rescission](#) of government-wide NEPA rules in February 2025 and rewritten agency procedures in July 2025.

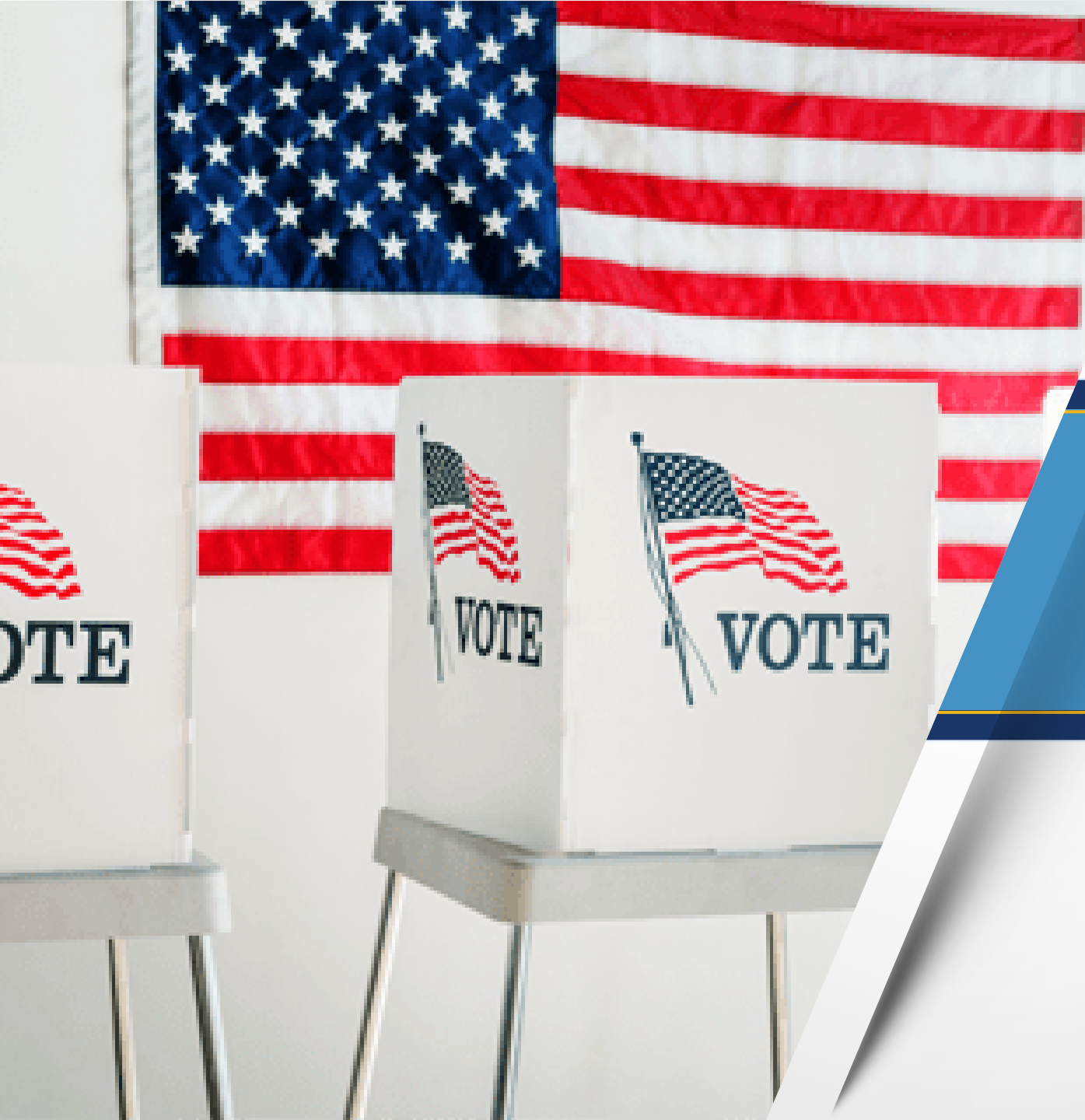


Energy and Environment – Energy Costs

- On June 15, Sens. Warren and Whitehouse [announced](#) an [investigation](#) into major oil and gas companies' windfall profits and high gas prices during the war in Iran.
 - The senators claim that when gas prices spiked after closure of the Strait of Hormuz, oil and gas companies earned \$40 billion in profit.
- On June 24, President Trump [shared](#) that he directed the DOJ to investigate why oil companies' prices have not dropped despite recent decreases in crude oil prices, claiming customers are being “gouged” by big oil companies.



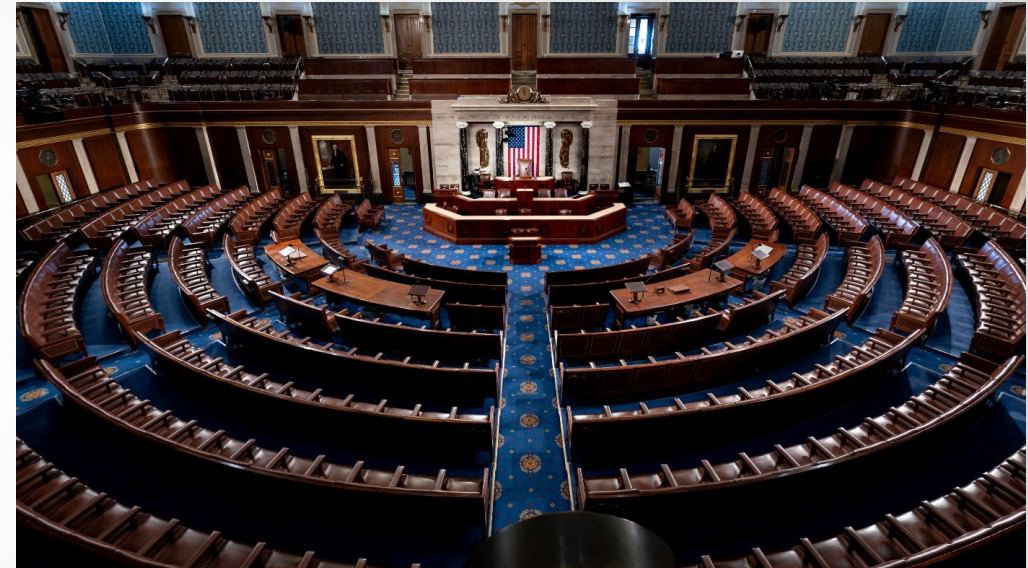
Right to left: Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Ranking Member Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)



