

# One Hundred and Nineteenth Congress

Jan. 3, 2025-Jan. 3, 2027

## Second Administration of Donald J. Trump

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### Historical Background

The 119th congress began on January 3rd, 2025, following the 2024 presidential election between Kamala D. Harris and Donald J. Trump, with President Trump becoming the 47th President of the United States. As of April 2025, the Republican party hold a majority in both the House and Senate. Senator John Thune was elected Senate Majority Leader, replacing Senator Mitch McConnell, and Senator Mike Johnson was reelected as Speaker of the House. On January 24, 2025, Pete Hegseth was confirmed as Secretary of Defense following a tie-breaking vote from Vice President JD Vance. On Mon, Mar 31, 2025, Senator Cory Booker set a historic record by giving a 25-hour marathon speech to the Senate, beating the previous record set by Strom Thurmond in 1957

. In his speech Booker discussed his concerns over Social Security, Medicare, education, immigration, national security, housing, the environment, and farmers in rural communities. A major piece of legislation being worked on in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress has been the federal governments budget for 2025 and beyond. Dubbed the “Big Beautiful Bill” by President Trump, the bill was controversial and laid out widespread effects from extending 2017 tax cuts and raising the debt limit, to massive cuts in social safety nets such as Medicaid and SNAP programs. The bill was signed into law on July 4<sup>th</sup> of 2025.



President  
Donald J. Trump

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (220 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (53 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (213 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (45 seats)
Other Parties: Independent (2 seats)	Other Parties: Independent (2 seats)
Speaker of the House: Mike Johnson	Majority Leader: John Thune

Sources:

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Committee on Republican Policy; Commissions and Temporary Committees. Senate. [Garland's Judicial Philosophy Is Not Moderate, Republican Judiciary Policy](#). GPO. Apr. 12, 2016. 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. Committee Print. ProQuest Congressional. CMP-2016-SER-0041

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## War or Peace

### Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The war between Ukraine and Russia that began in February 2022 is still ongoing. President Trump and U.S. officials have been working to facilitate an end to the conflict. President Trump has had talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in hopes to arrange a ceasefire between the two countries. On March 25, 2025, the White House announced both countries agreed to a ceasefire in the Black Sea and a ban on strikes on energy facilities. A full ceasefire has not been reached. Ukrainian officials have raised concerns that Russia may use a ceasefire to prepare for a resumption of hostilities, while Russian officials are reluctant to agree to a full ceasefire without more conditions being met. In diplomatic circles calls were made for bilateral negotiations with Russia insisting on terms that aligned with Ukraine's previous surrender during the 2022 Istanbul protocols.



### Israel/ Palestine Conflict

On January 19, 2025, Israel and Hamas agreed to hostage and prisoner exchanges and a ceasefire of military operations in the Gaza Strip. It has also been agreed that displaced civilians from northern Gaza may return home, but their vehicles will be subject to inspection. Humanitarian aid remains and issue, with UN officials making assertions that Israel has impeded aid to Palestinians. Israeli officials refute this claim. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is the main provider of humanitarian aid to Palestinians and refugees in Gaza. Provisions in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L.118-47) prohibit aid funding from the United States until at least March 2025. The spring and summer of 2025 led to intense escalation of the conflict, in March Israel launched an offensive called "Operation Might and Sword" against Gaza

which resulted in mass casualties, killing over 1,000 including women and children. This was followed by a full blockade imposed by Israel which blocked food, water and electricity to Gaza. This action was condemned by some humanitarian organizations as collective punishment and therefore a possible war crime. Hamas resumed its attacks on Israel and diplomatic efforts stalled. During the summer escalation led to a broader regional conflict as Iran and the US became more involved. Following Operation Might and Sword Iran became more vocal in its condemnation of Israel and its support of Palestine and on June 13 Israel launched a major military operation against Iran. Iran retaliated with ballistic missile strikes against Israel in the following days. On June 22, the United States entered the conflict launching its own military strikes against Iran targeting nuclear sites.

