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Capital Snapshot: *August Recess Begins*

August 2026

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119th Congress Calendars

2026 Senate Calendar

- There are currently 36 legislative session days scheduled for the remainder of 2026.
- There are only 14 legislative session days before election day on November 3.
- The Senate's annual August recess is scheduled from August 10 to September 11.
- The Senate will have its biennial election year October recess from October 5 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

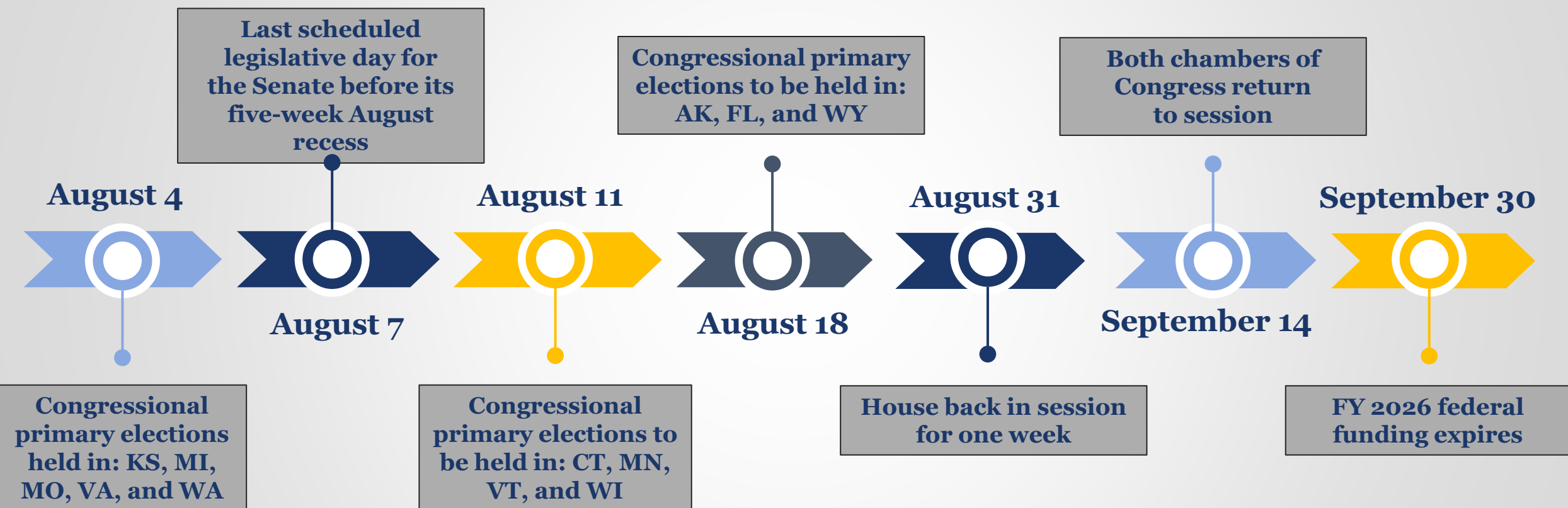
2ND SESSION CONVENES - JANUARY 5, 2026
TARGET ADJOURNMENT - DECEMBER 18, 2026

2026 House Calendar

- There are currently 36 legislative session days [scheduled](#) for the remainder of 2026.
- There are only 16 legislative session days before election day on November 3.
- The House is in the second week of its August recess, which will run until August 28.
- The House will return to session for one week during the week of August 31 and will then go back on recess for the week of September 7.
- The House 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.



Congressional Key Dates for August and September 2026

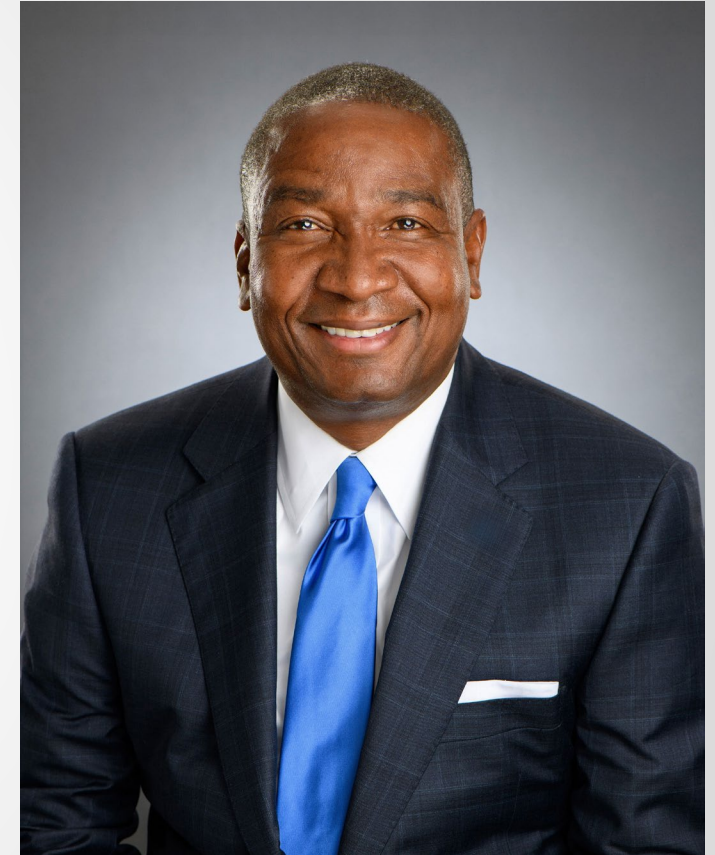




Congressional Updates

Rep. Cleo Fields Announces He Will Not Run for Re-Election

- On July 21, Rep. Cleo Fields (D-LA-6) [announced](#) he will not run for re-election in Louisiana's 6th congressional district in this year's midterm elections.
- His decision comes after Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed a new congressional map into law on May 29 that shifted Rep. Fields' 6th district from a moderate Democratic district to a solidly Republican district.
 - Louisiana enacted a new congressional map following the U.S. Supreme Court's *Louisiana v. Callais* [ruling](#) on April 29 that struck down Louisiana's congressional map in use for the 2024 elections.
- Rep. Fields first served in the U.S. House from January 1993 to January 1997, and again from January 2025 to now.
- He stated he will instead run for a seat in the Louisiana State Senate. He previously served in the state Senate three different times: from 1988 to 1993, 1997 to 2008, and 2020 to 2025.
- During his second stint in Congress these past two years, he served on the House Financial Services Committee.



Rep. Cleo Fields (D-LA-6)

Rep. Chuck Edwards Announces He Will Not Run for Re-Election

- On August 5, Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC-11) [announced](#) he will not run for re-election in North Carolina's 11th congressional district in this year's midterm elections.
- His decision comes after the House Ethics Committee recommended a censure following an investigation of inappropriate behavior towards staff.
 - The panel's report was released on August 3 and concluded he engaged in "persistent and inappropriate conduct."
- Rep. Edwards has served in the U.S. House from January 2023 to now.
- He stated that he will complete his current term but withdraw from his re-election campaign.
- He has served on the House Appropriations Committee, specifically the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee and the National Security, Department of State and Related Programs Subcommittee as Vice Chair and is on the House Budget Committee.
- On August 10, a committee of local North Carolina Republicans selected North Carolina state Rep. Jennifer Balkcom (R) to replace Rep. Edwards as the Republican nominee for NC-11 on the ballot for the November election.
 - State Rep. Balkcom will face Jamie Ager (D), a farmer and entrepreneur, in the general election this fall for the Western North Carolina congressional seat.
 - The race for this seat is currently rated as a **Toss-up**.



Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC-11)

Two Democrats Advance to Runoff in GA-13 Special Election

- On July 28, a special election was held for the open congressional seat for Georgia's 13th district. The seat is currently vacant after the death of former Rep. David Scott (D-GA) in April.
- Marcye Scott (D) won 46.0% of the vote.
 - Ms. Scott is the daughter of the late Rep. David Scott.
- In second place was Everton Blair (D), with 37.4% of the vote.
 - Mr. Blair is a former Chair of the Gwinnett County Board of Education.
- Since no candidate received at least 50% of the vote, the special election now moves to a runoff, which will take place on **August 25**. The winner could be sworn into office as soon as the week of August 31, when the House returns from its August recess.
- The swearing in of Ms. Scott or Mr. Blair, along with the winner of the August 18 special election runoff for California's 14th district (which is also guaranteed to be a Democrat) will bring the House to **219 Republicans** (including an independent) and **214 Democrats**, decreasing Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) majority from three votes down to two.



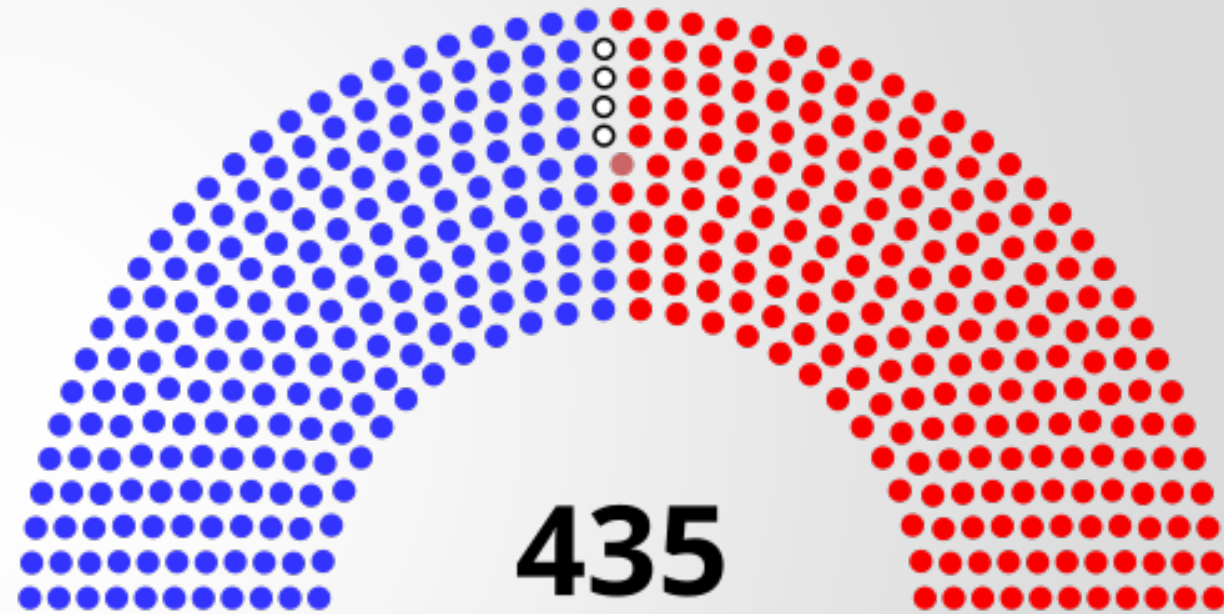
Marcy Scott (D)



Everton Blair (D)

Current U.S. House – 119th Congress

- There are now a total of 63 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 25 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 four 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 (although seat being redistricted)
Georgia-13	Late Rep. David Scott (D)	July 28, 2026 [Marcye Scott (D) vs. Everton Blair (D)]	Safe D

Senator Lindsey Graham Passes Away

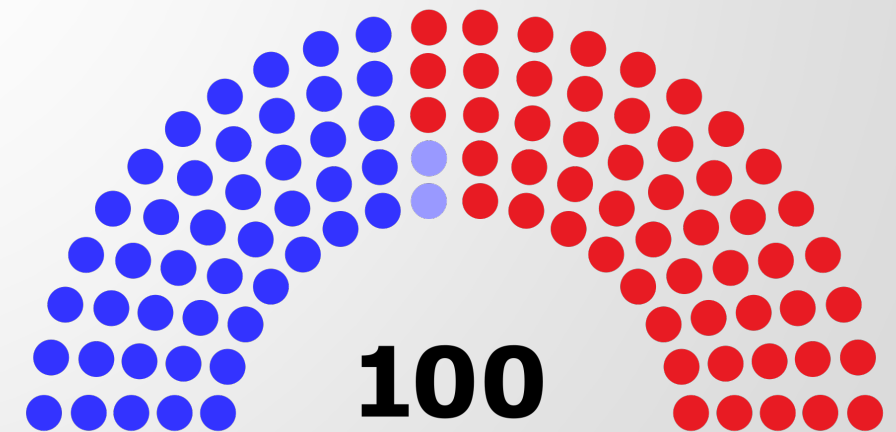
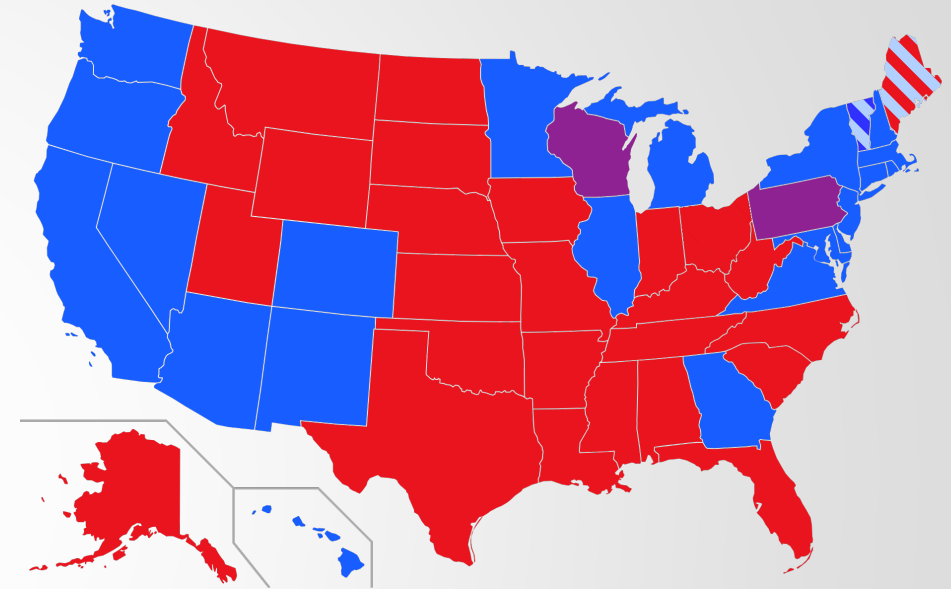
- On July 12, it was [announced](#) that Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) had suddenly passed away the day prior from aortic dissection. Senator Graham had served in the U.S. Senate since January 2003 and previously served in the U.S. House from January 1995 to January 2003.
- Senator Graham was an influential senior Senator and a close ally of President Trump.
- At the time of his passing, he was the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs.
- As Chairman of the Budget Committee, he was expected to play a prominent leading role in drafting and attempting to advance Republicans' potential "Reconciliation 3.0" bill.
- He was also notably a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Environment and Public Works Committee.
- He previously served on the Foreign Relations Committee (2019-2021) and the Armed Services Committee (2003-2019).
- On July 13, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster (R) [appointed](#) Senator Graham's sister, Darline Graham (R), to fill the seat for the remainder of the late Senator's term, which runs through the end of this Congress on January 3, 2027. She was sworn into office on July 14, becoming the first woman to represent South Carolina in the U.S. Senate.
- Senator Darline Graham announced on July 20 she intends to run for a full six-year term for her late brother's seat in the November election.