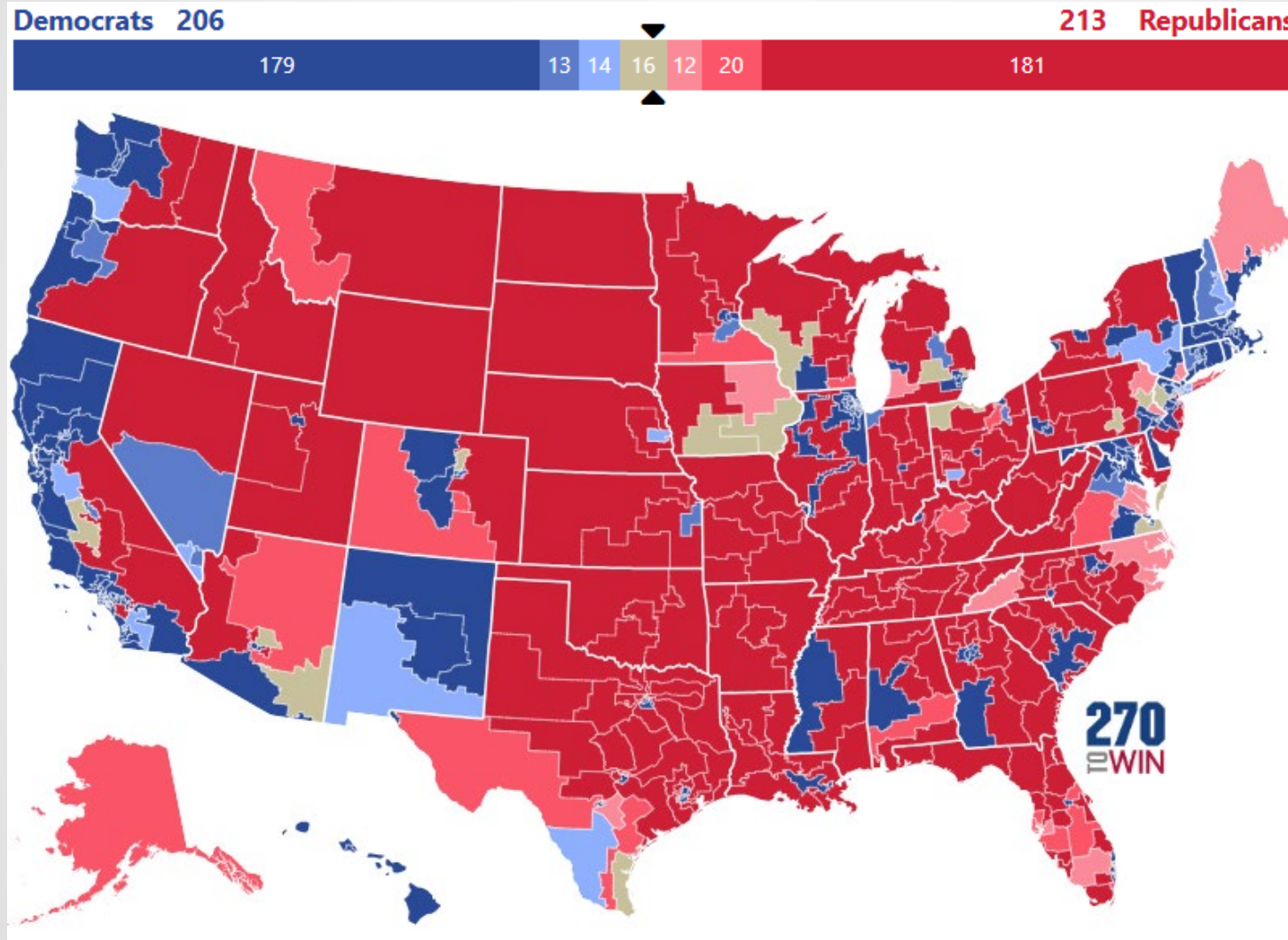
2026 Midterm Elections

House Outlook for 2026 Midterms

- Democrats need to flip a net of just **3 seats** in 2026 to win control of the House (218 is needed for a simple majority), but this does not consider redistricted seats. When accounting for Republican redistricting gains, Democrats may need to flip a net of **12-13 seats**.
- For the 2026 midterm elections, **181** seats are currently projected as “Safe R,” while **213** seats are rated as Safe, Likely, or Leans R.
- Conversely, **179** seats are rated as “Safe D,” while **206** seats are rated as Safe, Likely, or Leans D.
- **On average, since the 1930s, the party in power loses 24-28 House seats in the midterms.**
 - Republicans are likely to gain 13-16 seats via mid-decade redistricting, while Democrats are expected to gain 4-6 new seats, though pending litigation could impact these numbers.
 - Democrats currently lead in generic congressional ballot polls by an average of about 6%.
- **Only 15-20 toss-up seats are expected out of the 435, most of which are currently held by Republicans.**
- Due to high political polarization, net redistricting gains for Republicans, and limited toss-up seats, the 2026 midterms for the House are expected to be very close despite the party in power usually losing seats in the midterms.



House Outlook for 2026 Midterms – Current Ratings



House Outlook for 2026 Midterms

– Early Ratings of Key Races

Democrats		
TOSS-UP (3)	LEANS DEMOCRATIC (14)	LIKELY DEMOCRATIC (13)
Jared Moskowitz (FL-23)	Adam Gray (CA-13)	Jim Costa (CA-21)
Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)	Derek Tran (CA-45)	Kevin Kiley (CA-6)*
Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34)	CA-48 Open (Issa)	Jahana Hayes (CT-5)
	NE-2 Open (Bacon)	Frank Mrvan (IN-1)
	NH-1 Open (Pappas)	Sharice Davids (KS-3)
	Nellie Pou (NJ-9)	MN-2 Open (Craig)
	Gabe Vasquez (NM-2)	K. McDonald Rivet (MI-8)
	Susie Lee (NV-3)	Maggie Goodlander (NH-2)
	Laura Gillen (NY-4)	Steven Horsford (NV-4)
	Josh Riley (NY-19)	Dina Titus (NV-1)
	Tom Suozzi (NY-3)	Janelle Bynum (OR-5)
	Greg Landsman (OH-1)	Emilia Sykes (OH-13)
	Henry Cuellar (TX-28)	Eugene Vindman (VA-7)
	M. Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-3)	

SAFE DEM PICKUP (3)
CA-1 New
CA-41 New
UT-1 New

Total seats rated Safe Democratic: 179

Total seats rated Safe, Likely, or Leans D: 206

Republicans		
TOSS-UP (13)	LEANS REPUBLICAN (12)	LIKELY REPUBLICAN (20)
Juan Ciscomani (AZ-6)	Kathy Castor (FL-14)	Nick Begich (AK-AL)
AZ-1 Open (Schweikert)	FL-22 New	AL-2 New
David Valadao (CA-22)	IA-2 Open (Hinson)	Eli Crane (AZ-2)
Gabe Evans (CO-8)	ME-2 Open (Golden)	Jeff Crank (CO-5)
M. Miller-Meeks (IA-1)	Bill Huizenga (MI-4)	Jeff Hurd (CO-3)
Zach Nunn (IA-3)	Don Davis (NC-1)	Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)
Tom Barrett (MI-7)	Chuck Edwards (NC-11)	Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13)
MI-10 Open (James)	Mike Lawler (NY-17)	Cory Mills (FL-7)
Tom Kean Jr. (NJ-7)	Rob Bresnahan (PA-8)	María Elvira Salazar (FL-27)
Ryan Mackenzie (PA-7)	Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1)	Darren Soto (FL-9)
Scott Perry (PA-10)	TX-35 New	FL-16 Open (Buchanan)
Jen Kiggans (VA-2)	Rob Wittman (VA-1)	KY-6 Open (Barr)
Derrick Van Orden (WI-3)		Brad Finstad (MN-1)
		MT-1 Open (Zinke)
		Nick LaLota (NY-1)
		Max Miller (OH-7)
		Monica De La Cruz (TX-15)
		TX-23 Vacant (Gonzales)
		John McGuire (VA-5)
		Bryan Steil (WI-1)

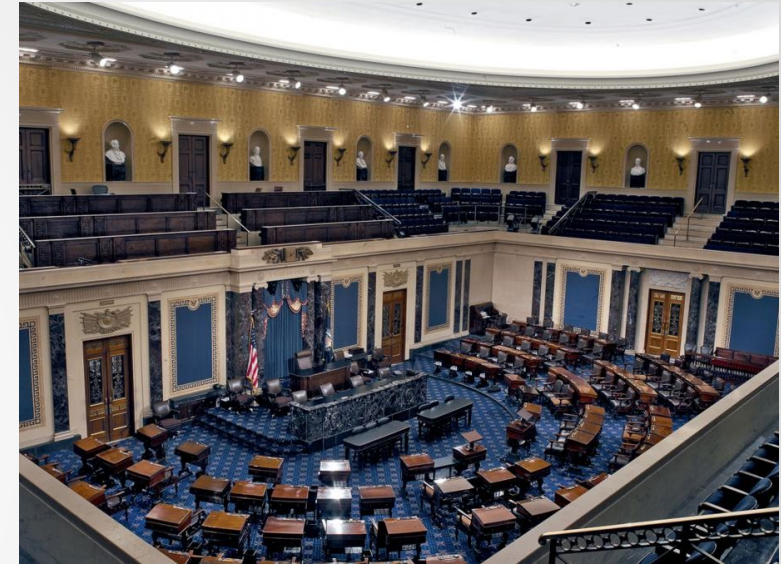
SAFE GOP PICKUP (5)
LA-6 New
Emanuel Cleaver (MO-5)
TN-9 Open (Cohen)
TX-9 New
TX-32 New

Total seats rated Safe Republican: 181

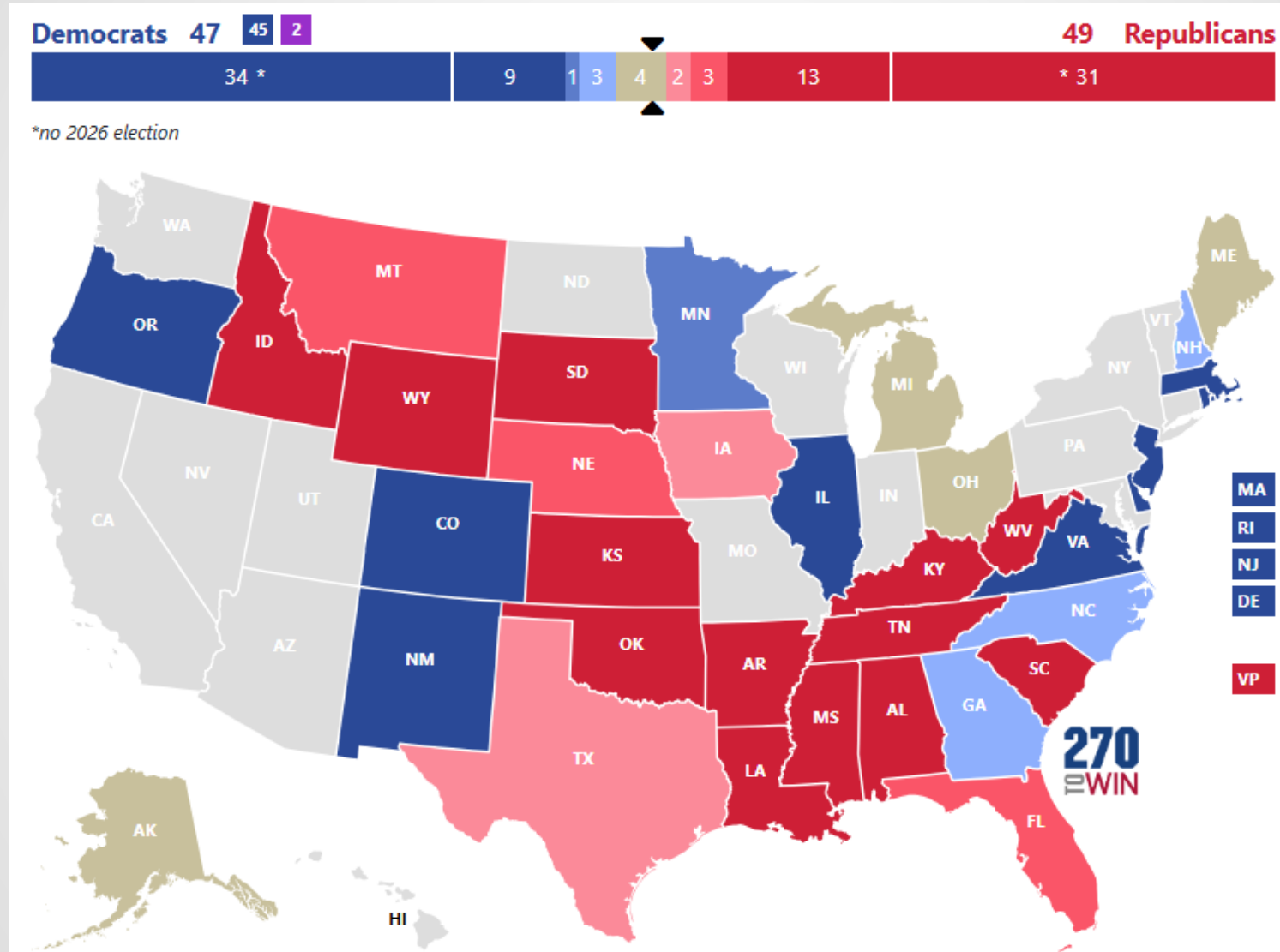
Total seats rated Safe, Likely, or Leans R: 213

