

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

October
6th, 2025

House Remains in Recess as Senate Struggles to Break Shutdown Deadlock

Speaker Mike Johnson has opted to keep the House in recess this week, a tactical move aimed at pressuring the Senate to act on the House-approved continuing resolution (CR), which would keep the government funded through November 21. House Republican leadership maintains that their CR is the only practical solution to end the current funding impasse. The Speaker said over the weekend that he'd give a 48-hour notice if they are needed for a vote at the Capitol this week.

A key sticking point remains the extension of Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies. While some Republicans acknowledge that ACA issues warrant attention, GOP leadership insists such discussions won't take place until after the shutdown ends. Senate Democrats say they need a firm commitment to extend ACA subsidies in writing to break the impasse.

Meanwhile, outside of leadership channels, a bipartisan group of senators continues to hold informal discussions in search of a compromise. However, these talks have yet to produce any significant progress.

Without a resolution, most federal employees are expected to miss their first paychecks this Friday. Lawmakers are now eyeing October 15 — when active-duty military personnel could begin missing pay — as the next critical deadline for legislative action.

While both sides remain firmly entrenched in their positions, the prospect of federal layoffs looms. Though no concrete announcements have been made in the last few days, the President told reporters yesterday that layoffs are "taking place right now."

The Senate is expected to vote this evening for a fifth time on the House GOP funding measure. So far, Senators Fetterman (D-PA), Cortez-Masto (D-NV), and King (I-ME) have crossed the aisle to vote in favor of the House-passed CR, but there are no indications yet that additional Senate Democrats will switch their votes.