

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

**March
31st, 2025**

Senate Prepares to Move on Budget

The Senate could vote as soon as Wednesday to begin advancing a budget plan — the next step in unlocking a party-line reconciliation bill. To do so, the Senate parliamentarian will have to sign off on Republicans' plan to use the current policy baseline, which will allow them to pursue trillions of dollars in tax cut extensions while claiming it doesn't cost anything. Senators believe they could secure such a ruling from the parliamentarian as soon as Tuesday or Wednesday. The parliamentarian's ruling is critical because Republicans can't finalize their updated budget resolution until they know if their accounting strategy will be approved.

Differing House and Senate Budgets?

Rather than align House and Senate committees with the same cuts in the budget framework, Republicans want to set different numbers for each chamber, which has never been done before. And the difference could be significant: House committees have been asked to cut at least \$2 trillion in spending from safety-net programs, while Senate committees might move forward with just a few billion dollars in savings. This strategy could ultimately give Republicans a lot of flexibility, and political cover, on where to make spending cuts down the line.