Senate Outlook for 2026 Midterms

- **Currently: 53 Republicans** and **47 Democrats** (includes **2 independents**)
- The president's party has lost an average of four Senate seats in the midterms since 1934, but this trend is not entirely consistent, especially recently.
 - For example, in 2018, during President Trump's first term, while Democrats achieved a net gain of 41 seats in the House, Republicans gained a net of two seats in the Senate.
- It is expected that there will be **4 Toss-Up seats** in the Senate in the 2026 midterms.
 - Democrats will be defending Michigan.
 - Republicans will be defending Ohio, Maine, and Alaska.
- Democrats would need to win all toss-up seats to barely capture a **51-49** majority. Two seats are in states that President Trump won by double digits in 2024 (Ohio and Alaska).
- Democrats are currently slightly favored in Georgia and North Carolina, but President Trump also won those states in 2024.
- If the Senate is 50-50, Republicans would still control the chamber, since Vice President JD Vance (R) is the Senate President through January 2029.
- Even in a strong Democratic year, Republicans are favored to hold the Senate after the 2026 midterms, due to a favorable map.



Senate Outlook for 2026 Midterms – Current Ratings



Key 2026 Senate Races (Seats Currently Held by Democrats)

State	Democratic Candidates	Republican Candidates	Race Rating
Michigan	Rep. Haley Stevens Abdul El-Sayed	Former Rep., and 2024 Senate Nominee, Mike Rogers	Toss-Up
Georgia	Sen. Jon Ossoff	Rep. Mike Collins	Leans D
New Hampshire	Rep. Chris Pappas	Former Sen. (MA) Scott Brown Former Sen. John Sununu	Leans D
Minnesota	Rep. Angie Craig Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan	Former State Sen. David Hann 2024 U.S. Senate Nominee Royce White	Likely D

Sources: Center for Politics, Sabato's Crystal Ball

Key 2026 Senate Races

(Seats Currently Held by Republicans)

State	Democratic Candidates	Republican Candidates	Race Rating
North Carolina	Former Governor Roy Cooper	Former RNC Chair Michael Whatley	Leans D
Maine	TBD^	Sen. Susan Collins	Toss-Up
Alaska	Former Rep. Mary Peltola	Sen. Dan Sullivan	Toss-Up
Ohio*	Former Sen. Sherrod Brown	Sen. Jon Husted	Toss-Up
Texas	State Rep. James Talarico	Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton	Leans R
Iowa	State Rep. Josh Turek	Rep. Ashley Hinson	Leans R
Nebraska	Dan Osborn (Independent)	Sen. Pete Ricketts	Likely R
Florida**	Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman (Ret.)	Sen. Ashley Moody	Likely R
Montana	Alani Bankhead; Seth Bodnar (Independent; former President of the Univ. of Montana)	Former U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme	Likely R

^ = Graham Platner dropped out and removed himself as the Democratic nominee on July 8 (effective July 13).

Sources: Center for Politics, Sabato's Crystal Ball

* = Special election to finish the final two years of the current term of the Senate seat formerly held by Vice President JD Vance.

** = Special election to finish the final two years of the current term of the Senate seat formerly held by Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Update on Maine's U.S. Senate Race – Democratic Primary

- On July 8, Graham Platner, the Democratic nominee in Maine's U.S. Senate race, announced he is ending his campaign and withdrawing from the race. He did so after facing new sexual assault allegations.
- Platner has reportedly indicated to staff he will formally leave the Senate race on July 13, which is the official deadline for him to do so.
- After these allegations were made public, major Democratic elected officials, organizations, and PACs all rescinded their support of Platner. This includes the Maine Democratic Party, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), the Senate Majority PAC, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the latter of whom was Platner's biggest and earliest supporter.
- Under state law, Platner has until July 13 to withdraw to enable the Maine Democratic Party to choose a replacement nominee. The state party now has until July 27 to select a replacement nominee.
- On July 8, the Maine Democratic State Committee voted to hold a 600-person nominating convention to select a new candidate to replace Platner. Such a convention would likely take place during the week of July 20.



Graham Platner (D-ME), the former Democratic Maine U.S. Senate nominee

Update on Maine's U.S. Senate Race – Democratic Primary

- As of now, below are some of the Maine Democrats who are most likely to be considered at the nominating convention to be the party's replacement nominee for the U.S. Senate race. Whoever is selected will face incumbent Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) in the November general election for the seat:
 - **Dr. Nirav Shah**
 - Dr. Shah is an epidemiologist and attorney who led the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention from 2019 to 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - He was also the Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. CDC from 2023 to 2025 under the Biden administration, and was Acting Director of the CDC for 10 days in July 2023.
 - He finished in second place in the 2026 Democratic primary for Maine Governor.
 - **Troy Jackson**
 - Mr. Jackson is a logger who served in the Maine State Senate from 2008 to 2014 and again from 2016 to 2024. He was President of the State Senate from 2018 to 2024, before terming out.
 - He represented a red-leaning State Senate seat that Senator Collins won by +35 points, and President Trump won by +15 points.
 - He finished in third place in the 2026 Democratic primary for Governor.
 - **Shenna Bellows**
 - Ms. Bellows has served as the Maine Secretary of State since January 2021.
 - She was a member of the Maine State Senate from 2016 to 2020.
 - She finished in fourth place in the 2026 Democratic primary for Governor.
 - Ms. Bellows notably lost the 2014 U.S. Senate election to Senator Collins by a significant margin: 68.5% - 31.5%.

Update on Michigan's U.S. Senate Race

– Democratic Primary

- On July 5, State Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-MI) [suspended](#) her campaign for Michigan's U.S. Senate seat, which is being vacated by retiring U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI).
- Ms. McMorrow, who is the Majority Whip of the Michigan State Senate, was the first of the three major Democratic candidates in the race to enter the contest.
- The two remaining Democratic candidates are Abdul El-Sayed and U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI).
- Mr. El-Sayed is a physician and epidemiologist who was the director of the Department of Health, Human, and Veterans Services for Wayne County, Michigan from 2023 to 2025. He was also a candidate for Governor of Michigan in the 2018 Democratic primary.
- Rep. Stevens has represented Michigan's 11th congressional district in the U.S. House since January 2019. She represents the more moderate wing of the Democratic Party, in contrast to Mr. El-Sayed's progressivism.
- Ms. McMorrow ultimately fell behind in the primary race after Mr. El-Sayed consolidated support from the left and progressives, and Rep. Stevens consolidated support from the more moderate, establishment wing of the party.
- The Michigan primary elections will be held on August 4, 2026.
- The winner of the Democratic primary will face former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI) in the November general election for this critical swing state seat.
 - Race rating: **Toss-Up**



Former candidate State Sen. Mallory McMorrow (top); and remaining candidates Abdul El-Sayed (middle) & Rep. Haley Stevens (bottom)

Midterm Primaries – California – June 2

- California has “jungle primaries,” in which the top two candidates, regardless of party, advance to the November general election.
- Gubernatorial primary:
 - Former HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra (D) received 28.1% of the vote, and conservative political commentator Steve Hilton (R) received 24.7%. Mr. Becerra and Mr. Hilton both advance to the November general election.
 - Race rating: **Safe Democratic**
- California's 4th congressional district:
 - Incumbent Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) advanced to the general election with 41% of the vote, but he will face another Democrat. His opponent will be Eric Jones, a progressive and former venture capitalist, who advanced after receiving 22.2% of the vote.
- California's 6th congressional district:
 - Incumbent Rep. Kevin Kiley (I-CA), an independent conservative who caucuses with House Republicans, advanced to the general election with 24.3% of the vote, as did Richard Pan (D-CA), who received 23.2%.
 - Race rating: **Likely/Leans Democratic**
- California's 7th congressional district:
 - Incumbent Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) advanced to the general election with 29.1% of the vote but came in 2nd place behind fellow Democrat Mai Vang (D-CA), who received 31.2%. Ms. Vang is a Member of the Sacramento City Council and is a progressive.



