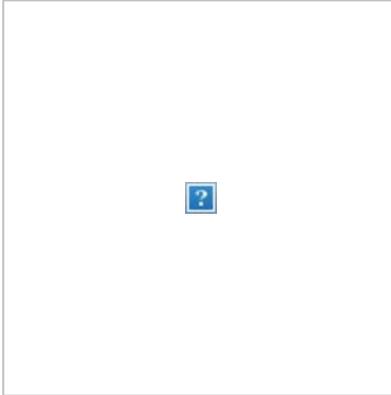


Subject: Senate Set to Kick Off Budget "Vote-A-Rama" Later Today
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The TRP Tip Sheet

April 4, 2025

Featuring a daily Capitol Hill update, news clips from our Washington insiders, and links to our trove of federal policy resources.

QUICK TAKES

- **SENATE SET TO KICK OFF BUDGET 'VOTE-A-RAMA' LATER TODAY.** The Senate is poised for weekend work on the updated budget resolution and nominations.
- **TRP SPECIAL REPORT: TRUMP ANNOUNCES RECIPROCAL TARIFFS.** Click [here](#) to read the special report.
- **HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES AI INNOVATION.** Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.
- **TRUMP 2.0 EXECUTIVE ORDERS & PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.** Click to view TRP's running tracking [document](#) of the Trump administration EOs and other prominent executive actions.
- **FEMA HALTS GRANT PROGRAM THAT SPENT BILLIONS ON DISASTER PROTECTION.** The agency will not allocate the \$750 million that was planned for BRIC grants this year.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

— **SENATE SET TO KICK OFF BUDGET 'VOTE-A-RAMA' LATER TODAY.** The Senate is poised for weekend work as Republicans look to pass an updated budget resolution to kick off the reconciliation process for "one big, beautiful bill" to enact President Donald Trump's legislative priorities. Late yesterday, the Senate voted 52-48 to advance the updated budget resolution, with Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) crossing over to join Democrats in opposition. The marathon "vote-a-rama" amendment debate is expected to begin this evening and run into Saturday. Given the timing of the rapid-fire amendment debate, it is increasingly likely that the Senate will remain in session through the weekend to resume consideration of pending

presidential nominations once the updated resolution gets adopted.

- **Situational awareness.** Sen. Paul's opposition to the updated budget resolution stems from fiscal concerns, specifically surrounding the use of the "current policy baseline" as a means for permanently extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) without demonstrating a significant budgetary impact. His sentiments are also echoed by some deficit hawks within the House Freedom Caucus, some of whom could create math problems in the final vote if they hold firm and vote against the updated resolution. Nevertheless, it is expected that the budget resolution clears the Senate with relative ease once consideration of amendments wraps up. If this resolution gets adopted by both chambers, reconciliation legislation from instructed committees will be due by Friday, May 9.
- **Meanwhile...** The House will gavel back in on Monday as GOP lawmakers look to break an intraparty squabble over proxy voting for parents of newborns in the House. After Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL) and eight GOP lawmakers voted against a rule that would have "turned off" the discharge petition process in order to kill a petition she was circulating to allow remote voting in the House for new parents, House leadership is set to try again on the same rule next week. However, it is expected that leadership will add the Senate's budget resolution to the underlying rule, upping the stakes of this procedural vote and essentially daring the nine GOP rebels to vote against the Trump administration's agenda.
- **What to watch.** After President Trump offered his support for Rep. Luna's proxy voting policy yesterday, Rep. Luna and Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) reportedly made progress toward an agreement to adjust the legislation within her discharge petition to limit proxy voting only for newborn mothers in the House. However, this has done little to assuage opposition from Rep. Luna's former colleagues on the Freedom Caucus, who have railed against the use of proxy voting on the grounds of unconstitutionality. As such, House business could remain at a standstill until this issue is resolved next week.

WHAT WE'RE TRACKING

NEW TODAY...

