



Arapahoe County: Federal Legislative Update

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

2025 Recap

Impact of a Republican Trifecta

- **Energy and Climate**
 - Reduction and/or repurpose of clean-energy and sustainability funding
 - Bipartisan support in Congress for streamlining the permitting process to help oil, gas, and certain other energy sources (nuclear, biofuels)
- **Immigration**
 - Trump Executive Orders are aggressive but comprehensive immigration plans require funding from Congress to hire border agents and to build a larger portion of the wall
 - Congressional Republicans are poised to focus on border security and immigration in their first reconciliation bill of 2025
- **Tax**
 - Key provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 expired / are set to expire at the end of 2025
- **Tariffs**
 - Trump campaigned on implementing blanket tariffs and has recently announced specific unilateral tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, Columbian tariffs, broad reciprocal tariffs, and special steel and aluminum tariffs



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Trump Manufacturing and Infrastructure Priorities

- **Ending the "Green New Deal":** The Federal Funding freeze and court cases presages the coming fight to end and claw back as much Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL/IJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) money as possible.
- **Reduce the Administrative State:** President Trump and DOGE are actively working to dismantle and decimate federal agencies through firings, attribution, buy-outs, reassignments, freezes, and agency restructuring.
- **Deregulation:** President Trump issued Executive Orders curbing NEPA, ESA and Clean Water Act in order to speed up permits for federal infrastructure projects – a more comprehensive deregulatory push will occur once new Cabinet Secretaries and their teams are fully in place.
- **Seeking Energy "Dominance":** President Trump's energy policy can best be characterized by a robust emphasis on fossil fuels, extensive regulatory rollbacks and a scaling back of renewable energy policies. He believes these changes will reduce energy costs, achieve "energy dominance" and boost the competitiveness of U.S. industries.
- **Job Creation/Making More in America:** President Trump likely will pursue policies to advance domestic manufacturing across sectors including in the energy technology space and further discourage reliance on foreign manufacturing.
- **Combatting China:** President Trump plans to reinvigorate and expand previous efforts associated with onshoring supply chains and mining of critical minerals integral to clean technology, including solar energy equipment and lithium batteries—especially as it pertains to reducing the country's dependence on China.

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MAJOR MUST-DO ITEMS EARLY IN 119TH CONGRESS



ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

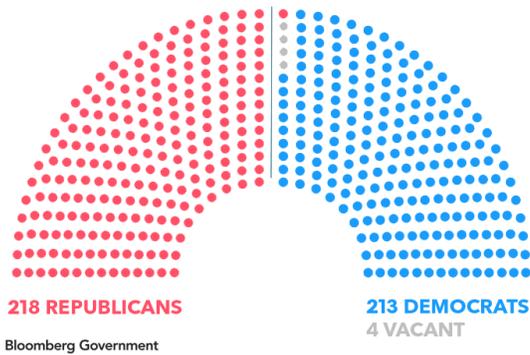
- Trump Tax Cuts
- Tax reform
- SNAP benefit cuts
- Ag policy
- Defense spending
- Border security
- Air traffic control
- Space infrastructure
- Coast guard
- Energy production
- Repeal IRA
- ACA cuts

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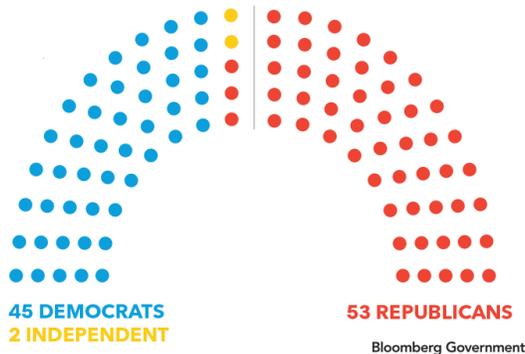
2026 Electoral Landscape

119th Congress Today

Balance of Power in the House

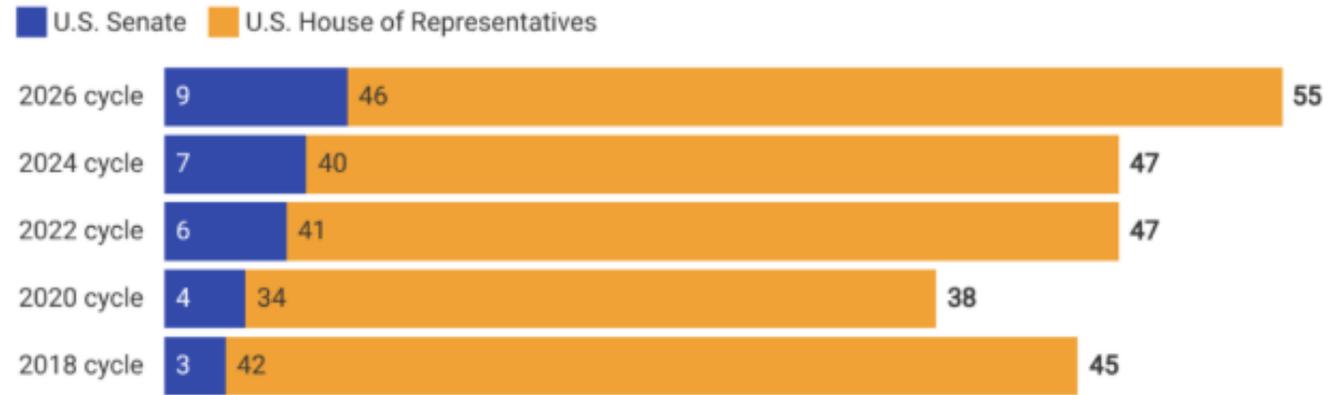


Balance of Power in the Senate



Congressional retirements announced by Jan. 12 of each election cycle, 2018-2026

The chart shows the number of U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives members who announced they were not seeking re-election by Jan. 12 in the year before the general election.