## **Yemen and the Houthis**

The conflict/civil war in Yemen between the Iran-backed Houthi movement and Yemen's government has been ongoing since 2015. Disputes arose over governance and energy resources in the country. On January 22, 2025, President Trump signed executive order (E.O.) 14175 initiating the process to designate the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). On March 4, 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio designated The Houthis as a terrorist group. On March 6, 2025, UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said both parties of the conflict were "pre-positioning themselves publicly for military confrontation".

### Sources:

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## Economic Trends and Conditions

Global growth slowed and continued to slow caused by the potential instability of global trade policy and climate shifts. In the first address of his second term to a joint session of Congress, Trump declared that the American economy would be “the greatest economy in history.” Tense trade relations began in February when Trump invoked the International Emergency Economic Power Act to significantly raise the tariff rate on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China. He did the same in early April with many countries across the world, with inexplicable tariff raises for uncertain reasons. It came as a shock since many of these countries were traditionally friendly, allied, or neighbouring countries. Many countries retaliated against the tariffs by raising their own rates and duties while others waited to see what would happen next. Trump put pause on some tariffs to certain countries but the events prompted fear in the US from several quarters about a possible recession and setting the American economy back for years to come.

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Zirpoli, Christopher T. [Legal Authority for the President To Impose Tariffs Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act \(IEEPA\), CRS Legal Sidebar](#). CRS. Apr. 7, 2025. 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. LSB11281. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-2025-CRS-252830

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## Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

*TikTok, Inc. v. Garland*, held that the Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act did not violate the social media platform’s, TikTok, first amendment rights of free speech over national security concerns, [604 U. S. \\_\\_\\_\\_ \(2025\)](#).

*Bondi v. VanDerStok*, held that in accordance with the Gun Control Act of 1968, a Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms & Explosives federal regulation on ghost guns did not exceed its authority, [604 U. S. \\_\\_\\_\\_ \(2025\)](#).

*United States v. Skrmetti*, upheld the Tennessee law banning gender-affirming care for minors, finding it did not violate the Equal Protection Clause, [604 U. S. \\_\\_\\_\\_ \(2025\)](#).

*Trump v. Washington*, upheld Trump’s executive order ending birthright citizenship to proceed in some jurisdictions, limiting the use of nationwide injunctions, [604 U. S. \\_\\_\\_\\_ \(2025\)](#).

*Trump v. Casa Inc.* , limited the ability of lower courts to issue nationwide injunctions, affecting how federal prosecutors can pursue broad legal remedies. [606 U. S. \\_\\_\\_\\_ \(2025\)](#).

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## 2025 Events

- **Jan. 1:** Fifteen people are killed and 57 injured in a New Years day attack in New Orleans on Bourbon street involving a vehicle ramming and shooting
- **Jan. 6:** [Justin Trudeau announces he is submitting his resignation as the Prime Minister of Canada](#)
- **Jan. 7:** [Forest fires rip through Los Angeles, effecting many residential areas and neighborhoods, killing 29 and destroying over 13,000 structures.](#)
- **Jan. 15:** [The President of South Korea, Yoon Suk Yeol, is arrested following his failed attempt to instate martial law](#)
- **Jan 15:** [Israel and Hamas approve a ceasefire deal, agreeing to exchange hostages and allow international aid into Gaza. The deal goes into effect January 19](#)
- **Jan. 29:** A US Army Blackhawk helicopter collides over the Potomac River with an American Airlines flight returning to DC from Wichita Kansas, all passengers aboard the flight and the helicopter are killed resulting in 67 fatalities
- **Feb. 18:** At a summit aimed at improving relations between the new Trump administration and Russia, Vladimir Putin announces that Russia and the United States officially agreed to restore diplomatic relations
- **Feb. 28:** Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, visits the White House, a tense televised meeting between Zelenski and Trump as well of members of his administration follows
- **Mar. 3:** [Following the meeting in the Oval Office between Trump and Zelenski, the Trump administration pauses military aid to Ukraine](#)
- **Mar. 8:** [During a violent crackdown in the Alawite region by the Syrian transitional government security forces more than 1000 people are killed, including civilians.](#)
- **Apr. 2:** [In what he declares to be "Liberation Day," President Trump issues sweeping trade tariffs on many countries, including a 10% baseline tariff on all imports](#)
- **Apr. 4:** South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol is officially impeached, removing him from office
- **Apr. 5:** In a day of nationwide protests against Trump administration policies over 1,400 protests occur across cities and towns in the US
- **Apr. 9:** Trump administration begins terminating government funding and grants to private universities, including Cornell and Northwestern.
- **Apr. 10:** Supreme Court rules that the Trump administration work to return Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a mistakenly deported Maryland man imprisoned in the Terrorism Confinement Center in El Salvador.
- **Apr. 15:** Trump administration halts government funding and grants to Harvard, prompting Harvard to file a lawsuit against the administration.

