Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education for Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Member Meeting Agenda
NAFIS Fall Conference—Washington DC
Sunday, March 9th—10:45-11:45AM Congressional A Room
Monday, March 10th—8:30-10AM Congressional A Room
***Check Hotel Monitors as room assignment is subject to change.**
Please bring your laptop/device for Committee Work.

NAFIS Executive Director, Nicole Russell will be stopping-by our meeting to provide a brief NAFIS overview and answer questions related to advocacy.

I. Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA – Frank Sheboy

Our Mission: To ensure the reimbursement of funds lost due to the federal government's removal of land from local tax rolls, paid to eligible public school districts, with 100 percent of the revenue used for the education of students.

*Vision: Advancing towards **100%** full-funding for the 7002 program.*

Guiding Principles:

- *Section 7002 Impact Aid Funds will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner,*
- *Membership in the FLISA Organization will be expanded,*
- *Safeguard the financial interests of all Section 7002 Impact Aid districts.*

II. Introduction of FLISA Board and Past-Presidents

Current FLISA Board (voting members) consists of:

Frank Sheboy (President thru March 2026, Past-Pres thru March 2028),
Christine Walker (Vice-President thru March 2026),
Jerry Ellender* (Treasurer thru March 2025),
**Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment **Appointed to complete term*
Stephanie Long** (Secretary thru March 2025),
***Appointed to complete term*
Mark Naugle (Past President thru March, 2026)*
** Tom Madden, was watchful enough to notice our by-laws state that if the Past President cannot serve for whatever reason, we go back to the previous Past President. In this case, Mark Naugle.*
***Appointed to complete term*
Mary Ticknor Advocacy Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Bob Reichert*** Membership Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Mark Cross Messaging Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)

Non-Voting Members-at-Large—Wes Eversole (Member-at-Large)
Non-Voting Members-Bookkeeper—Cathie Peznowski (Past President)

Past-Presidents—Non Voting:

Terry Tamblyn	Tom Madden	Sandy Doebert	Tom Davenport
Tom Schneider	Bob Reichert***	Craig Hutcheson	Mark Naugle
Cathie Peznoski			

Section 3 By-Laws Excerpt:

a. Terms of Office: Executive Board members shall be elected at large for two-year terms with the exception of the member elected to the office of President who shall serve a four-year term, two years as President, followed by two years as Immediate Past President. [...] Executive Board members shall be elected at the spring meeting. The President, Vice-President and At Large Members shall be elected during even numbered years. The Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected during odd numbered years. Newly elected Executive Board Members shall take office upon the conclusion of the final FLISA meeting of the spring NAFIS conference.

III. Introduction by Those in Attendance
- A. Name, Title, Location and Impacted Land
- B. Recognition of New Attendees—Frank Sheboy

Please sign in during the meeting and include the offices and staff member FLISA members will be visiting on The Hill. This will be shared with NAFIS Staff to coordinate our advocacy efforts.

IV. FLISA Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider
- A. Overview
- B. This is a member-led organization...we work together in advocacy.
- C. The success of this meeting is what you do between meetings to advocate for the goals of Impact Aid and FLISA

V. Approval of minutes from FLISA Winter Meeting—Stephanie Long
- A. Posted on the FLISA website

VI. Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report—Cathie Peznowski/Jerry Ellender
- A. FY 26 Tentative Budget Presentation (Action Item with Dues at End of Meeting)
  - a. Budget Committee: Cathie, Jerry and Frank
- B. Budget Comments from Cathie:

[Added printing costs but decreased banking charges. *I agree with Jerry that we should not have any further legal costs. ...A little more of a balance based on what I am seeing with the expenses as they come in. We should be sitting around $42,000 as an ending balance.]*

- C. Goal is to have one-year of expenses on hand.
- D. Use of Miscellaneous Line-Item ($600) for Awards/Recognition (Action Item)
- E. Reminder to update district contact information on the website under update 7002 Data.
- F. Review of Membership Numbers (71 Paid)

VII. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update— Craig Hutcheson/Tom Schneider/Christine Walker

- **A.** Share Your District's Newest Initiatives with NAFIS Staff for publication
- **B.** Fly-In Thanks
  - a. Wes, Mary, Christine, Stephanie, Jerry (and Schneider)
- **C.** Anticipated NAFIS Dues Increase

VIII. Dues/Financial Outlook Committee Update—Frank Sheboy

A. Frank Sheboy to present information to the and help formulate the proposal at our January meeting for general membership approval at the March, 2025 meeting in DC.—Look at projections from Jerry—

- Goal: 1 Year Operating expenses and not have to go back for another increase for sometime.
  - Increases to Executive Director and Bookkeeper Stipends to reflect additional days/work related to FLISA activities (**Action Item**)
  - Dues Changes: (**Action Item**)
    - Maintain reasonable dues for those not getting a large amount of Impact Aid dollars
    - Set a new tier for high dollar recipients.
  - Opportunities have been provided to gather feedback from membership at previous meetings.

IX. Ad Hoc Committee on Distribution of Impact Aid Funds

See: Spreadsheet for review of previous funding and estimates based upon increases of $1M

X. Executive Director: Legislative Update

- A. FLISA Organization is humming...Federal Government not so much.
- B. Share your stories (See: Willmington E-mail)

XI. 119th Congress and FY 25—FY 26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask

See Attached NAFIS TALKING POINTS: 2025 NAFIS SPRING CONFERENCE:

Section	FY21 Final	FY22 Final	FY23 Final	FY24 Final	FY25 Senate Proposal
Federal Property	$76.31 M	$77.31 M	$78.31 M	$79 M	$81 M
Basic Support	$1,354.24 M	$1,409.24 M	$1,468.24 M	$1,474 M	$1,490.50 M
Disabilities	$48.32 M	$48.32 M	$48.32 M	$48.32 M	$48.32 M
Construction	$17.41 M	$17.41 M	$18.41 M	$19 M	$20.5 M
Facilities	$4.84 M	$4.84 M	$4.84 M	$4.84 M	$4.84 M
Total	$1,501.12 M	$1,557.12 M	$1,618.12 M	$1,625.15 M	$1,645.15 M

Discussion from NAFIS Board Meeting:

- For **FY 26 Basic Support (7003)** ask is:
  - $65 million (4.4%) increase over FY 24 ask of approximately (as FY 25 not set) for Basic Support $1.55B
    - This would put 7003 Districts at 96% LOT (or Higher)
    - LOT (Local Opportunity Threshold—Think of it as a local measure for adequate education funding for a school district in a state).
- For **FY 26 Federal Property (7002)** ask is:
  - $3.5 million (4.4%) increase over FY 24 ask of approximately (as FY 25 not set but if we get our +$2M ask to get to $81M) for 7002 of $84.5M

- This would keep the entire Impact Aid ask at 4.4% for the entire program.

- Wait to see President's Budget in April before making Project 2025 a discussion item. We don't want to be the ones to bring it up.
  - In some congressional offices talking about Project 2025 may be seen as inflammatory (either by Republicans or Democrats).

- May need to inform members of Congress of the good works of these federal properties.

- Continue to emphasize the impact of reduced funds has on our students/schools.

XII. Membership By-Law Change (Action Item) Discussion

Article V Section 2.f. *Members at Large. The Members at Large shall be designated as Committee Chairpersons (and up to two Co-Chairpersons) for the specific committees designated in the Advocacy Action Plan. The number of such Members at Large shall correspond with the number of such committees. Members at Large shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Executive Board or the President.*

Article VII Section 5. Annual dues will be invoiced after June July 1 in the following Not To Exceed Amounts to be approved by a majority vote of the membership voting at the Spring, NAFIS Conference after no less than a full-year of study by the membership.

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Proposed Dues Structure B Adjust percentage of funding average as shown in red, with results shown in blue						
Impact Aid Funding	# Districts	Dues	FLISA Revenue	Funding Ave*	% of Ave	% Revenue
$49,999 or less	10	$50	500	50,000	0.10%	0.91%
$50,000 - $99,999	10	$100	1,000	175,000	0.06%	1.83%
$100,000 - $249,000	9	$350	3,150	175,001	0.20%	5.75%
$250,000 - $499,999	14	$650	9,100	325,000	0.20%	16.62%
$500,000 - $999,999	10	$1,500	15,000	750,000	0.20%	27.40%
$1,000,000 - $1,999,99	3	$2,000	6,000	1,000,000	0.20%	10.96%
$2,000,000 of more	8	$2,500	20,000	2,800,000	0.20%	36.53%
	64		54,750			

XIII. Committee Reports and **Goals** for Spring/Summer Meeting:

<u>See</u>: **Attached follow Up Communications from Winter Meeting**

A. Mary Ticknor--**Advocacy** Committee
   1. Status of "Leave Behind Packets"

B. Bob Reichert--**Membership** Committee
   1. Review "Why Join" Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June

C. Mark Cross--**Messaging** Committee
   1. Review Leave-behind and messaging for 119th Congress/OMB

After committee meetings need to have a plan for the committee's next steps between meetings and then include as attachments in the AGENDA for the next meeting

XIV. Recognition/Awards

- Mark Naugle and Wes Eversole Recognition
- Tom Madden Recognition Discussion

XV. Look Ahead: What do we need for a successful:

A. Interim communications

B. Summer 2025 FLISA Meeting Information—Newport Beach, CA

XVI. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations

a. **FLISA Winter, 2025 Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—February 1st Thursday Afternoon)
   1. Committee Work Thursday, January 30th —2PM-4PM
   2. Board Meeting Thursday, January 30th —4PM-6PM
   3. Membership Meeting Friday, January 31st—9AM-4PM

b. **NAFIS Spring, 2025 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 8th thru Wednesday, March 11th
c. **FLISA Summer, 2025 Meeting**—Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, CA—June 19-20th—*Registration Available Now/Attached*
    1. Committee Work Thursday, June 19th—2PM-4PM
    2. Board Meeting Thursday, June 19th —4PM-6PM
    3. Membership Meeting Friday, June 20th—9AM-4PM
d. **NAFIS Fall 2025 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 13st thru Wednesday, September 16th
e. **FLISA Winter, 2026 Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—*Registration Form Available June, 2025*
    1. Committee Work Thursday, January 29th —2PM-4PM
    2. Board Meeting Thursday, January 29th —4PM-6PM
    3. Membership Meeting Friday, January 30th—9AM-4PM
f. **NAFIS Spring 2026 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill--TBD**
g. **FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting**—Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--*Registration Available January, 2026*
    1. Committee Work Thursday, June 18th—2PM-4PM
    2. Board Meeting Thursday, June 18th —4PM-6PM
    3. Membership Meeting Friday, June 19th—9AM-4PM
h. **FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—*Registration Form Available June, 2026*
    1. Committee Work Thursday, February 4th —2PM-4PM
    2. Board Meeting Thursday, February 4th —4PM-6PM
    3. Membership Meeting Friday, February 5th—9AM-4PM

*Note that some changes to the NAFIS Closing Reception have been discussed to begin in 2027. More details to follow as the date gets closer.

XVII. Action Items:

17-A. Approval of FLISA Winter Meeting Minutes,
17-B. Approval of By-Law Change Article V Section 2.f.

Members at Large. The Members at Large shall be designated as Committee Chairpersons (and up to two Co-Chairpersons) for the specific committees designated in the Advocacy Action Plan. The number of such Members at Large shall correspond with the number of such committees. Members at Large shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Executive Board or the President.

17-C. Approval of By-Law Change Article VII Section 5.

Annual dues will be invoiced after June July 1 in the following Not To Exceed Amounts to be approved by a majority vote of the membership voting at the Spring, NAFIS Conference after no less than a full-year of study by the membership.

Proposed Dues Structure B Adjust percentage of funding average as shown in red, with results shown in blue						
Impact Aid Funding	# Districts	Dues	FLISA Revenue	Funding Ave*	% of Ave	% Revenue
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$1,000,000 - $1,999,99	3	$2,000	6,000	1,000,000	0.20%	10.96%
$2,000,000 of more	8	$2,500	20,000	2,800,000	0.20%	36.53%
	64		54,750			

17-D. Approval of Tentative FY 26 Budget with Final Approval at Summer Meeting noting approval of use of Miscellaneous Line-Item ($600) for Awards/Recognition as needed and other possible changes _____,

17-E. Appointment of ______ as Treasurer thru March, 2027,

17-F. Appointment of _______ as Secretary thru March, 2027,

XVIII. Reception Reminder/Adjournment

*Call for Presentations—Winter 2026 FLISA Meeting

Enhancing the FLISA Meeting Agenda –We are now looking for volunteers for Winter Meeting, in Newport Beach in 2025.

