

Appropriations, rescissions, and reconciliation: What's the difference and where are we now?

Process	Explanation	Current status	Next steps	Take action
Appropriations	<p>Every fiscal year:</p> <p>The Appropriations committees in each chamber of Congress decide which programs to fund. Each subcommittee writes a bill, which must then pass through the full Appropriations committees. The 12 bills must pass separately or combined into an "omnibus," and need 60 votes in the Senate.</p> <p>Learn more here!</p>	<p>Ongoing:</p> <p>The fiscal year (FY)26 appropriations bills must pass by September 30, 2025 to avoid a government shutdown. The process will likely take longer, so Congress may pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) extending the current FY25 levels until December.</p>	<p>Senate:</p> <p>The Senate SFOPS subcommittee is still writing their bill that includes funding for global health and education. Senators on the Appropriations committee will be able to introduce amendments to influence the bill.</p>	<p>Tell your member of Congress:</p> <p>Protect and continue your bold bipartisan investments in global health and education for FY26.</p> <p>Learn more here!</p>

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Rescissions	<p>When the President requests specific rescissions:</p> <p>Congress has 45 days to either approve or reject a rescissions request. It asks them to reverse their appropriations decisions, and cancel money that was appropriated but not yet spent. Just a simple majority vote is needed in both chambers.</p> <p>Learn more here!</p>	<p>Completed in July:</p> <p>A \$9 billion rescissions package was signed into law, canceling FY25 funding for many foreign aid programs, as well as PBS and NPR.</p>	<p>Potential future threats:</p> <p>We expect the administration to send more rescissions packages to Congress. They could target funding for domestic education, housing, and nutrition programs. Congress will then have 45 days to approve or reject the cuts.</p>	<p>Tell your member of Congress:</p> <p>Reject all rescissions packages, especially any cuts to anti-poverty programs.</p>

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Reconciliation	<p>In order to quickly pass budget legislation:</p> <p>Congress can use reconciliation to pass certain types of bills with just a simple majority. This is unrelated to appropriations. It changes policies that affect spending for mandatory programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and Medicare.</p> <p>After writing a budget resolution, committees in Congress will create plans to meet a set of goals. These must be approved with a simple majority in both chambers.</p> <p>Learn more here!</p>	<p>Completed in July 2025:</p> <p>A reconciliation bill was signed into law, including significant cuts to SNAP and Medicaid that will impact everyday Americans.</p>	<p>Potential future threats:</p> <p>Congress may decide to draft another reconciliation bill this fall 2025. They could work to mitigate some of the harms caused by the first bill, or double down on dangerous cuts.</p>	<p>Tell your member of Congress:</p> <p>Share how the bill will affect you, your family, and community. Urge them to champion a fully refundable Child Tax Credit that even more working families will be able to access.</p>