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WEEKLY CURRENT

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Issues Making a Splash This Week

- **Tax Policy is Coming (Eventually):** House Republicans and Senate Democrats both spotlighted tax packages this week. Whether it's the beginning of negotiations for a tax package this year or in 2025 remains to be seen.
- **Regulatory Agenda Signals Sprint to Finish:** The Biden administration's latest semi-annual regulatory agenda suggests the volume of rulemakings will not slow as the 2024 campaign ramps up.
- **Are We Headed for Another Government Shutdown?:** House Republicans' decision to mark up appropriations bills at FY22 levels, below the caps adopted in the deal to raise the debt ceiling, has raised the risk of a government shutdown after the start of the next fiscal year.

A TAX NEGOTIATION THIS YEAR OR IN 2025?: The debt ceiling and fiscal responsibility were so yesterday's fads. It's all about tax cuts now. House Republicans and Senate Democrats put forth respective tax proposals this week.

The House Ways and Means Committee marked up and passed a series of tax bills on a party-line vote. The [Build It in America Act](#) would restore business tax benefits through 2025, like R&D expensing (made retroactive to the start of 2022), EBITDA cap on interest deductibility, and 100 percent bonus depreciation. It also repeals provisions from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including the Hazardous Substance Superfund, the clean electricity production tax credit (PTC), and clean electricity investment tax credit (ITC). It also modifies the IRA's electric vehicle tax credit.

The [Small Business Jobs Act](#) increases the 1099-K reporting requirement from \$600 to \$5,000, expands the benefits and beneficiaries of exclusion for gain from qualified small business stock (QSBS), increases immediate expensing for small businesses from \$1 million to \$2.5 million, and expands Opportunity Zones to rural communities.

Finally, the [Tax Cuts For Working Families Act](#) creates a new \$4,000 guaranteed deduction bonus for the next two years on top of the standard deduction for households earning less than \$480,000 per year.

The legislation over 10 years would cost just \$21 billion, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. But in reality, the cost is front-loaded with budget gimmicks. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the [legislation costs](#) \$320 billion through FY25 and over \$1 trillion if the temporary provisions were made permanent.

The bills would cost a combined \$21 billion over a decade on net after offsets, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, a price tag that comes on the heels of a debt limit debate in which Republicans pressed to reduce budget shortfalls. **For most Republicans, tax cuts don't count towards the deficits.** House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) [said](#), "I look at it from the perspective of that if Washington is not taking your money, it's much more efficient used by you."

Of course, Democrats categorically dismissed this legislative package. House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA) [described it](#) as the "GOP Tax Scam 2.0." Most Senate Democrats this week sponsored the [Work Families Tax Relief Act](#). The legislation would make permanent the American Rescue Plan's enhanced Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Making these two provisions permanent [would cost](#) more than \$1.7 trillion over 10 years. It's a clear no-go from the GOP.

So what are these dueling proposals all about? **These bills serve four purposes. First, it's meant to appease the respective donor bases.** Despite the populist tilt of the GOP, it's still a tax cut party. Build Back Better (BBB) will never die with the big Democratic players. **Second, it's positioning for the 2024 election.** Voters prefer Republicans over Democrats when it comes to handling the economy. The GOP wants to continue to hammer home "Bidenflation" and offer a contrasting message. Democrats see their BBB agenda as a winner politically (even if dashed last Congress) and a good contrast to the GOP tax plan.