April Moore and her team from Sierra Sands, CA have already volunteered for our FLISA Summer Meeting in 2025. Be sure to reserve your presentation date as soon as possible.

Step Long and her team from Leland, Michigan have already volunteered for our FLISA Summer Meeting in 2026. Be sure to reserve your presentation date as soon as possible.

***Call for Presentations—Winter FLISA Meeting 2026**

Do you have important best practices to share with the educator community? Are you an expert on a cutting-edge issue in youth development or education? Can you captivate a crowd? Well, it's time to bring your ideas to a national audience – become a presenter at the FLISA Winter Conference in Florida.

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Member Meeting Agenda
Hyatt Regency—Clearwater Beach, Florida
Friday, January 31st—9AM Until 4PM (Breakfast on your own)
Longboat Key Room* on the 2nd floor*

I. Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA – Frank Sheboy

A. Frank reviewed the vision and mission of FLISA

A. II. Introduction of FLISA Board and Past-Presidents

A. Introduction of current officers

Frank Sheboy (President thru March 2026, Past-Pres thru March 2028),
Christine Walker (Vice-President thru March 2026),
Jerry Ellender* (Treasurer thru March 2025),
*Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment
**Appointed to complete term
Stephanie Long** (Secretary thru March 2025),
Mark Naugle (Past President thru March, 2026)*
Mary Ticknor Advocacy Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Bob Reichert*** Membership Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Mark Cross Messaging Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Non-Voting Members-at-Large—Wes Eversole (Member-at-Large)
Non-Voting Members-Bookkeeper—Cathie Peznowski (Past President)

Past-Presidents—Non Voting:

Terry Tamblyn	Tom Madden	Sandy Doebert	Tom Davenport
Tom Schneider	Bob Reichert***	Craig Hutcheson	Mark Naugle
Cathie Peznoski			

B. III. Introduction by Those in Attendance

A. Members introduced themselves
B. Jayson Schimmenti joined us from NAFIS

C. IV. FLISA Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider

A. Overview - 16 years on NAFIS board and moving off this spring
B. The culture that is created in our schools with funding
C. Tom and Jayson provided update about climate in DC
D. In groups, read article and identified key concepts related to FLISA priorities

E. Tom presented a state-of-the-FLISA organization in light of recent governmental developments

Lunch Break

V. Committee Work - Each group spent time working on their agenda items during lunch

A. Tom and Jason reviewed the members of the 119th Congress regarding who is/would be favorable to our advocacy agenda

VI. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update— Craig Hutcheson/Tom Schneider/Jayson Schimmenti

A. Update on NAFIS Organization/Strategic Planning in San Antonio

a. Craig reported that we needed to increase our ask if we are going to make funding progress. NAFIS board agreed to ask for $3.5 or 4.4% total ask to FIA with a total of $84M for 7002 if FY2025 $2M is appropriated. Keep us strategically tied to the total pot with little separation between 7002 and 7003

b. Worked with Brian Riggs on strategic planning primarily on board and board relations with the NAFIS office. NAFIS office will be staffed every day and staff will be there at least three days a week beginning July 1st.

c. Exec. Dir. contract up in June - discuss direction in March

d. NAFIS dues structure will change and will mostly impact high dollar districts who are paying same dues as others receiving much less

e. Discussed the NAFIS ask for FY26 with a 7002 perspective

f. $15K being awarded via FISEF grants

g. Christine Walker being elected to the NAFIS board when Tom shifts off

B. Jason Schimmenti update:

a. Advancing Toward Full Funding negotiations with appropriations to sponsor it. Asking for 25% of unmet need.

b. Infrastructure Bill - 7002 could now be included in applying

c. NAFIS Leadership Fly-in is now the old FRO. Now also calling our group the the Congressional Impact Aid Caucus to align the with Congressional language and no longer the FIA coalition

d. New EO on vouchers directing departments to figure out how to make more money available for charter and private schools.

VII. Approval of minutes from FLISA Fall Meeting—Stephanie Long

D. Posted on the FLISA website and in the agenda packet

E. Steph reviewed the minutes

VIII. Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report—Cathie Peznowski/Jerry Ellender

A. Approx. 10 new districts this year

B. $34K revenue

C. Expenditures on target with notes to the budget including for Ex. Direct. travel expenses to OASIS, application for 503c status, etc…

D. Donation to FISEF not included in budget yet - awaiting group vote

E. Jerry, Cathie, Frank, Tom will serve on February draft budget to present to membership in March

IX. FLISA Leadership Board

A. Tom discussed adding co-chairs to committees to help with succession planning

B. Co-chairs will help expand leadership development

C. Would require a change of by-laws to add co-chairs who would then be voting members. Tom will send proposed by-law change 30 days before voting at March meeting in DC
D. Additional goal is to encourage younger members
E. Each committee will recommend names to be voted on by membership

X. Dues/Financial Outlook Committee Update—Frank Sheboy
A. Discussion and proposed development of change in dues structure for March meeting presentation for voting on in June:
B. In light of budget, dues need to increase to keep us financially stable. No increase in dues since we started collecting them.
C. Expenses have increased and revenues have held flat
D. We are currently functioning in a deficit
E. Frank reviewed proposed options for dues adjustment
F. Exec. board will adjust the proposed dues schedules to increase top end contributions, create another low level tier to protect smallest districts, and increase second tier dues.

XI. 119th Congress and FY 25—FY 26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask
A. Tom Schneider provided bulleted talking points
B. Each committee generated their top talking points for Tom to share in the agenda for March and June

XII. Committee Reports and Goals for Winter/Spring Meeting:
A. Mary Ticknor--Advocacy Committee
a. ID'd 20 congressional offices that are not currently aware of who we are
b. Collaborate with messaging committee to prepare informational packets with personalized cover letter to leave with non-aware offices
c. ID education staffers in congressional offices and ask volunteers to drop materials to these offices while already out advocating to get in hands of education staffers
d. Between March and June, follow up emails with targeted offices and assess success or impact of increased outreach at the June meeting
B. Bob Reichert--Membership Committee
a. Prioritize action items including updating one-pager
b. Encouraging non-member districts to join and help advocate
c. Collaborate with messaging committee to connect with non-member districts to target influential congressional members
d. Update website
e. Mentor program - reinstate this by connecting with new districts to help prepare them and gauge their interest
f. Follow up invoices with districts who have not maintained their membership and contact with them
g. Welcome letter to new districts to gauge interests
C. Mark Cross--Messaging Committee
a. Update talking points with ideas inspired by Jayson's thoughts
b. Update connection between 7002-7003
c. Intentionally connect 7002 funding directly to students
d. Emphasize that we pre-date the department of education
e. Will work with membership and advocacy to share our draft letter for congressional offices not currently aware of NAFIS and FIA.

XIII. Nominations for FLISA Extra Mile Award

A. Tom Madden recommended by Kevin Feeney and his district is willing to pay Tom's travel expenses

B. Recognize Tom Madden on Sunday at podium at NAFIS conference and rename the award the Tom Madden Extra Mile Award with a golden microphone as a nod to his Karaoke prowess
C. Kevin will reach out to be sure Tom will be available to attend in March

F. XIV. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations

A. NAFIS Spring, 2025 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 8th thru Wednesday, March 12th
a. Board meets on the 8th, conference starts on the 9th starting 6:00 pm

B. FLISA Summer, 2025 Meeting—Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, CA—June 19-20th—Registration Available January, 2025; Christine Walker says best place to fly into is John Wayne Airport
a. Committee Work Thursday, June 19th—2PM-4PM
b. Board Meeting Thursday, June 19th —4PM-6PM
c. Membership Meeting Friday, June 20th—9AM-4PM

C. NAFIS Fall 2025 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 13st thru Wednesday, September 16th

D. FLISA Winter, 2026 Meeting, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—Registration Form Available June, 2025
a. Committee Work Thursday, January 29th —2PM-4PM
b. Board Meeting Thursday, January 29th —4PM-6PM
c. Membership Meeting Friday, January 30th—9AM-4PM

E. NAFIS Spring 2026 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill--TBD

F. FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting—Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--Registration Available January, 2026
a. Committee Work Thursday, June 18th—2PM-4PM
b. Board Meeting Thursday, June 18th —4PM-6PM
c. Membership Meeting Friday, June 19th—9AM-4PM

G. FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—Registration Form Available June, 2026
a. Committee Work Thursday, February 4th —2PM-4PM
b. Board Meeting Thursday, February 4th —4PM-6PM
c. Membership Meeting Friday, February 5th—9AM-4PM

G. XV. Action Items:

17-A. Approval of FLISA Fall Meeting Minutes
Wes Eversole moved
Brooke Hasel-Massieux seconded
Motion passed unanimously

17-B. Appoint Members to the Budget Committee to prepare and present budget at Summer, 2025 meeting
Jason Misner moved
Christine Walker seconded
Motion passed unanimously

17-C. Approval of Donation to FISEF
Craig Hutchesonmoved
John Cosner seconded
Motion passed unanimously

17-D. Approval of Recognition of Tom Madden for The Extra Mile Award
Kevin Feeney moved
Mark Naugle seconded
Motion passed unanimously

17-E. Approve making change to dues structure to be presented to the membership as part of the budget proposal for the March meeting -
Mark N moved
Jason Misner seconded
Discussion: Ann, Jerry, Cathie, Tom S., Christine W., Mark C.
Motion passed unanimously

H. XVI. Reception Reminder/Adjournment

Mark Cross moved
Wes Eversole seconded
Motion carried unanimously
Adjourned at 3:55 pm

FY26 FLISA Proposed Dues and Compensation Changes Projection

		FY24-25 Adopted	FY25-26 Proposed
	Revenue		
1	Membership Dues	24,000	54,750
2	Winter Conference	5,500	5,500
3	Summer Conference	4,500	4,500
4	**Total Revenue**	34,000	64,750
5	**Expenditures**		
6	Executive Director:		
7	Compensation	10,000	20,000
8	Travel	8,000	8,000
9	Printing/Other	1,000	1,000
10	Subtotal	19,000	29,000
11	Bookkeeper:		
12	Compensation	2,500	5,000
13	Travel	8,000	8,000
14	Subtotal	10,500	13,000
15	Executive Committee:		
16	Printing	-	250
17	Legal Expenses	2,500	-
18	FISEF Grant	500	500
19	Subtotal	2,500	750
19	FRO/MISA/NIISA Outreach		
20	Travel	4,000	4,000
21	Printing/Other	500	500
22	Subtotal	4,500	4,500
23	General Operations:		
24	Bank Charges	250	50
25	Website	2,000	2,000
26	Software License	900	900
27	Printing	200	200
28	Miscellaneous	600	600
	Subtotal	3,950	3,750
	Conferences:		
29	Winter Conference	5,500	5,500
30	Summer Meeting	4,500	4,500
31	Subtotal	10,000	10,000
32	**Total Expenditures**	50,450	61,000
33	**Net Income (Deficit)**	(16,450)	3,750
34	**Beginning Balance**	57,597	42,000
35	**Ending Balance**	41,147	45,750

Proposed Dues Structure

Adjust percentage of funding average as shown in red, with results shown in blue

Impact Aid Funding	# Districts	Dues	FLISA Revenue	Funding Ave*	% of Ave	% Revenue
$99,999 or Less	20	$100	2,000	50,000	0.20%	3.90%
$100,000 - $249,999	9	$350	3,150	175,000	0.20%	6.15%
$250,000 - $499,999	14	$650	9,100	325,000	0.20%	17.76%
$500,000 - $999,999	10	$1,500	15,000	750,000	0.20%	29.27%
$1,000,000 or More	11	$2,000	22,000	1,000,000	0.20%	42.93%
	64		51,250			

*The "Funding Average" is simply the midpoint of the funding range for the impact aid funding category, with exception of the $1M+ districts, which is a based on the $1 million minimum for those districts.

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FLISA Proposed By-Law Changes

Proposed for Approval at 2025 Spring NAFIS Conference

Article V Section 2.f.

Members at Large. The Members at Large shall be designated as Committee Chairpersons (and up to two Co-Chairpersons) for the specific committees designated in the Advocacy Action Plan. The number of such Members at Large shall correspond with the number of such committees. Members at Large shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Executive Board or the President.