This chart does not include members who left the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives and were replaced before the end of their term, even if they had previously announced their retirement.

Current as of Jan. 12, 2026.

BALLOTEDIA

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Orlando
Philadelphia
Portland
Richmond
San Francisco
Seattle
Stamford
Tallahassee
Tysons
Washington, DC
West Palm Beach



2026 Outlook – Congress Current State of Play

Congress Ended a Partial Government Shutdown

\$1.2 trillion package includes –

- Five full-year appropriations bills enacted
- A two-week continuing resolution for DHS to allow more time for negotiations on immigration enforcement
- Guaranteed back pay for furloughed federal employees

This week on the Floor: Signaling a focus on housing, national security, technology and foreign policy

- H.R. 3682 — Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act
- H.R. 6644 — Housing for the 21st Century Act
- S. 3705 — Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act
- H.R. 2189 — Law-Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act
- H.R. 261 — Undersea Cable Protection Act
- H.R. 1531 — PROTECT Taiwan Act



2026 Outlook – Administration Current State of Play

- ❖ State of the Union upcoming on February 24th, 2026
- ❖ Presidential FY27 budget expected any day now
- ❖ The White House is preparing for the next DHS deadline where Democrats are pushing for new guardrails on ICE and CBP, such as body-cam requirements and limits on sensitive site-raids
- ❖ Intensifying immigration crack down & public backlash following events in MN
- ❖ International diplomacy involving indirect nuclear talks with Iran
- ❖ New trade & security action on Russia modifying U.S. duties



FY2026 Appropriations Wrap-up



Congress Has Funded approximately 96% of the Government

- Eleven out of Twelve FY26 appropriations bills have been enacted
- Those enacted bills cover defense, labor-HHS-education, THUD, FSGG, and more
- The one outstanding bill is Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

DHS in the Spotlight

- Funding for DHS currently runs only through February 13th, under a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR)
- Party disagreements over immigration reform = contentious negotiations
- Democrats seek stronger oversight of ICE and CBP operations
- Republicans push for stricter sanctuary-city restrictions & more protections for enforcement officers

High Probability: A short-term CR for DHS Funding

Medium Probability: A small bi-partisan compromise package focused on ICE/CBP oversight v. enforcement activities

Low Probability: A year-long CR for DHS

What happens if DHS isn't funded by February 13th?

- ✓ ICE & CBP continue to operate, as they are pre-funded operations with existing resources
- ✓ FEMA & TSA could face operational disruptions

FY2027 Appropriations Update



1. FY27 Appropriations are Beginning – as FY26 Completes

- Congressional offices are starting to prepare for FY27 requests and encourage organizations to begin early engagement so as not to miss Member deadlines
- This is especially important in an election-shortened year which means fewer legislative workweeks, earlier subcommittee deadlines, and reduced floor time for appropriations bills

2. Release of the President’s Budget will Launch the Formal Process

- The budget is expected in early-mid February
- Sets the Administration’s funding priorities and informs the topline spending debate
- Congress, not the White House, sets actual funding levels

3. Uncertainty Over if Congress will Pass a Budget Resolution

- Congressional Budget Resolution sets the topline discretionary funding levels and guides subcommittee allocations
- A divided Congress does not guarantee the easy passing of a budget resolution
- In 2025, House Republicans used the resolution to advance the “One Big, Beautiful” reconciliation bill, some in the 2026 majority may push for a similar reconciliation vehicle this year

2026 Overall Legislative Outlook

High-priority Bills Expected to Advance this Year:

NDAA

FY27 Appropriations

High-priority Bills Seeking Movement:

Farm Bill: prior authorizations end at the end of FY26

TSCA Reform-Reform

Permitting Reform

Health Reform 3.0

Surface Transportation Reauthorization



Arapahoe County – Top Priorities

Workforce

Key Items Coming up:

- Congress to focus on federal workforce protections, civil service rulings, and hiring reforms
- AI and workplace safety (multiple congressional hearings in Feb/March '26)
- Potential 2026 labor law reform package
- Retirement modernization
- Oversight of federal workforce reductions and OMP reporting

Public Health

Key Items Coming up:

- Healthcare affordability, especially related to prescription drug pricing
- Oversight hearings on fraud & waste in health programs
- Provider workforce and access issues, related especially to seniors
- Public health regulations, health IT developments and upcoming CMS rules
- Coverage & affordability fallout from expiring ACA subsidies

Education

Key Items Coming up:

- K-12 – proposals to consolidate various K-12 formulas and competitive grant programs; school choice expansion
- Higher Education – rising college tuition costs, transparency reforms for institutions “College Transparency Act” ,
- Education-Workforce alignment (CTE, apprenticeships), Pell Grant preservation and funding oversight
- Technology and AI in schools

Arapahoe County: Congressional Directed Spending 2026 Successes

- **Sheriff's Office Radio Replacement – \$1,031,000**
- **Cherry Creek Reservoir Basin Stream Restoration – \$50,000**
- **Havana Street Corridor Multimodal Improvements – \$850,000**
- **Santa Fe Drive and Mineral Avenue Intersection Improvements – \$850,000**
- **Fire Apparatus - Ladder Truck – \$850,000**
- **High Line Canal Enhanced Trail – \$850,000**
- **Arapahoe County Supportive Housing – \$1,000,000**
- **Community College of Aurora – \$919,000**
- **I-70/Airpark (Monaghan) Interchange Final Design – \$250,000**