Third, these bills serve as negotiation markers for a year-end tax package. Finally, these bills serve as negotiation markers for a 2025 tax package. The latter tax package is coming, regardless. Trillions in tax provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) and IRA expire after 2025. **The tax outlook will vary based on the outcome of the 2024 elections. There's a large range of tax outcomes from a Republican budget reconciliation bill, Democratic budget reconciliation bill, and a negotiated compromise bill via regular order under divided government.**

The more immediate question is if a tax package is possible this year. **There is always a deal to be had on less politicized tax policy.** Many Democrats support R&D expensing, increasing 1099-K thresholds, and a higher standard deduction. Many Republicans support some version of the CTC. There are other family- and community-focused tax policies, like the new markets tax credit and affordable housing tax credits that could garner bipartisan support. **There could also be a catalyst, like a recession, that could create momentum for a modest tax package.**

However, as of now, even a less politicized and narrow tax package faces an uphill climb. Bipartisan tax policy can often fail to reach escape velocity (just see the dashed expectations from last year's lame duck session). It's not just about winning bipartisan support, it's also about winning support of tax committee leaders and party leaders who need to give the okay to bring legislation to the floor or attach it to a broader bill. **Right now, Republican and Democratic leadership are not in a place to compromise.** House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is still trying to mend fences with far-right members after his debt ceiling deal. Unlike most Republicans who discount tax cuts, some of these House Freedom Caucus members may not like the deficit implications of a tax package, especially since there's no readily available bipartisan offset. Both Republicans and Democrats could make a plausible case that their hand will be strengthened after the 2024 election. Why cave now when a big tax agenda is coming in 2025? **The dynamics need to change for both sides for something to happen, but it's not out of the realm of possibility and it's worth keeping an eye on.**

BIDEN PREVIEWS ROBUST REGULATORY PUSH: The Biden administration published its semi-annual [Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions](#) (UA) earlier this week and it was a confirmation that the White House has no intention of the administration slowing its torrid pace of rulemaking. **With the loss of**

unified control of Congress, President Biden will continue to elevate the regulatory agenda as he works to bolster his accomplishments and implement his legislative achievements. Several major rulemakings still hang in an unfinished state, which could lead to this fall and next spring proving especially busy periods for the Biden administration's regulatory agenda.

While the dates in the UA are not binding and often missed by regulators, many of the actions listed in the document target being completed by spring 2024. **The reason for this is to minimize the number of regulations that would be subject to repeal pursuant to Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions if Republicans were able to take unified control of the government following the 2024 elections.** Any measures that fall inside this window could simply be undone, a practice that both former President Trump and [Biden employed](#) soon after taking office in 2017 and 2021, respectively. Other rules can also be reversed or not enforced, but for a pro-regulation Democratic administration this often requires going through a notice-and-comment rulemaking process to reverse changes from the prior administration. The exact cut-off date for rules that will be subject to this review will depend on how often Congress is in session next calendar year. In 2020, the date was August 21st, which would suggest that a spring target would give some buffer room for the White House, but any rules not done by next summer could potentially be subject to CRA action.

In addition to this growing time crunch, there are still legal threats to many of the Biden administration's most ambitious rulemaking efforts. These became more acute after last year's Supreme Court ruling in *West Virginia v. EPA*, the result of which has likely forced some agencies to rewrite or at least reconsider how they were going to structure proposals. Some rules, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission's [proposal on climate disclosure](#) or the Federal Trade Commission's [non-compete rule](#), are almost guaranteed to face legal challenges and were likely going to even prior to the Supreme Court's decision. **However, the Supreme Court's ruling has meant that groups feel more emboldened to take the Biden administration to court to challenge its proposals with a judiciary that they feel is more likely to look skeptically upon regulatory actions.** Litigation will ultimately delay the regulations from taking effect and any more controversial rules that are likely to be caught in more lengthy suits could potentially be stuck in court past the end of Biden's first term.

Although the runway is increasingly short, there are still some agencies that are stuck without a Democratic majority or with only an acting head. **Confirmation of Biden's nominees was expected to be easier with a 51-seat majority in the**

Senate, but it has proven to be less smooth than expected. This has, for example, hamstrung [the Federal Communications Commission](#), which has been without a Democratic majority since Biden was elected. Other agencies, such as [the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency](#), have seen a handful of acting heads, but have not had a Senate-confirmed agency director. For all that the Biden administration has achieved, this inability to get nominees across the line, has inevitably meant that some rulemakings have been and will be left unfinished. Some issues that may have been priorities at the start of Biden's presidency will be left untouched due to this failure in the Senate.