- **Apr. 21:** Pope Francis dies at the age of eighty-eight from complications.
- **Apr. 28:** Mark Carney wins re-election as Prime Minister of Canada.
- **May 1:** An executive order is issued by Trump to stop government funding for National Public Radio and Public Broadcasting Service.
- **May 7:** [A brief escalation of fighting erupts between Pakistan and India over a terrorist attack near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir—a disputed area between the two countries.](#)
- **May 7-8:** A papal conclave is held and Robert Francis Prevost becomes the first American pope and is named Pope Leo XIV.
- **May 12:** Saudi Arabia and the US announce a defense deal with Saudi Arabia investing \$600 billion in the US and the US selling Saudi Arabia \$142 billion arms package.
- **June 1:** Called Operation Spiderweb, Ukraine launches a large scale drone attack on a Russian air force base.
- **June 4:** President Trump signs a travel ban into effect banning citizens from 19 largely Muslim countries from entering the United States.
- **June 12:** After taking off from Ahmedabad India en route to London, Air India flight 171 crashes killing all 242 passengers and crew and at least 5 at the medical school on the ground it crashed into.
- **June 13:** [Israel launches an attack on Iran targeting nuclear facilities and killing prominent military commanders, Iran retaliates with airstrikes on Israel.](#)
- **June 14:** In response to a military parade held in DC, protests are held nationwide calling for “no king”.
- **June 22:** [The U.S. launches strikes against three nuclear sites in Iran using B-2 bombers.](#)
- **June 24:** Iran begins a missile strike against US military bases in both Iraq and Qatar
- **July 4:** A flash flood hits central Texas killing over 135, including many young children from local summer camps.
- **Aug. 8:** Armenia and Azerbaijan sign a U.S.-mediated peace agreement, ending 37 years of conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.
- **Aug. 15:** Russian President, Vladimir Putin, meets with President Trump in Anchorage Alaska, they leave the meeting with no further resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- **Aug. 22:** Famine confirmed in Gaza City as UN-backed food security body raises classification to Phase 5, the highest level, affecting over 500,000 people.
- **Aug. 31:** A 6.0+ earthquake in Afghanistan kills over 2,000 people and injures over 2,400.
- **Sept. 8:** Mass protests in Nepal result in at least 22 deaths and hundreds injured; Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli resigns the following day.
- **Sept. 10:** Charlie Kirk, right wing activist and founder of Turning Point USA, was fatally shot during a campus event in Utah.

## 2026 Events

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## Major Acts

**Laken Riley Act.** Required the Department of Homeland Security to detain immigrants who have been charged of a crime and authorized state governments to sue the Federal government purported violations of immigration laws. Approved Jan. 29, 2025 ([139 Stat. 3, PL119-1](#))

**Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025.** Authorized continuing appropriations for Federal departments and agencies and extended government funded programs until the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2025. Approved Mar. 15, 2025 ([139 Stat. 9, PL119-4](#))

**One Big Beautiful Bill Act.** Large budget act that makes the 2017 Trump-era tax cuts permanent while introducing new tax breaks, it also slashes funding for Medicaid, SNAP, and student loan programs. ([139 Stat. 72, PL119-21](#))

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