Background: *This change would allow each committee to select up to two Co-Chairpersons to increase the leadership pool and expand the amount of people engaged in committee activities.*

Article VII Section 5

Section 5. Annual dues will be invoiced after June ~~July~~ 1 in the following ~~Not To Exceed~~ Amounts:

~~Districts receiving $1,000,000 per year or more..........NTE $1,000~~

~~Districts receiving $500,000 - $999,999........................NTE $ 500~~

~~Districts receiving $250,000 - $499,999........................NTE $ 250~~

~~Districts receiving $100,000 - $249,999........................NTE $ 100~~

~~Districts receiving $99,999 or less.................................NTE $ 50~~

to be approved by a majority vote of the membership voting at the Spring, NAFIS Conference after no less than a full-year of study by the membership.

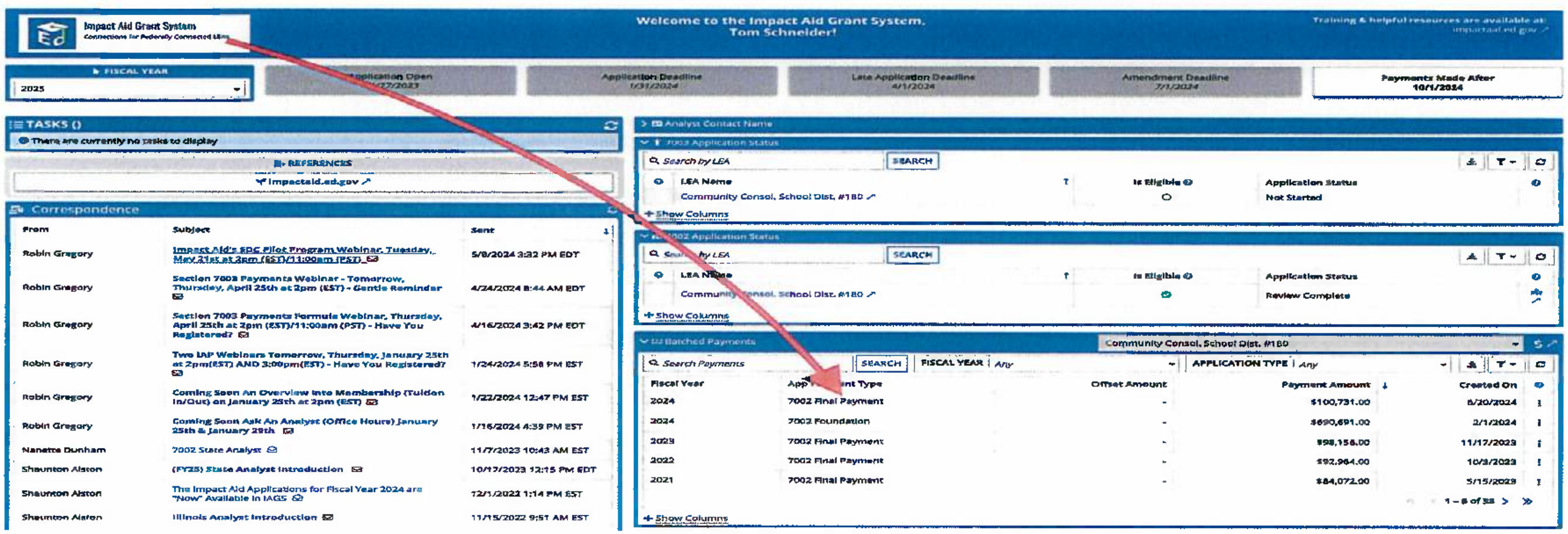
Background: *This change would avoid us having to change the by-laws again once we set on membership amounts in March. It would also allow flexibility to change dues after a year.* The current dues structure the organization is working under were the original dues since the organizations funding. There has never been a single dues increase in the history of the organization.

Note: *The actual amounts for dues to be approved at the Spring meeting have been discussed beginning in March, 2024. The proposed dues structure is included below but was sent back to the committee at the end of the Winter, 2025 meeting to be revised to include more tiers. The final will be presented at the NAFIS Spring Conference for approval.*

Proposed Dues Structure B						
Adjust percentage of funding average as shown in red, with results shown in blue						
Impact Aid Funding	**# Districts**	**Dues**	**FLISA Revenue**	**Funding Ave***	**% of Ave**	**% Revenue**
$49,999 or less	10	$50	500	50,000	0.10%	0.91%
$50,000 - $99,999	10	$100	1,000	175,000	0.06%	1.83%
$100,000 - $249,000	9	$350	3,150	175,001	0.20%	5.75%
$250,000 - $499,999	14	$650	9,100	325,000	0.20%	16.62%
$500,000 - $999,999	10	$1,500	15,000	750,000	0.20%	27.40%
$1,000,000 - $1,999,99	3	$2,000	6,000	1,000,000	0.20%	10.96%
$2,000,000 of more	8	$2,500	20,000	2,800,000	0.20%	36.53%
	64		54,750			

SEQUESTER FY 13	FY 14/15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18*	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
$63,445,000	66,813,000	66,813,000	68,813,000	73,313,000	74,313,000	75,313,000	76,313,000	77,313,000	78,310,000	78,310,000	80,313,000
Increase to Impact Aid-7002			+$2M	+$5M	+$1M	+$1M	+$1M	+$1M	+$1M	0	-
Foundation Payment Received:			$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	
Formula Payment Received:			$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	
Total Received by School District:			$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	
Increase OVER Previous Year				$0	$0	$0	$0	0	$0	$0	
Average Increase to District if $1M Increase							$0				

Fill in the Light Blue Cells with the amounts found on the front page of your Dept. of Ed. Impact Aid under Payments.



Federal Lands Impacted
Schools Association

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Statement on Possible Dismantling of Department of Education

With the numerous news outlets reporting a potential Executive Order aiming to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, FLISA wants to ensure that our school districts and Members of Congress understand that every student in a Federal Lands (Impact Aid Section 7002) school is directly tied to Impact Aid.

By acquiring what would otherwise be taxable properties, the federal government reduced the tax dollars that support our students, and an executive order cannot simply waive away that longstanding obligation.

The students in Federal Lands districts should not languish in underfunded schools, nor should citizens in their communities be burdened with higher taxes due to the federal government's actions.

In an informal survey conducted last week, leaders in Federal Lands school districts overwhelmingly indicated that eliminating Impact Aid Section 7002 would lead to reductions in teaching staff, resulting in larger class sizes. In addition, they universally stated that loss of this funding would cause the elimination of student programming, including tutoring, before and after school activities, and extracurriculars.

The Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) represents approximately 200 districts and nearly 900,000 children that have federally owned land within their boundaries.

Every one of those students is directly tied to Impact Aid because of the loss of tax dollars due to a federal presence.

for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting

National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 290 | Washington, DC 20001 | (p) 202.624.5455 | www.NAFISDC.org

TALKING POINTS: 2025 NAFIS Spring Conference

Future of the U.S. Department of Education

It has been widely reported that President Trump is preparing an executive order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. While much remains unknown about exactly what this executive action would include, it is important to note that only Congress has the power to abolish the Department. Such legislation would require a supermajority of 60 votes in the Senate, meaning that at least seven Democratic senators would need to join all Republicans in support. However, an executive order could use existing administrative authority to weaken the Department.

Talking Points:

- **NAFIS opposes any attempt to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education and is deeply concerned by the Trump Administration's recent statements.**
- **Specifically, we are concerned that any reduction in staff at the Impact Aid office or transfer of authority over the program will negatively impact the program and staff's ability to disseminate payments in a timely manner and provide necessary technical assistance to school districts.**

Appropriations

With schools facing many challenges, including the need to build or renovate facilities, attract and retain educators, and adjust to recent education cuts, Impact Aid dollars are more precious now than they have ever been. In addition, experts project a decrease in the prorated payment for Section 7003 Basic Support due to the inclusion of COVID relief funding and inflation in payment calculations. That means that without a significant increase in appropriations or a legislative fix, some districts should prepare for lower Impact Aid payments in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024.

Talking Points:

- **THANK them for Congress's recent investments in the Impact Aid program.**
- **Fiscal Year 2025:**
  - **SUPPORT the Senate's $20 million increase for Impact Aid in FY 2025:**
    - **$16.5 million increase for Basic Support**
    - **$2 million increase for Federal Property**
    - **$1.5 million increase for Construction**
- **Fiscal Year 2026:**
  - **REQUEST an increase for Impact Aid in FY 2026:**
    - **$65 million increase for Basic Support**
    - **$1.5 million Increase for Children with Disabilities**
    - **$3.5 million increase for Federal Property**
    - **$1.5 million increase for Construction**
  - **SIGN ON to Dear Colleague Letter Supporting Impact Aid Funding**
    - Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) – Katie Mertens - katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov
    - Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA) – Sam Gottlieb - sam.gottlieb@mail.house.gov
- **EXPLAIN how a possible cut to your Impact Aid payment would affect your budget.**

Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act

The Federal Government has a responsibility to fund Impact Aid fully, but it has not met this responsibility since 1969. This legislation would establish a five-year path to full funding and ensure meaningful annual increases to districts. The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* is historically bipartisan. It would fully fund Basic Support and provide a proportional increase to Federal Property, Construction, and Children with Disabilities.

Talking Points:

- **This bill has not yet been reintroduced, but if you are interested in cosponsoring, please contact:**
  - Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) – Katie Mertens - katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov
  - Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA) – Eileen Lee - eileen.lee@mail.house.gov

Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act

The current Impact Aid Construction line provides only $19 million for construction annually, which is insufficient to meet most internal renovation needs and provides no funding to build new schools. There is also a significant demand for funding to renovate and construct teacher housing. The *Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act* would add a total of $250 million per year for four years to the Impact Aid Construction line item. 25% of the new funds would be made available via formula to all eligible school districts. The U.S. Department of Education would disseminate the remaining 75% as competitive grants, with priority for those school districts with acute emergencies in their facilities, teacher housing in need of repair, or limited or no bonding capacity.

Talking Points:

- **This bill has not yet been reintroduced, but if you are interested in cosponsoring, please contact:**
  - Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) – Ben Strand - ben_strand@hirono.senate.gov
  - Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) – Abigail Leonard - abigail.leonard@mail.house.gov

Congressional Impact Aid Caucus

The bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Impact Aid Caucus was established in the 1990s and has since led successful efforts to protect and prioritize the Impact Aid program. There are nearly 100 current Members of Congress in the caucus, and we hope to continue to grow these numbers. If you talk to a member who is not currently in the caucus, encourage them to join.

Talking Points:

- **JOIN the Congressional Impact Aid Caucus for the 119th Congress.**
- **It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid.**
- Contact JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org to join.

Congressional Staff Briefing: Impact Aid 101

NAFIS is holding a congressional staff briefing during which Executive Director Nicole Russell will provide an overview of Impact Aid and explain why further federal investments are needed.

Talking Points:

- **ATTEND the Impact Aid 101 Lunch Briefing (or send a representative from your office)**
  - **Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025**
  - **Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**
  - **Location: 2045 Rayburn HOB**
  - **Lunch will be provided**

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education for Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Who We Are

FLISA represents local schools, children, and taxpayers with federally owned land within their school district boundaries under Program Section 7002. FLISA is part of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), which also includes schools and children on military bases and Indian reservations.

FLISA	NAFIS
~200 Districts	~1,100 Districts
Over 900,000 Students	Over 8,000,000 Students

Federal Impact Aid is for Our STUDENTS!

- It is critical revenue for our students and local school districts
- Our communities and taxpayers rely on this funding to maintain small class sizes and provide essential programs and services.
- Congress created the Impact Aid program to provide funding to offset the loss of property tax revenues in local schools.

Impact Aid Fast Facts

- Funds critical educational programs and services
- Direct, flexible, and locally controlled funding
- America's oldest K-12 federal education program
- Bipartisan support has been in place for nearly 75 years, but Impact Aid is funded at just 7 percent

How Funding is Used

- Smaller Class Sizes
- Academic Interventions
- Art, Music, STEM, Gifted
- Career and Technical Ed
- Mental and Physical Health
- School Safety and Security
- Before, After, and Summer School Programming
- Highly Qualified Teacher Recruitment and Retention

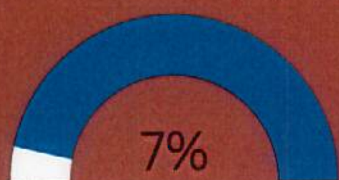
Data current as of March 2025

Did you know?

Even when Impact Aid funding increases, new property added by the federal government results in existing school districts getting a smaller portion of the available funding.

Section 7002 Impact Aid has not been fully funded since 1988, putting our schools and communities at a serious financial disadvantage compared to our neighboring school districts.