Next Wednesday, we will publish a Spotlight Report that will provide a more in-depth analysis of the specific regulations that are worth following for the next few months and what the updates on them included in the most recent UA suggest.

RISK OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN GROWS FOR FY24: Democrats and Republicans reached a deal on topline spending for FY24 as part of debt ceiling negotiations last month, but there still isn't full consensus on the spending caps in the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA). **In markup sessions this week, House Republicans prepared appropriations bills to FY22 levels, teeing up a major funding fight with the Democratic-controlled Senate and raising the risk of a government shutdown.** The [subcommittee allocations](#) announced by House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) on Monday and approved on a party-line vote yesterday amount to about \$1.7 trillion, about \$119 billion less than the topline agreed upon in the FRA. Under Granger's plan, non-defense spending would be cut by \$159 billion below FY23 levels in order to avoid cuts to defense spending. By contrast, the Democratic-controlled Senate plans to write its appropriations bills in accordance with the FRA's spending caps. "We are going to be responsible in the Senate and do the agreement that we agreed to," Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) told Punchbowl News.

If Congress does not pass all 12 appropriations bills by the start of FY24 on October 1st, there's a chance that a government shutdown could result, just in time to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the October 2013 shutdown, which occurred under a Republican House, Democratic Senate, and Democratic White House. **As long as House Republicans remain committed to enacting FY24 spending at FY22 levels, passage of any full-year appropriations by October 1st is unlikely.** To prevent a shutdown, lawmakers will have to come to an understanding on a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open.

Traditionally, CRs are passed at the previous year's funding level, but it's unclear if the right flank of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's (R-CA) conference would go along with a CR at FY23 levels.

The FRA provides an incentive for Congress to enact appropriations legislation under divided government. If lawmakers have not passed FY24 appropriations by January 1st, 2024, then that triggers an automatic CR with one percent spending cuts from FY23 levels across-the-board. **It's important to note that per the text of the FRA, this 99 percent CR would not take effect until April 30th, 2024 or 15 days after appropriations legislation is enacted, whichever comes first.** Such a CR would be seen as a problem by Democrats who don't want to cut social spending as well as defense hawks loath to see the Pentagon get a budget cut. The delay between January and April gives Congress a four-month period to work out the details of appropriations below the topline figures.

We don't expect an eight-month shutdown between the start of FY24 and the 99 percent CR kickoff date at the end of April. But there will be a risk of one or more shutdowns during this period. It's likely to be a challenge for the deeply divided Congress to come to an agreement on funding the government, and lawmakers may not agree on a default CR at 99 percent of FY23 levels on October 1st, which could stave off a shutdown.

McCarthy, facing a fractious GOP conference with narrow margins, is in an unsteady position and can't afford to alienate hardline conservatives by pushing back. Getting Republicans unified behind him on the debt ceiling gave McCarthy a stronger bargaining position with congressional Democrats and the White House. The political dynamics of the appropriations debate are different from the debt ceiling fight though. While a debt default would be a disaster for the US economy, a government shutdown, though a fiscal nuisance, is not unfamiliar and lacks the same existential stakes. It's easier to take a hardline position and stick to it.

Ultimately, House Republicans' stance will likely empower the Senate in the appropriations process. By ignoring the FRA and writing bills to FY22 levels, House GOP appropriators have taken a weak position. Senate GOP leadership has already voiced concerns about the defense spending cap from the FRA, which amounted to \$886 billion. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [told](#) reporters last week that the FRA "radically underfunded" defense. The Senate GOP leader sounded a dismissive tone about House Republicans' efforts this week. "It's not totally uncommon for these to be different as they move through the process.