The late Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

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 and Reconciliation – State of Play



Senate Appropriations Committee
Chair Susan Collins (R-ME)

- Before departing for August recess, the House narrowly passed ([220-205](#)) a continuing resolution ([H.R. 9770](#)) to fund the government through December 4. Six Democrats joined Republicans in support, while one Republican, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), opposed the measure.
 - Notably, the House-passed CR did not incorporate funding anomalies [requested](#) by the White House.
 - House Democrats opposed the Republican-led CR because it did not include language to ensure additional funding was not given Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- On August 2, the Senate Appropriations Committee [released](#) its own bipartisan CR proposal to fund the government through December 11. The CR includes numerous funding anomalies and short-term authorization extenders, including for several Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health programs, housing programs, surface transportation programs, the Defense Production Act, and other authorities set to expire on September 30.
- However, the agreement does not include additional funding for "Trump-class" battleships and restricts additional funding for immigration enforcement agencies, which remains a top Democratic priority. Additionally, the Senate CR includes a provision to temporarily block the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s [proposed rule](#) on uniform guidance from being finalized, which would codify giving political appointees more influence in federal grant decision-making and make it easier for the administration to cancel existing grants that do not align with administration priorities.
 - It remains unclear whether House Republicans will push back on Democratic policy priorities in the Senate CR, which could complicate House passage.
- While the Senate focuses on a funding stopgap pushing fiscal year (FY) 2027 spending bills into the lame duck session, the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY27 markup process remains stalled due to party-line disagreements over topline funding levels and the continued absence of Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY).
- The unexpected death of former Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) has also shifted the Senate Appropriations Committee leadership roster. Sen. Darlene Graham (R-SC) has taken his place on committee and Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) will serve as interim chair of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) subcommittee, previously chaired by Sen. Graham.

Appropriations and Reconciliation – State of Play Continued

- In July, both chambers examined the administration's request for supplemental funding for defense and farm assistance.
 - On July 21, the Senate Appropriations Committee held a [hearing](#) to review the Trump administration's supplemental funding request which includes funding for military operations related to Iran replenishment of munitions stockpiles, and agricultural assistance. Democrats have declared a bipartisan supplemental funding deal unattainable.
 - In the House, Republicans passed a \$95 billion budget resolution ([H.Con.Res.113](#)), to provide \$73 billion for defense and intelligence programs, \$12 billion for farm aid, and \$10 billion to implement certain provisions of the SAVE America Act ([H.R. 7296/S. 3752](#)), a partisan election security and voter-ID bill. The House passed the budget resolution as part of the process to unlock a third party-line reconciliation package.
 - The reconciliation process faces several hurdles in the Senate including whether to include pay-fors to offset new spending and some members pushing for higher funding levels for farm assistance and defense spending.
 - Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) continues to face pressure from the Trump administration to pass the House-passed budget resolution to fund the Pentagon, agricultural relief, and aspects of the SAVE America Act. However, Majority Leader Thune did not commit to holding votes on a budget resolution before adjourning for recess given concerns there is not enough support among Senate Republicans to pass it.



Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)

Appropriations – Look Ahead



House Majority Leader Steve Scalise
(R-LA)

- The Senate stayed late through the night August 7 to finish pending business, including a vote on the CR in the early morning hours of August 8. Just after 4:00 AM, the CR passed by a vote of 90-6. Senators who voted against the bill included Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Rand Paul (R-KY), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Ed Markey (D-MA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Bernie Sanders (I-VT).
- The House now needs to decide whether to take up the Senate version of the CR or reach an agreement on a revised stop-gap spending bill to avert a government shutdown before September 30.
- In September, House Republican leadership plans to consider the FY27 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies ([H.R. 9022](#)) and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies ([H.R. 9170](#)) appropriations bills on the House floor.
- The House has passed three out of its 12 FY27 appropriations bills to date, including Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration (Ag-FDA; [H.R. 8646](#)); Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA; [H.R. 8469](#)); and National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs ([H.R. 8595](#)).

Trade – Recent Trade and Tariff Updates

- **IEEPA Refunds Continue.** In a July 15 order, Judge Richard Eaton of the Court of International Trade (CIT) stated that the court would enter orders directing CBP to reliquidate certain finally liquidated entries in each of the approximately 3,700 IEEPA cases before the court. The court has now finished entering those orders, with refunds to be processed through CBP's Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (CAPE) system.
 - The government maintains that it cannot refund finally liquidated entries without an importer-specific court order, and the orders appear to function as such. CBP has not yet issued Phase 3 instructions or opened a Phase 3 portal for these refund claims.
 - On July 13, CBP stated that approximately \$121.75 billion in refunds had been accepted through CAPE, and that approximately \$86.3 billion had been sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for disbursement.
- **Section 122 Tariffs Expire.** On July 24, the 10% Section 122 balance-of-payments tariffs expired under their 150-day statutory limit. The government's appeal of the CIT's ruling that the Section 122 tariffs were unlawful remains pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- **Trump Administration Imposes Section 301 Forced Labor Tariffs.** On July 23, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) the results of the Forced Labor Section 301 investigations. Consistent with [proposed actions](#) announced on June 2, the administration will impose country-specific tariffs of either 10% or 12.5% on 60 major trading partners, effectively replacing the Section 122 balance-of-payments tariffs.
 - The tariff rate is allegedly dependent on the steps each country has taken to address imports of products made using forced labor.
 - On July 24, the Liberty Justice Center, which successfully challenged President Trump's IEEPA tariffs at the U.S. Supreme Court and the Section 122 tariffs at the CIT, [announced](#) it filed a [complaint](#) at the CIT challenging the Section 301 tariffs on various grounds.

Trade – Senate Updates

- **Senate Finance Committee Holds Hearing on President’s Agenda.** On July 22, USTR Jamieson Greer testified before the Senate Finance Committee at a [hearing](#) on the president’s 2026 Trade Policy Agenda. Amb. Greer defended the administration’s broad use of tariffs while facing questions on topics such as the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA) renegotiation, agricultural trade, and U.S.-Canada relations.
- **Senate Confirms Five ITC Nominees.** On July 16, the Senate unanimously confirmed five nominees to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC): Republicans [Brett Doyle](#), [Peter-Anthony Pappas](#), and [David Foley](#), alongside Democrats [Samuel Negatu](#) and [Bart Thanhauser](#).
- **Senate Confirms Kara Westercamp to CIT.** On July 21, the Senate narrowly confirmed [Kara Westercamp](#) to a lifetime seat on the CIT by a [50-48](#) vote, with Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) as the only Republican to vote against the nomination. Judge Westercamp has served in the Office of the White House Counsel on trade issues since May 2025.
 - President Trump [described](#) Judge Westercamp as a “very experienced Trade Lawyer” involved in “defending our historic and popular America First Agenda.”



Amb. Jamieson Greer testifies before the Senate Finance Committee about the President’s 2026 Trade Policy Agenda.

Trade – Section 301 and 232 Updates

- **USTR Announces 25% Section 301 Tariffs Against Brazil.** On July 15, USTR [announced](#) that, at the president's direction, it was imposing a 25% tariff on goods from Brazil, effective July 22, based on its yearlong Section 301 investigation into certain Brazilian trade policies and practices. An official [notice of action](#) was published on July 20.
- **President Trump Declines to Impose Section 232 Tariffs on Aircraft and Jet Engines.** On July 9, President Trump issued a [proclamation](#) on the U.S. Department of Commerce's (DOC) Section 232 [investigation](#) into commercial aircraft, jet engines, and their parts. The president decided not to impose immediate tariffs but directed DOC and USTR to pursue negotiations with U.S. trading partners to address the related national security concerns.
- **President Trump Threatens Generic Pharmaceutical Tariffs to Start in 2028.** On July 21, President Trump [announced](#) that Section 232 tariffs on generic pharmaceuticals would remain at 0% until August 1, 2028, at which point the tariffs will increase to 100%. The tariff rate would then increase to 200% on August 1, 2029. No official actions have yet been taken to implement the threatened tariffs.
- **CBP Releases Guidance on Patented Pharmaceutical Tariffs.** On July 30, CBP released [guidance](#) implementing Section 232 duties on patented pharmaceuticals and ingredients. The tariffs went into effect at 12:01 AM on July 31 for 17 large drug companies. However, those companies appear to have completed deals with the Trump administration related to onshoring of production and Most Favored Nation (MFN) pricing and thus will be permitted to import their products and ingredients at a zero-tariff rate.
 - Tariffs will not go into effect for other companies until 12:01 AM on September 29.
 - On July 31, DOC released a [notice](#) indicating that the Section 232 tariff rate on patented pharmaceutical articles from the United Kingdom would be reduced from 10% to 0%, based on the [U.S.-UK Arrangement on Pharmaceutical Pricing](#).
- **President Trump Offers Reduced Aluminum Tariffs for Onshoring Commitments.** On July 20, President Trump issued a [proclamation](#) to allow for reduced Section 232 aluminum tariffs for qualified U.S. aluminum producers that commit to invest in new U.S. aluminum production. The proclamation [authorizes](#) the Secretary of Commerce to create an incentive program that would reduce a company's tariff rate for primary aluminum to half of the otherwise applicable rate ([currently](#) 50% for most source countries).

Trade – Bilateral Updates

- **Canada.** On July 20, President Trump [issued](#) his first tariff actions under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, with three proclamations threatening Canada with 50% tariffs set to take effect on August 19. The tariff actions are based on the proclamations' findings of Canadian discrimination against U.S. [dairy products](#), [alcoholic beverages](#), and [automobiles](#).
 - Following the announcement of the Section 338 tariffs, Canadian Minister for U.S.-Canada Trade Dominic LeBlanc and Chief Trade Negotiator Janice Charette [traveled](#) to Washington, D.C. for negotiations with Amb. Greer, and “agreed to remain in close contact.”
- **Jordan.** On July 21, the U.S. and Jordan reached an [Agreement on Reciprocal Trade](#). According to the White House, Jordan will [provide](#) duty-free access for most U.S. goods; strengthen labor, environmental, and intellectual property protections; and remove certain non-tariff barriers, among other commitments.
- **China.** President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping plan to hold a summit in Washington, D.C. in September. On July 15, Amb. Greer [indicated](#) that the summit will likely focus on “taking stock” of commitments made under the October 2025 [U.S.-China trade deal](#).
- **Korea.** On July 1, the House Judiciary Committee majority released an [interim staff report](#) on its findings of “discriminatory” treatment by South Korea against U.S.-based companies, such as Coupang. The report claims that Korean government actions and policies have disadvantaged U.S. companies for years, and that such action violates the [U.S.-Korea trade deal](#).
- **Brazil.** On July 27, Brazil requested World Trade Organization (WTO) consultations with the U.S. on the Section 301 Brazil tariffs (25%) and [forced labor](#) tariffs (12.5%). The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [asserted](#) the tariffs were “unjustified and incompatible” with U.S. WTO obligations.



Canadian Minister for U.S.-Canada Trade Dominic LeBlanc

Trade – USMCA Update



Mexican Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard (back), Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, and Amb. Jamieson Greer

- **United States and Mexico Hold Third Round of USMCA Talks.** From July 21-23, Amb. Greer traveled to Mexico City for negotiations with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Mexico’s Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard on the USMCA Joint Review. They discussed economic security, labor, agriculture, electronic payment services, steel and aluminum and derivative products, and automobiles.
 - Amb. Greer and President Sheinbaum emphasized strengthening North American manufacturing and regional supply chains, as well as “addressing free-riding from non-parties.”
 - The two countries scheduled a fourth bilateral negotiating round in September.
- **Amb. Greer Signals Potential “Interim Arrangements” for USMCA.** On July 22, Amb. Greer indicated that, by the end of the year, the three USMCA member countries could have options for bilateral “interim arrangements” on the future of USMCA.
 - He noted that negotiations on certain issues, including labor, environment, and rules of origin, could extend into 2027.
- **USTR Publishes Report on USMCA Auto Rules.** On July 1, USTR published a report on the operation of the USMCA regarding trade in automotive goods.
 - The report highlighted declining U.S. content in vehicles produced in Mexico and Canada and growing reliance on Chinese components, advocating for strengthened rules of origin to boost North American auto production.
 - This is the third of five reports Congress mandated on USMCA’s impact on the auto sector.

Defense – Iran



Iranian Foreign Minister
Abbas Araghchi

- The U.S.-Iran conflict has intensified over the last month. On July 8, President Trump declared that the ceasefire, which had been in effect since mid-June, was “over” after Iranian forces struck commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - The U.S.-Iran 14-point Memorandum of Understanding ([MOU](#)) that was signed in June also continued to lose relevance, with President Trump formally [notifying](#) Congress on July 10 that the United States was again at war with Iran.
- On July 13, President Trump [announced](#) a reinstatement of the U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports.
- President Trump told reporters on July 23 he was “considering a massive attack. Bigger than ever before.” He also indicated that he no longer wished to negotiate a new ceasefire.
 - That day, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi criticized the Trump administration's handling of peace deal talks, [stating](#) on social media that U.S. leaders “ignore the realities on the ground.”
- On June 23, the House approved ([214-208](#)) a second resolution, [H.Con.Res.89](#), directing the president to remove U.S. armed forces from Iran absent congressional authorization.
 - The vote came just before the Senate rejected ([47-49](#)) a similar resolution, [S.J.Res.180](#).
 - The House and Senate previously passed a resolution in June, [H.Con.Res.86](#), calling on President Trump to remove U.S. forces from Iran without congressional authorization for further military engagement.
- The conflict is expanding to new fronts, with reports indicating that Houthis, at the urging of Iran, have attempted to block the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, to blockade Saudi Arabia.
- On July 25, President Trump commented at the annual White House Correspondents’ Association dinner, “They are talking to us right now; they’d love to make a deal... I don’t think they’re ready to... but I’m willing to listen.”
- In the last few weeks of July, the U.S. and Iran continued to engage in a sustained exchange of strikes. On July 29, President Trump told reporters the U.S. would “hit [Iran] very hard” after an attack on the U.S. military in Jordan.