Midterm Primaries – California – June 2

- California's 11th congressional district [Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) seat]:
 - State Senator Scott Wiener (D-CA) advanced with 40.7% of the vote, as did San Francisco Board of Supervisors Member Connie Chan (D-CA), with 29.7% of the vote.
 - Both Mr. Wiener and Ms. Chan are progressives, though Ms. Chan is seen as more progressive.
- California's 22nd congressional district:
 - Incumbent Rep. David Valadao (R-CA) advanced with 40.7% of the vote, as did progressive Randy Villegas (D-CA). Mr. Villegas finished ahead of State Assemblywoman Jasmeet Bains, a moderate Democrat. This is notable, as the district is a swing district that President Trump won by 2 points in 2024.
 - Race rating: **Toss-Up**
- California's 34th congressional district:
 - Incumbent Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA) advanced with 46% of the vote, but he will have to face another Democrat. His opponent will be Angela Gonzales-Torres (D-CA), who received 30.7%.
 - Both Rep. Gomez and Ms. Gonzales-Torres are progressives, though Ms. Gonzales-Torres is considered to be more progressive, and is endorsed by Justice Democrats.
- California's 38th congressional district:
 - Former Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA) advanced with 47.6%, and she will face Pedro Antonio Casas (R-CA), who received 35.8%.
 - Ms. Solis previously served in the U.S. House from January 2001 to February 2009. She departed Congress to serve as Secretary of Labor from 2009 to 2013 in the Obama administration and has been a Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors since December 2014.
 - Race rating: **Safe Democratic**
- California's 40th district primary:
 - Incumbent Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) (34.9%) and fellow incumbent Rep. Young Kim (R-CA) (20.6%) both advanced to the general election, officially “locking out” Democrats from the seat. The seat is considered **Safe/Likely Republican** though, so Democrats were unlikely to win the seat anyway.
 - Reps. Calvert and Kim were forced to run against each other in the same district because of California's recent mid-decade redistricting.

Midterm Primaries – Other Notable States and Results from June

New York:

- Progressives and democratic socialists won in high-profile Democratic primaries for three congressional seats. In two of these races, an incumbent Congressman was defeated.
 - Progressive Brad Lander (D-NY) beat incumbent Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY) in NY-10.
 - Democratic socialist Darializa Avila Chevalier (D-NY) defeated incumbent Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) in NY-13. Rep. Espaillat is the Chair of the congressional Hispanic Caucus.
 - Democratic socialist Claire Valdez (D-NY) won the open-seat primary in NY-7. The seat is being vacated by retiring Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY). Ms. Valdez defeated Antonio Reynoso, a progressive who was endorsed by Rep. Velázquez.
- All three of these candidates who won were endorsed by New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani (D), which could demonstrate his influence over New York City Democratic electoral politics.

Maryland:

- In Maryland's 5th congressional district – which is being vacated by retiring long-time Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) – State Delegate Adrian Bofo (D-MD) emerged victorious in what was a crowded race.
 - Mr. Bofo was supported by the establishment and party leaders, including Rep. Hoyer, Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD), and Governor Wes Moore (D).
- In the state's 6th district, freshman incumbent Rep. April McClain Delaney (D-MD) defeated former Rep. David Trone (D-MD) in what was a very expensive race.
 - Former Rep. Trone had previously represented the district from January 2019 to January 2025.

Utah:

- Former Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT) won the Democratic primary for the newly redrawn 1st congressional district of Utah, which is based in the Salt Lake City urban area.
 - Former Rep. McAdams is very likely to return to Congress, as the new 1st district is rated Safe Democratic. He previously represented Utah's 4th congressional district, which at the time was the state's Salt Lake City-based seat, for one term from January 2019 to January 2021.



Mid-Decade Redistricting Updates

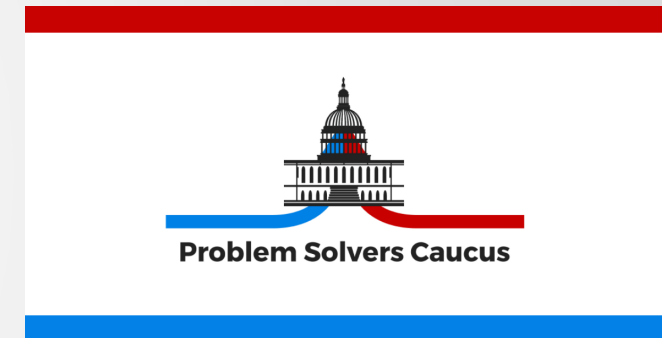
2026 Redistricting Recap and Summary

- This current mid-decade congressional redistricting wave is the most significant such case in modern U.S. history. Typically, most states only redistrict once per decade, after the 10-year census.
- To date, 10 states have enacted new congressional maps: California, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, and Utah.
- As of now, it appears that there will be no additional redistricting for 2026.
- Georgia and Mississippi both have tentative plans to draw new maps that will add new Republican seats, but their respective maps would not be implemented until 2028.
- Republicans are likely to achieve a net gain of 9-10 seats over Democrats for 2026 via mid-decade redistricting. This could help Republicans maintain the House even if Democrats win the national popular vote for the House.
- Partisan redistricting will likely lead to even fewer moderate districts and toss-up seats.
- This would impact the political and legislative dynamics by further increasing political and ideological polarization in Congress.

State	Net New Seats
Texas	Republicans +3-5
Missouri	Republicans +1
Ohio	Republicans +0-2
North Carolina	Republicans +1
Florida	Republicans +3-4
Tennessee	Republicans +1
Louisiana	Republicans +1
Alabama	Republicans +1
California	Democrats +3-5
Utah	Democrats +1

Problem Solvers Caucus Announces Redistricting Reform Framework

- On July 1, the congressional Problem Solvers Caucus [announced](#) a bipartisan congressional redistricting reform framework to address partisan "gerrymandering," including mid-decade "gerrymandering."
- This framework is led and endorsed by Problem Solvers Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Tom Suozzi (D-NY), as well as the caucus' Gerrymandering Working Group Co-Leads Reps. Jeff Hurd (R-CO) and Ed Case (D-HI).
- Caucus leadership asserts that the proposed framework would ensure "voters can choose their representatives as opposed to politicians choosing their voters." They also contend that "recurring partisan gerrymandering has eroded public confidence in our elections, increased political polarization, and reduced accountability in Congress."
- The framework includes four core reforms:
 - **Once-a-Decade Redistricting:** Restrict congressional redistricting to once every ten years following the decennial Census.
 - **Nationwide Uniform Standards:** Require congressional districts to be drawn using clear, objective criteria while rejecting partisan advantage and incumbent protection as legitimate goals.
 - **Reducing Partisan Influence:** Support approaches that minimize partisan influence, including independent commissions, algorithmic mapping, and other mechanisms that promote public confidence.
 - **Federal Resolution of Challenges:** Establish a consistent federal process for resolving congressional redistricting disputes.
- The Problem Solvers Caucus states that the group will develop these principles and reforms into "common-sense" legislation in the future.

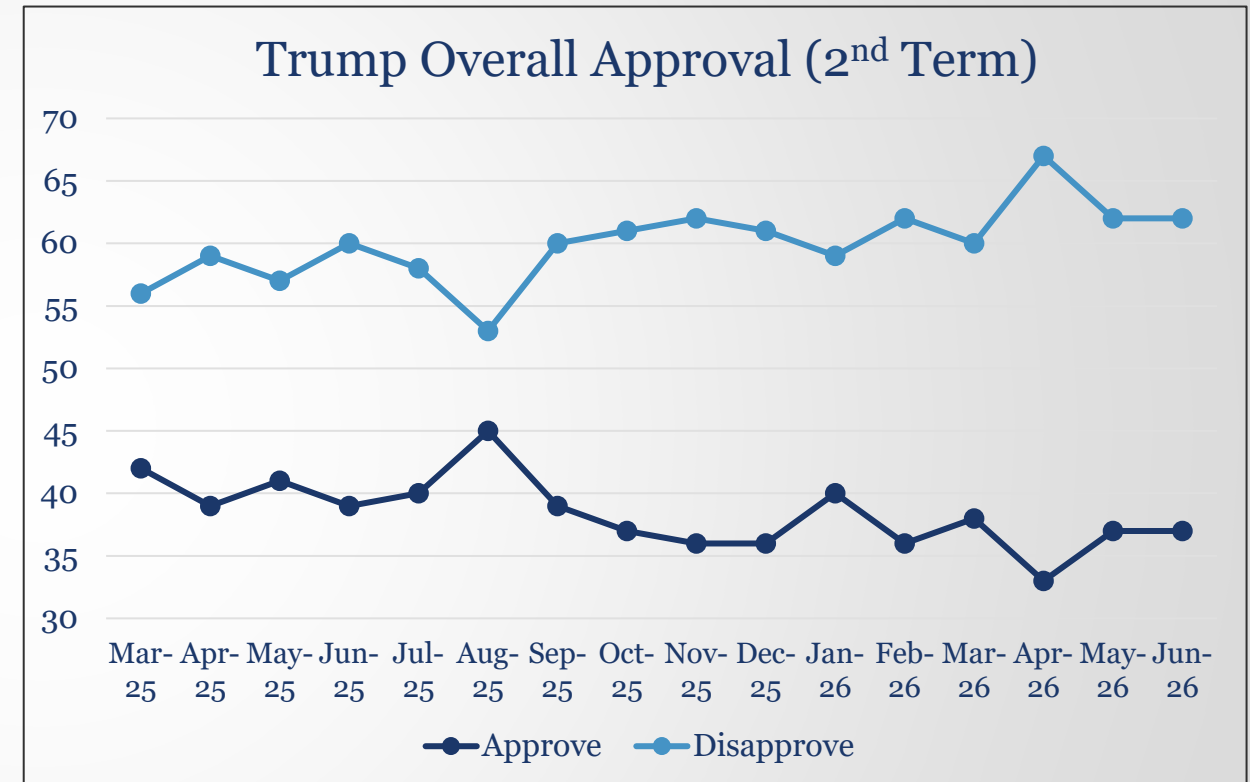


Current Public Opinion Polling

*Polling results may vary from poll to poll based on polling methodology and reporting.
Results reported here are for context only.

