

# APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Aug 3rd,  
2026

## Senate Bills Ready, but Process Remains Stalled

Senate appropriators are increasingly signaling that several FY2027 spending bills are effectively ready for release, with bipartisan agreements already reached on individual measures. Appropriations chairs for Interior-Environment, Agriculture-FDA, and Commerce-Justice-Science have indicated their bills could be released quickly, and other subcommittee chairs report similar progress. However, Senate leadership has yet to resolve broader disagreements over topline spending levels and the ground rules for amendments. The continued absence of Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is also complicating the process.

Republican appropriators are weighing whether to release individual bill text even if the bills cannot immediately advance through committee. Doing so would allow senators to publicize earmarks and other priorities, but some appropriators are concerned that releasing bills without bipartisan agreement on the markup process could alienate Democrats whose support will ultimately be necessary to pass the measures. For now, the more likely approach appears to be holding the text until leadership can reach agreement on the broader process, meaning earmark visibility may remain limited in the near term even as individual appropriations bills are largely drafted.

## Senate Republicans Cautiously Approach Third Reconciliation Package

Senate appropriators released a bipartisan continuing resolution Sunday that would extend current federal funding levels through Dec. 11, with leaders aiming to hold an initial procedural vote and pass the measure before the Senate leaves Washington Friday for its five-week recess. The Senate proposal also includes language temporarily blocking the Administration's effort to put political appointees in charge of approving federal grants, a significant priority for Democrats and a provision that Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins has supported. The Senate's bipartisan approach differs from the House, where Republicans advanced a party-line CR funding the government through Dec. 4. With both chambers seeking to defer broader FY2027 funding negotiations until after the midterm elections, the key question now is whether the House will accept the Senate's longer funding extension and grant-related provisions.