

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

**March
30th, 2026**

President's Budget Request Expected by End of Week

The administration is expected to release its annual budget request by the end of the week, outlining funding priorities and policy goals for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposal is likely to address key areas such as defense spending, domestic programs, and deficit reduction, while signaling the administration's broader economic and legislative agenda. Lawmakers and agencies are preparing for the release, which will serve as a starting point for congressional budget negotiations. Notably, Russ Vought is scheduled to testify before Congress on April 15, where he is expected to outline and defend key components of the request and answer questions from lawmakers.

While the president's budget is not binding, it plays a critical role in shaping policy debates on Capitol Hill. Early indications suggest potential areas of contention, particularly around discretionary spending levels and funding allocations for major programs. Vought's testimony will offer one of the first detailed opportunities for congressional scrutiny and could help frame the broader appropriations debate.

House Rejects DHS Funding Measure

On Friday, the Senate unanimously passed a funding measure for DHS that would keep most of the department operating through September but excluded allocations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. House Republicans rejected the Senate bill and instead passed Speaker Mike Johnson's proposal for a temporary extension of complete DHS funding through May 22.

The outcome underscores the deepening impasse between the chambers and within the Republican caucus. With the shutdown set to become the longest funding lapse in U.S. history, negotiations remain stalled, raising the stakes for lawmakers to reach a resolution when they return after a two-week recess.