Impacted schools receive on average just seven cents on the dollar in Impact Aid, compared to what would be received from local property taxes.



Also, please support our students by joining the bipartisan Impact Aid Coalitions and supporting the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act. Visit www.nafisdc.org for details.

National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

Our Request for Congressional Support

- A total of $84.5 million in Section 7002 funding for FY26, an increase of $3.5 million.
- The average increase in funding over in recent years has been roughly 1 percent.
- Please consider supporting the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act.

www.flisa.org www.nafisdc.org

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education for Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Talking Points for March 2025 Hill Visits

FLISA Members – This is not a handout but talking points for communicating with members of Congress and staff. The NAFIS Hill Meeting Tips on the back may also be helpful. At the Hill meetings, please share the new FLISA handout.

Introduction and Purpose

1. We are here to explain and answer any questions about federal impact aid and ask for your support for funding.
2. *Explain impaction for each district (federal land, percentage, etc.). What would you lose without it? Tell your story.*
3. We want to make sure the program stays in place and maintain this critical source of funding for our students and taxpayers. Unlike some programs, we must have *congressional support each year to maintain this program.*

Federal Impact Aid Background

4. *The Section 7002 Impact Aid Program is absolutely essential for ALL STUDENTS* and for nearly 75 years, Congress has provided funding to local school districts and students with bipartisan support. Section 7002 us is the nation's oldest K-12 federal education program and predates the Department of Education by decades.
5. Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the lost revenue associated with nontaxable federal property. This is valuable land that was seized by the government, *making that land exempt from local property taxes for schools.*
6. To be eligible, *a district must have 10 percent or more of its total taxable value* owned by the federal government.

Student Impact and the National Associations

7. There are more than 1,100 federally impacted school districts that receive Impact Aid located across all 50 states. Together, we educate *more than 9 million public school students.*
8. Our association is the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (Section 7002), and FLISA represents *approximately 200 districts and nearly 900,000 children* that have federally owned land within their boundaries.
9. FLISA is part of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. NAFIS also includes Mid-to-Low LOT Schools (MTLLS), Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) and the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA).

Local Financial Implications

10. *Our Section 7002 school districts have not been fully funded since 1988.* In fact, our federally impacted school districts receive on *average about seven cents on the dollar* of what would be received from local property taxes.
11. School districts are largely funded through local property taxes and since federal property is exempt from local taxation, federally impacted school districts are at a *serious financial disadvantage in funding their schools.*
12. New lands added by the federal government in recent years means that more schools share the same amount of funds, which results *in existing school districts each getting a smaller portion of the funding* that is provided.
13. Even when Impact Aid funding increases, *new property added by the federal government results in existing school districts getting a smaller portion* of the available funding.
14. The impact of lost federal funding will either result in a *loss of educational programs, or a proportional increase in taxes* at the local level to offset the loss of funding, *which many impacted school districts cannot do.*

Our Ask of Congress to Support Our Students and Section 7002 Schools

15. We are asking Congress to *support $3.5 million* in additional funding, for a *total FY26 request of $84.5 million.*
16. This is a 4.4 percent increase over the previous three years, which have *averaged approximately 1 percent per year.*

The Impact Aid Coalition and Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act

17. *For those not already a member,* please consider joining over 100 members of the the bipartisan Impact Aid Coalition for the 119th Congress. Please contact JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org to sign up or if you have any questions.
18. Please also consider supporting the fully bipartisan *Advancing Toward Full Impact Aid Funding* Act, which is aimed at advancing towards fully funding the Impact Aid program.

Updated 3-4-25

EDUCATION

Trump is weighing big cuts to the U.S. Education Department

FEBRUARY 3, 2025 · 11:24 PM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION

Cory Turner

President Trump has said repeatedly that he will try to close the U.S. Department of Education, seen here in Washington, D.C.
Robert Knopes/Education Times via Getty Images

The Trump administration is exploring dramatic cuts to programs and staff at the U.S. Department of Education, including executive action shuttering department programs that are not protected by law and calling on Congress to close the department entirely.

The executive action could come as early as this week, according to multiple government sources who were not cleared to discuss the administration's plans publicly.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

News of the Trump administration's plans was first reported by *The Wall Street Journal*.

This potential executive action comes after the Trump administration, in recent days, placed dozens of Education Department staff members on paid administrative leave with little explanation, saying only that the moves were the result of President Trump's executive action targeting federal diversity programs.

Taken together, the news has unsettled department staff and is sure to come up in the Senate confirmation hearing for Trump's nominee to be education secretary, Linda McMahon. That hearing has not yet been scheduled.

The department, with roughly 4,400 employees and an annual budget of $79 billion, has broad responsibility over three major areas: managing approximately $1.6 trillion in federal student loan debt, overseeing implementation and enforcement of the nation's special education law, and administering Title I, the main federal program aimed at improving outcomes for lower-income students.

Can Trump close the Education Department?

While the executive action is expected to outline significant cuts to the Education Department and even call for its closure, the department cannot be closed through executive action alone.

The department was created by an act of Congress in 1979 and, as such, can be closed only by an act of Congress.

Whether there are enough votes in Congress to close the Education Department is another question entirely. House Republicans have tried before and failed, and Republicans enjoy only narrow majorities in the House and Senate.

What's more, public surveys show a majority of Republicans believe the U.S. government should be spending more, not less, on education.

Can Trump make cuts to the Education Department?

This is a little murkier, but, yes, it seems within the discretion of the president and his education secretary to make some cuts to the department — specifically focusing on programs that were not created by Congress and therefore are not protected by statute.

But much of what the Education Department does -- certainly its signature programs — are protected by statute, including the most important federal funding streams to public schools:

1. Title I, which is targeted to districts that serve lower-income communities. In 2022, the U.S. government spent $15.6 billion through Title I.
2. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which is targeted to help districts serve students with disabilities. In fiscal year 2024, the U.S. government spent more than $15 billion on IDEA.

Both of these funding streams were, like the department itself, created by separate acts of Congress — Title I in 1965 and IDEA in 1975 — and, as such, cannot be unwound except by Congress. Large changes to either are unlikely, as the programs enjoy broad bipartisan support.

Project 2025, a conservative government blueprint drafted by several Trump loyalists, recommends closing the department and turning both funding streams into no-strings-attached grants, ultimately phasing out the Title I, low-income support dollars within a decade. But, again, that would require an act of Congress -- something that seems unlikely.

It's worth noting that during Trump's first term, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos recommended steep cuts to the department through the administration's annual budget proposals, including shifting Title I money into a Project 2025-like block grant, but Congress holds the power of the purse and instead passed modest funding increases.

"These are all programs that Congress established and knowingly housed inside the Department of Education," says Dan Zibel, a former top lawyer in the department and now chief counsel at the National Student Legal Defense Network, "and any changes to those programs would not only be shortsighted but require a new vote of Congress."

It may be possible to *move* one or more of the department's signature responsibilities to a different government agency — something that would not close the Education Department but would strip it of much of its power. Still, Zibel says, any large-scale movements, like shifting the office of Federal Student Aid and its massive student loan portfolio to the Treasury Department, as Project 2025 recommends, would certainly require Congress' say-so.

"A lot of what the administration is doing is testing boundaries," says Rick Hess of the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank, "so we'll see how this works and what might happen in court. I imagine there will be some thinning of the workforce, but it's hard to predict how aggressively they'll move."

Paid administrative leave

While the Trump administration fine-tunes its broader strategy to shrink — or potentially try to close — the Education Department, it has already begun removing staff on a smaller scale.

According to Sheria Smith, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 252, a union that represents some 2,800 nonmanagement Education Department employees, at least 74 nonmanagement staff members have been put on paid administrative leave in recent days.

NPR has spoken with several staff members who have been placed on leave, who shared their stories on the condition that we not share their names, for fear they would lose their jobs entirely.

They described receiving an email, obtained by NPR, informing them that "you will be placed on administrative leave with full pay and benefits pursuant to the President's executive order on DEIA and further guidance from OPM. This administrative leave is not being done for any disciplinary purpose."

None of the staff members whom NPR spoke with said they worked on diversity, equity, inclusion or accessibility issues. All of them described being shocked and confused when they received the email.

"It looks very suspicious," says Smith. "Nothing we've seen gives any rhyme or reason as to why these employees were chosen."

News of the staffing changes was first reported by *The New York Times*.

One common denominator that connects many of these department staff members is a diversity and inclusion-focused workshop, known as Diversity Change Agents, that they attended at some point. The workshop was not only offered by the department over many years, but, staff say, attendance was encouraged and rewarded by their managers.

What's more, NPR spoke with several staff members who say they attended the Diversity Change Agents workshop during Trump's first administration and were encouraged to do so by Trump's own political appointees.

In response to a request to clarify why these employees have been placed on leave and whether their attendance at a diversity workshop is the reason they have been singled out, Madi Biedermann, deputy assistant secretary for communications at the department, responded with this statement:

"President Trump was elected to bring about unprecedented reform to the federal civil service to ensure it is merit-based and efficient at serving the interests of the American people. At the Department of Education, we are evaluating staffing in line with the commitment to prioritizing meaningful learning ahead of divisive ideology in schools and putting student outcomes above special interests."

One employee with the department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) who was placed on leave served on his office's Employee Engagement, Diversity & Inclusion Council (EEDIC), a group created during the first Trump administration.

In an email dated June 5, 2020, obtained by NPR, Trump political appointee Kimberly Richey wrote to several dozen staffers selected to serve on the council: "As we work together to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in OCR, I want to urge you to keep EEDIC's Mission Statement at the Center of our work ... to promote an OCR environment where all employees, whatever their identities, are fully included, engaged, connected, respected, safe, satisfied, and fulfilled as well as a workplace in which barriers to diversity and equal opportunity are removed."

Richey did not respond to a request for comment.

The department staffer, who is also an Army veteran, served on this diversity council but said, through his attorney, that he otherwise had no involvement in DEIA programming.

"There is absolutely no conceivable reason he should ever be placed on administrative leave," says Subodh Chandra, a civil rights attorney based in Cleveland who is representing at least two Education Department staffers who have been placed on paid leave.

Chandra says he believes this execution of Trump's order, rooting out DEIA programs, violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "[Federal workers] are protected from either opposing discrimination or participating in any proceeding or activity related to opposing discrimination."

education department donald trump schools

Burr Ridge CCSD 180

U.S. Department of Education Launches "End DEI" Portal

Adekoya, Haleemat <Haleemat.Adekoya@ed.gov> Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 11:51 AM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 27, 2025

Contact: Press Office

(202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov

U.S. Department of Education Launches "End DEI" Portal

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Education launched EndDEI.Ed.Gov, a public portal for parents, students, teachers, and the broader community to submit reports of discrimination based on race or sex in publicly-funded K-12 schools.

The secure portal allows parents to provide an email address, the name of the student's school or school district, and details of the concerning practices. The Department of Education will use submissions as a guide to identify potential areas for investigation.

"For years, parents have been begging schools to focus on teaching their kids practical skills like reading, writing, and math, instead of pushing critical theory, rogue sex education and divisive ideologies—but their concerns have been brushed off, mocked, or shut down entirely," said Tiffany Justice, Co-Founder of Moms for Liberty. "Parents, now is the time that you share the receipts of the betrayal that has happened in our public schools. This webpage demonstrates that President Trump's Department of Education is putting power back in the hands of parents."

U.S. Department of Education

Schools Should be Focused on Learning

The U.S. Department of Education is committed to ensuring all students have access to meaningful learning free of divisive ideologies and indoctrination. This submission form is an outlet for students, parents, teachers, and the broader community to report illegal discriminatory practices at institutions of learning. The Department of Education will utilize community submissions to identify potential areas for investigation.

Your email:

School or school district:

ZIP Code:

Please describe in as much detail as possible the discriminatory practice taking place:

Upload File

NATIONAL | *News*

You're hearing a lot about budget reconciliation in Congress. What does that mean?

D.C. BUREAU, GOV & POLITICS | Feb 12, 2025 | 4:27 pm ET | By Jennifer Shutt

SHARE

Members of the U.S. House Budget Committee on March 15, 2010, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., take part in a markup of the Reconciliation Act of 2010. Shown are the late Rep. John Spratt, a South Carolina Democrat, left, at the time the committee chairman, and center, former ranking member Rep. Paul Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican. Ryan later chaired the panel. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON – Republicans in Congress have begun taking their first steps on the long and winding road that constitutes the budget reconciliation process.

