



Finding The Middle - Stopgap Deal Fact Sheet (Nov 2025)

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 - Senate Vote #610 (60-40)

1 - The Deal at a Glance

- Funding extended through January 30, 2026.
- Full-year funding inside: Agriculture (SNAP, WIC administration), Legislative Branch, and Military Construction - VA.
- Back pay for federal employees. Reduction-in-Force notices rescinded. Agencies must issue pay restoration notices within 5 days of enactment.
- States and grantees that fronted program funds during the lapse may be reimbursed with interest once guidance is issued.
- ACA subsidy policy is not included. Leadership described a separate vote to be scheduled in December.

2 - Senate Roll Call Summary

- YES (60): 52 Republicans plus 8 from the Democratic caucus (Durbin IL, Kaine VA, Cortez Masto NV, Rosen NV, Fetterman PA, Hassan NH, Shaheen NH, King ME).
- NO (40): Remaining Democrats and Independents in the caucus plus Paul KY.

Cross-over notes (why they matter)

- Durbin (D-IL) - Senior leadership voice. Emphasized ending economic harm and paying workers.
- Kaine (D-VA) - Focused on defense readiness and federal workforce in Virginia.
- Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Rosen (D-NV) - Hospitality state stability, WIC and SNAP administration continuity.
- Fetterman (D-PA) - Populist framing around paychecks and services reopening.
- Shaheen (D-NH) and Hassan (D-NH) - Appropriations and government oversight focus on continuity.
- King (I-ME) - Independent vote framed as pragmatic to stop damage.
- Paul (R-KY) - Only GOP NO, consistent with opposition to CRs.

3 - Michigan Snapshot

- Senators: Gary Peters (D-MI) - NO; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs leadership. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) - NO; Armed Services Committee.
- Federal workers in Michigan: approximately 56,500 positions affected by timing of pay.
- SNAP: about 1.4 million Michiganders rely on benefits. The Agriculture bill stabilizes administrative flow once enacted.
- Education and early childhood: temporary Head Start disruptions during the lapse are addressed when operations resume.
- Parks and tourism: Sleeping Bear Dunes and other units return to normal operations after funding resumes.

4 - What Is Funded Now vs Later

- Funded for the full fiscal year now: Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction - VA.
- Funded temporarily under the CR: all other departments and agencies at current rates through late January.
- Not decided in this bill: ACA subsidy policy. Separate vote track signaled by leadership.
- Practical effect: paychecks resume for affected federal employees; state and local program partners get reimbursement paths; procurement and grants continue subject to CR limitations.

5 - Federal Workers and Paychecks

- Back pay is authorized and required for federal personnel whose pay was delayed during the lapse.
- Agencies must rescind RIF or layoff notices issued due to the lapse and notify employees about restored status and pay.
- Federal contractors are typically not automatically covered by back pay in a CR. Watch for specific agency guidance on contract modifications.
- Expect OMB and agency memos to detail timelines for pay, leave adjustments, and benefit corrections.

6 - Parks, Tourism, and Local Economy

- National Park Service operations in Michigan return to normal staffing and services under the CR.
- Backlogged permits and maintenance may take time to clear. Local businesses near parks typically see a quick rebound once visitor services restore.

7 - What Happens Next in the House and Senate

- Senate cleared the 60-vote procedural hurdle (Vote 610) and moved the package forward.
- House leadership must schedule debate and votes. Given narrow margins, watch the rule vote and possible amendment attempts.
- If both chambers pass the same text, it goes to the President for signature; if the House amends, the Senate will need to concur or conference.

8 - Politics and Public Mood

- Pro argument: end concrete harm fast (paychecks, SNAP administration, VA and MilCon stability).
- Con argument: leverage on health policy reduced by moving a clean CR with a later promise of a vote.
- Middle-ground framing: take certainty now, legislate remaining disputes on their own track with transparent up-or-down votes.

Sources (for on-screen and description boxes)

- U.S. Senate - Roll Call Vote 610 (H.R. 5371 vehicle).
- Senate Appropriations - Bill text and section references (Sec.106(3), Sec.116, Sec.118, Sec.120).
- Major outlets summarizing the deal and vote math (Politico, TIME, Guardian, CBS).
- Michigan program impacts: MDHHS, Bridge Michigan, Michigan Advance, NPS alerts.
- University of Michigan survey coverage on consumer sentiment (context).