

# APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Aug 17th,  
2026

## House Republicans Appear Open to Senate CR

House Rules Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) indicated that the House could pass the Senate's bipartisan stopgap spending bill, signaling potential momentum toward a bicameral compromise to extend current funding levels through December 11. The Senate measure has White House support and passed with broad bipartisan backing, while House Democrats have criticized the House's earlier bill for excluding them from negotiations.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has not yet committed to bringing the Senate bill to the floor, but both parties have incentives to avoid a prolonged funding fight and return home ahead of the November elections. The Senate package is viewed favorably by senior House Appropriations Democrat Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), increasing the likelihood that it could ultimately clear the House if leadership opts to advance it.

## Senate Budget Reconciliation Delayed

Senate Republicans left for August recess without advancing the budget resolution needed to launch a new reconciliation package sought by President Trump, raising the possibility that the effort could slip until after the November elections. The framework would support increased defense spending, farm assistance and election grants, but would also open the door to politically difficult votes on issues including food assistance and other Trump priorities. Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) said Republicans will likely need another reconciliation bill but declined to commit to a September timeline.

The delay reflects concerns among vulnerable Senate Republicans about taking politically risky votes ahead of the midterms, as well as a crowded September agenda that includes government funding, Russia sanctions and other priorities. Republicans are also expected to revise the initial framework following concerns from GOP senators that it was too broad and did not provide sufficient defense funding. If the Senate cannot make meaningful progress in September, the reconciliation effort could ultimately be pushed into the post-election lame-duck session.