



# FIRST 100 DAYS

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## NACo Webinar Series | Week 8

MARCH 20, 2025

## Recent Executive Action: Education Department

Overview of EO	County Role in Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directs Department of Education Secretary to focus on facilitating the closure of the Department</li><li>• Emphasizes need to return education authority to the states</li><li>• Limit use of funds for DEI activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Counties invest \$103 billion annually to support education</li><li>• In a handful of states, counties are directly responsible for operating public schools</li><li>• Counties support local workforce development board</li></ul>

***While President Trump can sign an Executive Order to reshape the Education Department, the entire agency CANNOT be abolished unless Congress passes legislation that addresses the laws establishing the Department***

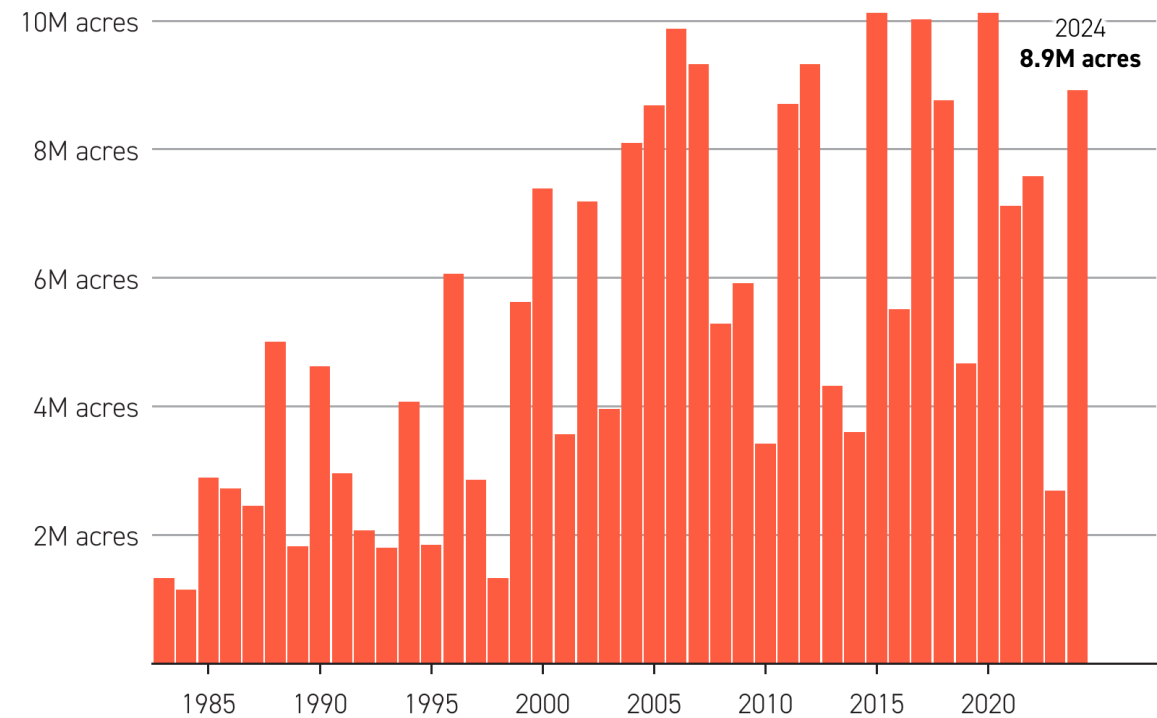
## Recent Executive Action: Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness

### OVERVIEW

- **National Resilience Strategy:** Focus on risk-informed infrastructure investments and preparedness, replacing the traditional all-hazards approach
- **Critical Infrastructure Policy Overhaul:** Critical infrastructure policies will be reviewed to better align with local priorities
- **National Continuity Policy Review:** Existing continuity of government policies will be updated to streamline federal preparedness functions and modernize resilience planning
- **Preparedness and Response Evaluation:** National preparedness doctrines will be reviewed and recommendations produced on how to best align federal strategies
- **National Risk Register:** A comprehensive register will be developed to assess and quantify risks to critical infrastructure, shaping future federal, state, and private sector investment priorities
- **Simplified Federal Coordination Framework:** DHS will recommend changes to how federal preparedness functions are organized to reduce confusion and improve state and local engagement