President Trump's Approval Rating

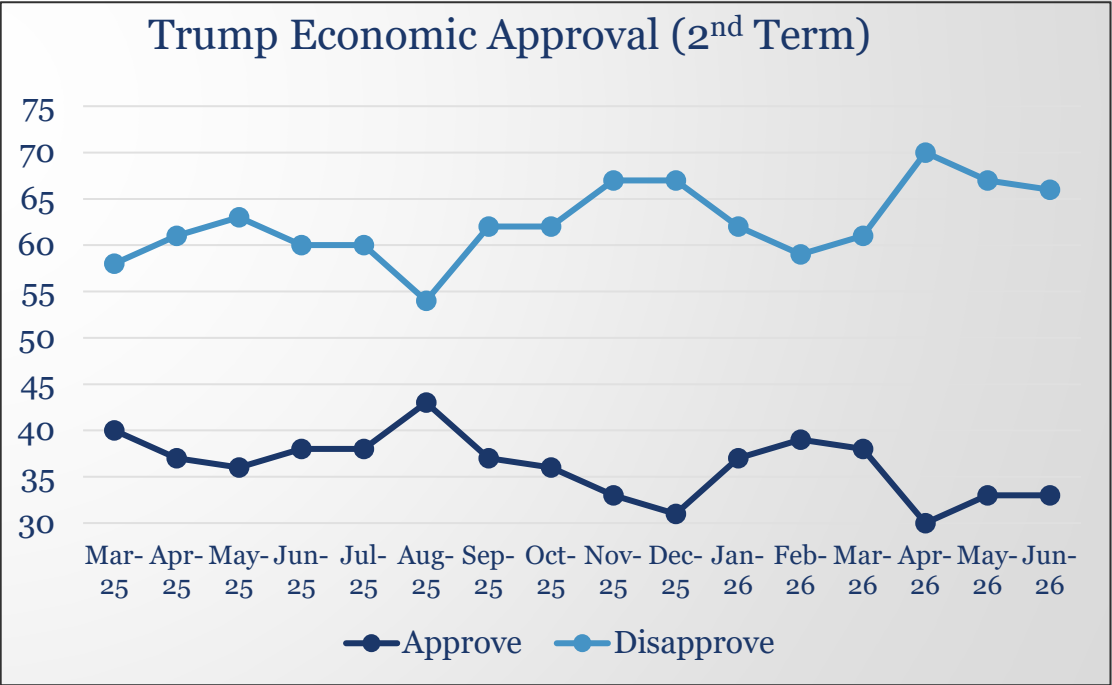
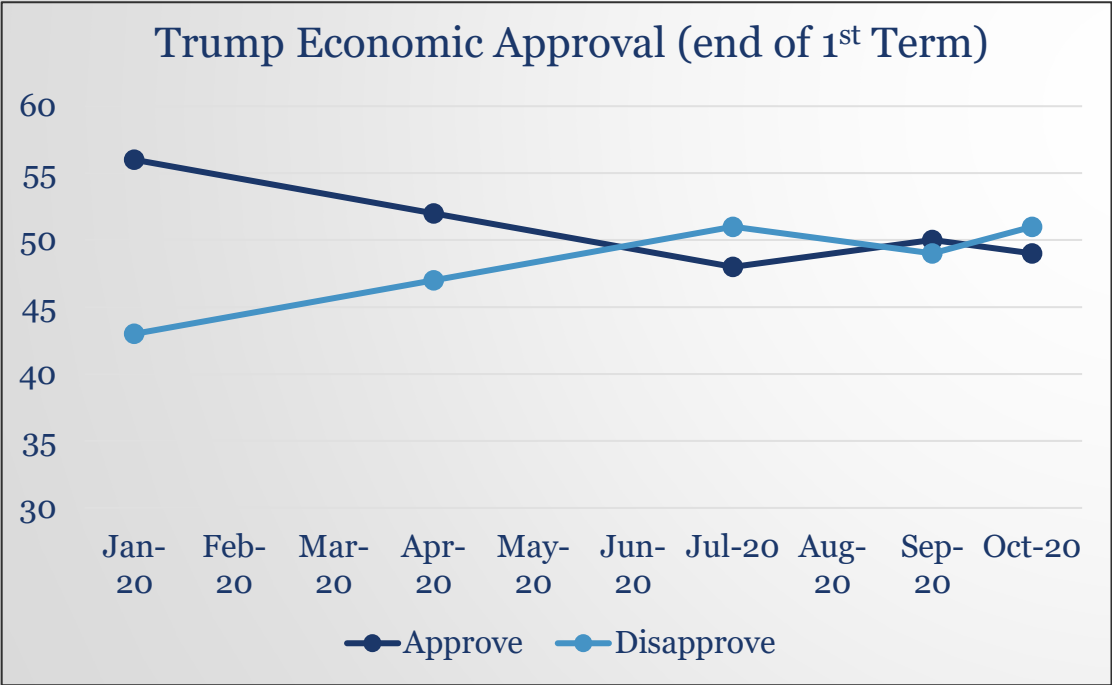
- President Trump's approval rating is currently 37%, according to the June 2026 Associated Press-NORC (AP-NORC) poll.
- President Trump had a 42% approval rating in the first AP-NORC poll of his second term (March 2025).
- President Trump's approval rating never got higher than 43% in the AP-NORC poll during his first term (January 2017 to January 2021).
- In August 2025, he reached his highest approval rating across his two terms, 45%, according to the AP-NORC poll.
- The president's current disapproval rating is 62%. His highest disapproval rating in the AP-NORC poll was 67% in December 2017 and April 2026.



Source: AP-NORC Poll, June 11-17, 2026
3,040 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 2.8 percentage points

President Trump's Approval Rating on the Economy

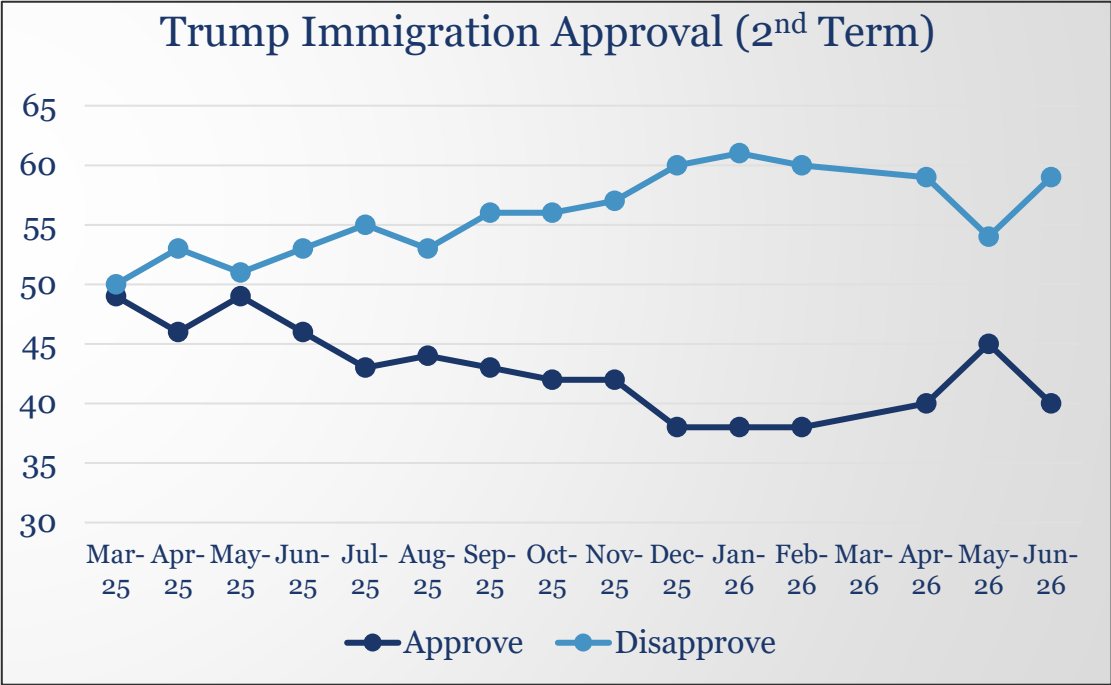
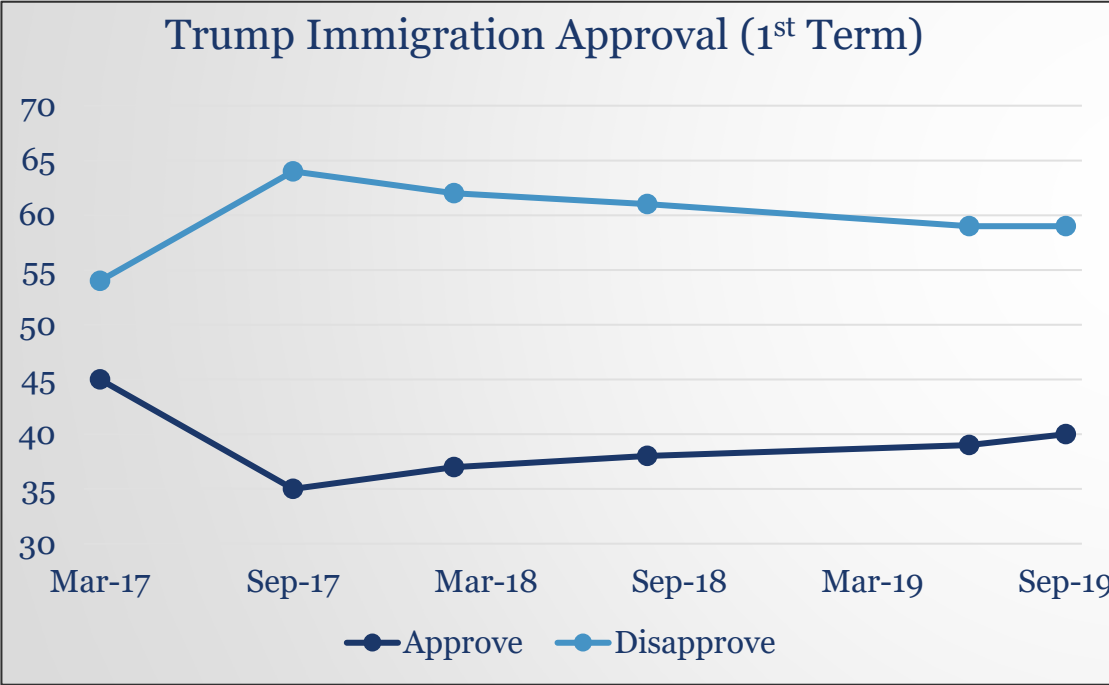
- President Trump currently has low approval ratings on the economy, with just 33% of Americans approving of his handling of the economy.
- 66% disapprove of the president's economic policies. His highest economic disapproval rating to date in either of his two terms in office occurred in April 2026 (70%).
- President Trump enjoyed strong economic ratings in early 2020, though those numbers decreased as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed and worsened. Still, he hovered near 50% on the economy for most of the second half of 2020.