Defense – FY27 NDAA Outlook

- **House Passes FY27 NDAA.** On July 22, 2026, the House passed its version of the FY27 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) ([H.R. 8800](#)) by a vote of [216-212](#).
 - The House considered 320 [amendments](#) before moving to final passage. The House adopted five bipartisan en bloc packages, as well as seven standalone amendments.
 - Seven Republicans voted against the bill, with six Democrats joining the majority of Republicans in supporting the bill. Three members did not vote.
 - This marked a significant departure from previous years, as the NDAA traditionally receives broad bipartisan support.
 - House Democrats strongly criticized the \$1.15 trillion authorized funding level in the bill and the lack of guardrails regarding the ongoing military actions in Iran.
- **Senate NDAA Remains Stalled.** Senate consideration of the FY27 NDAA ([S. 4784](#)) remains stalled after a procedural vote to begin floor consideration requiring a 60-vote threshold failed ([50-46](#)) on July 14.
 - All Senate Democrats present voted against proceeding with a vote on the package due to frustrations over the current conflict in Iran, as well as the topline NDAA authorization amount exceeding \$1 trillion for the first time.
- **Next Steps:** At this time, the Senate appears unlikely to raise the NDAA for floor consideration again until September. The two chambers are expected to negotiate a final version for passage after the midterm elections.



House Armed Services Chair
Mike Rogers (R-AL)

Tax – Congressional Updates

- **Senate Revives Tax Administration Package.** On July 30, the Senate Finance Committee [approved](#) a bipartisan tax administration package, the Taxpayer Assistance and Service Act (TAS Act, [S. 3931](#)), by a vote of 26-1.
 - During consideration, Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) offered an [amendment](#) blocking President Trump’s Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [settlement](#), which failed 13-14 along party lines.
 - The House Ways and Means Committee earlier held a mark-up on tax administration, [passing](#) its own package of bipartisan bills.
 - Passage of any bipartisan tax administration bill will most likely take place in the lame duck session after the midterm elections, possibly attached to a CR or FY27 funding bill.
- **Democrats Probe SIFL Valuation.** On July 24, Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and IRS CEO Frank Bisignano urging the administration to revise or repeal the Standard Industry Fare Level (SIFL) [method](#) for valuing executives’ personal travel on corporate aircrafts.
 - The senators [characterize](#) SIFL as a tax “loophole” that permits personal jet travel to be reported as taxable income at far below its market value.
 - The letter cites a Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) [report](#) describing the disparity between flights calculated with the SIFL formula and market prices for commercial and charter flights.
 - In 2024, largely the same group of Democrats sent a similar [letter](#) to then-Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel, praising the agencies’ [crackdown](#) on business aircraft use, and [calling](#) to reform the SIFL valuation method.



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



Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI),
member of the Senate Finance
Committee

Tax – Congressional Updates

- **House Ways and Means Targets Tax-Exempt Organizations.** On July 22, the House Ways & Means Committee approved a [slate](#) of bills affecting tax-exempt organizations. The bills were [passed](#) on a party-line vote, which as a practical matter means there is no immediate pathway for them to become law. However, consideration is noteworthy.
 - If Republicans use the special budget rules of reconciliation again to write new tax law, akin to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA, [P.L. 119-21](#)), it is possible some of the bills might be fast-tracked for enactment.
 - Additionally, Ways and Means Republicans have consistently [argued](#) the tax-exempt sector is too large and unaccountable. This narrative has been used to expand the endowment tax and propose additional burdens on private foundations.
 - The following bill summaries provide visibility into GOP tax-writer concerns about foreign influence.
 - Foreign Funding Transparency Act ([H.R. 9772](#)) would require tax-exempt organizations (including 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(4)s, with some exceptions for small organizations) to disclose country of origin of contributions from foreign nationals, citing concerns about funding from China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran. Passed on party line vote 23-18.
 - Stopping Foreign Influence in Elections Act ([H.R. 9771](#)) would impose an excise tax on 501(c) organizations that make contributions to a political committee or any 501(c)(4) within two years of receiving a foreign national's contribution— notwithstanding the unresolved question of permissible political activity levels currently being litigated in *Freedom Path Inc. v. IRS*. Passed on party line vote 23-16.
 - Fiscal Sponsorship Transparency Act ([H.R. 9721](#)) would codify and impose new reporting requirements on fiscal sponsorship arrangements and tax “improper conduit arrangements,” building on Treasury’s April [announcement](#) that it would revise Form 990 to capture more detail on government grants and fiscal sponsorships. Passed on party line vote 23-15.
 - [H.R. 9722](#), legislation which would bar the IRS from treating religious beliefs or practices concerning marriage, sexuality, or gender identity as “contrary to public policy” in determinations of an organization’s qualification for tax-exempt status (including under sections 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4))—a provision aimed at limiting the IRS’ Bob Jones University authority. Passed on party line vote 23-16.



Rep. Jason Smith
(R-MO), Chair of the
House Ways and
Means Committee

Tax – Administration Updates

- **Senate Clears Treasury Nominees.** On July 30, the Senate voted along party lines ([50-47](#)) to approve an en bloc nomination package ([S.Res.817](#)) containing several nominees to the Treasury.
 - The package included the following nominations: (1) Francis Brooke to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; (2) Erin Browne, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs; (3) Sriprakash Kothari, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy; and (4) George McMaster, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (Financial Markets).
 - All four nominees were previously [reported](#) out of committee on July 23 along party lines, by [votes](#) of 14-13.
- **Salinger Takes Top Treasury Tax Post, Raises Probe From Democrats.** Kevin Salinger is [taking over](#) as Acting Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at Treasury, replacing Ken Kies, who [left](#) the administration earlier than expected after just over a year in the role.
 - Salinger was serving as deputy to Kies and will also assume Kies' secondary role as Acting Chief Counsel at the IRS.
 - The administration has separately [nominated](#) James Gadwood for IRS chief counsel, but he is still awaiting Senate consideration and confirmation.
 - Salinger's elevation also lands amid continued controversy over the administration's settlement agreement to spare President Trump from IRS audits in exchange for dropping a lawsuit against the agency.



Kevin Salinger, Acting Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at Treasury and Acting Chief Counsel to the IRS.



Jim Gadwood, nominated to serve as IRS Chief Counsel.

Financial Services – Congressional Updates

- **Lawmakers Pass Congressional Stock Trading Ban.** On July 22, the House [voted](#) 232-198 to pass the Stop Insider Trading Act ([H.R. 7008](#)), to require certain restrictions on stocks for Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents.
 - Despite bipartisan support to reign in congressional trading activity, the measure was passed by the House Administration Committee along party lines ([7-4](#)) and cleared the chamber with only 13 Democratic votes.
 - Democrats have [criticized](#) the bill as insufficient, arguing it falls short of competing bipartisan proposals such as the Restore Trust in Congress Act ([H.R. 5106](#)) which would require lawmakers to divest from individual stocks.
- **Housing Bill Enacted, Absent President’s Signature.** On July 11, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act ([H.R. 6644](#)) [became law](#), after 10 days of inaction from President Trump.
 - Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) transmitted the legislation to the president on June 29, triggering the 10-day clock for the bill to become law absent any action from the president to sign or veto the bill. President Trump [refused](#) to sign the legislation after calling on Congress to attach the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE America Act, [H.R. 7296/S. 3752](#)).



Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI), sponsor of H.R. 7008, Stop Insider Trading Act.



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA)

Financial Services – Congressional Updates

- **CLARITY Act Still Lacks Sufficient Support.** Major crypto trade groups are [pressing](#) Senate leadership to move the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act (CLARITY Act, [H.R. 3633](#)) to the floor, even as the bill still lacks the 60 votes needed to clear the Senate's procedural threshold.
 - On July 22, the White House agreed to an ethics package and Senate Republicans released long-awaited [updated bill text](#).
 - Crypto stakeholders largely welcomed the changes, but key Senate Democrats, including Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) [said](#) the bill remains insufficient on ethics and illicit finance provisions.
 - With all Republicans presumed to be in favor, seven Democrats could determine the bill's fate, including key Banking Committee Sens. Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD), Mark Warner (D-VA), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ). These four were closely engaged throughout the months-long negotiation process but have [said](#) they cannot support the current version of the bill.
 - It remains unclear whether Senate leadership can secure the votes needed to begin the floor process, but further inaction would eliminate the chamber's chances of advancing their version of the bill due to a tight legislative calendar.



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

Financial Services – Administration Updates

- **Prediction Market Litigation Intensifies.** Prediction market litigation over sports event contracts has intensified across state and federal courts, with the first half of 2026 defined by disputes over whether platforms like Kalshi and Polymarket are federally regulated derivatives markets or state-regulated sports betting operators.
 - The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) has [moved](#) towards direct litigation to enforce federal jurisdiction over state regulation, [suing](#) multiple states and arguing that gambling regulators are overstepping by policing federally regulated prediction markets.
 - With appeals pending in multiple circuits, the Supreme Court is increasingly expected to ultimately resolve the issue.
- **SEC Announces Roundtable on 24/7 Trading.** On July 23, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [announced](#) it will host a [roundtable](#) on September 17 to discuss the potential move toward 24-hour trading in U.S. equity markets.
 - SEC is soliciting [comments](#) for the September roundtable.
 - Relatedly, on July 23, the CFTC [announced](#) an extension of the comment period for input on 24/7 trading of standard futures contracts in energy derivatives markets.
- **SEC Announces Departure of Deputy Director for Enforcement.** On July 22, the SEC [announced](#) the departure of Sam Waldon, Principal Deputy Director of the Division of Enforcement, effective July 31, after more than 14 years at the SEC.
 - Waldon will be succeeded by Osman Nawaz, who previously served at the SEC from 2010 to 2024 and rejoined the agency last month.



CFTC Chair Mike Selig



SEC Chair Paul Atkins

Artificial Intelligence – Administration Updates

- On July 14, the White House [launched](#) an artificial intelligence (AI) cybersecurity clearinghouse for sensitive sectors, including financial institutions, known as “GOLD EAGLE.” Established pursuant to the June 2 “Promoting Advanced Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Security” executive order ([EO](#)), it aims to help industry use AI to identify and patch cyber vulnerabilities at greater speed and scale, in conjunction with Treasury, Homeland Security, and War Departments.
- On July 14, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a [hearing](#) on the FY27 budget request for the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). During the hearing Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Jeffrey Kessler, stated he did not think the rescinded Biden administration AI Diffusion Rule was worth replacing, but that future regulatory action was coming. The DOC’s 2026 [Statement of Regulatory and Deregulatory Priorities](#) indicates BIS plans to publish an interim final rule to establish a new framework for AI-related export controls.
 - Under Secretary Kessler testified that the administration's temporary export restrictions on Anthropic’s Fable 5 and Mythos 5 models were due to national security concerns and part of a broader effort to create government-wide standards for reviewing frontier AI models. He said he expects the administration to develop more rules governing frontier AI models, though he declined to provide specifics.
- On July 22, White House [announced](#) more than \$5 billion committed funds for the Genesis Mission in line with the third pillar of the four recommendations included the [Science: A New Golden Age](#) report (more information on the report can be found in the Technology Policy section). The Genesis Mission was established by President Trump’s [EO](#) in November 2025 and is intended to be a national effort to harness AI for science at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
- On July 22, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it is partnering with Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to launch a series of research challenges inviting scientists to propose AI-driven solutions to specific health care problems, under an initiative titled the “[Bio Genesis Mission](#).” The initial challenges will seek proposals to identify the root causes of chronic disease, accelerating pediatric cancer research, and speeding drug discovery and clinical translation.



Office of Science and Technology
Policy Director Michael Kratsios

Artificial Intelligence – Congressional Updates



Senate Commerce Committee
Chairman Ted Cruz (R-TX)

- In July, the House and Senate continued separate tracks to try and pass comprehensive AI legislation:
 - On July 20, Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) met with President Trump to discuss AI and kids' online safety policy, including Sen. Blackburn's attempts to attach federal preemption of state AI laws to the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA, [S. 1748](#)). After the meeting, Sen. Cruz cast doubt on the viability of the proposal in the Senate. He said while he is happy to support the measure and include it in a markup, he is skeptical the bill would get 60 votes in the Senate. Sen. Cruz later announced a [markup](#) of KOSA along with four other kids' online safety bills, but the markup does not include broad AI regulation.
 - On July 23, Reps. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) and Lori Trahan (D-MA) introduced their bipartisan AI legislation. The Frontier Risk Oversight, National Transparency, Independent Evaluation, and Reporting Act (FRONTIER, [H.R. 9925](#), [text](#)) is a modified version of a discussion draft released in June, formerly known as the Great American AI Act. The revised version makes changes to the state preemption text, which was met with backlash from congressional Democrats. Specifically, the bill narrowed the scope of the preemption to cover laws that govern frontier AI catastrophic-risk transparency, third-party auditing, and independent verification or incident reporting.
- On July 23, Reps. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Nathaniel Moran (R-TX) introduced the AI Kill Switch Act ([H.R. 9917](#), [text](#)) in response to growing concerns over AI model safety.
 - The bill would give the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of National Intelligence, the authority to order top AI firms to shut down or slow AI models that the government deems too dangerous.

Technology – Administration Updates

- Extensive [reporting](#) on DOC's BIS published by POLITICO on July 8 found that its rulemaking is at its slowest pace in more than two decades, there is a growing backlog of export license applications, and the agency's "Entity List" of blacklisted companies has not been updated in eight months. Under Secretary for Industry and Security Jeffrey Kessler has reportedly insisted on personally reviewing nearly all export license applications and is reluctant to add foreign companies to the Entity List out of concern doing so may provoke repercussions from China.
 - Additionally, the reporting noted that a DOC decision in May 2025 to not enforce Biden administration rules barring advanced chip sales to overseas subsidiaries of Chinese companies may have inadvertently allowed Chinese entities to acquire thousands of high-end chips before clarifying [guidance](#) was issued.
- On July 21, OSTP Director Michael Kratsios released [Science: A New Golden Age](#), a report laying out a four-pillar strategy to focus U.S. research infrastructure on maintaining American technological dominance. He also produced an accompanying [implementation memo](#). The pillars include: (1) revitalizing science and technology through diversified funding mechanisms and support of individual scientists; (2) securing U.S. dominance in critical technologies such as AI and quantum; (3) funding and scaling the Genesis Mission; and (4) enhancing workforce training for science and technology-oriented careers.



Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Jeffrey Kessler (left) and Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick (right)

Technology – Congressional Updates



House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee Chairman Brian Babin (R-TX)

- On July 22, the House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee held a legislative [hearing](#) titled, “Protecting Communications Networks and Improving Connectivity.” The hearing focused on communications network security, AI-enabled cyber risks, trusted-vendor policy, broadband deployment, and scrutiny of Chinese-made technologies. Legislation discussed included the Guarding the U.S. Against Adversarial Robotics Dominance (GUARD) Act ([H.R. 9129](#)) which would add certain Chinese-linked humanoid and quadruped robotics communications equipment or services to the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) covered list.
 - On July 28, the FCC [updated](#) its list of covered equipment to include mobile advanced robotic devices and connected power inverters produced in foreign countries.
- On July 22, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee held a [hearing](#) on “Unleashing the Golden Age of Science: Examining the Priorities of the FY 2027 Research and Technology Enterprise,” with OSTP Director Kratsios. Chairman Brian Babin (R-TX) opened the hearing praising the President’s Budget Request’s (PBR) focus on AI, quantum, advanced manufacturing, nuclear, and biotechnology. Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and committee Democrats criticized the Trump administration's attempts to gain equity stakes in private companies in exchange for federal funding and the PBR’s \$3 billion reduction in National Science Foundation (NSF) funding.