## Millions of acres burn in wildfires each year

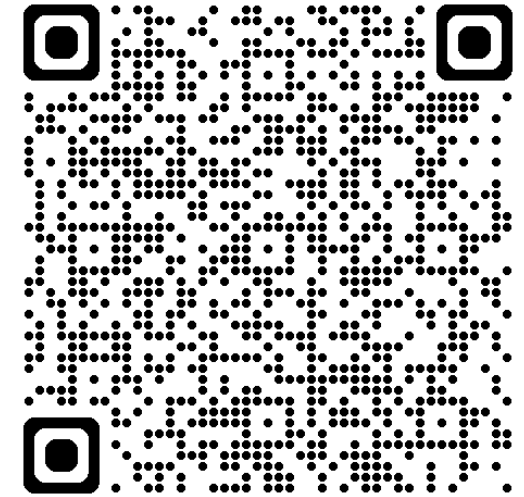
Acres burned by total wildland fires annually in the United States



Source: National Interagency Coordination Center  
Paroma Soni/POLITICO

## Recent Executive Action: #14225 “Freeing Our Forests”

- **Timber Production and Forest Management Directive**
  - Within 30 days, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture must issue updated guidance to enhance timber production, streamline delivery and reduce supply uncertainty
  - Utilize tools like Good Neighbor Authority, stewardship contracting and Tribal Forest Protection Act agreements
  - Aims to expedite approvals under the Endangered Species Act
- **Forest Management and Wildfires Risk**
  - Strengthens strategies to prevent and combat wildfires, following the destructive California fires
  - Supports funding for wildfire suppression efforts in the Forest Service and Department of the Interior – builds upon previous efforts
  - Encourages active forest management to mitigate wildfire risks and improve land condition

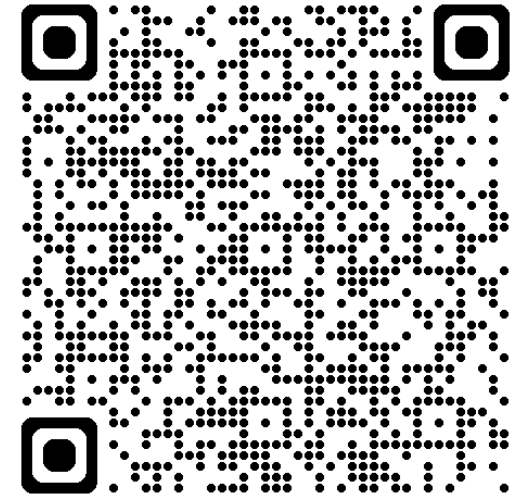


Fact Sheet: Executive Order #14225  
“Immediate Expansion of American  
Timber Production”

## Recent Executive Action: “Freeing Our Forests”

### POTENTIAL IMPACT ON COUNTIES

- **Faster project approvals:** Due to reduced environmental and ESA reviews, project implementation may be expedited
- **Environmental and safety concerns:** Although increased logging may assist in wildfire mitigation, it could impact current ecological structure of a region.
- **Infrastructure development:** Additional/more accessible timber may lower construction costs due to surplus in resources
- **Economic boost for rural areas:** Counties with significant forested land could see an increase in timber-related jobs and economic activity.
- **ONGOING CHALLENGE:** Funding freeze and firing of USFS employees could impede efforts to harvest additional timber on public lands



Fact Sheet: Executive Order #14225  
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## Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)

- On March 12, EPA announced it will work with the Army Corps of Engineers to solicit public comment to revise WOTUS rule
- **New rule seeks to implement 2023 ruling Sackett v. EPA** – Narrowed the scope under CWA to limit jurisdiction over wetlands
- Definition of WOTUS directly impacts counties as owners and operators of water infrastructure
- Counties' ability to build and maintain infrastructure could be **subject to the federal permitting process depending on whether waters within county boundaries meet the definition of WOTUS**