And I think that's probably what's gonna happen this time," McConnell told Punchbowl News. **With the House taking itself out of the bipartisan appropriations process, the Senate is likely to ultimately craft a deal that would then be pushed onto the lower chamber in the end.**

A Quick Look Back

House

On Monday, the House considered noncontroversial measures under expedited procedures.

On Tuesday, the House voted to pass a resolution that would nullify the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives rule which reclassifies pistols as short-barreled rifles if they have a stabilizing brace attachment and the Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act, which would prohibit the Consumer Product Safety Commission from regulating gas stoves as banned hazardous products or enforcing standards that would prohibit the use or sale of gas stoves. The House also considered the Save Our Gas Stoves Act, which would prohibit the Energy Department from finalizing the proposed rule on new energy efficiency standards for gas stoves and the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, which would modify the federal rulemaking process by preventing all "major rules" from being implemented unless Congress enacts legislation to approve them. Finally, the chamber failed to override the veto message to accompany a measure that would effectively repeal the District of Columbia's new local policing and criminal justice overhaul law.

On Wednesday, the House voted to pass the Save Our Gas Stoves Act and the REINS Act.

On Thursday, the House voted to pass the Separation of Powers Restoration Act, which would effectively overturn the Supreme Court's Chevron doctrine that requires courts to defer to federal agencies' reasonable interpretation with respect to their rulemakings.

Today, the House will not be in session.

Senate

On Monday, the Senate held a procedural vote on the nomination of Elizabeth Allen to be

under secretary of State for public diplomacy.

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to confirm the nominations of Elizabeth Allen to be under secretary of State for public diplomacy, Hernan Vera to be a judge on the Central District Court of California, and Jared Bernstein to be chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. The Senate also held an all-senators briefing on artificial intelligence.

On Wednesday, the Senate voted to confirm the nominations of P. Casey Pitts to be a judge on the Northern District Court of California and Dale Ho to be a judge on the Southern District Court of New York. The chamber also held a procedural vote on the nomination of Nusrat Choudhury to be a judge on the Eastern District Court of New York.

On Thursday, the Senate voted to confirm the nomination of Nusrat Choudhury to be a judge on the Eastern District Court of New York. The Senate also held a procedural vote on the nomination of Julie Rikelman to be a judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Today, the Senate will not be in session.

White House

On Monday, President Biden canceled his public events due to a root canal.

On Tuesday, President Biden met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to discuss the upcoming NATO Summit. Later, the president delivered remarks at a Chiefs of Mission Reception before hosting a Juneteenth concert on the South Lawn.

On Wednesday, President Biden spoke at the League of Conservation Voters' annual Capital Dinner.

On Thursday, President Biden spoke about junk fees. Later, the president and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden delivered remarks at the White House screening of "Flamin' Hot," a biographical comedy-drama film based on the memoir "A Boy, a Burrito, and a Cookie: From Janitor to Executive." Director Eva Longoria also delivered remarks. The cast of the film, families, and Latino community leaders attended too.

Today, President Biden will leave the White House at 11:00 a.m. to travel to West Hartford, CT, where he is expected to arrive at 12:40 p.m. At 2:05 p.m., Biden will deliver keynote remarks at the National Safer Communities Summit. At 5:15 p.m., the president will participate in a campaign reception in Greenwich, CT. At 6:30 p.m., Biden will depart

Connecticut to return to the White House, where he is expected to arrive at 7:55 p.m.

Spotlight Review

Wednesday: [Crypto's Existential Moment](#)

Thursday: [The CFPB's Robust Regulatory Agenda](#)

On the Horizon

Macroeconomic

Today at 7:45 a.m., Federal Reserve Board Governor Christopher Waller will participate in a discussion titled "Challenges Facing Macroeconomic Policy," at the Norges Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and IMF Economic Review joint conference titled "The Future of Macroeconomic Policy." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the Peterson Institute for International Economics will hold a virtual discussion titled "Can we Stop a Global Subsidy Race?" [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the House Budget Committee will hold a hearing titled "Reigniting American Growth and Prosperity: Incentivizing Economic Excellence Through Tax and Trade."