GOP lawmakers plan to use the special legislative procedure to enact substantial changes to border security, defense, energy and tax law, as well as major spending reductions. If they succeed, there will be no Democratic votes needed.

On the way, Republicans have to jump through the many, many hoops that make up the reconciliation process and comply with its strict rules.

Here's a breakdown of how reconciliation works, how it differs from passing yearly spending bills that fund government operations and what obstacles Republicans are likely to run into along their journey.

What is a budget resolution in Congress?

The House and Senate must vote to approve the same budget resolution with identical reconciliation instructions to unlock the reconciliation process. This is the first step of several.

The budget resolution is a tax and spending blueprint. Congress is supposed to use it to plan out how much revenue the federal government brings in through taxes and how much money it spends across the 10-year budget window.

The budget resolution is not a bill and cannot become law. At most, if both the House and Senate agree, the budget resolution is adopted.

Important: The budget resolution doesn't actually include any money and doesn't fund any part of the federal government. Any changes proposed in the budget resolution must move through Congress via separate legislation and be signed into law by the president to take effect.

So Congress' budget resolution doesn't actually fund anything?

Correct.

So what the heck funds the government?

The dozen annual appropriations bills provide funding for most of the federal departments and agencies. That includes Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, NASA, State, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

The appropriations bills are supposed to become law by the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1, but this year, Congress has used two stopgap spending bills to extend the deadline until March 14.

That is why, even if Congress adopts a budget resolution in the next few weeks, there could still be a partial government shutdown starting in mid-March. The money would run out.

Those dozen annual appropriations bills account for about one-third of all federal spending, with the other two-thirds coming from so-called mandatory programs, like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Those programs don't require Congress to approve their funding each year.

You can see a breakdown of where discretionary spending goes here and details about how mandatory funds are allocated here, courtesy of easy-to-understand images from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Why does Congress have a budget process and a separate spending process? That seems … confusing.

The budget resolution is supposed to provide an opportunity for Congress to step back and plan what the federal government's tax and spending laws should look like during the next decade.

It's meant to be a big-picture approach to revenue, discretionary spending, mandatory funding, the deficit and the debt.

After debating and agreeing to a budget resolution, Congress is then meant to get to work on the bills that would actually implement that vision.

The reconciliation process is intended to make it a bit easier for Congress to pass bills that change tax, spending, or debt to bring federal law closer to the vision detailed in the budget resolution.

What about the dozen annual appropriations bills, then?

They are intended to create a yearly debate within Congress about how much to allocate to the departments and agencies that receive discretionary spending.

So where does budget reconciliation fit into all this?

The process allows Congress to make changes to taxes, spending and debt in order to reconcile current law with what lawmakers planned out in the budget resolution.

Democrats and Republicans, however, tend to use it when they hold unified control of government to pass legislation they don't want to negotiate with the other political party.

The process comes with strict restrictions in the Senate that are overseen by the parliamentarian and known as the Byrd rule, which is actually a law.

Okay, fine, what's the Byrd rule?

West Virginia Sen. Robert C. Byrd proposed the original version of the Byrd rule in 1985. The elements changed a few times before lawmakers voted in 1990 to make it part of the 1974 Budget Act.

It prevents the Senate from adding any provisions to a reconciliation package that:

- Don't change revenue or spending.
- Change revenue or spending in a way deemed "merely incidental" by the parliamentarian.
- Change policy outside the jurisdiction of the authorizing committee.
- Don't comply with the committee's reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution.
- Increase the deficit past the budget window (usually 10 years).
- Change Social Security.

Why use budget reconciliation, instead of just passing a bill, if there are so many restrictions?

While the House can pass bills with a simple majority vote, the Senate has the legislative filibuster, which requires at least 60 lawmakers vote to limit debate on a bill before they can move onto the final passage vote.

It's extremely rare for either party to hold a supermajority of 60 or more seats in the Senate. So when either Democrats or Republicans hold the House, Senate and White House, they tend to use reconciliation to try to pass major initiatives.

What are the steps to budget reconciliation?

The House and Senate must vote to adopt a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions.

The committees that received reconciliation instructions draft their portions of the package, hold markups in their committees and then vote to approve their parts of the bill.

The Budget Committee holds a markup where it combines all of the bills into one large reconciliation package.

The legislation goes to the floor for debate and a vote.

The package then goes to the other chamber, where lawmakers can approve it as is, or make changes. If changes are made through amendments, the bill then has to go back across the Capitol.

Both chambers must vote to approve the final version of the bill before it goes to the president for their signature.

What is a vote-a-rama?

The Senate holds an all-night, marathon amendment voting session on the budget resolution and then on the reconciliation package itself. The House does not use this approach.

The endeavor gives the majority party, right now Republicans, the chance to make changes to the budget resolution or the reconciliation package that they think would make it better.

The minority party, currently Democratic, typically tries to challenge senators from the other side of the aisle with difficult votes on policy areas they'd rather not vote on.

How often does Congress pass bills through reconciliation?

Typically, any time one political party holds unified control of government, they at least try to use reconciliation to make good on campaign promises.

Democrats passed two big, important packages through reconciliation during the beginning of the Biden administration — a $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill and their signature climate change, health care and tax package, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA.

During President Donald Trump's first term in office, Republicans tried for months to repeal the 2010 health care law known as the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, via the reconciliation process, but were unsuccessful.

The GOP was able to use budget reconciliation to pass the 2017 tax law, referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, that they hope to renew this year.

Congress has sent the president a total of 27 reconciliation packages since 1980, with 23 of those becoming law. The other four were vetoed, according to a report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Introduction to Budget "Reconciliation"

UPDATED MAY 6, 2022 | BY RICHARD KOGAN AND DAVID REICH

Congress sometimes uses a special legislative process called "reconciliation" to quickly advance high-priority fiscal legislation. Created by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, reconciliation allows for expedited consideration of certain tax, spending, and debt limit legislation. In the Senate, reconciliation bills aren't subject to filibuster and the scope of amendments is limited, giving this process real advantages for enacting controversial budget and tax measures. This paper addresses some frequently asked questions about reconciliation.

How Often Have Policymakers Used Reconciliation?

28 Policymakers have enacted 22 budget reconciliation bills since the process was established in 1974; Congress approved five other reconciliation bills but the President vetoed them.[1] Policymakers used reconciliation to enact major spending cuts during President Reagan's first year in office, several deficit-reduction packages during the 1980s and 1990s, changes to the nation's cash assistance program in 1996, and the large Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003. More recently, reconciliation was used in 2010 to amend the Affordable Care Act and modify the federal student loan program,[2] in 2017 to enact large tax cuts, and in 2021 to enact additional COVID-19 relief though the American Rescue Plan. Republican majorities also twice attempted to use the reconciliation process to repeal key elements of the Affordable Care Act; President Obama vetoed the first attempt (in 2016), and the second attempt (in 2017) failed to pass in the Senate.

Because reconciliation bills cannot be filibustered, in recent decades the reconciliation process has been used most frequently when the same party controls the presidency, House, and Senate but lacks the 60-vote majority in the Senate needed to overcome a filibuster. That has not always been the case, however. Twelve of the first 14 enacted reconciliation bills were agreed to even though the presidency, House, and Senate were not controlled by the same party. Each of those 14 bills reduced projected deficits. Since 2000, however, seven of the eight enacted reconciliation bills were agreed to during periods of one-party control and six of them increased projected deficits. Of the nine reconciliation bills enacted under one-party control, four passed the Senate on a vote of 51-50, with the vice president breaking the tie.

What Kinds of Changes Can a Reconciliation Bill Include?

The Congressional Budget Act permits using reconciliation for legislation that changes spending, revenues, and/or the federal debt limit. On the spending side, reconciliation can be used to address most "mandatory" or entitlement spending — that is, programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, federal civilian and military retirement, SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), and farm programs — though the Budget Act specifically prohibits using reconciliation to change the Social Security program. Mandatory spending is determined by rules set in ongoing authorizing laws, so changing spending usually requires amending those laws.

Reconciliation has not been used to enact or rescind "discretionary" funding, which is controlled through the annual appropriations process. While nothing in the Budget Act or other rules prohibits providing new funding or rescinding existing funding for discretionary programs through reconciliation, the various restrictions on reconciliation (discussed more below) probably make the process impractical as a means of enacting annual appropriations. Some reconciliation bills have included additional funding for programs that are traditionally funded through the annual appropriations process. But that extra funding was treated as mandatory because the committees that received the reconciliation instructions and wrote those funding provisions were authorizing committees, not the House and Senate appropriations committees.

Since the mid-1980s, Senate rules have prohibited including provisions in reconciliation legislation that do not change the level of spending or revenues or the debt limit. (See the "Byrd Rule" questions below for more.)

How Does Congress Start the Reconciliation Process?

To start the reconciliation process, the House and Senate must agree on a budget resolution that includes "reconciliation directives" for specified committees. Under the Congressional Budget Act, the House and Senate are supposed to adopt a budget resolution each year to establish an overall budget plan and set guidelines for action on spending and revenue. The Senate may not filibuster consideration of budget resolutions. Budget resolutions don't go to the President for signature and don't become law; reconciliation is a procedure for enacting some legislation envisioned in a budget resolution.

In developing a budget resolution, Congress must decide whether to include reconciliation directives and, if so, whether to use them to implement all or just some of the proposed changes.

What Role Do Committees Play?

Reconciliation directives instruct specified House and Senate committees to prepare and report legislation by a certain date that does one or more of the following:

- increases or decreases spending (outlays) by specified amounts over a specified time;
- increases or decreases revenues by specified amounts over a specified time; or
- modifies the public debt limit.

Sometimes the instructions are expressed as floors or ceilings rather than specific amounts, and spending and revenue targets have often been combined into an instruction to achieve a reduction (or increase) in the deficit. In 2017, for example, to enact large tax cuts, the fiscal year 2018 budget resolution included instructions to the House and Senate tax-writing committees directing them to report legislation increasing the deficit by not more than $1.5 trillion over ten years. In contrast, the fiscal year 2017 budget resolution included reconciliation instructions (aimed at dismantling the Affordable Care Act) directing relevant House and Senate committees to report legislation reducing the deficit by "not less than" $1 billion over ten years — a general target that allowed the committees to report legislation that would receive reconciliation protection without really specifying an intended budgetary effect.

Reconciliation directives do not detail what specific legislative changes a committee should adopt to meet its numerical targets.

Reconciliation legislation generally goes through the normal committee process, with each committee that receives an instruction considering and voting on legislation to implement its part of the package. Committees usually meet their reconciliation targets, but if a committee falls short of its target or fails to act at all, there are procedures for offering amendments to fill the gap when the bill goes to the full House or Senate.

The Senate has sometimes skipped a formal committee process, however, instead waiting for the House to act and then taking the House-passed reconciliation bill directly to the Senate floor. It did this most recently in 2021, with the reconciliation bill to enact the American Rescue Plan. It had also done this in 2017, with the failed reconciliation bill intended to repeal much of the Affordable Care Act and with the enacted tax-cutting reconciliation bill.

What Special Role Do the Budget Committees Play?

If multiple committees receive reconciliation instructions, they send their recommendations to the House or Senate Budget Committees, which assemble them into an omnibus bill for full House or Senate consideration.[3] The Budget Committees can't make any substantive changes in the bills. Whether the committee recommendations are assembled into one or multiple bills depends on the instructions in the budget resolution (see next question).

If only one committee in each chamber receives a reconciliation instruction, its recommendation goes directly to the full House or Senate, bypassing the Budget Committees.

How Many Reconciliation Bills May Congress Consider Each Year?

Under Senate interpretations of the Congressional Budget Act, the Senate can consider the three basic subjects of reconciliation — spending, revenues, and the debt limit — in a single bill or multiple bills, but a budget resolution can generate no more than one bill addressing each of those subjects. In practice, however, a tax bill is likely to affect not only revenues but also outlays to some extent (for example, via refundable tax credits). Thus, as a practical matter a single budget resolution can probably generate only two reconciliation bills: a tax-and-spending bill or a spending-only bill and, if desired, a separate debt limit bill.

In 2017, however, Congress was able to take up an additional reconciliation bill by passing two budget resolutions: one for fiscal year 2017 (the fiscal year already underway, for which a budget resolution had not yet been adopted) and then another for fiscal year 2018 (the fiscal year that would begin on October 1, 2017). Congress used the overdue fiscal year 2017 budget resolution to trigger a reconciliation bill intended to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and then used the fiscal year 2018 resolution to trigger a tax-cutting reconciliation bill. Congress used the same approach in 2021, passing an overdue budget resolution for fiscal year 2021 with a reconciliation directive that led to enactment of the American Rescue Plan, and later passing a budget resolution for fiscal year 2022 with a reconciliation directive that led to the Build Back Better Act, which the House passed but the Senate has not considered.