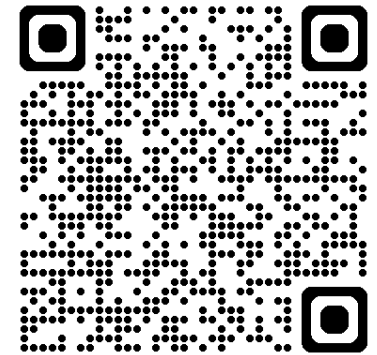
*“WOTUS” is used in the Clean Water Act (CWA) to determine which waters are subject to federal jurisdiction*



## Additional Environmental Regulations

In addition to WOTUS, the Administration announced the rollback of other environmental regulations, aiming to reduce regulatory burdens on various industries. Key changes include:

- **Repeal of Emission Limits for Power Plants:** EPA rescinded emission standards for coal-fired power plants, potentially extending the operational life of older facilities
- **Weakening of Vehicle Emission Standards:** Greenhouse gas emission standards for light- and heavy-duty vehicles for model years 2027 and beyond were rolled back, impacting future automotive pollution controls
- **Reconsideration of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding:** The EPA signaled intentions to challenge the 2009 scientific finding that greenhouse gas emissions pose a public health risk, a cornerstone of many existing climate regulations



EPA Press Release on  
Deregulatory Initiative



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## Congress passes “Full-Year” Continuing Resolution

- **Largely extends FY 2024 spending levels**
  - **Defense Spending:** \$893 billion (+\$6 billion from FY 2024)
  - **Non-Defense Spending:** \$708 billion (-\$13 billion from FY 2024)
- **Anomalies and extensions**
  - Extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through September 30
  - \$22.5 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF)
  - \$7.6 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
  - \$15 million for election security grants

Reduction in non-defense spending is largely through the removal of congressionally directed spending, or “earmarks”

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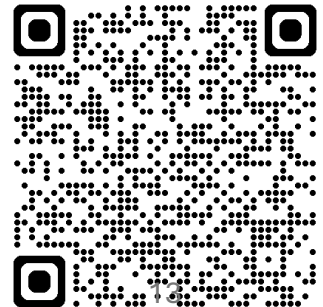
## House CR – County Impacts

- **Eliminates bipartisan federal earmarks:**
  - \$890M in healthcare grants for hospitals and clinics
  - \$293M in FEMA disaster mitigation funding
  - \$116M in Small Business Administration funding
  - \$107M in workforce development projects
  - Tribal assistance, clean water projects, and law enforcement grants also cut
- No additional **disaster aid** for wildfire or hurricane recovery
- No Reauthorization of **Secure Rural Schools**
- Delay in **Disproportionate Share Hospital** payment cut

## What's at Stake for Counties in Budget Reconciliation?

- **House Budget Plan: “One big, beautiful bill”**
  - **\$4.5T** for new and extended tax provisions and spending increases
  - **Up to \$2T** in mandatory spending cuts, including Medicaid & social services
  - **\$2.8T** net increase in federal debt
- **Senate Budget Plan: “Two bill approach”**
  - **Bill 1:** \$340B with \$175B border security, \$150B defense & \$20B Coast Guard
  - **Bill 1:** Requires other Senate committees to find funding offsets or pay-fors
  - **Bill 2:** TBD, focused on making permanent the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act

