

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 Joseph R. Biden 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 119th Congress has been the federal governments budget for 2025 and beyond.



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. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. Committee Print. ProQuest Congressional. CMP-2016-SER-0041

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Senate Majority Leader
John Thune

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.



Speaker of the House
Mike Johnson

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 an 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.

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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Zanotti, Jim and Sharp, Jeremy M. [Israel-Hamas Cease-Fire in Gaza, CRS Insight](#) January 17, 2025. 119th Congress, 1st Session. IN12487. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2025-CRS-25606

Margesson, Rhoda and Zanotti, Jim. [UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East \(UNRWA\): Background and U.S. Funding Trends, CRS In Focus](#) January 17, 2025. 119th Congress, 1st Session. IF12863. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2025-CRS-25599

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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 Economics 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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Kitamura, Kyla H. and Peter J. Meyer. [U.S.-Canada Relations amid Tariffs Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, CRS Insight](#). CRS. Mar. 25, 2025. 119th Congress, 1st Session. IN12533. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2025-CRS-252467

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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. 119th Congress, 1st Session. LSB11281. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-2025-CRS-252830

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

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

2026 Events

Sources:

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Horn, Diane P., Gitlin, Alicyn R. and Erica A. Lee. [Los Angeles County Wildfires, CRS In Focus](#) CRS, January 16, 2025. 119th Congress, 1st Session. IF12871. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2025-CRS-25676

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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](#))

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