



*Week Ending 2-6-26*  
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### **This Week in Congress!**

The 4-day partial government shutdown is over. The House voted 217-214 on Tuesday to approve five more government funding bills - plus a temporary funding plan for the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, the House considered four bills related to veterans' benefits, which focus on improving services and support for veterans.

Meanwhile, the Senate considered several administration nominees. These votes are part of the Senate's typical process for confirming individuals appointed by the President to various positions within the administration.

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### **Partial Government Shutdown Averted - Now Comes the Hard Part**

On Tuesday, the House voted 217-214 to avoid a partial government shutdown; however, included in the funding package was a continuing resolution (CR) through February 13th for the Department of Homeland Security. President Donald Trump signed the legislation on Tuesday bringing a relatively swift resolution to a brief funding lapse caused by widespread concern with federal immigration enforcement.

Last Friday night, a significant portion of federal government funding expired, affecting agencies and programs covered by six key appropriations bills: Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-Health and Human Services, National Security-State, and Transportation-Housing and Urban Development.

The Senate attempted to pass the House-approved appropriations package last Thursday, but it failed to get the 60 votes needed to move forward. All Senate Democrats and seven conservative Republicans voted "no" on the motion. As a result, Senate Democrats and President Trump worked out a deal to remove the Homeland Security section from the bill and keep the other five spending bills. They also included a provision to keep Homeland Security funded at 2025 levels until February 13. The Senate passed this revised version of the bill late Friday by a vote of 71-29.

Most Republicans in the House supported the deal worked out between President Donald Trump and Senate Democrats to fund the government, while most Democrats opposed the measure that passed but it passed 217-214.

Now comes the hard part as Democrats and the White House have about one week to finalize a new Homeland Security funding deal. President Trump and White House officials are facing challenges over immigration issues, while Democrats are under pressure to demand reforms before agreeing to a new bill. Some Senate Democrats are pushing for stricter rules on ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), including rules on ICE officers' conduct, masks, identification, and body cameras. Many Republicans oppose these conditions and do not want to change the Homeland Security funding bill. The divide between Senate and House Democrats could weaken their bargaining power.

Ultimately, for both the appropriations minibus and the Homeland Security bill to pass, President Trump will need to rally Republican support.

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### **Wind Power**

Another federal judge on Monday ruled against President Trump's order which blocked work on offshore wind power facilities - this time off of New York, for what's known as the Sunrise Wind project. Supporters of offshore wind power are now five-for-five against the administration.

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### **Redistricting Battle**

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to take up a challenge to California's new Congressional district map, which could result in Democrats picking up as many as five new seats in the U.S. House this November. After Trump got Republicans in Texas to change their map - in hopes of gaining up to five U.S. House seats - California Governor Gavin Newsom pressed state legislators to do the same. Meanwhile, the state Supreme Court in Virginia will hear arguments about a similar redistricting effort. "Donald Trump started this redistricting war," said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries on Wednesday. "We will finish it."

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### **House Party Ratios**

Another lawmaker, Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA), has decided not to run for another term on Capitol Hill. Loudermilk's decision means that already 50 House members won't be back after the 2026 midterm elections. That 50 is split 29 Republicans and 21 Democrats. The total was 60 members in 2024.

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Christian Menefee (D-TX) won a Texas U.S. House seat in a special election that narrows Republicans' already-slim majority. Menefee took the oath of office on Tuesday even though there was a shutdown impacting about 70 percent of the federal government.