— **HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES AI INNOVATION.** On April 2, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing to discuss the future of artificial intelligence (AI) innovation. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE DISCUSSES INVESTMENT.** On April 2, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing to discuss policies to spur capital investment and public-private partnerships. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON ENERGY.** On April 2, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to discuss policy solutions for "unleashing American energy dominance." Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **TRP SPECIAL REPORT: TRUMP ANNOUNCES RECIPROCAL TARIFFS.** TRP's new [Special Report](#) tracks all of the latest tariff announcements from the Trump administration, as well as the rates from yesterday's reciprocal tariff announcement.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS...

— **COLE POSTS FY 2026 MEMBER REQUEST GUIDANCE.** House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) posted Member guidance to participate in the annual appropriations process through the submission of programmatic, language, and Community Project Funding requests. The portal will officially open on Monday, April 14, and subcommittee-specific guidelines & deadlines can be viewed [here](#).

— **E&C HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES OTC DRUGS.** On April 1, the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to examine the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) over-the-counter (OTC) monograph drug regulations. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **HFSC SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES TOOLS TO FIGHT FRAUD.** On April 1, the House Financial Services (HFSC) Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing to discuss tools and techniques to combat financial fraud. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **OVERSIGHT PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON AI ENERGY NEEDS.** On April 1, the House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing to examine the energy needs and economic implications of AI. Click [here](#) to read TRP's hearing summary.

— **TRUMP ORDER ESTABLISHES 'INVESTMENT ACCELERATOR.'** President Trump signed an executive order ([EO](#)) establishing the new United States Investment Accelerator within the Department of Commerce to assist with large-scale investments over \$1 billion, as well as oversee the CHIPS Program Office.

— **TRUMP SIGNS ORDER TO ADDRESS LIVE TICKETING COMPETITION.** The White House issued an [order](#) directing federal agencies to act against unfair and anti-competitive practices in the live event ticketing industry.

- A joint report on implementation and recommendations from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Treasury Department, and Department of Justice is due within 180 days.

WHAT WE'RE READING

[E&E News: FEMA halts grant program that spent billions on disaster protection \(\\$\)](#)

The Trump administration is canceling a popular grant program that has given states and communities billions of dollars to protect against natural disasters, according to an internal document obtained by POLITICO's E&E News. Federal Emergency Management Agency acting Administrator Cameron Hamilton wrote in a memo Thursday that the agency will not allocate the \$750 million that was planned this year for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grants. The BRIC program funds local projects that reduce damage from flooding, tornadoes and other weather-related events. FEMA also will stop funding projects that were previously approved for BRIC grants and are still underway, Hamilton wrote. The cancellation is the Trump administration's latest blow to FEMA, which provides tens of billions of dollars a year in disaster aid and grants. The administration has also frozen \$10 billion in disaster aid for nonprofits, including hospitals, as it scrutinizes FEMA programs for potentially helping undocumented migrants. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has floated shrinking or dissolving the agency, saying in March, "We're going to eliminate FEMA."

[The New York Times: Judge Blocks H.H.S. From Terminating \\$11 Billion in Public Health Grants](#)

A federal judge on Thursday temporarily barred the Department of Health and Human Services from terminating a variety of public health funds that had been allocated to states

during the Covid-19 pandemic, finding that the move had left those states stranded and unable to provide critical health services. Ruling from the bench during a hearing on Thursday, Judge Mary S. McElroy of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island said a coalition of Democratic states had easily demonstrated that the cuts had upended their public health infrastructure and jeopardized everything from childhood vaccination programs to opioid addiction treatment almost overnight. On Tuesday, 23 states and the District of Columbia had filed a lawsuit pushing back against the Trump administration's decision last week to cancel at least \$11 billion in federal grants. The Trump administration had said that the funding was no longer necessary because the government's pandemic emergency declaration had officially expired nearly two years ago.