Source: AP-NORC Poll, June 11-17, 2026
3,040 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 2.8 percentage points

President Trump's Approval Rating on Immigration

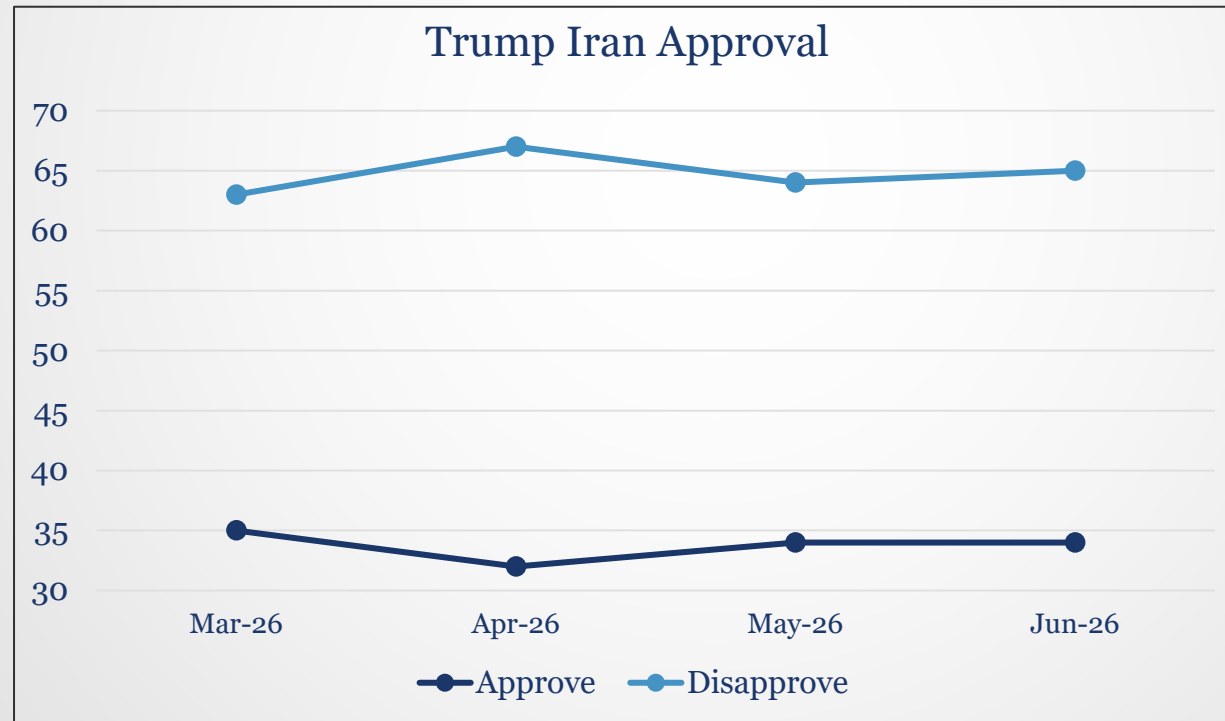
- In what used to be one of President Trump's strongest issue areas during the 2024 campaign and at the start of his second term in winter 2025, the president has seen his approval ratings on immigration continue to worsen throughout the last nine months (40% approve; 59% disapprove).



Source: AP-NORC Poll, June 11-17, 2026
3,040 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 2.8 percentage points

President Trump's Approval Rating on Iran

- President Trump's approval rating pertaining to the conflict with Iran sits at 34%. There has been little variance in his approval level over the past couple of months, with May at 34%, April at 32%, and March at 35%.
- 65% of the American public disapprove of the president's handling of the Iran conflict, indicating that a solid majority of Americans do not agree with the president's decision-making on this matter.



Source: AP-NORC Poll, June 11-17, 2026
3,040 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 2.8 percentage points

Voters' Perception of U.S. Military Action Against Iran

- In the poll, surveyed Americans were asked, “Would you say the recent U.S. military action against Iran has gone too far, not gone far enough, or been about right?”

	June 2026	March 2026
Gone too far	53%	59%
Not far enough	18%	13%
About right	25%	26%
Don't know	1%	--
Skipped	3%	2%
Sample size, N=	3,040	1,150

