

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

September
8th, 2025

Timing of Pending Continuing Resolution in Dispute

With three weeks left to avoid a shutdown, policymakers have conflicting proposals for how long a continuing resolution should fund the government. The White House and fiscal conservatives want a stopgap bill to go through January or later, rather than a shorter patch that could lead to a more comprehensive funding agreement. Repeatedly kicking the can on funding bills is part of OMB Director Russ Vought's strategy to cut spending and would allow Republicans to force through rescissions and reconciliation packages to add or subtract funding without relying on Democrats.

On the other hand, Democrats and some GOP appropriators want a short-term extension to fund the government through November or December in order to give appropriators more time to negotiate a bipartisan deal. Democrats are signaling that they're ok with a shutdown if Republicans don't make an earnest attempt to negotiate.

Leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations committees has been discussing a hybrid approach: A full year of updated funding levels for the USDA, the VA, and congressional operations, combined with short-term extensions for all other agencies to give appropriators more time to negotiate. At this point, it's unclear which timeline will win out, as there's been little interaction between leadership across the aisle, making the possibility of a shutdown greater than ever.

House Prepares to Wrap Remaining FY26 Markups

The House Appropriations Committee has scheduled its last two FY26 spending bill markups for this week. The committee will consider its FY26 Labor-HHS-Education bill at 11:00 am tomorrow, and the Commerce, Justice, and Science bill on Wednesday at 10:00 am. The Senate plans to markup its Homeland Security spending bill at 9:30 am on Thursday. - it's 9th of 12.