Technology – Congressional Updates

- On July 22, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation (CST) Committee held an [executive session](#) to consider legislation, including the Connected Vehicle Security Act ([S. 4429](#)).
 - The bill would ban vehicles made by automakers subject to 15% ownership or control by parties in “covered countries,” such as China. The bill [as amended](#) was favorably reported to the Senate.
- On July 17, Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee Ranking Member Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) [wrote](#) to Under Secretary Kessler invoking the committee’s oversight authorities, under the Export Control Reform Act, to request information on “loopholes” in export controls on U.S. advanced AI chips.
 - She said such loopholes were caused by the Trump administration's rescission of the Biden administration’s AI Diffusion Rule.
- On July 23, the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee held a [nomination hearing](#) for Abby Warren to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.
 - Committee Democrats questioned how Warren would address the Trump administration's current export controls regime if confirmed for the position. Specifically, Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) questioned the DOC’s recent decision to ease advanced technology export controls on the United Arab Emirates.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Data Privacy – Congressional Updates



Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on
Crime and Counterterrorism Chair
Josh Hawley (R-MO)

- In a July 22 [markup](#), the Senate Commerce Committee [passed](#) the Connected Vehicle Security Act ([S. 4429/H.R. 8730](#)), which prohibits the import, sale, and operation of connected vehicles, software, and hardware linked to China and other foreign adversaries. The legislation, in part, addresses concerns about surveillance and illegally collected data being transmitted to China.
 - The bill would codify and expand a BIS [final rule](#), issued in January 2025, by requiring a more comprehensive ban and stronger enforcement practices.
- On July 23, Reps. Laurel Lee (R-FL), Valerie Foushee (D-NC), and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) [introduced](#) the Stealth Bot Prohibition Act ([H.R. 9915](#)), which would require automated web crawlers to accurately identify themselves and disclose their purpose when accessing websites.
 - It would ban the use of “stealth bots” which can impersonate human users for generative AI services and authorize the FTC to impose civil penalties on violators.
 - The sponsors claim the legislation is needed to combat unauthorized data scraping and to better protect intellectual property online.
- On August 4, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism held a [hearing](#) to discuss data privacy concerns with AI surveillance pricing practices and broader consumer impacts.
 - Subcommittee Chair Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Ranking Member Dick Durbin (D-IL) similarly criticized surveillance pricing for harvesting consumers’ data, often without their knowledge, to maximize profit.
- Congress has yet to renew Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) after it expired on June 12.
 - However, in March, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court approved a one-year extension of Section 702 surveillance authority (through March 17, 2027), meaning lawmakers could punt renewal negotiations until later this year, or next year under the 120th Congress.

Data Privacy – Administration Updates

- On July 6, Arvind Raman was sworn-in as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. In this role, he will serve as Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).
 - Under Secretary Raman was [confirmed](#) by the Senate on May 15 in a 46-43 [vote](#). Deputy NIST Director Craig Burkhardt had served as Acting Director since the start of the Trump administration.
- On July 22, the FCC [adopted](#) new [rules](#) aimed at strengthening oversight of electronic devices due to national security concerns, including a rule to ban devices that incorporate logic bearing hardware components made by Covered List entities. The action address concerns related to unauthorized surveillance and data collection.
 - The rule also clarifies that e-commerce platforms must comply with the rule by preventing the sale of unauthorized equipment, even it is part of a third-party products.



Under Secretary of Commerce for
Standards and Technology Arvind Raman



Director of National Intelligence
Jay Clayton

- On July 28, the Senate [confirmed](#) Walter (“Jay”) Clayton to serve as the Director of National Intelligence in a 51-47 [vote](#). He was sworn-in to the role on August 3.
 - In his July 15 nomination [hearing](#), Clayton refused to affirm President Joe Biden’s 2020 election victory, leading Senate Democrats to collectively oppose his confirmation.
- On July 30, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released new [guidance](#) for federal agencies’ use of Open-Source Software (OSS) and open-source AI models. As OSS becomes more intertwined with AI technologies, the guidance provides robust risk assessment processes and data security practices.
 - The guidance asserts that “All software carries risk, and OSS is no more or less risky than other software. The key distinction is that, with OSS, agencies can directly assess code quality and security, rather than relying solely on vendor assurances.”

Health Updates – Congressional Updates

- In July, the [House Energy & Commerce \(E&C\)](#), [House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party](#), the [Senate Special Committee on Aging](#), and [Senate Commerce Committee](#) held hearings related to biomedical research and development, competition with China, supply chains, and biosecurity.
 - Policymakers largely expressed bipartisan interest in maintaining U.S. leadership in biomedical research and innovation and stressed the importance of preventing China from surpassing the U.S. in the biotechnology industry.
- On July 15, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee [held a hearing](#) on the nominations of [Dr. Erica Schwartz](#) to serve as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and [Sean Kaufman](#) to serve as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at HHS.
 - On July 30, the Senate HELP Committee voted to advance both nominations, with Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) crossing party lines to vote in favor of Dr. Schwartz.
- On July 20, the House passed six health bills under suspension of the rules.
 - The EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2025 ([H.R. 4541](#)), Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2025 ([H.R. 5160](#)), Putting Patients First by Strengthening Provider Accountability in FECA Act ([H.R. 8823](#)), FDA Modernization Act 3.0 ([H.R. 2821](#)), Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act ([H.R. 2715](#)), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) IMPROVE Act ([H.R. 6238](#)).
- On July 21, the Senate [passed](#) the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act ([S. 1041](#)) by unanimous consent.
 - The bill contains provisions that would limit the number of patents a reference biologic manufacturer can assert in a single infringement lawsuit against a biosimilar applicant. The measure is intended to curb the use of "patent thickets" to delay biosimilar competition.



CDC Director nominee, Dr. Erica Schwartz and Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response nominee, Sean Kaufman

Health Updates – Committee Markups

- On July 15, the House Ways & Means (W&M) Committee held a [markup](#) of seven health care bills focused on price transparency and prior authorization.
 - Six of the bills were reported favorably by the committee with bipartisan, unanimous support. Consideration of the Health Care Price Certainty for All Americans Act ([H.R. 9645](#)) advanced on a party-line vote of 25-15.
- On July 20 and 21, the House E&C Committee held a [markup](#) of 29 bills, including 20 health-related measures.
 - The markup covered a broad range of mostly bipartisan healthcare bills, all measures advancing to the House floor.
 - The Committee moved to incorporate 10 of the health bills, as well as including the Nonprescription Drug Innovation Act ([H.R. 9774](#)), in the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act ([H.R. 9393](#)) package. The bill, as amended, advanced to the House by a unanimous vote of 45-0.
- On July 22, the Senate HELP Committee held a [markup](#) of 11 health care bills focused on price transparency, prescription drug access, obesity/diabetes, supply chains, workforce support, and biomedical research.
 - The markup was streamlined and largely bipartisan, with many Senators on both sides of the aisle emphasizing the importance the collaboration between both parties on the bills considered. All 11 bills, as amended, were favorably reported out of the committee.
- On July 30, the Senate HELP Committee [marked up](#) the Health Information Privacy Reform Act ([S.3097](#)), which is a comprehensive health data privacy package championed by Committee Chair Bill Cassidy (R-LA).
 - Chair Cassidy framed the bill as essential to enabling Americans to take advantage of modern health technology while ensuring that their private data is subject to robust protections. The bill, as amended, advanced to the full Senate on a unanimous vote of 22-0.

What's Next: While Congress is expected to focus on a third reconciliation package and government funding when it returns in September, activity in July laid important groundwork for a potential end-of-year (EOY) package. Lawmakers are also likely to consider a short-term “doc fix” as part of an EOY package. Notably, the joint Doctors Caucus introduced the Patients First Act ([H.R. 9693](#)), a bipartisan MACRA reform package, along with a corresponding Request For Information ([RFI](#)) in July, signaling continued interest in reforming the Medicare physician payment system.

Health Care Updates – Trump Administration

- On July 14, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [released](#) its Calendar Year (CY) 2027 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) [proposed rule](#).
 - CMS continues to propose two separate conversion factors (CFs): one for qualified alternative payment model (APM) participants and one for non-APM participants.
 - Of note, CMS proposes sunseting the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and transitioning to new MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs) to reform quality measures.
 - CMS has also released proposed rules for the [CY27 Outpatient Prospective Payment System \(OPPS\)](#) and [CY27 Home Health \(HH\) PPS](#).
- On July 16, CMS issued [draft guidance](#) for the manufacturer effectuation of the Maximum Fair Price (MFP) in 2028 under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program. Comments are due by September 18.
- On July 21, HHS and CMS [announced](#) the deferral of more than \$1 billion in federal Medicaid payments to California and Minnesota pending fraud reviews and intensified program-integrity enforcement nationwide.
- **What's Next:**
 - On July 21, President Trump [announced on Truth Social](#) that generic-drug imports would remain subject to a 0% tariff from August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2028, then face a 100% tariff for one year and a 200% tariff thereafter. The new tariffs are expected to be formally announced in August.
 - On July 30, CBP released a [proclamation](#) with guidance implementing the April 2, 2026 Section 232 tariffs on patented pharmaceuticals, which went into effect on July 31 and new tariffs are expected to go into effect on September 29.
 - CMS continues to finalize payment rules for the FY27 cycle, and FDA remains under the leadership of Acting Director Kyle Diamantas.



CMS Administrator
Mehmet Oz

Education – Congressional Updates

- With the Senate heading into recess, Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) will have to wait to bring the Protect College Sports Act ([S. 4668](#)) – approved by the committee 19-9 in June – to the floor.
 - On July 31, the SEC and Big Ten announced their support for the bill “as currently drafted,” ending weeks of holdout negotiations after the committee agreed to strengthen anti-circumvention language preventing schools from using “associated entities” (e.g., multimedia rights partners, corporate sponsors) to exceed the bill’s revenue-share cap. The turnaround followed an eleventh-hour White House push – with the administration signaling the president wants the bill done – and public pressure from NCAA President Charlie Baker. The shift clears a key obstacle to floor action, though time may have run out for a pre-recess vote.
- In July, Congress pursued opposing legislative responses to the administration's efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED).
 - On July 15, House Education and Workforce Chair Tim Walberg (R-MI) held a markup of a 10-bill “[Less Bureaucracy, Better Education](#)” package to codify ED’s interagency agreements (IAAs) transferring department functions elsewhere, which was approved, largely along party lines.
 - In response, 86 House Democrats, led by Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA), [wrote Secretary McMahon](#) on July 20 demanding she reverse the IAAs moving the Office for Civil Rights to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to HHS, arguing only Congress can relocate the offices – following a similar [June 30 letter](#) from Senate Democrats.
 - On July 30, the Senate HELP Committee advanced as part of a slate of education bills the bipartisan Special Education Administration Protection Act ([S. 5046](#)), which aims to block ED from transferring offices absent congressional approval. The same day, ED Secretary McMahon and six partner-agency heads sent a [joint letter](#) defending all 14 IAAs, citing CCAMPIS grant applications nearly doubling under HHS and \$4.3 billion obligated for career and technical education grants under the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).



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

Education – Congressional Updates

- On July 30, the Senate HELP Committee marked up and passed out of committee a slate of education bills, including the College Transparency Act ([S. 2511](#)), the Reading Excellence and Achievement for Development (READ) Act ([S. 4689](#)), the 21st Century Dyslexia Act ([S. 3010](#)), and the Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act ([S. 3589](#)).
- On July 21, the House Education and Workforce Committee marked up a slate of education bills, advancing the Title IX Clarification Act ([H.R. 8781](#)), which codifies the Supreme Court's [recent ruling](#) on biological-sex, the K-12 AI Literacy and Readiness Act ([H.R. 8747](#)), the MATCH Act ([H.R. 8183](#)), and the Parents Opt-in Protection Act ([H.R. 4986](#)).
- Keith Sonderling's nomination to lead DOL, following Lori Chavez-DeRemer's resignation, passed out of committee July 30 (after his nomination vote was postponed twice due to attendance issues).
 - At his [July 16 hearing](#), Sonderling testified that ED staff detailed to DOL are making policy decisions on transferred education programs, with DOL disbursing the funding — an arrangement Democrats have pressed him on amid the broader IAA fight.



Acting Secretary of Labor, Keith Sonderling

Education – Administration Updates



The United States
Supreme Court

- On June 30, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* ([No. 24-43](#)) that Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause permit schools to determine sports eligibility based on biological sex, upholding state bans on transgender athletes in women’s and girls’ sports; ED’s regulatory agenda previews a rule codifying that definition of “sex” under Title IX.
- ED’s Office for Civil Rights opened several high-profile [Title VI probes](#) into five medical schools — Dartmouth, East Carolina University, Saint Louis University, Western University of Health Sciences, and William Carey University — over alleged racial discrimination in admissions, alongside [Title IX](#) and parental-rights inquiries into school districts in Colorado and Washington state.
 - The House also weighed in on both fronts: the Education and Workforce Committee held hearings on DEI in medical school admissions and on parental rights in schools, later advancing related bills including the Title IX Clarification Act ([H.R. 8781](#)) and the Parents Opt-in Protection Act ([H.R. 4986](#)).
- On July 17, DHS [finalized a rule](#) eliminating “duration of status” for F-1 and J-1 visa holders, replacing it with a fixed four-year admission period that applies across all degrees – including graduate and doctoral students, who will need to file for an extension if their program runs longer than four years, and cutting the post-completion grace period from 60 to 30 days. The rule takes effect September 15 and is expected to affect more than a million international students. It remains unclear whether the rule may face legal challenges.
- ED released its semiannual [Unified Agenda](#) on July 4. Already final: a rule rescinding Title VI’s [disparate-impact standard](#) (effective July 24) and an expanded [professional-degree CIP-code list](#) for RISE loan limits.
- On August 3, Secretary McMahon sent a [letter](#) to university presidents and governing boards urging institutions to publish a public statement by year-end committing to reforms restoring public trust in higher education, covering: (1) admissions transparency and merit; (2) free speech and open inquiry; (3) intellectual pluralism and academic vitality; (4) affordability, value, and outcomes; (5) academic rigor in the AI era; (6) safeguards against malign foreign research influence; and (7) prioritization of U.S. security, workforce, and economic interests.

