



Arapahoe County: Federal Legislative Update

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Recap of Washington, DC Trip, March 2026

- **Commissioners met with:**
 - ✓ HUD, HHS, USDA, Veterans Affairs & the White House
 - ✓ Sens Bennet, Hickenlooper, Reps Boebert, Crow and DeGette staff
- **Follow-ups have been made to agencies where we highlighted unique projects and programs inviting the Cabinet Secs to visit the County**
- **Followed up with Dept. of Veterans Affairs on TAP program and contact in Aurora**



2026 Outlook – Congress Current State of Play

Post Spring Recess → Top of Mind Issues:

1. Margin on Iran war powers votes
2. Movement (if any) on DHS funding
3. House floor time consumed by ethics proceedings
4. Judicial nominations clearing the Senate
5. Signals from appropriators on FY2027 priorities

This Week on the House Floor: Narrow & controlled action, centered on a small set of regulatory and reauthorization bills (notably the FIRE Act & RED Tape Act), with substantial floor time otherwise absorbed by ethics proceedings and procedural items.

This Week on the Senate Floor: Judicial nominations (district and circuit court judges), War Powers-related measures, no large bipartisan legislative packages or DHS funding bill measures are expected.



2026 Outlook – FY27 Presidential Budget

Presidential FY27 budget released on April 3, 2026

The FY27 request reflects a sharp policy contrast that is shaping Hill reaction:

Defense –

Proposes ~\$1.5 trillion total for defense, including:

- A large increase in base discretionary defense funding
- Hundreds of billions in additional defense funding proposed via reconciliation

Non-defense discretionary:

Proposes a ~10% cut (~\$73 billion) compared to FY26

Targets or eliminates a wide range of domestic programs (e.g. CDBG, EDA, LIHEAP, arts and humanities, significant research cuts)

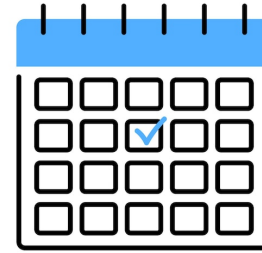


FY2027 Appropriations Update

- ❖ Most FY26 appropriations bills have been enacted, but Homeland Security remains unfunded on a full-year basis and is operating under stopgap or lapsed funding.
- ❖ A clean full-year bill has not been agreed upon by leadership.
- ❖ Subcommittee markups begin April 17th and extend through early June, this is an aggressive schedule which includes MilCon-VA, FSGG, Agriculture, CJS, Defense, Energy-Water, THUD, Interior, LHHS, etc.
- ❖ Congressional Directed Spending (earmarks) are proceeding in both chambers for FY27 and are already influencing subcommittee negotiations.



Reconciliation 2.0 Process Timeline (Tentative)



Week of April 20 The Senate is expected to take up the Budget Resolution directly on the floor, bypassing a Budget Committee markup.

Week of April 27 The House may consider the Senate-passed Budget Resolution.

Week of May 4 Both chambers are scheduled to be in recess. During this time, the Senate is likely to hold “Byrd Bath” meetings with the Parliamentarian.

Week of May 11 The Senate is expected to hold a reconciliation markup in the Judiciary Committee. A markup in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) is uncertain due to Chair Paul’s position; leadership may instead draft that title. If markups proceed smoothly, the Senate could begin floor consideration. Under reconciliation rules, debate is limited to 20 hours, followed by a vote-a-rama.

Week of May 18 Contingency window for Senate floor consideration. The House could also take up the Senate-passed reconciliation package (“Recon 2.0”).

Week of May 25 Both the House and Senate are scheduled to be in recess for Memorial Day (Monday, May 25).

June 1 – President has expressed his desire to have the package on his desk for signature.