

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

July 20th,
2026

House GOP Unveils Short-Term Funding Bill to Avert October Shutdown

House Republican leadership released [legislative text](#) for a continuing resolution (CR) that would fund most federal agencies from the start of fiscal year 2027 on October 1 through December 4, delaying final appropriations decisions until after the 2026 midterm elections. Speaker Mike Johnson has indicated the House will consider the measure this week. The proposal adheres to leadership's pledge to keep the bill "clean," containing no policy riders or unrelated legislative provisions. Notably, the CR also excludes the SAVE America Act, the Trump Administration's election and voter identification proposal that had been discussed as a possible addition. If approved by the House, attention will shift to the Senate, where bipartisan support will be necessary to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September.

Appropriators Examine Supreme Court Security and Budget Needs

Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett made rare appearances before both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to discuss the Court's fiscal year 2027 budget request, with both hearings focusing heavily on the growing security challenges facing the federal judiciary. Lawmakers from both parties expressed strong support for ensuring the Court has the resources necessary to respond to escalating physical and cyber threats, while also emphasizing Congress's constitutional responsibility to oversee judicial appropriations and promote transparency in the Court's budget process.

The justices testified that recent funding increases have been driven largely by expanded security needs, including the transfer of residential protection responsibilities from the U.S. Marshals Service to the Supreme Court Police, increased cybersecurity investments, and rising threats against judges nationwide. Members also discussed long-term security planning, transparency surrounding supplemental funding requests, and the importance of maintaining regular oversight hearings as part of the annual appropriations process.