



# Policy Insider

A biweekly webinar series on federal and intergovernmental policy.

April 9, 2026

## Appropriations

- Fund all DHS except for \$5.5 billion in ICE
  - Senate Republicans would fund ICE through reconciliation
- House rejected Senate's proposal
- President Trump issued memorandum for paychecks to DHS employees
- Congress returns to Washington April 14
- House must pass bipartisan Senate-approved bill to end DHS shutdown

As of today, DHS  
has been  
shutdown for 54  
days – the longest  
shutdown a federal  
agency has  
experienced in  
history

## Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- September 30, 2026 is the deadline for Congress to pass a new bill or extend at existing levels.
- No committee of jurisdiction has put out its base text, either in the House of Representatives or the Senate
- Chairman Graves of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and Chairman Capito of the Senate Environment & Public Works are still committed to advancing a bill this spring and passing legislation by the end of this year
- This bill will affect billions of dollars in spending for roads, bridges, public transit and more



QR Code for NACo's Surface  
Transportation Reauthorization  
Hub

## Surface Transportation Reauthorization

### NACo's Top Ask: Include the *BASICS Act* in the Reauthorization Bill

- Led by Reps. McDonald Rivet (D-Mich.) and Bresnahan (R-Pa.)
- Would increase formula funding that is “suballocated” or made available to regions for use in locally led projects
- Expands the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, and adds a new suballocation requirement to formula programs for bridge funding and safety funding.
- Includes process reforms to ensure that counties—especially rural counties—can access formula funds that are intended for them
- NACo is asking members to advocate for the bill with their Members of Congress, including by asking them to cosponsor the bill.



QR Code for NACo's *BASICS Act* blog and template letter

## Elections – Executive Order

- DHS and SSA must compile verified citizen voter eligibility – 60 days before each federal election
  - 90 days for DHS to build citizenship list
- USPS must initiate rulemaking on new mail ballot standards – envelope markings, barcode and design (60 days proposed rule, 120 days final rule)
- DOJ directed to prioritize investigations and prosecution of ballots cast by ineligible voters
- States and localities must preserve voter participation record for 5 years
- Non-compliance may result in federal funds being withheld
- **County impact:** New federal standards may require changes to existing mail ballot proceeds and systems

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general and  
Pennsylvania  
governor filed  
suit to block the  
EO – Case  
expected to  
reach the  
Supreme Court

## WIOA reauthorization

- Introduced in House – April 6
- WIOA hasn't been reauthorized in over 10 years
- Reauthorization bill mirrors 2024 version:
  - One-size-fits-all federal mandates on youth training and work-experience
  - Governors could redirect an additional 10 percent of WIOA Title I funding to states – reducing local share
  - Re-designation of Local Workforce Development Areas may allow single-area state designations
  - Adult education and literacy programs shifted from Education Department to DOL
- Mark up is expected in the coming weeks

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## President's FY 2027 budget request

*Last week, President Trump released the FY 2027 budget request. Notable items include:*

- Requests \$1.5 trillion for defense funding (44 percent increase)
- Cuts non-defense spending by \$73 billion (10 percent decrease):
  - Eliminates the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - Eliminates the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
  - Cuts FEMA non-disaster grant programs
  - Eliminates the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs
  - Cuts \$1.7 billion in state and local grants at the DOJ
  - Cuts the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds by \$2.5 billion
  - Ends funding for the USDOT's BUILD program
  - Eliminate election security grants under HAVA



*Scan for NACo's preliminary overview of the president's budget request*



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