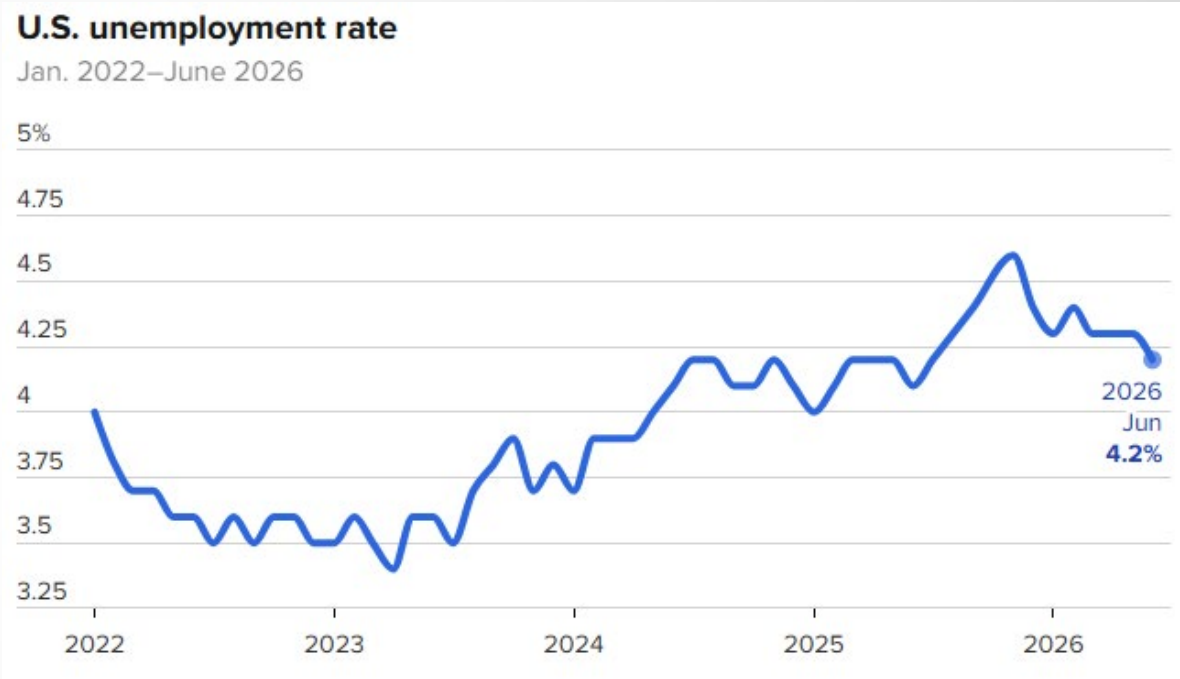
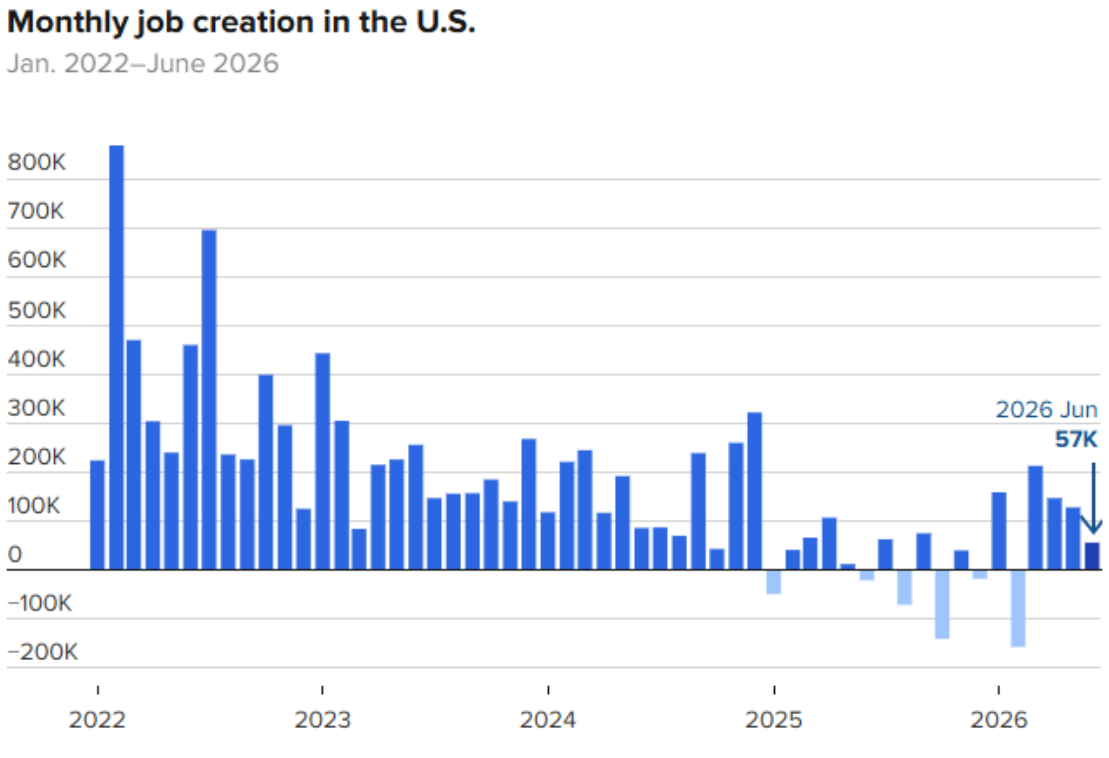
Source: AP-NORC Poll, June 11-17, 2026
3,040 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 2.8 percentage points

Economic Factors That Could Impact the Future Political Landscape for the Midterm Elections

Most Recent Jobs Report – June 2026

- On July 2, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [announced](#) that total nonfarm payroll employment increased by **+57,000** in June.
 - Economists with the Dow Jones estimated an *increase* of 129,000 jobs, meaning June job growth came in well below expectations.
 - The unemployment rate came in at 4.2%, dropping 0.1% from the previous two months; it has not fallen below 4% since April 2024.
- Professional and business services contributed the most (**+36,000**), followed by social assistance (**+25,000**). Healthcare employment rose (**+22,000**) at a slower-than-normal pace for the industry, and government jobs rose slightly (**+8,000**).
- Leisure and hospitality reported a major loss (**-61,000**).
- A broader unemployment measure that includes discouraged workers and those holding part-time jobs for economic reasons declined by 0.2 percentage point to 7.9%.
- The report included downward revisions of prior jobs reports:
 - The May total, which had been much stronger than economists had anticipated, was cut by **-43,000** to **+129,000**.
 - April's figure of +179,000 decreased by **-31,000** to **+148,000**.
- The average job gains per month in 2026 are now 114,000. The average monthly job gains in 2025 were just 10,000.
- Average hourly earnings came in where expected, increasing by 0.3% for the month and 3.5% on an annual basis.
 - Of note, though, the 3.5% wage gains remain below about 4.2% inflation.

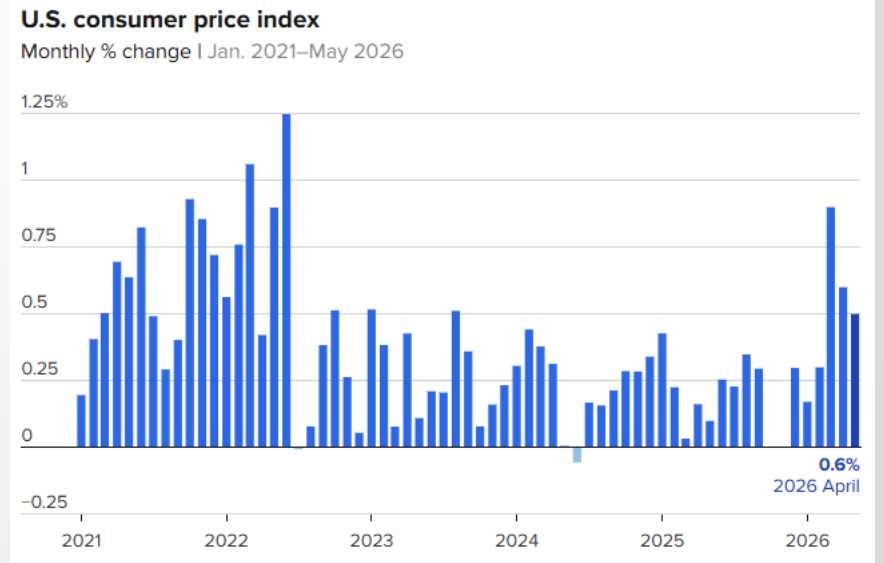
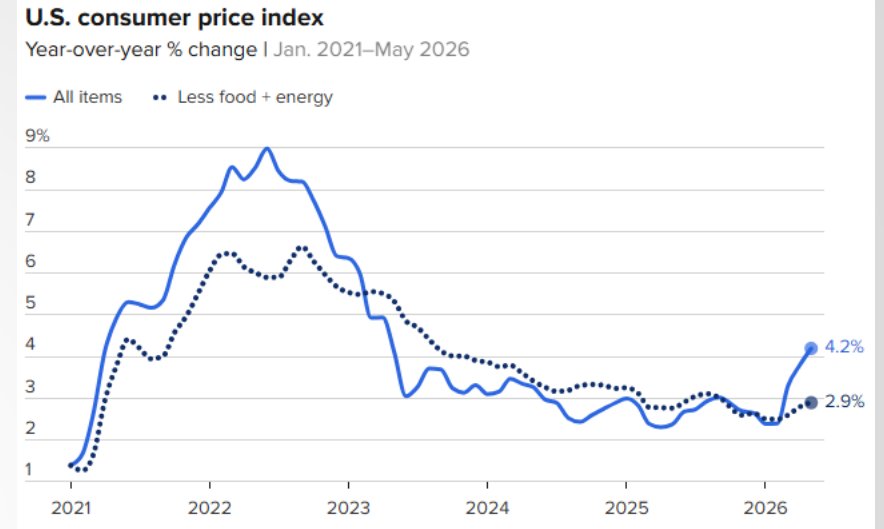
June 2026 Jobs Report – Key Data and Trends



May 2026 Inflation Report

- On June 10, the BLS [announced](#) the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 0.5% in May 2026 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
 - This was in line with experts' forecasts.
- The BLS also reported that the CPI increased by 4.2% from May 2025.
 - This figure was also in line with experts' forecasts.
- Inflation climbed above 4% for the first time in three years, though the increase was in line with expectations due to concerns over how much the spike in energy prices would impact the economy.
 - The level was the highest since April 2023 and above the 3.8% reading from April 2026.
- “Core CPI,” which excludes food and energy prices, rose 0.2% in May 2026 and by 2.9% on an annual basis from May 2025.
 - While the annual rate was in line with the forecast, the monthly gain was below the 0.3% estimate, and less than the 0.4% increase from April 2026.