Under the Budget Act, Congress can revise a budget resolution after adopting it. The Senate parliamentarian has ruled that a revised budget resolution could be used to trigger another reconciliation bill, but this has never been successfully done.[4]

Can the Full House or Senate Amend a Reconciliation Bill?

When the full House or Senate considers a reconciliation bill, amendments may be offered. But the Congressional Budget Act generally prohibits consideration of any amendment that would cost money — that is, raise spending or cut taxes *without* fully offsetting the cost.[5] An exception is that, in the Senate, an amendment to simply strike a provision is permissible even if doing so would cost money.

As with other major legislation, the House typically adopts a special "rule" establishing specific procedures for considering a reconciliation bill. That rule will typically allow only certain specified amendments to be offered. In the Senate, amendments must also comply with other rules that guide consideration of reconciliation (see Byrd Rule questions below), and with budget "points of order" (or parliamentary objections) established under either the Congressional Budget Act or a budget resolution.

What Happens After Each Chamber Adopts a Reconciliation Bill?

If the House and Senate adopt different versions of a reconciliation bill, they must then work out the differences between the two. This is usually accomplished through a House-Senate conference committee but could also be done through an exchange of amendments between the two houses. It's also possible that the Senate could pass a version that it pre-negotiated with the House. Both bodies then take an up-or-down vote on the final, compromise version. If they approve it, the bill goes to the President for signature.

If the President vetoes the reconciliation measure and Congress can't override the veto, that round of the reconciliation process is over. To replace the vetoed bill with a new reconciliation bill, the House and Senate would first need to agree on a new budget resolution or revise the existing resolution.

What Procedural Advantages Does Reconciliation Have in the Senate?

The Senate can consider and pass reconciliation bills relatively quickly and with only a simple majority, rather than the three-fifths majority often needed for controversial legislation.[6] That's because reconciliation legislation isn't subject to filibuster. Under general Senate rules, legislation can be stalled by virtually unlimited debate and the offering of numerous amendments, with a three-fifths majority vote required to invoke "cloture," thereby limiting debate and blocking non-germane amendments. For a reconciliation bill, however, the Congressional Budget Act limits Senate debate on the bill to 20 hours and limits debate on the subsequent compromise between the two houses to ten hours.

While the special procedures limit the time for debate, they do not limit the number of amendments that can be offered during the Senate's initial consideration of the bill. As a result, once the 20-hour limit has expired, remaining amendments are considered with little or no debate — a process known as a "vote-a-rama."

In the Senate, any amendments offered to a reconciliation bill must be germane to the bill, which is not usually a requirement for amendments in the Senate.[7] This prevents the process from getting bogged down by disputes over tangentially related or unrelated amendments, as often happens to other legislation under regular Senate procedures.

What Procedural Advantages Does Reconciliation Have in the House?

Discussion of reconciliation's procedural advantages tends to focus on the Senate because the House has mechanisms for limiting debate and amendments available for *any* legislation. For major bills, including reconciliation, the usual mechanism is a special "rule" for floor consideration — a resolution reported by the Rules Committee and adopted by the House by majority vote — that specifies both the maximum time for debate and what amendments will be allowed.

Can Reconciliation Be Used to Increase Deficits?

While reconciliation has traditionally been thought of as mostly a means to enact deficit-reduction legislation, Congress has used it occasionally to expedite passage of legislation that increases deficits. The most notable examples were the 2001 and 2003 reconciliation bills, which enacted tax cuts based on proposals by President George W. Bush; the reconciliation bill that enacted tax cuts in 2017; and the American Rescue Plan in 2021.[8]

In 2007, when Democrats took control of the House and Senate, both chambers adopted rules designed to prohibit use of reconciliation for measures that increase deficits. When Republicans took the House in 2011, they replaced the House rule with one that placed no restrictions on revenue provisions that increase deficits but prohibited reconciliation instructions that would produce a net increase in mandatory spending, regardless of the reconciliation bill's overall impact on deficits. That House rule was repealed at the beginning of the new Congress in 2021.

The Senate rule against deficit-increasing reconciliation bills was repealed in 2015, as part of the budget resolution for fiscal year 2016.

What Is the Byrd Rule?

The Byrd Rule, named after its chief sponsor, the late Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, allows senators to block provisions of reconciliation bills that are "extraneous" to reconciliation's basic purpose of implementing budget changes. Without such a rule, committees receiving reconciliation directives would be free to add a wide range of unrelated provisions to their legislative recommendations, including provisions that might have difficulty passing under normal procedures.

The Byrd Rule was adopted and then modified several times during the 1980s and finally included in the Congressional Budget Act in 1990, with only minor changes since then. Some have criticized it for excluding too much from reconciliation, such as provisions that might help reduce costs but for which specific savings estimates cannot be provided, or provisions that would help make cost-saving changes work better.

The Byrd Rule applies only to action by the Senate, but because senators may invoke it during consideration of a conference report as well as initial Senate consideration of a reconciliation bill, it effectively limits what the House can ultimately insist upon when compromising with the Senate.

What Provisions Are "Extraneous" Under the Byrd Rule?

The Byrd Rule generally treats as extraneous any provision of a reconciliation measure that doesn't change the level of spending or revenues, or where the change in spending or revenues is "merely incidental" to the provision's non-budgetary effects. (The Byrd Rule allows for inclusion of provisions that have no budgetary effect as long as they are determined to be "terms and conditions" of other provisions within the bill that do have a budgetary effect.) The rule also declares extraneous any provision that:

- increases spending or decreases revenues if the provision in question results in the committee's portion of the bill costing too much or saving too little, relative to the reconciliation instructions to the committee;
- isn't within the jurisdiction of the committee recommending the provision;
- raises deficits in any year after the period covered by the reconciliation instructions unless other provisions included in the same title of the bill fully offset those "outside-the-window" costs;[9] or
- changes Social Security's retirement, survivors, or disability costs or revenues.

Provisions that would create new budget process rules or alter existing congressional or statutory rules — including by exempting provisions of the reconciliation bill from existing constraints — violate the Byrd Rule. Such provisions are within the jurisdiction of the Senate Budget Committee, not of a committee included in a reconciliation directive. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has a long-standing policy of not "scoring" such provisions as directly changing spending or revenues.

Deciding whether a provision violates the Byrd Rule is often a judgment call that is traditionally made by the Senate parliamentarian. Which committee has jurisdiction over a provision, and especially whether non-budgetary provisions are allowable terms or conditions and whether budgetary effects are nonetheless merely incidental, are subject to interpretation.

It is sometimes difficult to determine in advance whether the budgetary effects of a given provision will be considered "merely incidental," but the phrase has *not* been interpreted as synonymous with "very small" budgetary effects. For example, during consideration of the American Rescue Plan, the budgetary effect of an amendment to raise the federal minimum wage to $15 per hour was ruled to be merely incidental and therefore to violate the Byrd Rule even though the CBO estimated that it would increase on-budget deficits by $64 billion over ten years. And in September 2021, the Senate parliamentarian issued a written opinion that an immigration provision in pending House reconciliation legislation would be considered merely incidental and so violate the Byrd Rule even though CBO estimated that it would cost $124 billion over ten years and almost $700 billion over 20 years. The parliamentarian pointed to CBO's estimate that under the bill, 8 million individuals would adjust their immigration status to become lawful permanent residents and argued that this "is a policy change that substantially outweighs the budgetary impact of that change," making it "not appropriate for inclusion in reconciliation."

How Is the Byrd Rule Enforced?

Senators may raise points of order against any provision of a bill or conference agreement that they believe to be extraneous under the Byrd Rule. They may also raise Byrd Rule points of order against amendments offered during Senate consideration of reconciliation bills.

If the point of order is sustained by the presiding officer, the extraneous material is deleted and consideration of the legislation continues with the offending material excised. In the case of a conference agreement, the Senate sends the legislation (minus the extraneous provisions) back to the House for further action. This "surgical" effect of the Byrd Rule stands in contrast to most other Congressional Budget Act points of order, which completely stop consideration of bills where violations are found.

Like most other House and Senate rules, the Byrd Rule is enforced only through points of order raised by members. Material that violates the Byrd Rule may remain in reconciliation legislation if no senator makes an objection. For example, that's how Congress has enacted budget process changes (such as appropriations caps or pay-as-you-go rules) through reconciliation, even though they are considered extraneous under the Byrd Rule because they don't directly change spending or revenue levels.

Also, the Congressional Budget Act allows the Senate to waive, with a three-fifths vote, application of the Byrd Rule to any particular provision of (or amendment to) a reconciliation bill.

Are Reconciliation Bills Subject to Other Budget Rules?

Yes. In addition to the specific rules for reconciliation, general budget rules also apply, many of which require a three-fifths majority vote in the Senate to waive. Further complications arise because the Byrd Rule classifies as extraneous, and thus subject to a super-majority point of order, provisions in reconciliation bills that establish, modify, or suspend budget rules. This includes emergency designations, which would otherwise exempt the designated items from congressional or statutory budget controls.[10]

Various mechanisms are available, however, to modify or limit the application of some budget rules to reconciliation measures. For instance, a budget resolution will typically accommodate the reconciliation measures it triggers, either by setting its levels to match the intended legislation or, if the reconciliation instructions are open-ended, by allowing the Budget Committee chair to adjust the levels in the budget resolution to accommodate a reconciliation bill that is otherwise in compliance.

But budget limits set in law are more difficult to waive or suspend. These include the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act,[11] which essentially requires that all legislation enacted during a session of Congress or the prior nine years, taken together, not produce a net increase in the budget deficit. If that rule is violated, the law requires automatic spending cuts ("sequestration") in non-exempt mandatory programs after the session is over, to eliminate the net deficit increase. Language included in a reconciliation bill to exempt spending or tax cut provisions from the Pay-As-You-Go Act (through emergency designations or other devices) would face a super-majority point of order under the Byrd Rule.

In recent years, when net deficit increases enacted in reconciliation bills would trigger a later pay-as-you-go sequestration, Congress has avoided that result with language included in subsequent legislation.[12] There has generally been bipartisan support for, or least acquiescence to, doing so, since regardless of views on the legislation leading to the violation, there was little support for the automatic cuts in programs such as Medicare payments and farm price supports that the Pay-As-You-Go Act would trigger.

PDF of this report (8 pp.)

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POLICY BASICS

Introduction to the Federal Budget Process

OCTOBER 28, 2024

End Notes

[1] Megan S. Lynch, "Budget Reconciliation Measures Enacted into Law: 1980-2021," Congressional Research Service report No. R40480, updated July 28, 2021, pp 2-3. Congress approved one reconciliation bill prior to 1980, in 1975, which was vetoed. https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/2021-07-28_R40480_ffc78da314ff9d7091b6c9726e29f46c5e28c90e.pdf.

Government funding runs out on March 14, and there's no deal in sight.

Reconciliation took up most of the oxygen on Capitol Hill this week. On the sidelines, though, anxiety is rising over the March deadline to fund the government.

Typically, the heads of the appropriations committees come together on topline numbers and then the subcommittees get to work writing the bills. That takes some time, so it's crunch time for appropriators to get to work. But there are still no toplines.

The problem, as we reported this week, isn't really a disagreement over numbers. Sen. **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.), the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, told us negotiators are "within very close, striking distance," on the toplines.

The issue is that Democrats need guarantees that the Trump administration will follow through on the funding agreement that Congress reaches. This all goes back to how Democrats have been sounding the alarm over the DOGE cuts, saying President **Donald Trump** is violating appropriations law.

Republicans aren't eager to agree to those demands. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair **Susan Collins** (R-Maine) said negotiators are at an "impasse."

Even if the four corners reach an agreement on these assurances and topline numbers, there's still likely to be some disagreement over the details. The GOP is already looking at how they may codify the DOGE cuts in spending bills.

Then there's Plan B. Some House Republicans are increasingly looking to go ahead with a full-year continuing resolution, rather than full-year appropriations, but that also complicates matters.

It doesn't look like Democrats will agree to a clean, full-year CR, as Murray warned on the Senate floor that it would mean Congress' funding directives fall away. That would give Trump and **Elon Musk** more control over how appropriations are spent, which is exactly what Democrats are trying to avoid.

The major question when the House gets back next week is whether appropriators and leadership can get over these hurdles. Otherwise, there may be a shutdown on the horizon.