Bloomberg: US Energy Chief Plans to Use Federal Land to Build Data Centers

The Trump administration unveiled plans Thursday to use Energy Department land and resources to build data centers for artificial intelligence. The Energy Department said it's exploring using thousands of acres of federal land nationwide that are positioned to quickly develop data-centers, in part because the government can fast-track permitting for nuclear reactors and other power plants to run the facilities. ... Quickly building enough power plants to meet the expected surge in electricity demand is among the biggest challenges facing Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Microsoft Corp., Meta Platforms Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and others as they push to develop massive data center to underpin AI development. The nation's biggest utility, NextEra Energy Inc., has forecast US power demand will grow 55% over the next 20 years. The Energy Department said it identified 16 sites nationwide ideal to build data centers, including sprawling campuses of national laboratories such as the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in central New Jersey, nuclear sites in South Carolina and Texas and former uranium enrichment plants in Kentucky and Ohio.

The New York Times: Trump's Trade War Escalates as China Retaliates With 34% Tariffs

China has struck back at President Trump. On Friday evening in Beijing, in a rapid-fire series of policy announcements including 34 percent across-the-board tariffs, China showed that it has no intention of backing down in the trade war that Mr. Trump began this week with his own steep tariffs on imports from around the world. China's Finance Ministry said it will match Mr. Trump's plan for 34 percent tariffs on goods from China with its own 34 percent tariff on imports from the United States. Separately, China's Ministry of Commerce said it was adding 11 American companies to its list of "unreliable entities," essentially barring them from doing business in China or with Chinese companies. The ministry imposed a licensing system to restrict exports of seven rare earth elements that are mined and processed almost exclusively in China and are used in everything from electric cars to smart bombs.

The Washington Post: Social Security faces thousands more job cuts even with service in tailspin

The Social Security Administration — already reeling from plunging customer service following a rapid downsizing under the Trump administration — is drafting plans to begin layoffs of potentially thousands more employees as soon as next week. The cuts have been ordered by leaders of Elon Musk's cost-cutting team, the U.S. DOGE Service, which reviewed the agency's plans to shrink its workforce last week, according to four agency officials familiar with the conversations, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the plans. DOGE determined that the 7,000 jobs eliminated since February under acting commissioner Leland Duke through early retirements, buyouts, resignations and firings were not enough, the officials said. The DOGE team, which has amassed unprecedented power throughout the federal government, has demanded significantly deeper cuts to ensure that Social Security meets President Donald Trump's goal to shrink federal agencies, officials said. Duke had told the remaining Social Security workforce of about 50,000 in March that he hoped to avoid layoffs known as reductions in

force, or RIFs, altogether. But that changed in recent days, when agency leaders were notified that they needed to propose a “more extensive RIF proposal,” one official said.

POLITICO: What tech really wants from Washington on AI (\$)

While most of D.C. was focused on President Donald Trump’s tariff announcement, hundreds of representatives from the tech sector and government, plus a handful of lawmakers, holed up in Washington to sketch out their priorities for bolstering AI development in the United States. There, the tech industry laid out its congressional wish list — more energy, less regulatory hurdles for AI infrastructure and a focus on workforce training and adoption — and lawmakers responded. Here’s a look at the highlights: — Energy, energy, energy: During his opening remarks, Guthrie (R-Ky.) promised to focus this Congress on keeping all available energy online (coal included), spend more on nuclear energy and enact permanent reforms that give companies the confidence to invest in domestic AI infrastructure, such as data centers, wind farms and solar projects. ...The Trump administration’s overall energy policy touts “energy abundance,” or making America an energy powerhouse by lifting “undue burdens” on oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear energy and other resources — a theme that’s emerged as a key pillar of its AI policy, too. At the American Dynamism Summit last month, Vice President JD Vance laid out a Trump 2.0 vision of AI centered around energy, tax policy and workers. ... Guthrie is already in talks with Energy Secretary Chris Wright on how to build bipartisan consensus around permitting reforms and building more data centers in the U.S., he told reporters afterwards. Guthrie will use next Wednesday’s hearing on AI’s energy needs and national security, featuring testimony from ScaleAI CEO Alexandr Wang and former CEO of Google Eric Schmidt, to get further input from industry. (Guthrie also met with Mark Zuckerberg on Tuesday amid the Meta CEO’s Washington lobbying blitz, where they discussed China and AI.)

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