Energy and Environment – Administration Departures

- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair and top permitting official Katherine Scarlett announced her departure as one of the Trump administration’s top permitting officials.
 - CEQ’s Chief of Staff, Rachael McNitt, will act as Chair in the interim.
- National Energy Dominance Council’s Peter Lake, the “power grid guru” responsible for expanding energy production to accommodate demand from artificial intelligence data centers, departed at the end of the month.
 - The White House is evaluating candidates from inside the administration.
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Chief of Staff Carl Coe departed the agency at the end of the month.
 - Charlie Dankert, former DOE Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, has replaced Coe.



Chair Scarlett during her Senate confirmation hearing in September 2025.



Peter Lake during his tenure as Texas Public Utility Commission Chair.



Carl Coe worked at the Department of Government Efficiency before becoming DOE Chief of Staff.

Energy and Environment – House Republicans Release Permitting Package

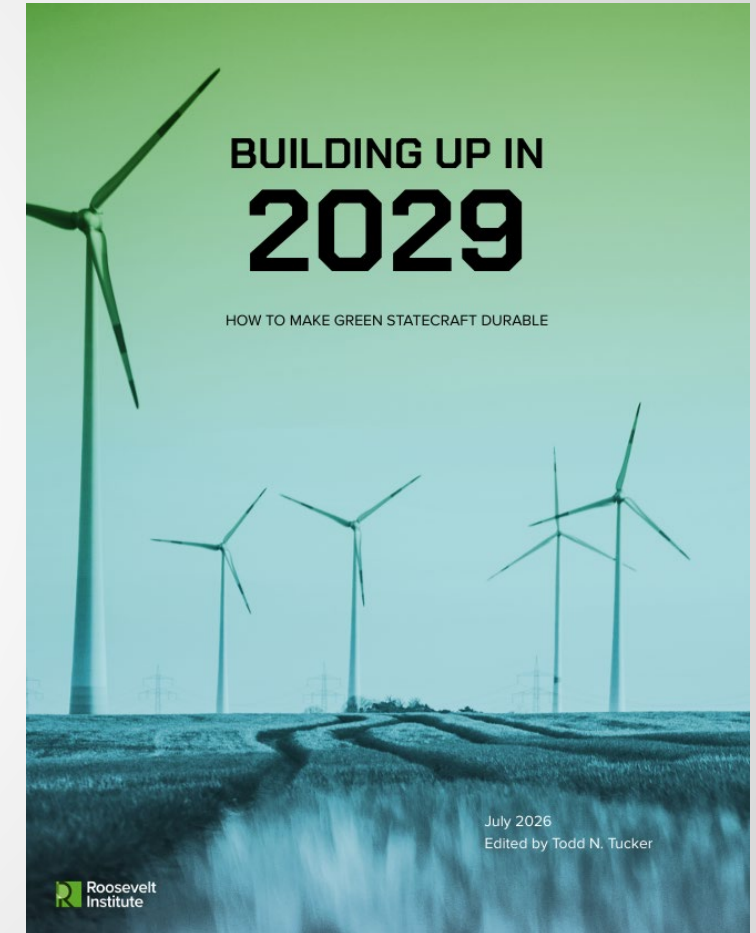


House Energy and Commerce
Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

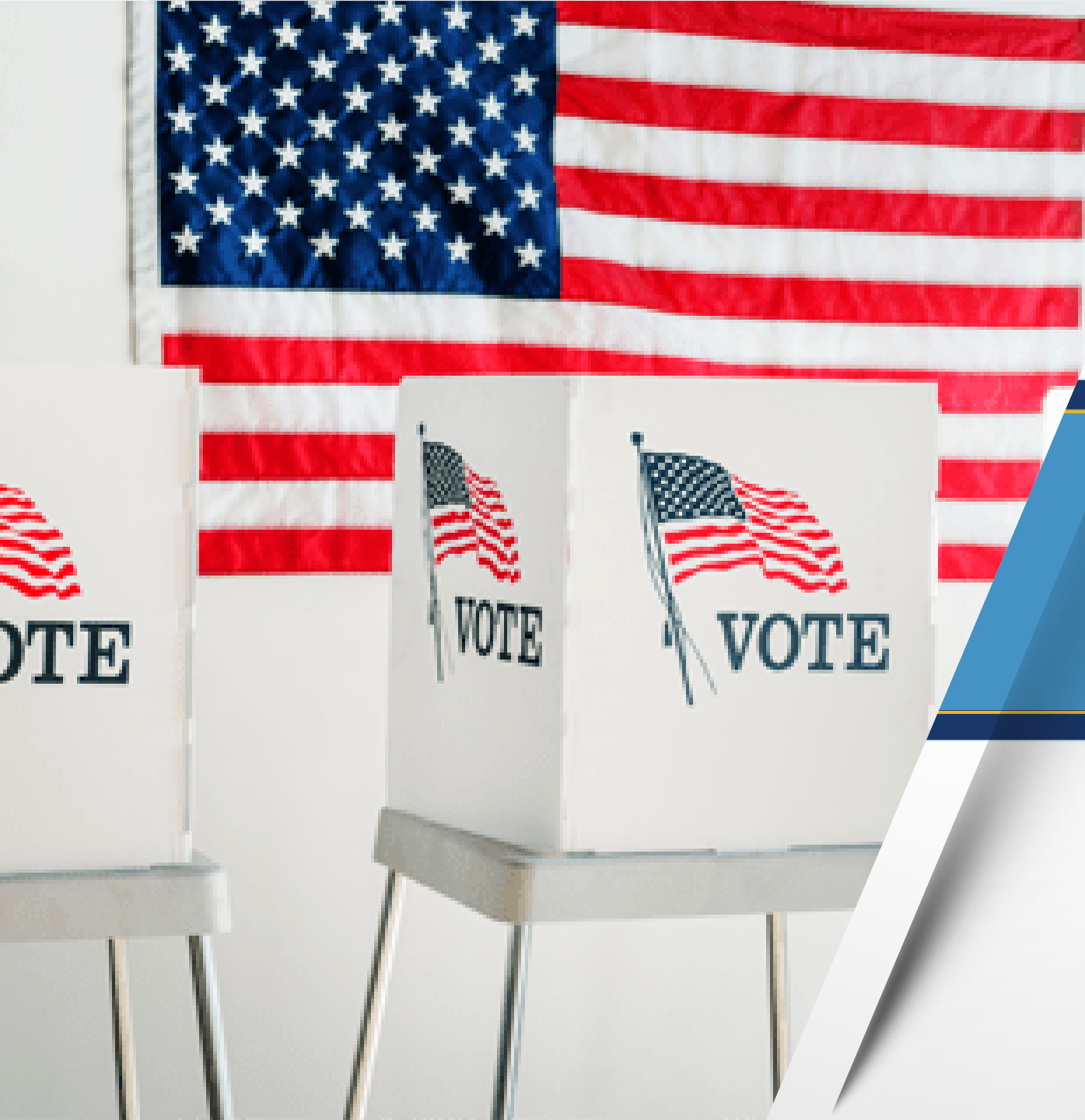
- On July 22, House Energy and Commerce Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY) [released](#) a [discussion draft](#) for the Permitting Our Way to an Energy Resurgence (POWER) Act, a permitting reform package including nineteen Republican-led bills already advanced by the committee.
- The package includes legislation aimed at facilitating pipeline construction, increasing power generation and electricity transmission, and easing the permitting process for energy and industrial projects.
- The POWER Act is intended to spur permitting negotiations as remaining legislative days wane ahead of the midterm election.

Energy and Environment – “Project 2029”

- On July 30, over a dozen former Biden Administration officials and experts released a report titled, “[Building Up in 2029: How to Make Green Statecraft Durable](#),” which has been dubbed “Project 2029” in reference to conservatives’ Project 2025 roadmap.
- The report reflects on policy limitations under the Biden administration, noting the “government itself gets in the way of speedy implementation through permitting and other bureaucratic hurdles.”
- The report could become a roadmap for a future Democratic administration to leverage methods employed by the Trump administration — such as equity stakes in companies — to advance clean energy policies.



Cover of the Roosevelt Institute's
“Project 2029” report



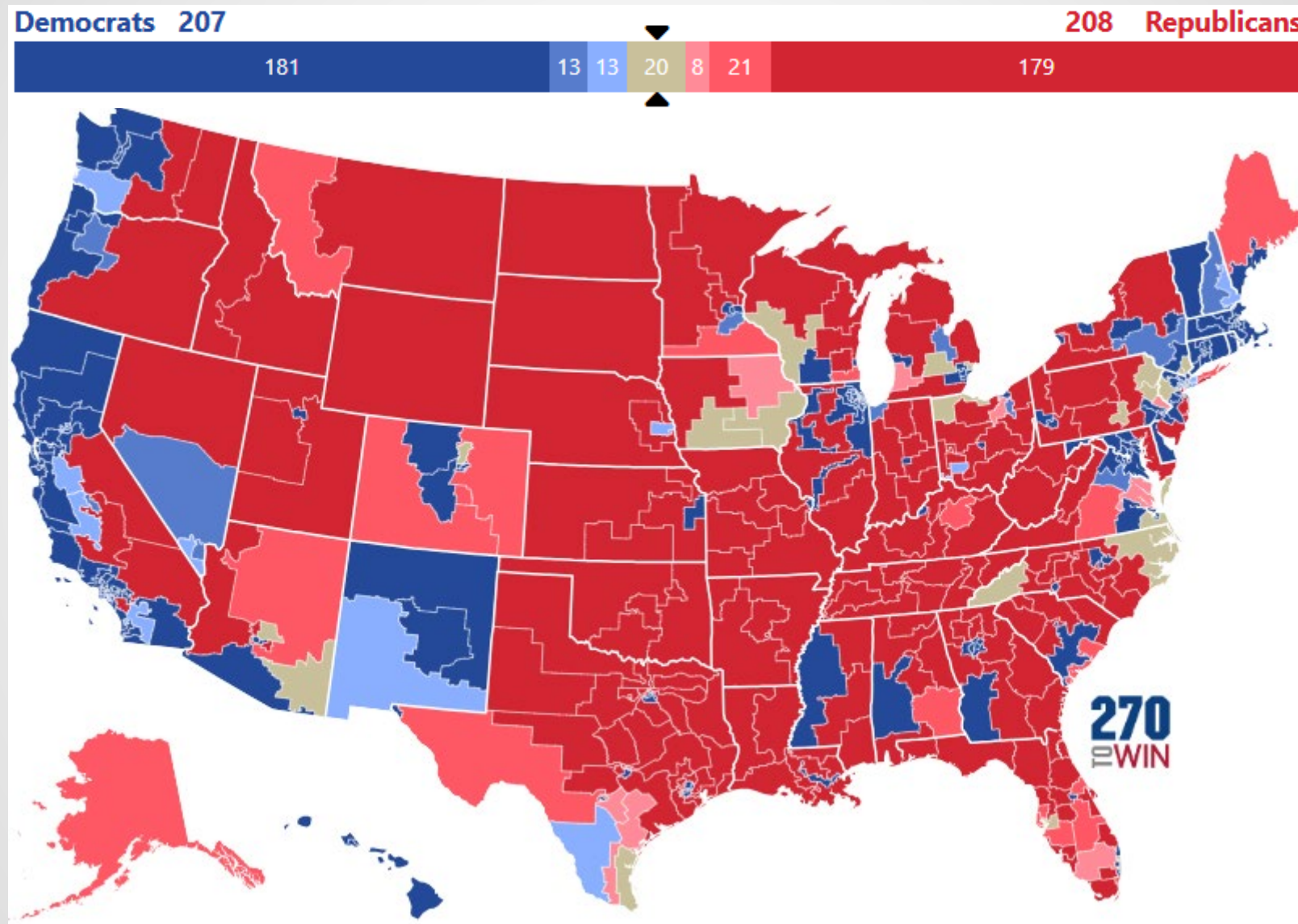
2026 Midterm Elections

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 total of **11-13 seats**.
- For the 2026 midterm elections, **179** seats are currently projected as “Safe R,” while **208** seats are rated as Safe, Likely, or Leans R.
- Conversely, **181** seats are rated as “Safe D,” while **207** 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 11-16 seats via mid-decade redistricting, while Democrats are expected to gain just 4-6 new seats through redistricting.
 - Democrats currently lead in generic congressional ballot polls by an average of about 6.0-6.5%.
- **Only about 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 and Democrats being projected to win the national congressional popular vote by a few percentage points.



House Outlook for 2026 Midterms – Current Ratings



House Outlook for 2026 Midterms – Early Ratings of Key Races

Democrats		
TOSS-UP (5)	LEANS DEMOCRATIC (13)	LIKELY DEMOCRATIC (13)
Kathy Castor (FL-14)	Adam Gray (CA-13)	Jim Costa (CA-21)
Jared Moskowitz (FL-25)	Derek Tran (CA-45)	Kevin Kiley (CA-6)*
Don Davis (NC-1)	David Valadao (CA-22)	Frank Mrvan (IN-1)
Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)	CA-48 Open (Issa)	MN-2 Open (Craig)
Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34)	NE-2 Open (Bacon)	K. McDonald Rivet (MI-8)
	NH-1 Open (Pappas)	Maggie Goodlander (NH-2)
	Gabe Vasquez (NM-2)	Nellie Pou (NJ-9)
	Susie Lee (NV-3)	Steven Horsford (NV-4)
	Laura Gillen (NY-4)	Dina Titus (NV-1)
	Tom Suozzi (NY-3)	Josh Riley (NY-19)
	Greg Landsman (OH-1)	Janelle Bynum (OR-5)
	Henry Cuellar (TX-28)	Emilia Sykes (OH-13)
	M. Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-3)	Eugene Vindman (VA-7)

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

Total seats rated Safe Democratic: 181
Total seats rated Safe, Likely, or Leans D: 207

Republicans		
TOSS-UP (15)	LEANS REPUBLICAN (8)	LIKELY REPUBLICAN (21)
Juan Ciscomani (AZ-6)	FL-22 New	Nick Begich (AK-AL)
AZ-1 Open (Schweikert)	IA-2 Open (Hinson)	Shomari Figures (AL-2)
Gabe Evans (CO-8)	Bill Huizenga (MI-4)	Eli Crane (AZ-2)
M. Miller-Meeks (IA-1)	Max Miller (OH-7)	Lauren Boebert (CO-4)
Zach Nunn (IA-3)	Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1)	Jeff Crank (CO-5)
Tom Barrett (MI-7)	Monica De La Cruz (TX-15)	Jeff Hurd (CO-3)
MI-10 Open (James)	TX-35 New	Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)
Chuck Edwards (NC-11)	Rob Wittman (VA-1)	Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13)
Tom Kean Jr. (NJ-7)		Cory Mills (FL-7)
Mike Lawler (NY-17)		María Elvira Salazar (FL-27)
Rob Bresnahan (PA-8)		Darren Soto (FL-9)
Ryan Mackenzie (PA-7)		FL-16 Open (Buchanan)
Scott Perry (PA-10)		KY-6 Open (Barr)
Jen Kiggans (VA-2)		ME-2 Open (Golden)
Derrick Van Orden (WI-3)		Brad Finstad (MN-1)
		MT-1 Open (Zinke)
		Nick LaLota (NY-1)
		SC-1 Open (Mace)
		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: 179
Total seats rated Safe, Likely, or Leans R: 208

