

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

September
22nd, 2025

Senate Votes Down Two Funding Patches

The likelihood of a government shutdown next week is rapidly increasing after the Senate rejected both Republican and Democratic funding proposals on Friday. Earlier in the day, the House narrowly passed a GOP-backed stopgap bill in a 217-212 vote. The measure would have kept the government running through November 21 and included additional funding for security for lawmakers, executive branch officials, and Supreme Court justices.

Democrats opposed the bill, insisting that any short-term funding measure must include an extension of expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies. Republicans pushed back, arguing that such policy debates should happen separately from the funding process. The GOP measure failed in the Senate, falling short of the 60 votes needed, with a 48-44 vote count. A competing Democratic proposal — which would have extended funding through October 31, included health care provisions, and limited President Donald Trump's ability to withhold congressionally approved spending — also failed in a 47-45 vote.

With the October 1 deadline looming, there's no clear path forward. The House won't return from recess until after the shutdown deadline, while the Senate is set to return on the 29th, leaving less than 48 hours to act. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) has indicated he will attempt to revive the GOP bill — the only viable path forward unless the House returns early.

Leadership Floats Meeting as Shutdown Likelihood Grows

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) have spent the past few days publicly pressing President Trump to hold a meeting. The President has responded that he's open to doing so, but no timeline has been proposed. If they meet and reach an agreement on ACA extension, Trump could rein in House Republicans to move forward, although it would likely be after the shutdown deadline.

In the Senate, Majority and Minority leaders Thune and Schumer have yet to meet to discuss how they'll avoid a shutdown — a discouraging sign. Senate Democrats will likely need assurances on addressing the ACA piece for there to be any chance of passing the GOP bill in the next week.