POLITICS / DONALD TRUMP

This didn't start with DOGE

Elon Musk is using the anti-teacher playbook against the entire civil workforce.

by **Rachel Cohen**
Feb 14, 2025 at 5:00 AM CST

Teachers and supporters gather on the second day of a teachers' strike at Civic Center Park in Denver on February 12, 2019. Hyoung Chang/MediaNews Group/The Denver Post via Getty Images

Rachel Cohen is a policy correspondent for Vox covering social policy. She focuses on housing, schools, homelessness, child care, and abortion rights, and has been reporting on these issues for more than a decade.

Amid the fourth week of Donald Trump's presidency and Elon Musk's unprecedented blitz against the federal government, dread abounds for the country's federal civil service — the 2.3 million career government employees who handle everything from managing national parks and taxes to overseeing public health and homelessness aid.

Some 75,000 federal employees, or 3 percent of the workforce, accepted the murky offer for "deferred resignation." Since roughly 7 percent of federal workers voluntarily resign every year, there's no indication yet that these voluntary departures will exceed typical levels. On Thursday night, the Trump administration directed agency heads to fire thousands of federal workers, including most probationary staff, a move that could affect up to 200,000 employees.

Musk and his allies have made clear they have no plans to stop their broader crusade to shrink the federal government, automate more of its tasks, and potentially cut spending by dismantling agencies one by one.

The aggressive campaign against the civil service parallels a long history of attacks against another type of public sector worker far more familiar to most Americans: teachers.

The current portrayal of civil servants as "deep state" bureaucrats pushing far-left ideology draws from the same playbook conservatives have long deployed against the 3.2 million Americans who teach in K-12 public schools. Examining these movements together reveals striking similarities in both rhetoric and strategy — and offers clues to the longer-term dangers ahead.

While the most immediate risks from the civil service attacks include a collapse of critical services, economic fallout, and a security vacuum, the consequences could reverberate far beyond this particular purge. Though civil servants have weathered previous onslaughts, the assault from the Department of Government Efficiency stands alone in both its scale and ambition. The warning signs are already visible in education — just as teaching has become an increasingly embattled profession, the prospect of joining the federal workforce may become so diminished and insecure after the DOGE ambush that we face a more lasting degradation of policy implementation, accountability, and enforcement. A nation that devalues its public servants ultimately devalues its own future.

Attacks on "efficiency" and a "bloated public sector" didn't start with DOGE

When conservatives talk about shrinking government, they draw on decades of ideas that took root well before Donald Trump. The push to deregulate began in earnest during the Ford and Carter years, when both Republicans and Democrats worked to slash rules governing everything from airlines to banking. Education was part of this campaign, too: The right-wing Heritage Foundation, founded in 1973, made public funding for private schools one of its early priorities, and Milton Friedman, the University of Chicago economist who wielded enormous influence in conservative circles, championed school vouchers as a way to bring free market ideas into education.

Ronald Reagan would later cement these policies as Republican gospel, elevating privatized, bare-bones government as essential for economic growth and reducing federal overreach. Government wasn't just inefficient, Reagan argued — it actively stood in the way of American prosperity. This anti-government philosophy found its perfect target in public education with the release of the 1983 federal report, "A Nation at Risk."

This influential (though empirically flawed) analysis concluded that American public schools were failing — "eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity" — with ill-prepared teachers and low-quality standards. Conservatives seized on the findings, tied them to the nation's Cold War fear of falling behind Russia, and painted a picture of failing public schools run by bureaucrats who cared little for student learning.

The attacks on public education gained new momentum in the 1990s when Bill Clinton and his "New Democrat" coalition joined the push for school reform. Worried that traditional liberalism had become too politically toxic, synonymous with bloated bureaucracy, these centrist Democrats saw education reform as a way to prove they could be tough on government waste and special interests while still supporting public services. This bipartisan embrace of market-based education reform laid the groundwork for even more aggressive attacks after the 2008 financial crisis, when conservatives argued that teacher salaries and benefits were bleeding taxpayers dry.

More than 120,000 teaching positions were ultimately eliminated across the United States in the two years following the market crash, with state funding for K-12 education falling roughly 8 percent below 2008 levels. This decline in employment had lasting impacts — by 2020, despite enrollment growth, public schools still employed fewer teachers than they had in 2008.

Teachers were cast as "deep state" infiltrators first

Today's attacks paint federal workers as "deep state" subversives, echoing the long history of targeting educators as dangerous ideologues. During the Cold War, public school teachers faced intense scrutiny as potential communist sympathizers, with hundreds pushed out of their jobs through what amounted to political purges.

Suspicions of teachers as secret radicals never fully went away. Instead, they morphed as American politics changed. Attacks ramped up during the Obama years, when conservatives began labeling ethnic studies courses as "un-American" and pushing back against a revised history curriculum they alleged cast US history in too dark a light.

The playbook took on new life during the pandemic. Conservative activist Christopher Rufo, who is now advising Trump on federal diversity and inclusion policy, helped transform vague anxieties about what kids were learning into specific accusations about "critical race theory" — a term that came to mean nearly any curriculum that refers to systemic or structural racism.

And when the "CRT" controversy started to fade from the public's attention — largely because most voters just didn't know or care about it — the political attacks shifted to claims about gender identity and "woke ideology" — a term increasingly used to attack diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in schools and government. Republicans doubled down on these attacks in the presidential election, and within his first few days as president, Trump issued an executive order calling to "end radical indoctrination" in public education. In February, Musk tweeted that California teachers are "indoctrinating kids in DEI racism & sexism & communism" — capturing how these different accusations still blur together.

Undermining public servants puts all Americans at risk

As anti-teacher tactics spread to target federal workers, the battered teaching profession stands as a warning.

Decades of attacks on teachers have wrought serious consequences for schooling in the US. Research published last year by Melissa Arnold Lyon of the University at Albany and Matthew Kraft of Brown University found that interest in teaching among high school seniors and college freshmen has fallen 48 percent since the 1990s, and 40 percent since 2010. Over the last two decades, the number of people earning a teaching license annually dropped by over 100,000, and the proportion of college graduates who go into teaching is at a 50-year low.

The crisis isn't limited to recruitment. For those who have chosen the classroom, deteriorating conditions and mounting frustrations are driving more teachers to quit. Lyon and Kraft find that teachers' job satisfaction recently reached its lowest level in five decades, declining by 26 percent in the past 10 years. While many commentators point to the pandemic as the culprit, the researchers find that most of the declines occurred steadily throughout the last decade, preceding the Covid-19 crisis. This kind of sustained dissatisfaction has led to increased turnover, which is linked to poor student outcomes and a worsened school climate overall.

The consequences of pushing talented teachers out of the field and deterring ambitious young people from entering at all are becoming impossible to ignore. School leaders are struggling more than ever to fill empty teaching spots, and average teacher pay has barely moved in three decades, unlike other jobs that need a college degree. The teacher shortage has gotten so bad that some states are lowering their standards just to get more adults into classrooms — a desperate move that risks putting unqualified people in charge of children's education.

Perhaps most importantly, these developments have hurt student learning. Teacher quality is consistently identified as the most influential school-related factor affecting student achievement, graduation rates, college attendance, employment, and lifetime earnings. The impact is particularly pronounced for low-income students, who stand to gain the most from quality teaching.

This should all serve as a wake-up call: If DOGE teaches a generation that working for the federal government, once attractive for its prestige, decent pay, and job security, is actually precarious and prone to attack, all of us will be worse off for a long time.

The public sector is democracy's backbone — it handles the big stuff we all share like parks and highways, plays the long game when businesses won't, and actually has to answer to voters, not shareholders. Getting these things right depends on attracting and keeping talented people who want to serve.

Federal workers are taking unprecedented hits right now, and many are asking themselves if staying in government is worth it, even if current legal challenges get resolved in their favor. It's a fair question that every person will have to figure out for themselves, and that teachers have long been asking. But here's what we know for sure: The work of the public sector will matter long after any administration changes, and we should be doing everything we can to make people want to be part of that mission.

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Trump Is Making It Harder for the Supreme Court to Side With Him

A haphazard approach makes it more likely the Supreme Court rules against him.

By **ANKUSH KHARDORI**
02/20/2025 05:00 AM EST

Ankush Khardori is a senior writer for POLITICO Magazine and a former federal prosecutor at the Department of Justice, where he specialized in financial fraud and white-collar crime. He has also worked in the private sector on complex commercial litigation and white-collar corporate defense. His column, Rules of Law, offers an unvarnished look at national legal affairs and the political dimensions of the law at a moment when the two are inextricably linked.

President Donald Trump has embarked on the most ambitious and wide-ranging effort to change the country's constitutional system in at least half a century. He may well get there — but the way he's been going about it is undermining his own chances of success.

Trump's list of dramatic executive actions grows by the day — the massive spending freeze, the widespread firings within the federal government, the decision to ignore various laws, not to mention the work of Elon Musk's DOGE, which has neutered multiple federal agencies. All of these moves have two things in common. They all appear to be illegal under laws that Congress has passed, and they all reflect a bid to dramatically expand the power of the presidency and significantly diminish the power of Congress.

The apparent violations of federal law are a feature, not a bug, of the effort. The Trump administration is expecting legal challenges and hopes that they can change longstanding principles of constitutional law with the assistance of a Supreme Court that is stacked in favor of Republicans after decades of conservative activism and political hardball. The strategy, at least in its broad strokes, makes sense if you want to change the law or move it in a different direction. When the dust finally settles, Trump may get at least some of what he wants — maybe even a lot of it — once the Supreme Court weighs in.

But as with all things Trump, he is both his best advocate and worst enemy. The Trump administration may have made a conscious political decision to engage in "shock and awe," but it has undermined its own legal agenda by proceeding too aggressively, too quickly and too haphazardly.

For instance, Trump has been operating without a fully staffed Justice Department, and it has shown up in the form of serious mistakes in court proceedings. To execute his plan, he has been relying on Musk, a volatile force who has already made comments that undercut the administration's legal rationale and effectively concede the absence of any meaningful legal process in their review. And all the while, Trump's moves have been deeply controversial while fueling tangible upheaval in the federal government and American society, which should ultimately make it tougher for the Supreme Court to rule in his favor without attracting harsh scrutiny.

For the sake of his own agenda, he would be smart to slow down a little, to improve the quality of his administration's lawyering and to take his lumps in the lower courts as they come without members of his administration implying, among other things, that they are free to ignore court orders.

It's worth laying out exactly how some of Trump's sweeping array of executive actions run up against current constitutional hurdles and how they might be received by the Supreme Court.

First are the firings of high-level officials in the executive branch, including the dismissals of more than a dozen inspectors general, the head of the Office of Special Counsel and members of several different independent agencies whose members cannot be removed under federal law except in limited circumstances.

These moves reflect a particularly aggressive version of the so-called unitary executive theory, a conservative legal theory that posits that the president has the constitutional power to fire officials in the executive branch at will, irrespective of any limitations that Congress has specified in the law. The theory is based on the presidential "vesting clause" in the Constitution, but it cannot be reconciled with the Supreme Court's 1935 decision in *Humphrey's Executor v. United States*, which affirmed Congress' constitutional authority to insulate members of independent agencies like the Federal Trade Commission from at-will removal.

Conservatives have been angling for the Supreme Court to overturn *Humphrey's Executor* for years, but if it does, the upshot is that every agency could undergo a wholesale, partisan reconstruction any time a new president enters office. That means private parties (including businesses) would not be able to assume any meaningful long-term regulatory stability in areas that span the American economy and society, which could give some conservative justices pause.

The second category concerns Trump's effort to seize Congress' spending power in order to allow him to unilaterally determine how Americans' taxpayer dollars are spent, irrespective of what elected officials in Congress may have specified in federal appropriations measures.

Trump's moves have been deeply controversial while fueling tangible upheaval in the federal government and American society, which should ultimately make it tougher for the Supreme Court to rule in his favor without attracting harsh scrutiny. | Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

There are several constitutional problems with these moves. Most notably, it is Congress that holds the power to make laws, and it is Congress that holds the power to tax and spend. Congress has historically been allowed to delegate much of this authority to the executive branch, but there is no meaningful legal support for the notion that the president can unilaterally make these decisions for himself or that he can wholly disregard the laws that Congress has passed.

Notably, Trump's position cannot be reconciled with a decision that the Supreme Court handed down against President Bill Clinton that invalidated even a congressionally authorized line-item veto. The majority in that case, which included Justice Clarence Thomas, observed that there "is no provision in the Constitution that authorizes the President to enact, to amend, or to repeal statutes." But that, in effect, is the power that Trump has claimed.