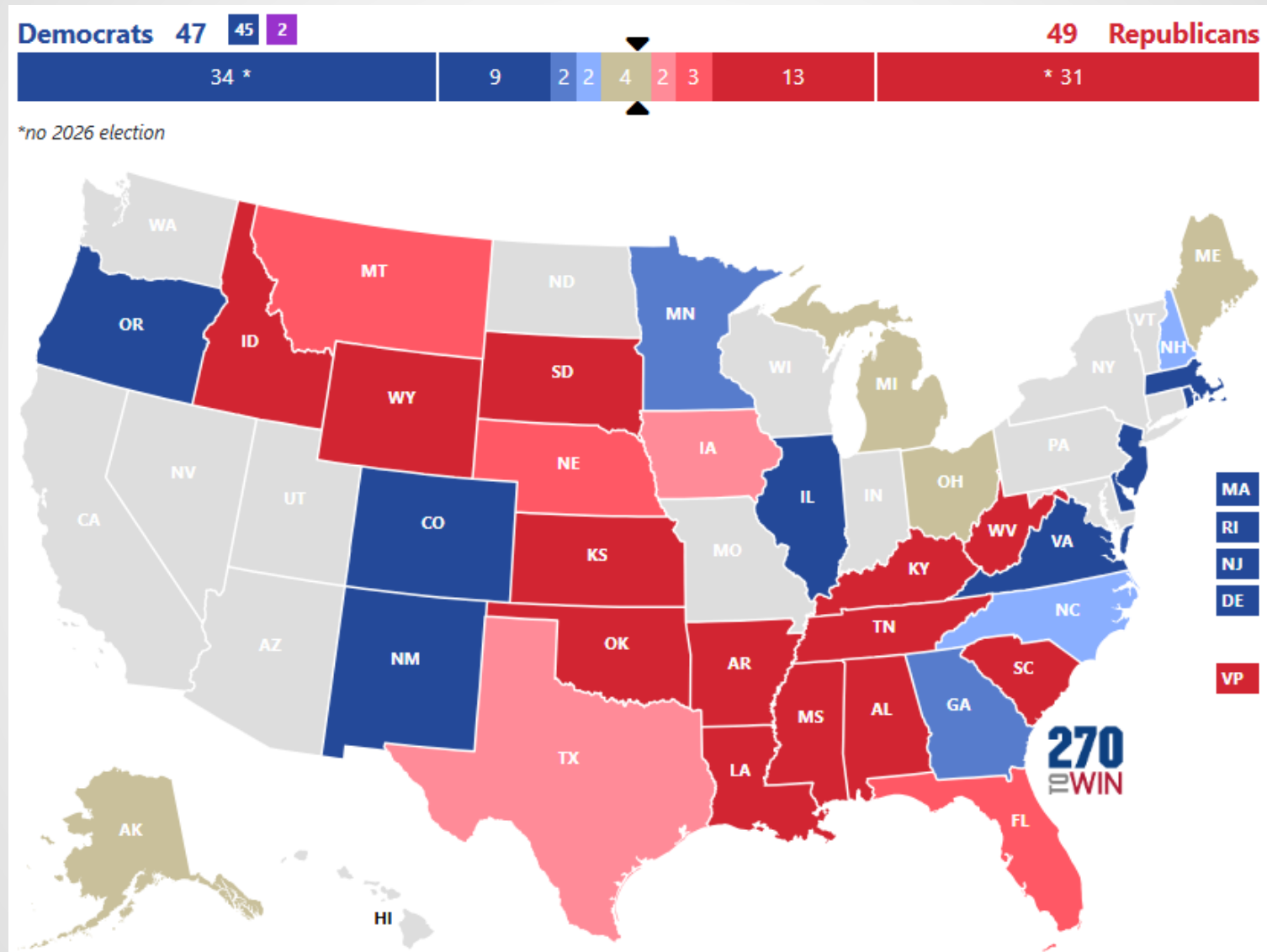
Senate Outlook for 2026 Midterms

- **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 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.



Source: Center for Politics, Sabato's Crystal Ball, 270ToWin

Senate Outlook for 2026 Midterms – Current Ratings



Key 2026 Senate Races (Seats Currently Held by Democrats)

State	Democratic Candidates	Republican Candidates	Race Rating
Michigan	Abdul El-Sayed	Former Rep., and 2024 Senate Nominee, Mike Rogers	Toss-Up
New Hampshire	Rep. Chris Pappas	Former Sen. (MA) Scott Brown Former Sen. John Sununu	Leans D
Georgia	Sen. Jon Ossoff	Rep. Mike Collins	Likely 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	Former Maine Senate President Troy Jackson	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

* = 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.

Sources: Center for Politics, Sabato's Crystal Ball

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

- After former Maine Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Graham Platner ended his campaign and withdrew from the race on July 8 facing new sexual assault allegations, the Maine Democratic Party held a special nominating convention on July 25.
- Former Maine Senate President Troy Jackson (D) won the nomination at the convention by an overwhelming margin of 566-5 delegates.
- Mr. Jackson is a logger and labor leader 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.
- Earlier this year, he finished in third place in the Democratic primary for Maine Governor.
- Mr. Jackson is generally considered to be a populist, and has a working-class, blue-collar platform.
- Mr. Jackson will face longtime incumbent Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) in the general election on November 3.
- Race rating: **Toss-up**



Troy Jackson (D-ME), the new Democratic Maine U.S. Senate nominee

Update on South Carolina's U.S. Senate Race – Republican Primary

- Following the sudden passing of the late Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) on July 11, the state of South Carolina is holding a special primary election on August 11 to select a replacement Republican nominee.
- While nine people have declared their candidacy for the Republican nomination, the following are the most notable candidates in the race:
 - **Senator Darline Graham (R-SC)**
 - Senator Darline Graham is the sister of the late Senator Lindsey Graham, and after his death, she was appointed to finish the remainder of his current term through the end of this Congress. She is endorsed by President Trump.
 - **Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC)**
 - Rep. Norman has served as the Congressman for South Carolina's 5th congressional district since 2017.
 - **Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC)**
 - Rep. Fry has served as the Congressman for South Carolina's 7th congressional district since 2023.
 - **Former Governor Mark Sanford (R-SC)**
 - Mr. Sanford served as Governor of South Carolina from 2003 to 2011. He also served as the Congressman for South Carolina's 1st congressional district from 1995 to 2001, and again from 2013 to 2019.
- If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then a runoff election between the top two candidates will be contested on August 25.
- The winner of the special primary will face in the general election in November.
- Race rating: **Safe R**



Midterm Primaries – Arizona – July 21

- Gubernatorial primary:
 - Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ-5) defeated Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ-1) by a very large margin of 74.0% - 14.4% to secure the Republican gubernatorial nomination.
 - Incumbent Governor Katie Hobbs (D) ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.
 - Race rating: **Leans D**
- Arizona 1st congressional district primary:
 - Former NFL kicker Jay Feely (R) won the Republican nomination with 49.8% of the vote, defeating former state Rep. Joseph Chaplik (R), who received 35.7%.
 - Former state Rep. Amish Shah (D) secured the Democratic nomination for this seat with 39.4% of the vote. Former journalist Marlene Galán-Woods (D) came in second place with 34.4%. Shah was the Democratic nominee for the seat in 2024, and the DCCC endorsed Galán-Woods in this race.
 - Race rating: **Toss-up**



Midterm Primaries – Arizona – July 21

- Arizona 2nd congressional district primary:
 - Incumbent Rep. Eli Crane (R) ran unopposed in the Republican primary.
 - Former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez (D) ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.
 - This is a rematch of the 2024 election for this district.
 - Race rating: **Likely R**
- Arizona 4th congressional district primary:
 - In this Democratic district, incumbent Rep. Greg Stanton (D) defeated progressive challenger Kai Newkirk (D).
 - This result came after democratic socialist and/or progressive challengers had found success in Democratic congressional primaries in states such as New York and Colorado.
 - Race rating: **Safe D**
- Arizona 6th congressional district primary:
 - Incumbent Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R) ran unopposed in the Republican primary.
 - Retired U.S. Marine JoAnna Mendoza (D) ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.
 - Race rating: **Toss-up**



Midterm Primaries – Michigan – August 4

- Gubernatorial primary:
 - Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D), who has served in the role since January 2019, secured the Democratic nomination for Governor by earning 83% of the vote.
 - Rep. John James (R) won the Republican nomination over self-funded businessman Perry Johnson. Rep. James is currently serving his second term representing Michigan's 10th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives.
 - Racing rating: **Leans D**
- U.S. Senate primary:
 - Abdul El-Sayed (D), a progressive former county public health official, narrowly won the Democratic nomination over Rep. Haley Stevens (D) by just 1.0-1.5%.
 - Former Rep. Mike Rogers (R) ran unopposed in the Republican primary. He previously served in the House from 2001 to 2015 and was the Republican nominee in the 2024 Senate election, which he lost to Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) by just 0.34%.
 - Race rating: **Toss-up**
- Michigan 3rd congressional district primary:
 - Incumbent Rep. Bill Huizenga (R) won the Republican nomination with over 80% of the vote. He has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2011.
 - Michigan State Senator Sean McCann (D) secured the Democratic nomination with over 65% of the vote. He has served in the State Senate since 2019 and previously served in the Michigan State House from 2011 to 2014.
 - Race rating: **Leans R**



Midterm Primaries – Michigan – August 4

- Michigan 7th congressional district primary:
 - Incumbent Rep. Tom Barrett (R) ran unopposed in the Republican primary. He is currently in his first term in Congress.
 - Progressive activist and Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) member William Lawrence (D) won the Democratic nomination over two moderate Democrats: former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink and former Navy SEAL Matt Maasdam.
 - Race rating: **Toss-up**
- Michigan 8th congressional district primary:
 - Incumbent Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D) ran unopposed in the Democratic primary. She is in her first term in Congress and previously served in the Michigan State Senate from 2023 to 2025.
 - Thomas Smith won the Republican primary despite suspending his campaign in mid-July. He defeated Amir Hassan, who was endorsed by President Trump.
 - Race rating: **Likely D**
- Michigan 10th congressional district primary:
 - Michael Bouchard (R), a National Guard member, won the Republican nomination by a margin of over 40 points.
 - Christina Bertrand Hines (D), a former prosecutor, won the Democratic nomination in what was a three-person race.
 - Race rating: **Toss-up**
- Michigan 13th congressional district primary:
 - Donovan McKinney (D), currently a state representative, won the democratic primary over incumbent Rep. Shri Thanedar by 3.8%.
 - T.P. Nykoriak (R) ran unopposed in the Republican primary.
 - Race rating: **Likely D**



Midterm Primaries – Tennessee – August 6

- Tennessee Republican incumbent Rep. Andy Ogles was ousted by Former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher late August 6, for Tennessee's 5th congressional district.
- A House Freedom Caucus member and endorsed by President Trump, Rep. Ogles' loss was unexpected for the Republican party.
- Ultimately, his fundraising, an endorsement from Gov. Bill Lee (R), and a newly redrawn district, led to a favorable primary for Commissioner Hatcher.
- Rep. Ogles has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since January 2023 and sits on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee, chairing the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee.
- Commissioner Hatcher will face the Democratic mayor of Columbia, Tennessee, Chaz Molder, in November.
- Race rating: **Leans R**



Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN)

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 indicated they 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.

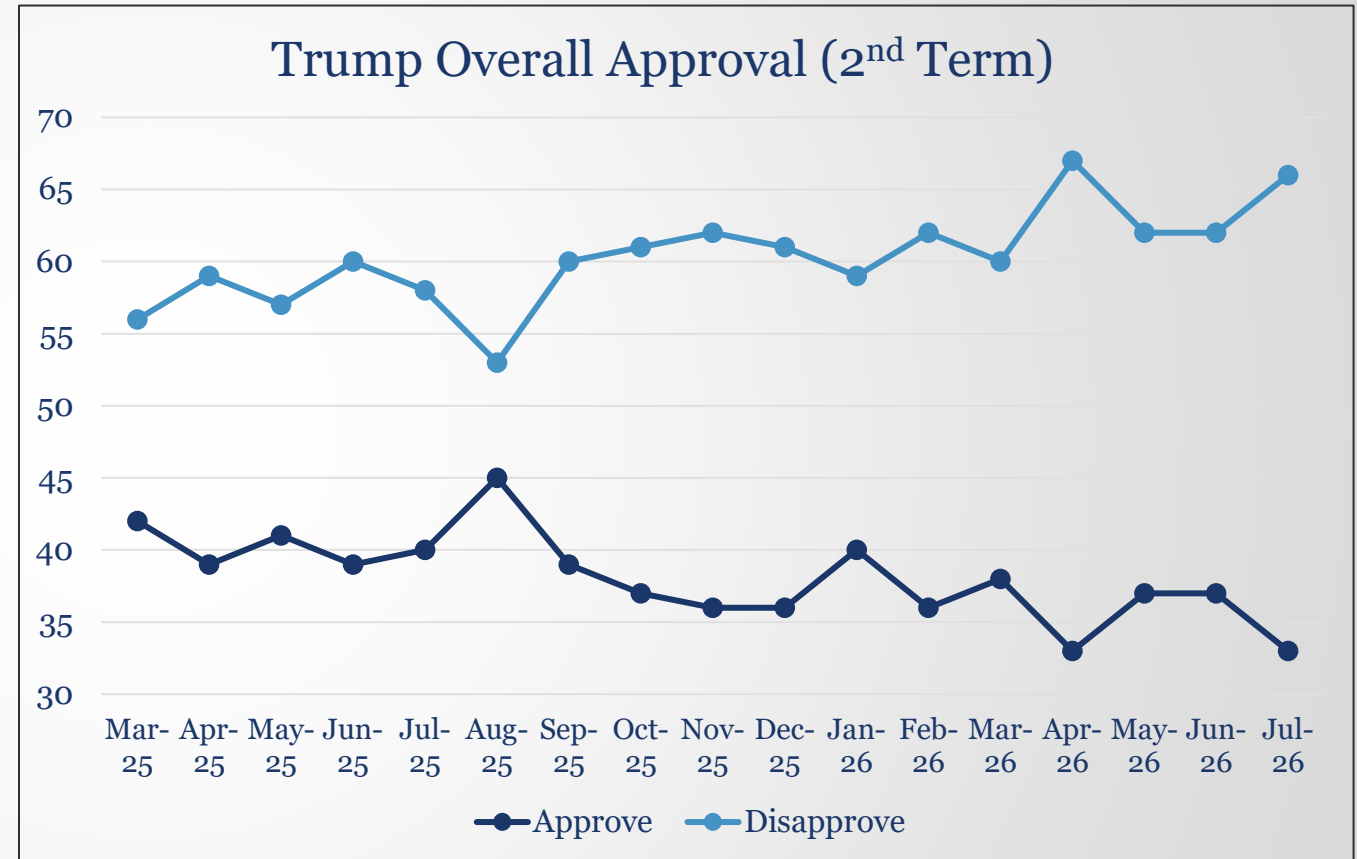
State	Net New Seats
Texas	Republicans +3-5
Missouri	Republicans +1
Ohio	Republicans +0-2
North Carolina	Republicans +1
Florida	Republicans +3-4
Tennessee	Republicans +1
Louisiana	Republicans +1
Alabama	Republicans +1
California	Democrats +3-5
Utah	Democrats +1