Antitrust and Consumer Protection

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a discussion titled "Promoting Competition in Banking." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Jonathan Kanter, assistant attorney general for antitrust, Department of Justice

Agriculture

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing titled “Cattle Supply Chains and Deforestation of the Amazon.”

Cybersecurity

On Monday at 2:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled “Liability in the Digital Ecosystem: Biden’s New National Cybersecurity Strategy.” [More information here.](#)

Defense

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Armed Services Committee will hold a markup of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2024 and the Major Richard Star Act.

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources

Today at 10:00 a.m., the House Energy and Climate Committee Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security will hold a field hearing titled “Enhancing America’s Grid Security and Resilience.”

Today at 11:00 a.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold an online discussion titled “Major Changes to Federal Permitting and the National Environmental Policy Act in the Debt Ceiling Compromise.” [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a discussion titled “Environmental Enforcement: Policies, Priorities, and the Rule of Law.” [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., Resources for the Future will hold a discussion titled “Financing the Energy Transition.” [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Jigar Shah, director, Loan Program Office, Department of Energy

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration, focusing on state and local perspectives.

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Oversight and Accountability Committee Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs will hold a hearing titled “Clearing the Air: Examining the Environmental Protection Agency’s Proposed Emissions Standards.”

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing titled “Dollars and Degrees: Investigating Fossil Fuel Dark Money’s Systemic Threat to Climate and the Federal Budget.”

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing titled “Microvast and More: Oversight of President Biden’s Energy Spending Spree.”

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing titled “Examining the Council on Environmental Quality FY2024 Budget Request and Related Policy Matters.”

Financial Services

Today at 1:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold an online discussion titled “The 2023 Bank Runs and Failures: What Do They Mean Going Forward?” [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing titled “The Federal Reserve’s Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report.” [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Jerome Powell, chairman, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on the nominations of Philip Jefferson to be vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and Lisa Cook and Adriana Kugler to be members of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. [More information](#)

[here](#).

On Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., the Cato Institute will hold a policy forum titled “Financial Stability and Systemic Risk: What Recent Bank Failures Say about the US Regulatory Framework.” [More information here](#).

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the Peterson Institute for International Economics will hold a virtual discussion titled “The Basel III Endgame.” [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Martin Gruenberg, chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing titled “Oversight of the SEC.” [More information here](#).

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled “The Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report.” [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Jerome Powell, chairman, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

Geopolitical

Today at 9:00 a.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a virtual discussion on “US-China lessons from Ukraine: Fueling more dangerous Taiwan tensions.” [More information here](#).

Today at 9:15 a.m., Inter-American Dialogue will hold a discussion titled “The United States and Central America - Diplomacy and Cooperation at Work.” [More information here](#).

Today at 11:00 a.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a virtual discussion titled “How Successful has Ukraine’s Counteroffensive Been so Far?” [More information here](#).

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the Atlantic Council will hold a virtual discussion titled “China’s blueprint for the new world order.” [More information here](#).

On Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a discussion titled “US Leadership in Tech Diplomacy.” [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a markup of several pieces of legislation and resolutions, including the Taiwan Tax Agreement Act.

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., Foreign Policy will hold a virtual discussion titled “Tensions Beyond the Strait: How Taiwan’s Security is Impacting the Transatlantic Alliance.” [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft will hold a virtual discussion titled “A Restraint Approach to US-China Relations: Reversing the Slide Toward Crisis and Conflict.” [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the R Street Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled “Accounting for Risk: The China Problem,” focusing on the defense budget and cybersecurity. [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing on the nominations of Kara McDonald to be ambassador to Lithuania and Jack Markell to be ambassador to Italy and the Republic of San Marino.

