



The Budget Reconciliation Struggle Continues



Early on the morning of April 5, the Senate passed its version of a budget resolution with a **narrow 51-48 vote**. All Democrats, along with Republican Senators Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky, voted against it. Every amendment proposed by the Democratic caucus was rejected.

However, the resolution still faces significant hurdles, as the House and Senate must reconcile their versions to pass a joint budget resolution.

Disagreements over Medicaid cuts are the primary point of contention. The House has tasked the Energy & Commerce Committee with reducing the deficit by \$880 billion, which would require substantial cuts to the program. Many Republican senators have expressed opposition to any bill that would result in cuts to Medicaid. While the Senate passed an amendment, 51-48, stating it would protect Medicaid for "the most vulnerable populations," it failed to define which...

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Changes to the FTA Master Agreement (Version 32)



On March 26, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released an updated version of their master agreement. The changes reflect the effects of the following Executive Orders signed by President Trump: [EO 14173](#) - Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, [EO 14168](#) - Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and [EO 14224](#) - Designating English as the Official Language of the United States.

Most changes relate to the removal of the term "gender identity," Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) language, and adjustments to reflect English as the official language of the United States. You can find the changes at this [link](#).

Review the changes

Secretary Duffy Under Pressure at Senate Hearing



SENATE

Earlier this month, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy appeared before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill. During the hearing, Duffy faced scrutiny from both parties: Republicans challenged the federal environmental regulations, while Democrats raised concerns about previously approved projects now being revisited in light of climate change, environmental justice, equity, and diversity considerations.

Duffy expressed a desire to reassess grants relating to "green and social justice" that had been previously awarded by the Biden Administration. Reports of an internal memo at the U.S. Department of Transportation suggest they are reviewing projects for "potential removal" which involve green infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, electric vehicles, greenhouse gas reduction, and improving conditions for those affected by pollution.

Safe Streets for All NOFO



NOFO

On March 28, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released the final Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year 2025. The submission deadline is **June 26, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET**. Notably, the USDOT states that they will give less priority to projects which reduce lane capacity for vehicles. Additional updates include the elimination of rolling deadlines, a reduction in the maximum award for planning and demonstration grants from \$10 million to \$5 million, the term "underserved communities" will now use the same [definition](#) as area of persistent poverty, updated action plan requirements for planning and demonstration grants, and rescinding references to Executive Orders from the Biden Administration.

[Read the full document](#)

Data Collection: Employers and Commuter Benefits



COMMUTER BENEFITS

Attention employers: ACT is currently seeking information on commuter benefits usage to assist with our advocacy efforts. It is crucial that we provide Congressional office with as much data as possible in order to make a convincing argument to protect the benefit.

Please complete the survey [here](#). All data will be aggregated and anonymous.

Thank You – ACT Members' Advocacy



ACT would like to express our gratitude to our members who have actively advocated for the preservation of commuter benefits and supported ACT's Surface Transportation Reauthorization goals. We appreciate the various letters sent, Congressional offices called, and virtual meetings attended by our dedicated members. We would like to highlight David Judd for meeting with Rep. Tom Kean Jr.'s (R-NJ-7) office and Kathleen Grier for meeting with Sen. Blunt Rochester's (D-DE) office.

ACT is always available to help with your advocacy efforts. Please reach out to Emma Wasserman, ACT's Government Affairs and Policy Manager, for assistance.

Contact Emma

Resources for Federal Funding Effects

As ACT continues to support our members through navigating federal funding cuts, we would like to share the following websites for your review. These sites highlight projects nationwide that have been impacted by the significant reductions in federal funding. Please take a moment to explore the links below and check the status of projects in question.

<https://theimpactproject.org/the-impact-map/>

<https://grist.org/accountability/climate-infrastructure-ira-bil-map-tool/>

Early 2025 Special Elections Signal Potential Voter Shifts



Over the past month, a series of special elections across the country have offered a glimpse into American voters' attitudes at the start of President Trump's second term.

Among the most closely watched races were those held on April 1, which included two open U.S. House seats in Florida and a pivotal election to decide the partisan majority of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

In Florida, the first and sixth congressional districts saw open seats following the resignations of Republican Representatives Matt Gaetz and Michael Waltz. Gaetz stepped down after a failed bid for U.S. Attorney General and amid ethics concerns, while Waltz was appointed as President Trump's national security advisor. Both districts, considered Republican strongholds, were...

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