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

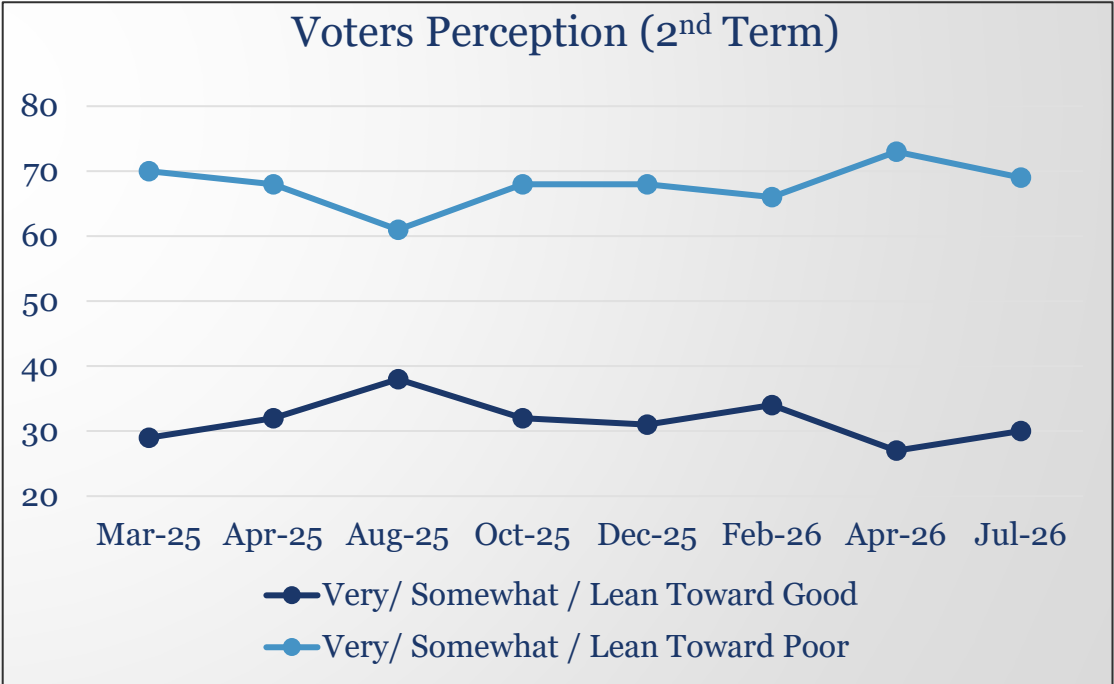
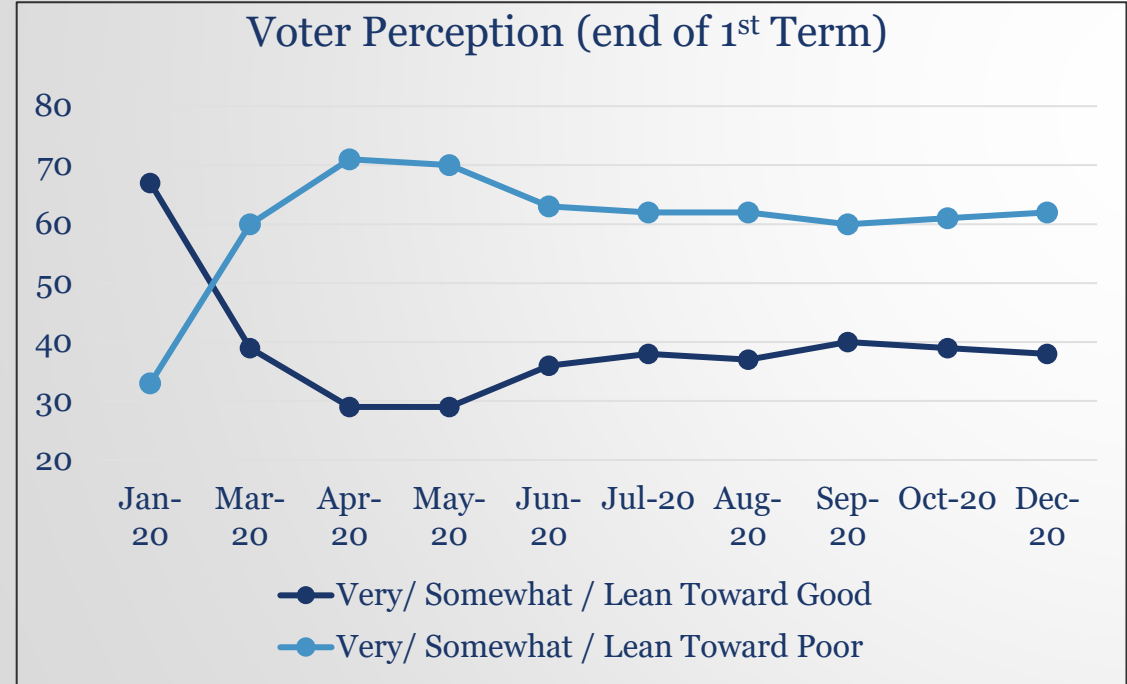
- President Trump's approval rating is currently 33%, according to the July 2026 Associated Press-NORC (AP-NORC) poll.
- President Trump had a 42% approval rating in the first AP-NORC poll of his second term (March 2025).
- President Trump's approval rating never got higher than 43% in the AP-NORC poll 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 66%. His highest disapproval rating in the AP-NORC poll was 67% in December 2017 and April 2026.



Source: AP-NORC Poll, July 23-27, 2026
1,165 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.7 percentage points

Voters' Perception of the U.S. Economy

- In the poll, surveyed Americans were asked, “How would you describe the nation’s economy these days? Would you say...”
- A majority of voters perceive the economy as very, somewhat, or leaning towards poor (69%), with 30% of voters viewing the economy as very, somewhat, or leaning towards good.
- President Trump enjoyed strong economic ratings in early 2020, though those numbers decreased as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed and worsened.



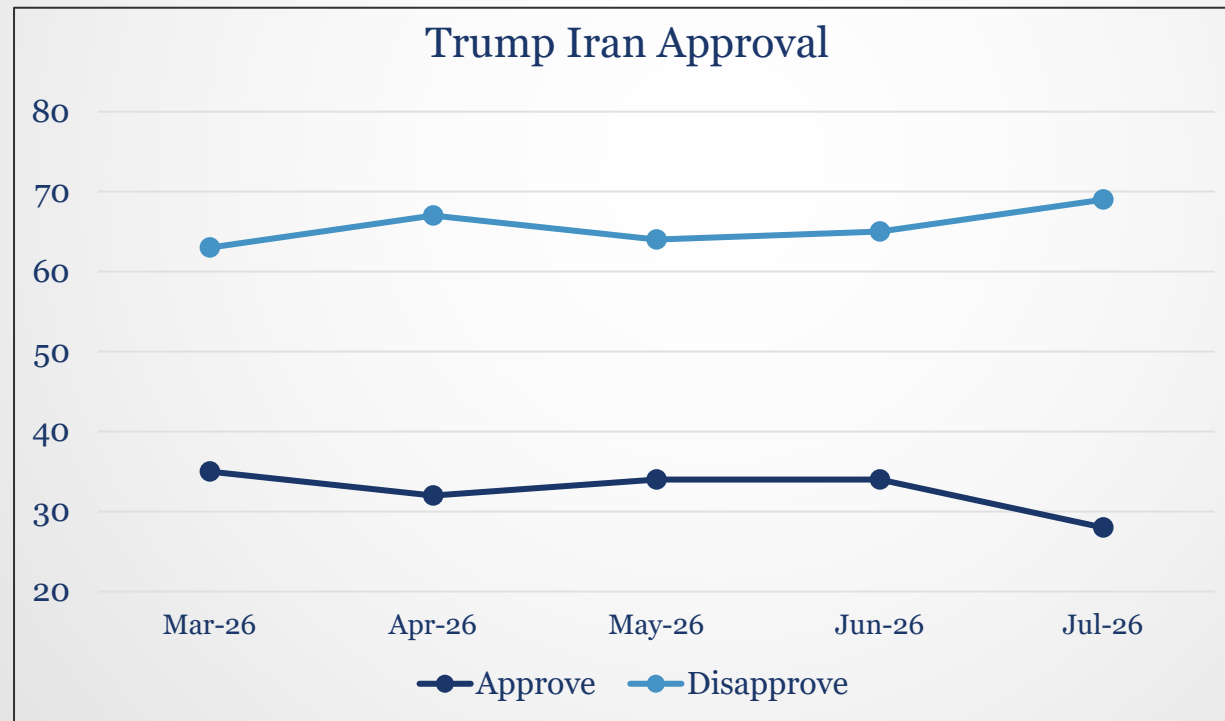
Voters' Confidence in Government Institutions

- In the poll, surveyed Americans were asked, “As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?”

	A great deal of confidence	Only some confidence	Hardly any confidence at all	Do not know / skipped
Congress	4%	41%	53%	1%
The Supreme Court	12%	48%	37%	2%
Executive branch	13%	37%	48%	2%
The military	37%	40%	21%	2%

President Trump's Approval Rating on Iran

- President Trump's approval rating pertaining to the conflict with Iran sits at 28%. This is a departure from his approval rating over the past couple of months, with May at 34%, April at 32%, and March at 35%.
- 69% 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, July 23-27, 2026
1,165 adults; Online and telephone interviews
Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.7 percentage points

Voters' Perception of U.S. Foreign Policy Goals

- In the poll, surveyed Americans were asked, “Thinking about the foreign policy goals of the United States, please tell us how important it is for the United States to do each of the following...”

		Extremely/very important	Somewhat important	Not too/not important at all	Do not know/skipped
Prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon	July 2026	64%	22%	12%	2%
	March 2026	65%	23%	11%	1%
Prevent Iran from threatening Israel	July 2026	40%	31%	25%	3%
	March 2026	39%	33%	26%	1%
Negotiate a permanent ceasefire with Iran	July 2026	70%	21%	7%	2%
Prevent U.S. oil and gas prices from rising	July 2026	72%	22%	4%	2%
	March 2026	67%	26%	6%	1%

Source: AP-NORC Poll, July 23-27, 2026
 1,165 adults; Online and telephone interviews
 Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.7 percentage points

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

Most Recent Jobs Report – June 2026

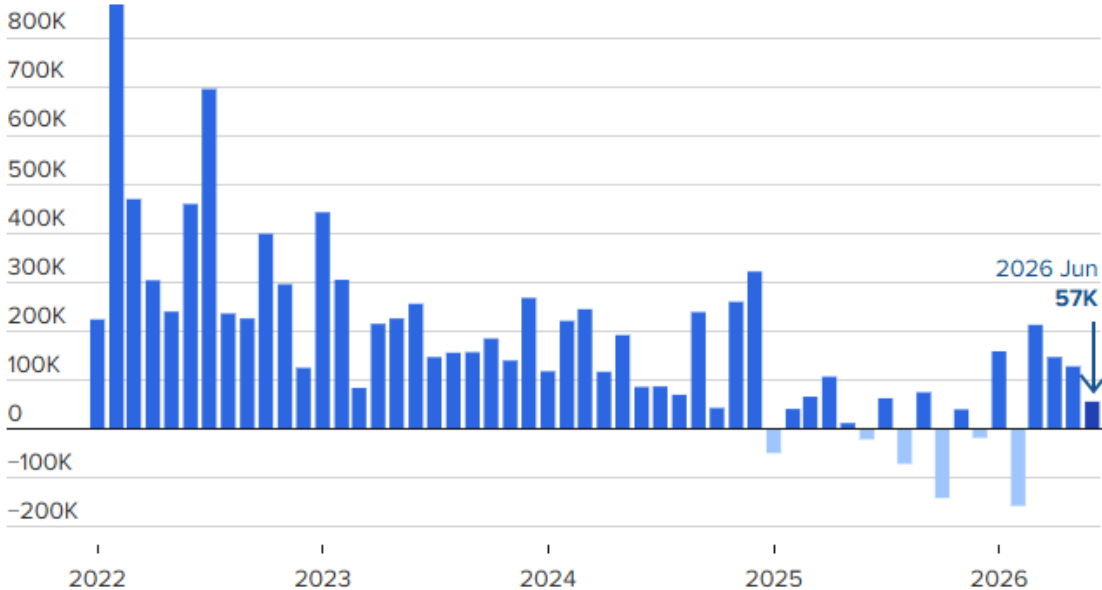
- On July 2, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced that total nonfarm payroll employment increased by **+57,000** in June.
 - Economists with the Dow Jones estimated an *increase* of 129,000 jobs, meaning June job growth came in well below expectations.
 - The unemployment 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.