On Thursday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a joint meeting of Congress. [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the Wilson Center’s Asia Program will hold a discussion titled “The US-Republic of Korea Alliance at 70: The Outlook After the Washington Declaration.” [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ)
- Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA)

Healthcare

On Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Food Tank, Tufts University, and the White House will hold a summit titled “Advancing Food is Medicine Approaches.” [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:15 a.m., the House Education and the Workforce Committee Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions will hold a hearing titled “Competition and Transparency: The Pathway Forward for a Stronger Health Care Market.”

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., Washington Post Live will hold a virtual discussion titled “Inequities in Cancer Care and Outcomes.” [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

On Thursday at 8:30 a.m., the Hill will host the Future of Health Care Summit 2023,” with topics that include advancing access, the pursuit of health equity, and resetting the care paradigm across the United States. [More information here](#).

On Thursday at 12:00 p.m., the Institute for the Study of War will hold a virtual briefing titled “Ukraine: Critical Next Phase of the War.” [More information here](#).

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Europe will hold a hearing titled “The Vilnius Summit and War in Ukraine: Assessing US Policy towards Europe and NATO.”

Housing

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance will hold a hearing titled “HUD Oversight.” Expected participants include:

- Rae Oliver Davis, inspector general, Department of Housing and Urban Development

On Thursday at 9:30 a.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold its Terwilliger Center Summit titled “Housing Supply Solutions.” [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)
- Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)
- Pamela Hughes Patenaude, deputy secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Immigration

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the Wilson Center’s Mexico Institute will hold its ninth annual conference titled “Building a Competitive US-Mexico Border.” [More information here.](#)

Expected participants include:

- Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)
- Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
- Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX)
- Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

Judicial

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled “Protecting Pride: Defending the Civil Rights of LGBTQ+ Americans.”

Political

From Thursday to Saturday, the Faith and Freedom Coalition will hold its 2023 Road to Majority Policy Conference. [More information here.](#)

Tech-Media-Telecom

On Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., New America will hold a discussion titled “Section 230 and the Public Interest: Proceed with Caution.” [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)

On Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled “Major Questions Doctrine and the Tech and Telecom Sectors After West Virginia v. EPA.” [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing titled “Closing the Digital Divide in Rural America.”

On Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology will hold a hearing titled “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission.” [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a discussion titled “Accelerating the Federal Government to the Cloud.” [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee will hold a hearing titled “Artificial Intelligence: Advancing Innovation Towards the National Interest.” [More information here.](#)

Trade

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the American Association of Exporters and Importers will hold a conference titled “Trade Matters: Reshaping the Status Quo.” [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Alan Estevez, undersecretary for industry and security, Department of Commerce

Transportation

On Thursday at 2:00 p.m., the House Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security will hold a hearing titled “An Examination of TSA’s FY2024 Budget and Priorities.”

Afterthoughts

What Would You Text the President: A question that has surely crossed many of our minds at one point or another has [now become a reality](#) with President Biden’s official Twitter account tweeting a phone number calling for citizens to “tell [him] what’s front of mind for you and your family this summer.” Unfortunately, it is not the president’s personal number and instead they go to a text-moderation platform, but that has not stopped people from sending a wide range of messages. If Biden is looking for this to inform his political platform of the summer, he may be disappointed though unless he is looking to run on free concert tickets and undefeated sports teams. While it doesn’t sound like a winning campaign, only one way to really know? Swifties and NFL fans could be an unstoppable

political coalition, it just requires one candidate willing to take the risk.

What's in a Caucus?: As Syndrome [wisely once said](#), "With everyone Super, no one will be." Maybe members of Congress could stand to reflect on this logic when considering the sheer number of caucuses that they have created, which [now is more than 800](#). They cover a diverse range of topics and issues and come in different sizes, but with the sheer volume how are we supposed to know if we should trust the Congressional Bagel Caucus or the Congressional Progressive Caucus as having the pulse of members on key policy issues. If you ask us, always trust the ones that offer you bagels.



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