



## Executive Orders and Legal Challenges: Where Does It All Stand?



With over 80 Executive Orders signed by President Trump just shy of his two-month mark in office, it can be hard to keep track of the ongoing legal challenges surrounding them.

Below is an update on some key Executive Orders and their current status in the courts.

### ***Federal Funding Freeze***

Seven of President Trump's Executive Orders called for pausing the distribution of federal funds in some capacity. This prompted a memo from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) freezing all federal funds so the administration could assess which programs didn't align with their agenda and should therefore be terminated. A particularly significant order for transportation funding is [EO 14154](#) titled "Unleashing American Energy," which paused funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/BIL), a major source of...

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## Budget Reconciliation Process Underway



The budget reconciliation process is currently underway in Congress (read more about the reconciliation process [here](#)).

In a narrow 217-215 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget resolution which authorizes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts through 2034 (with all but one Republican voting in favor and all Democrats voting against).

To offset the cost of these tax cuts, House committees are tasked with identifying \$2 trillion in government spending reductions. In order to move the budget resolution forward, the Senate and House must adopt the same version of the bill.

From the outset, the House and Senate have been at odds over their approach: the House setting out to pass "one big, beautiful bill" and the Senate hoping to pass two separate...

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## Looming Government Shutdown



As of March 11, Republicans successfully garnered enough support from their caucus, helped by a lone Democrat (Rep. Jared Golden of Maine), to pass legislation which would fund the government until September 30th, 2025. With government funding set to expire at midnight on Saturday, March 15, the legislation now heads to the Senate, where Democratic backing will be necessary to avert a shutdown. Senate Democrats are divided on their approach, with Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania already pledging his support for the House-passed bill. The Senate will likely vote on Friday, just hours before the deadline.

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## The Uncertain Fate of NYC's Congestion Pricing



On February 19, the U.S. Department of Transportation revoked its previous approval of New York's Congestion Pricing Plan following President Trump's directive for an additional review. The Trump Administration required the termination of the new program by March 21. In response, two advocacy groups—the Sierra Club and the Riders Alliance—filed a lawsuit against the administration, arguing that the decision to terminate the previously approved program was unlawful.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has also announced plans to challenge the Trump Administration's reversal in federal court.

The congestion pricing program launched on January 5, and has been widely regarded as a major success by transportation professionals and advocates alike. The program imposes higher tolls on vehicles entering Manhattan through the "Congestion Relief Zone" (south of 60<sup>th</sup> Street) during peak hours, using the revenue generated to fund public transportation initiatives. In its first month alone, the program raised nearly \$50 million and reduced traffic congestion within the zone by 7.5%.

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## USDOT Climate Change Center to Close

In late February, the Climate Change Center at the U.S. Department of Transportation was abruptly shut down. While the USDOT has not responded to questions, the Climate Change Center's website has gone dark, and reports from staff indicate that other operations have ceased as well. The Climate Change Center was established over ten years ago, and, in particular, played a pivotal role during the Biden Administration when \$13 billion was dedicated to climate programs through the



The center was instrumental in helping state and local governments navigate federal funding for climate programs. Its closure marks a setback in the fight against climate change and global warming, eliminating a crucial resource used for the furthering of climate and sustainability goals.

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