Sources: BLS Employment Report; Consumer News and Business Channel (CNBC); Heather Long

June 2026 Jobs Report – Key Data and Trends

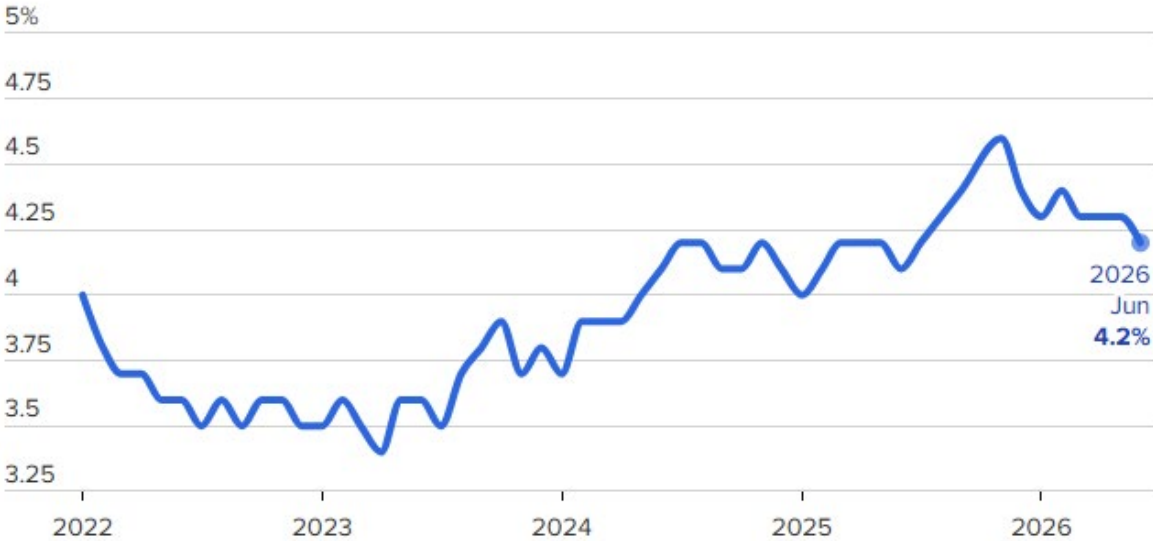
Monthly job creation in the U.S.

Jan. 2022–June 2026



U.S. unemployment rate

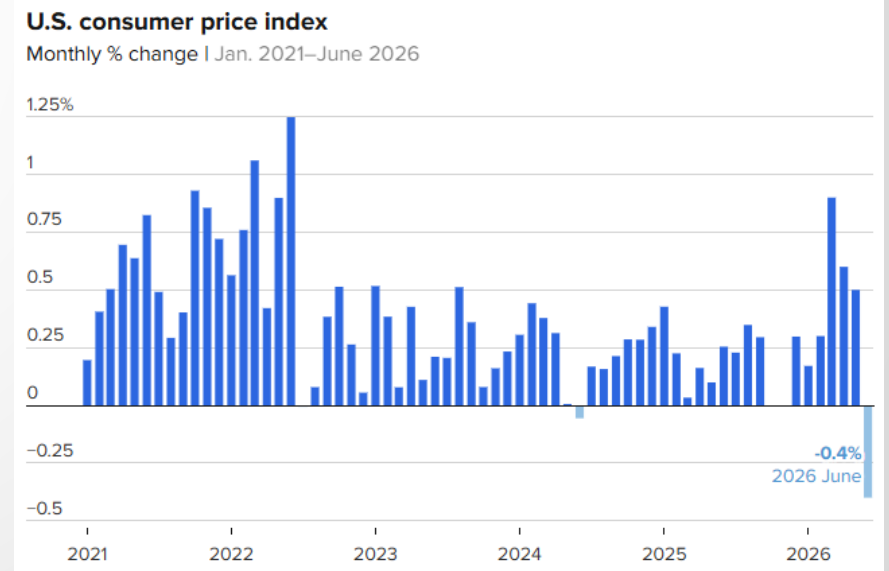
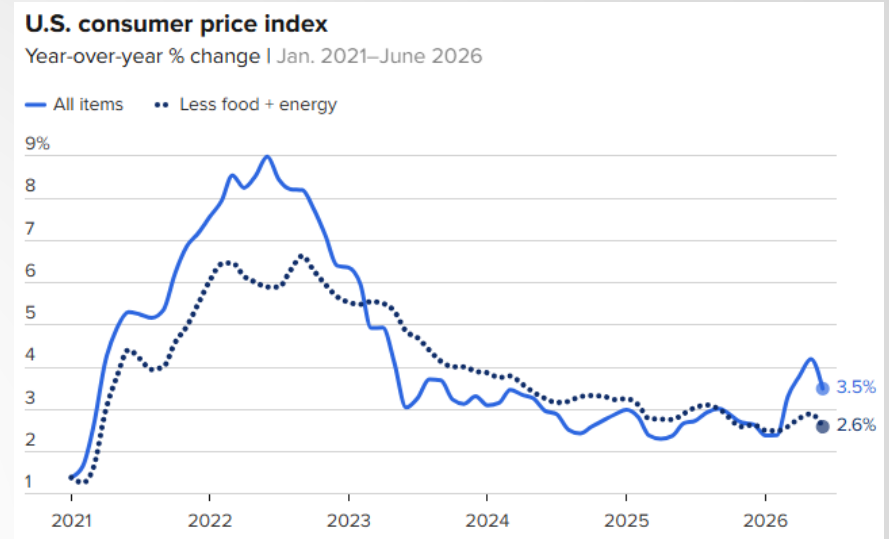
Jan. 2022–June 2026



June 2026 Inflation Report

- On July 14, the BLS [announced](#) the Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased 0.4% in June 2026 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
 - This was lower than experts' forecasts.
- The BLS also reported that the CPI increased by 3.5% from June 2025.
 - This figure was also below experts' forecasts.
- Inflation dropped down from above 4% last month, the highest reading since April 2023.
 - The monthly decline in headline inflation was the biggest since April 2020.
 - Easing of prices came from a big decline in energy and an easing in services costs, particularly for housing.
- “Core CPI,” which excludes food and energy prices, remained flat in June 2026, and was 2.6% on an annual basis from June 2025.
 - Economists forecasted respective increases of 0.2% and 2.9%, following a 2.9% May level.

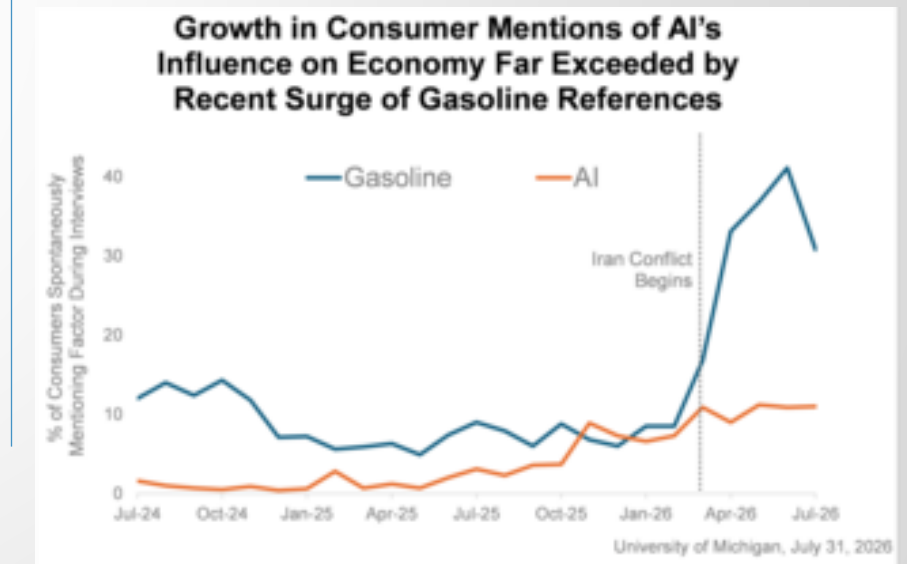
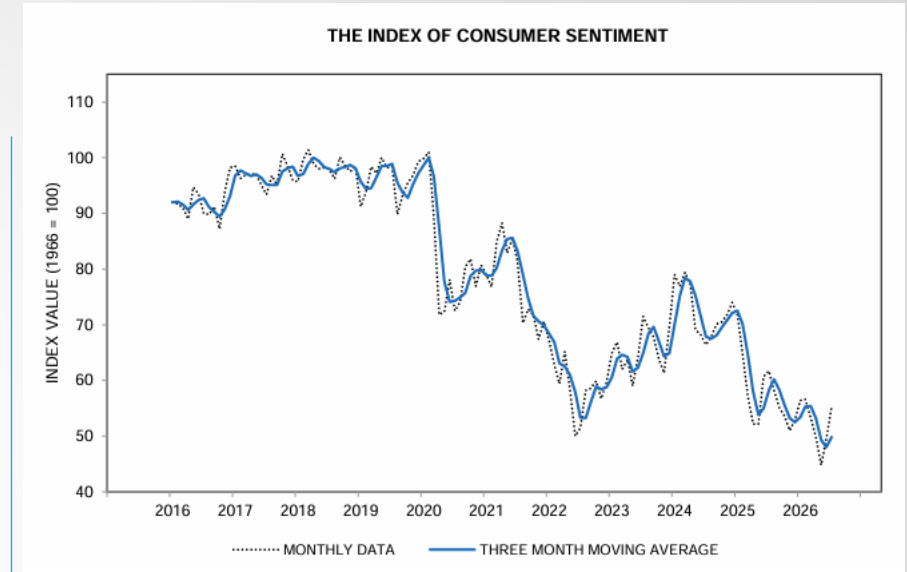
** The Consumer Price Index for July 2026 is scheduled to be released on August 12, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Time.*



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

Consumer Sentiment Report

- Consumer sentiment for July 2026 increased to 55.2, which is an 11.5% rise from June 2026 (49.5).
 - However, this is an annual decrease of 10.5% from July 2025 (61.7).
 - 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.
 - Hitting a five-month high, the reading has surpassed 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.
 - 42.8 among Democrats (+5.5 from June 2026).
 - 49.3 among Independents (+4.8 from June 2026).
 - 88.2 among Republicans (+2.0 from June 2026).
- Expectations for personal finances, labor markets, inflation, and business conditions:
 - Year-ahead inflation expectations ticked down from 4.6% in June to a still-elevated 4.2% this month.
 - The current reading substantially exceeds the 3.4% seen in February before the Iran conflict began, along with all 2024 readings.
 - Long-run inflation expectations held steady from last month at 3.3%, remaining a bit higher than the 2.8% to 3.2% range seen in 2024.



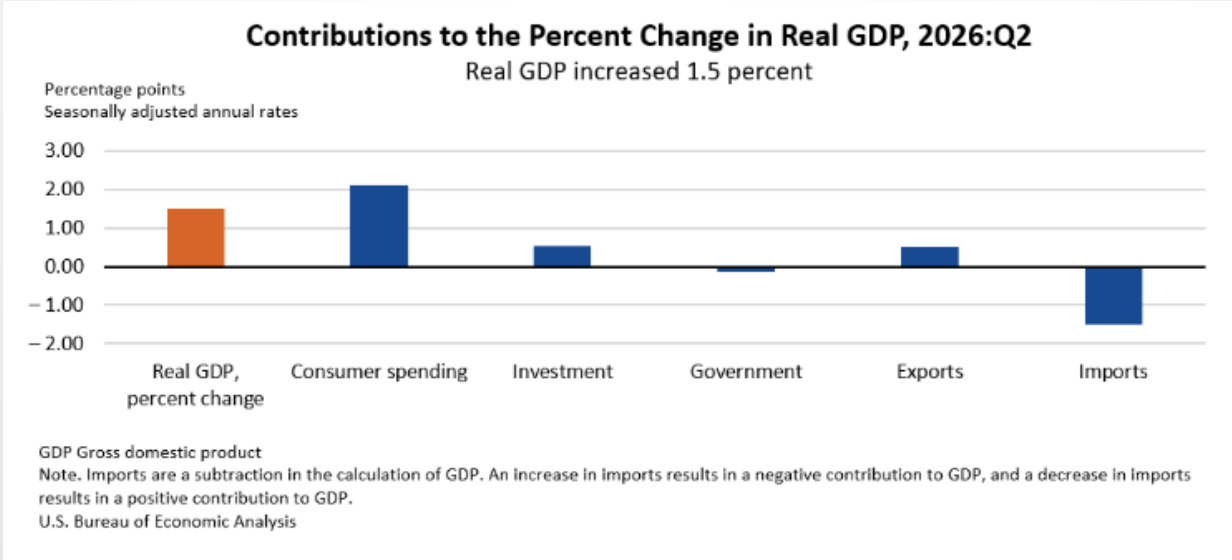
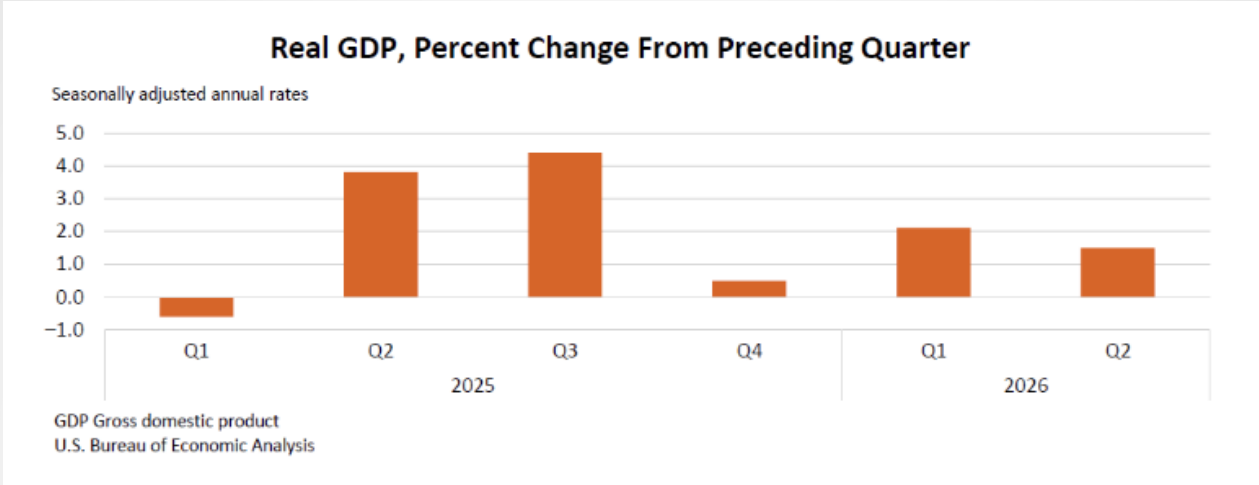
Sources: University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers; Heather Long

GDP Reports and Economic Outlook

- On July 30, the DOC's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) [released](#) its “advanced estimate” of U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) for the second quarter (Q2) of 2026. The BEA estimates that real GDP increased at an annual rate of 1.5%, coming in below the revised Q1 2026 third [estimate](#) of 2.1%.
 - This tally came in below economists' forecasts of 1.8%.
 - 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, a key indicator of real demand, increased 3.9% in the second quarter, compared with an increase of 1.7% in Q1 2026.
 - Personal spending rose 2.1% after eking out a 0.4% gain in Q1 2026.
- The price index for gross domestic purchases increased by 5.7% in Q2 2026, compared to the 3.9% for Q1 2026. This estimate marks a significant increase from 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 5.1% in Q2 2026, compared to the 4.6% for Q1 2026.
- The PCE price index excluding food and energy increased 3.4%.
 - This was 1.0% lower than the Q1 2026 tally.

Sources: BEA; CNBC

Recent Real GDP Growth



Thank you



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