



**Week of 10-2-23**  
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### **Congressional Overview**

Congress passed a short-term funding bill this past weekend to keep the federal government funded until mid-November. Both chambers must adopt 12 appropriations bills, either separately or in a package, to fully fund the government before another potential shutdown. The Senate adjourned earlier than planned with no session on Thursday to allow members to travel to California and pay their respects to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who passed away last week at the age of 90.

### **Federal Government Funded Until November 17, 2023**

Under H.R. 5860, the federal government will be funded through Nov. 17, and \$16 billion in emergency disaster aid was provided. This continuing resolution (CR) generally extends FY 23 funding levels for federal agencies and programs that otherwise would have shut down on Oct. 1. The measure does not include supplemental funding for Ukraine, but it extends several other programs that expired on Sept. 30, including:

- Federal Aviation Administration authorities through Dec. 31
- Animal drug user fees through FY 28
- Community health centers and pandemic preparedness authorities through Nov. 17
- The National Flood Insurance Program through Nov. 17
- Scheduled cuts to certain hospital payments would also be delayed until Nov. 18

The CR provided \$16 billion in emergency funding to FEMA for the Disaster Relief Fund, including \$15.5 billion for major disasters declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. It also included \$2 million for the Office of the Inspector General for audits and investigations of activities funded under the Disaster Relief Fund. The measure allowed FEMA to use funding for operations at the rate necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Disaster Relief Fund.

The House passed the bill on Sept. 30 by a vote of 335-91 after amending it to add language blocking an automatic cost-of-living adjustment for members of Congress. The Senate cleared the measure 88-9 and President Biden signed it into law the same day, averting a government shutdown.

### **The House Ousts Speaker McCarthy**

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is no longer Speaker of the House. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) introduced a motion to vacate the chair on Monday evening, setting up a vote where Rep. McCarthy needed a simple majority of House members to vote to stop the effort to remove him. He was unable to secure enough support, as a small group of House Republicans (led by Rep. Gaetz) and House Democrats voted to oust the speaker on Tuesday.

Tuesday marks the first time the House has ever voted to remove a sitting Speaker, a historic development that may catapult the chamber into another chaotic Speaker's race following this past January's marathon election. Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) was sworn in as Speaker Pro Tempore. Reps. Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Jim Jordan (R-OH) entered the race for the next speaker, with Jordan securing

former President Trump's endorsement. Several other House Republicans are also considering entering the race. The House cannot pass any legislation until a new speaker is elected.

### **Sen. Feinstein's Replacement Sworn In**

California Democrat Laphonza Butler was sworn in on Tuesday as the newest senator, replacing Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Butler became the first black woman in the Senate since fellow California Democrat Kamala Harris left the chamber in 2021 to become vice president. Butler will also be the first openly LGBTQ California senator. Butler's interim appointment will last until a senator can be picked in a to-be-scheduled special election.

### **Ukraine Aid Not Included in Continuing Resolution**

The continuing resolution keeping the federal government funded through Nov. 17 did not contain any additional funds for Ukraine. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said they expect more funding to be included before the end of this year. However, the House must select a new speaker before any legislation can be passed, and some candidates and potential candidates are skeptical about continuing support for Ukraine at the current levels. The Pentagon's chief financial officer, Michael McCord, warned last week that the Department of Defense has "exhausted nearly all security funding for Ukraine." McCord said the agency has \$1.6 billion remaining of the \$25.9 billion provided by Congress.