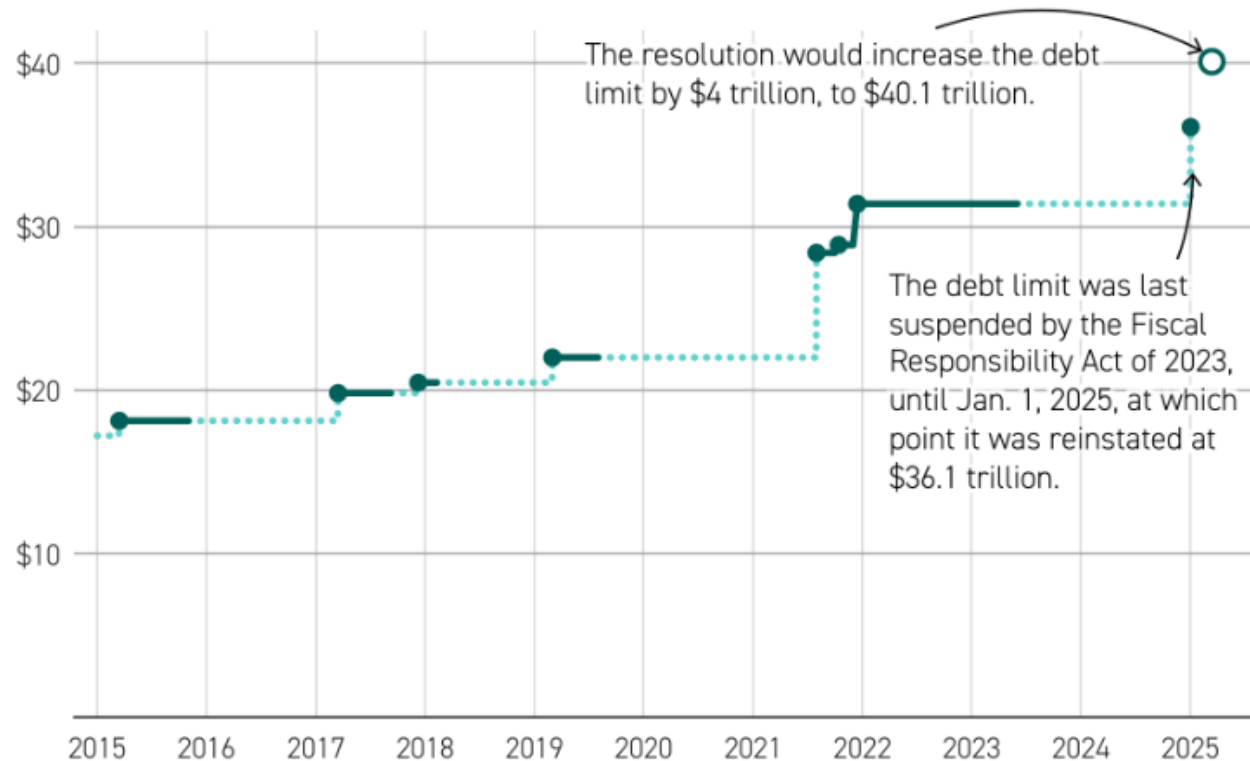
*Scan for more  
information on the  
budget reconciliation  
process and what this  
mean for counties*



# First 100 Days

## House Republican budget resolution would raise debt limit by \$4T

Debt limit, trillions of dollars



*The Congressional Budget Office is planning to release the projected date the current Debt Ceiling will be reached next week*



Source: Congressional Research Service, Bipartisan Policy Center, U.S. Treasury Department  
Taylor Miller Thomas/POLITICO

## What Are the Differences?

1. Medicaid funding - *\$880 billion vs. Reduced cuts?*
2. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 tax provisions – *Extension vs. Permanent?*
3. Funding for the Pentagon - *\$150 billion vs. \$100 billion*
4. Debt limit – *\$4 trillion raise vs. Leave out of reconciliation?*
5. Timing – *April or August?*

## What's at Stake for Counties in Budget Reconciliation?

- **Municipal Bond Tax Exemption** – Possible elimination as a \$364B revenue raiser
- **State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction** – Many different scenarios being discussed
- **Medicaid** – Funding reductions, eligibility restrictions, work requirements and more
- **County Energy Credits & Funding** – Rollback of Inflation Reduction Act incentives
- **Human Service Programs** – SNAP, TANF, SSBG cuts and flexibility for county-run programs
- **Everything else should also be considered on the table!**

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**Next 100 Days Call –  
Thursday, March 27 a 3 PM ET**