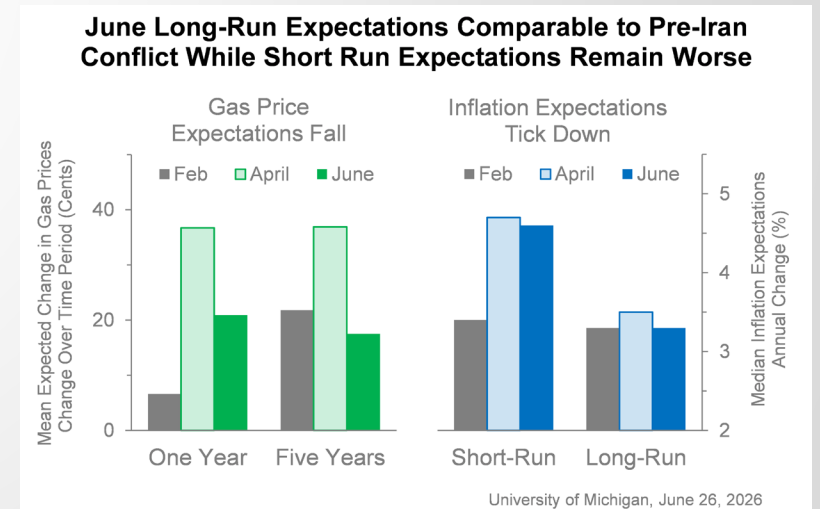
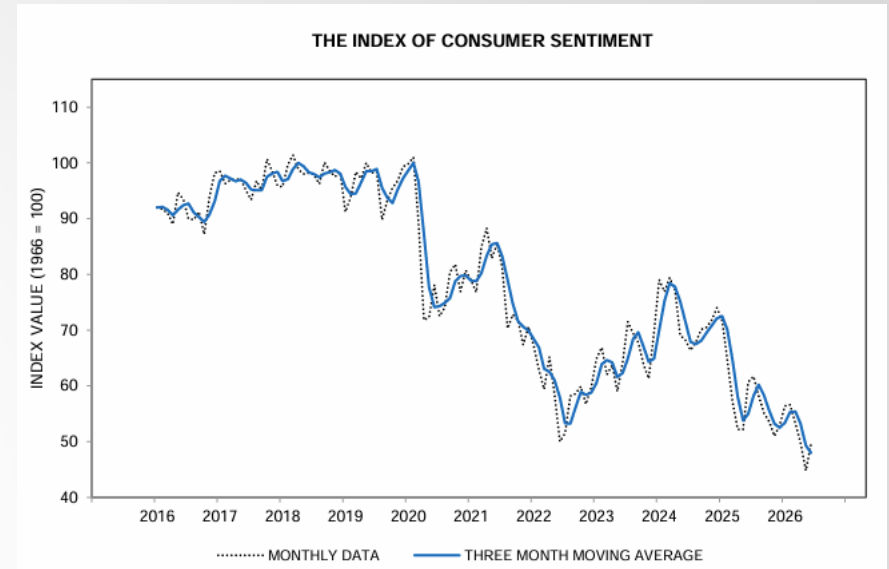
** The Consumer Price Index for June 2026 is scheduled to be released on July 14, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Time.*



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor; CNBC

Consumer Sentiment Report

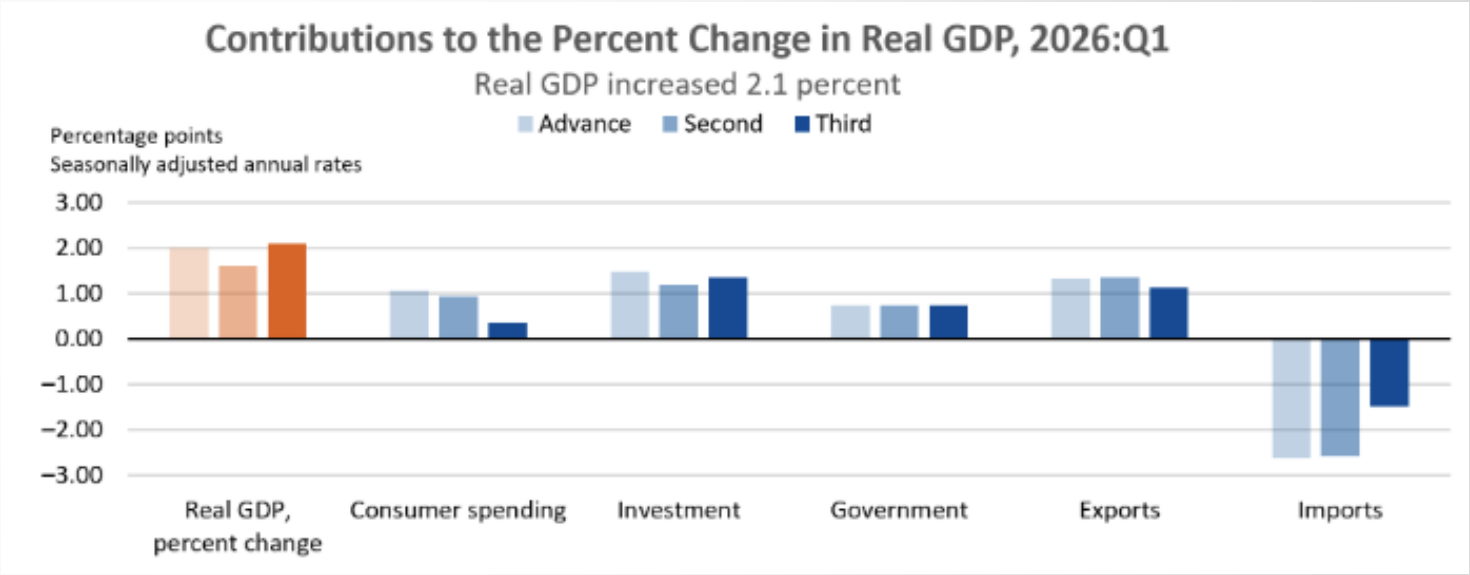
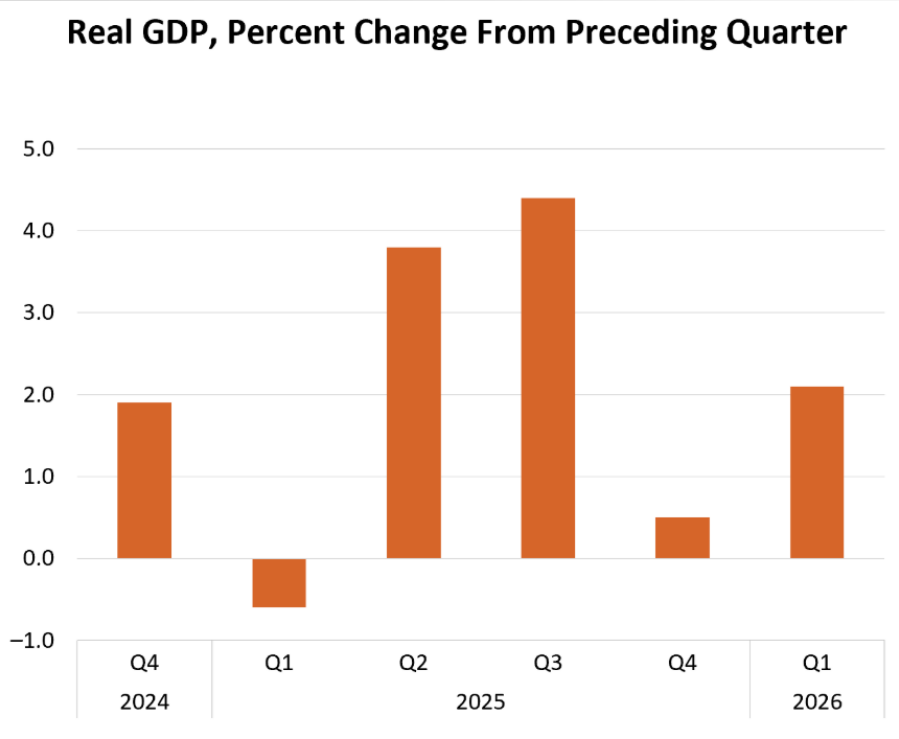
- Consumer sentiment for June 2026 increased to 49.5, which is a 10.5% rise from May 2026 (44.8).
 - This is an annual decrease of 18.5% from June 2025 (60.7), however.
 - 44.8 in May 2026 was a record low consumer sentiment (readings began in 1952), lower than the previous all-time low from April 2026.
 - The reading is notably lower than the last spring (52.2), when tariffs were implemented, and the large inflation spike in summer 2022 (50.0).
- The Index of Consumer Sentiment varies by political party.
 - 37.3 among Democrats (+4.5 from May 2026).
 - 44.5 among Independents (+3.9 from May 2026).
 - 86.2 among Republicans (+1.6 from May 2026).
- Expectations for personal finances, labor markets, inflation, and business conditions:
 - Year-ahead inflation expectations inched down from 4.8% in May to a still-high 4.6% this month.
 - The current reading substantially exceeds the 3.4% reading seen in February before the Iran conflict began, along with all 2024 readings.
 - Long-run inflation expectations lowered from 3.9% last month to 3.3% in June, though remaining a bit higher than the 2.8% to 3.2% range seen in 2024.



GDP Reports and Economic Outlook

- On June 25, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) [released](#) its “third estimate” of U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) for the first quarter (Q1) of 2026. The BEA estimates that real GDP increased at an annual rate of 2.1%, revised up 0.5 percentage points from the second estimate of 1.6%.
 - This increase was a sizable increase from the 0.5% GDP increase reported in Q4 2025, and close to the advanced Q1 2026 estimate of 2.0%.
 - Real final sales increased 1.7% in the first quarter, revised down 0.7 percentage point from the previous estimate.
- The price index for gross domestic purchases increased by 3.6% in Q1 2026, revised up slightly by 0.1% from the Q1 2026 second estimate. This figure is roughly level with the Q3 2025 figure (3.4%) and the Q4 2025 figure (3.7%).
- The PCE price index, which is a key inflation variable for the Federal Reserve, increased 4.6% in Q1 2026, compared to the 2.9% annualized pace for Q4 2025.
 - This total was revised up 0.1% from the previous estimate.
- The PCE price index excluding food and energy increased 4.4%.
 - This was in line with both previous estimates for Q1 2026.

Recent Real GDP Growth



Thank you



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