A third category, though one that has received much less attention, involves the administration's effort to increase the federal government's power over state and local government officials. At the moment, you can slot into this category the Justice Department's lawsuits against Illinois and New York over so-called sanctuary laws, which, according to the administration's allegations, impede the federal government's efforts to deport undocumented immigrants. (You could also argue that the Trump administration's co-opting of New York City Mayor Eric Adams — giving him an unwarranted reprieve on criminal charges in apparent exchange for his cooperation with the Trump administration's deportation efforts — ought to fit into this category, though there is likely no judicial remedy for that.)

The Supreme Court has historically looked askance at efforts to "commandeer" state and local governments for federal purposes, particularly given the principle of dual federalism that is reflected in the structure of the Constitution. Every Republican appointee on the court in 2018 affirmed this so-called anticommandeering rule, though it is unclear if the justices will see things in the same way in the immigration context.

Trump and his team have eschewed a traditional, incrementalist approach to litigating, opting instead for a quicker and more aggressive effort that moves simultaneously on multiple fronts. But that incremental approach, as a strategic matter, has considerable benefits: It makes it harder for the country to detect (and object to) major constitutional developments that more typically occur over relatively long stretches of time.

Trump's legal campaign effectively presents the country and the court with the question of whether the president has power akin to a monarch. There is no credible support for this claim in the country's history or in its law — not least because the country was founded in order to reject precisely that type of imperial authority.

In theory, this should make it harder for the Republican appointees on the court to rubber-stamp Trump and his administration's actions. Since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, the court's public approval has hovered near all-time lows, and signing off on major revisions to our constitutional system is not likely to help matters. Chief Justice John Roberts, who seems to care about his public standing and legacy, risks becoming one of the most controversial and widely criticized chief justices in the court's 235-year history, so it is not hard to imagine this all being too much for him or, say, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who is seen as another potential swing vote on these issues. Both of them could align in some cases with the Democratic appointees to form a 5-4 majority against some of Trump's moves.

It is also one thing to advance an aggressive theory of executive power on paper and in court, where you can rely on constitutional abstractions, but an entirely different matter when dealing in the real world.

That has been one effect of the careless manner in which the Trump administration has proceeded, as well as its decision to outsource much of the work to Musk, who appears to have little understanding of the federal budget, or the government functions and agencies that he has thrown into chaos.

Musk is not a good public representative on these issues. White House officials are reportedly growing frustrated with him, and a recent poll reported that only 13 percent of Americans want him to have "a lot" of influence in the Trump administration.

But his role is not just a potential political problem for the White House; it's a legal one.

A recent poll reported that only 13 percent of Americans want Elon Musk to have "a lot" of influence in the Trump administration. | Alex Brandon/AP

When Musk speaks, he says false and reckless things. And his claim that he can "delete entire agencies" should figure prominently in the litigation over Trump's authority to restructure federal agencies given it directly conflicts with the Supreme Court's ruling in the line-item veto case.

Trump and Musk could have achieved all of the same objectives by proceeding more incrementally — by spending, say, a month at each agency in order to develop at least nominally credible and legally sturdy rationales for what they are doing. What has emerged instead looks like politically motivated and arbitrary decision-making that has led to a stream of stories in recent days about how the Trump administration's work may harm everyday Americans, including many Republican districts, in areas that run the gamut from health care to cybersecurity to national security and even air travel safety.

Will the Supreme Court's Republican appointees all ignore this real-world tumult when the legal challenges reach them? Only two of them need to side with the Democratic appointees in order to thwart or constrain the enterprise, which would effectively result in the end of the federal regulatory regime as we have known it since the New Deal.

There have been tactical failures as well. Trump set all of this off without having his Justice Department leadership in place. He still does not have a confirmed solicitor general or deputy attorney general, but if you wanted to pursue a litigation portfolio that is this aggressive, you would ideally have your appointees in place and firing on all cylinders.

There have also been a series of missteps on the part of the Justice Department lawyers defending Trump's actions, who have shown up to court proceedings providing inaccurate information to judges that they have had to walk back — and at times without even knowing what they are actually defending. This has several effects: It undermines the Justice Department's credibility in court, underscores the haphazard and heavy-handed nature of what Trump and Musk are doing and also suggests a disdain for both the legal process and the judiciary. That tends to rub judges the wrong way, compounds the potential violations of federal law and makes it easier for judges to issue injunctions.

Last but not least, Trump has coupled these legal maneuvers with a decision to effectively pick and choose which laws to enforce based on his personal and political preferences, be they the TikTok ban or the foreign anti-bribery statute that he has hated for years but is still very much on the books. All of this underscores the breadth of Trump's ambition.

It is not difficult to imagine a more effective litigation strategy even now for Trump. He should roll out further executive orders in a seemingly less arbitrary manner; if there are more laws that Trump refuses to enforce, he should try to create some semblance of a credible legal process around the decision; and his administration should stop showing disdain for lower court judges.

All of this demonstrates the unworkability of the Trump administration's theories when taken as a whole. There is no question that the volume and intensity of Trump's efforts to greatly expand his power present the country — and the courts — with a constitutional power grab that has almost no precedent in American history.

Will some Republican appointees on the Supreme Court take note? Trump may have made it impossible for them to ignore.

FILED UNDER: U.S. SUPREME COURT, DONALD TRUMP, JOHN ROBERTS,

Outlook

How Things Stand

From The Weekly Sift <comment-reply@wordpress.com>
Date Mon 2/24/2025 8:49 AM
To 'schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com <schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com>

Read on blog or Reader

The Weekly Sift

How Things Stand

By **weeklysift** on February 24, 2025

I keep having the same conversation with my friends, who are anxious and/or depressed about the Trump/Musk attempt to establish an autocracy, and wonder how I stay so sanguine. There are three reasons, one of which is personal and won't help anybody else. But the other two might.

The personal reason is that my wife died in December. So from my point of view, nothing worse is going to happen anytime soon. I realize that's a very self-centered point of view, but it is what it is.

The other two reasons, though, are generalizable and linked:

- Nothing about the current struggle should be all that surprising.
- The events that will tell us how it plays out haven't happened yet.

I didn't read all 900+ pages of Project 2025, but I did see enough of it to realize that the first few months of a second Trump administration would constitute an all-out assault on American democracy. I can't claim that I foresaw the details of the current mess -- Elon's role in particular surprised me -- but the general outline was all there. And I know Trump denied Project 2025 was his plan, but nobody should have taken that denial seriously.

So now we've seen Trump's opening moves: a blizzard of executive orders claiming unprecedented powers that can be found nowhere in the Constitution. That was all predictable.

What wasn't predictable, and is still unknown, is how the other American power centers would respond. I'm talking about Congress, the courts, the state governments, and the People. That's all still very hard to predict, because each of those power centers will influence the behavior of the others.

It's important for us to be neither complacent about all this nor resigned to our fate. Things really are still up in the air. Let's look at the possible resistance centers one by one.

The People. Let's start with the People, who elected Trump in November with 49.8% of the vote -- hardly the "mandate" he likes to claim. Historically, voters have rewarded election winners with a give-the-guy-a-chance response that pundits sometimes refer to this as a president's "honeymoon". So, for example, Barack Obama got 52.9% of the vote in the 2008 election, but his post-inauguration approval rating bounced up to 69% (the highest it ever got).

By contrast, Trump's post-inauguration approval (as estimated by 538's polling average) was almost identical to his vote total: 49.7%, with disapproval at 41.5% (indicating that some Americans who voted for Harris or someone else were now neutral. By contrast, Obama's post-inaugural disapproval was a mere 13%.) Trump's most recent split is still positive, 48.5%-47.0%, but just barely. Some recent polls have turned sharply negative, like Ipsos, which has gone from a post-inaugural 47%-41% to a recent 44%-51%.

Polls that focus more specifically on what Trump is doing look worse for him. A

WaPo/Ipsos poll showed 57% of Americans believe that Trump has overstepped his authority. 54% disapprove of his management of the federal government. Elon Musk's approval is 15 points underwater with 49% disapproving and only 34% approving.

Short version: As people see what Trump is doing, they're turning against him. I expect this to continue as more and more Americans notice that Trump's "temporary" actions aren't temporary, and aren't solving any of the problems he campaigned on. (Bought any eggs lately?) I anticipate worse polls for Trump and a lot more demonstrations like the one I participated in February 14 in Boston.

Congress. Republicans hold slim majorities in both houses, so Democratic responses are necessarily limited: Democrats on their own cannot pass legislation, hold hearings, or subpoena witnesses. They can make speeches and create photo ops, but that's about it. And the press, knowing Democrats can't do much, don't pay much attention to them. (I often hear comments like "Why don't the Democrats say or do X?" Chances are some of them have, but you didn't hear about it.)

Initially, congressional Republicans have been loyal Trump supporters, including confirming obviously unqualified cabinet nominees like Pete Hegseth, RFK Jr., Kash Patel, and Tulsi Gabbard. (No Democrat voted for any of the four.) But Republicans can also read polls, and apparently constituents are burning up their phone lines, so some are beginning to get uneasy about cuts that affect their home districts.

But will they do anything to rein Trump in? The real test happens when the government runs out of money on March 14. It's easy to be for or against things until somebody puts price tags on them and adds them all up. In order to get the bill he wants, Trump will need support from almost all of the Republicans in the House. If Democrats stay united and only two Republicans vote against a spending deal, it fails.

If that happens, that's when congressional Democrats begin to have negotiating leverage.

State and local governments. Contrasting with decades of Republican rhetoric idealizing government close to the people and villainizing know-it-alls who meddle from distant Washington, Trump is trying to use federal power to overwhelm the states and cities.

The scandal over Trump's deal to drop federal corruption charges against New York Mayor Eric Adams is all about Trump trying to make liberal cities dance to his tune, in spite of what their voters want. So is his attempt to cancel in New York City's congestion pricing. Ditto for border czar Tom Homan's threat to "bring Hell" to Boston after the Boston police commissioner said he would obey local laws that don't give him the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. In a White House meeting with governors of both parties, Trump tried to bully Maine Governor Janet Mills into submitting to his executive order banning transwomen from women's sports. "I'll see you in court," Mills replied.

All in all, Democratic officials at the state and local level are standing firm against federal usurpation. Democratic attorneys general are leading a number of the lawsuits against the Trump administration's overreach. How well they succeed, though, largely depends on the courts.

The courts. Many of the things Trump is doing are illegal or unconstitutional. His attempt to undo birthright citizenship is a blatant contradiction of the 14th Amendment. His refusal to spend money already appropriated by Congress violates both the Constitution's assignment of spending power to Congress and the Impoundment Act of 1974. He has no authority to disband agencies created by Congress, like USAID or the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. His treatment of federal employees violates the laws establishing the civil service, as well as union contracts signed by previous administrations.

But laws do not enforce themselves if lawbreakers are determined to ignore them. Victims of the law-breaking have to go to court. Judges have to rule in accordance with the law in spite of executive pressure against them. Court orders can be appealed, so the process can take a long time.

So far, the lower courts are following the law and the Constitution, so Trump is losing most of the cases.

Where Trump action court cases stand

BLOCKED FOR NOW	PARTIALLY BLOCKED	AWAITING DECISION	UPHELD FOR NOW
Ban on birthright citizenship	DOGE accessing personal data of Americans and federal workers	Ban on asylum	Resignation offer for federal workers
Freeze on federal grants and loans	Firing commissioners, inspectors general without cause	Expanding fast-track deportations	Legality of the U.S. DOGE Service
Transfer of transgender prisoners	Dismantling USAID and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	Removing employment protections for civil servants	
Ban on gender-transition care for minors		Ban on transgender troops	
Dismantling DEI		Ban on transgender athletes in women and girl's sports	

This is all leading up to two questions:

- Will the Supreme Court invent new interpretations of our laws to back Trump up, essentially ending the rule of law as we have known it?
- If the Court does rule against Trump, will he defy the Court's orders?

In theory, Supreme Court decisions take place in an abstract world of law. In practice, though, public opinion will play an important role. If Trump's excesses are popular, the Court will be more likely to jump on the fascist bandwagon. But if his poll numbers keep spiraling down the drain, the Court may not want to go down with him.

Similar considerations apply to the defiance option: If the public is solidly behind Trump and sees the Court as blocking him for no good reason, he will be more likely to ignore the Court's orders. On the other hand, if the public is turning against him, the thought that *even this Supreme Court* thinks he's wrong may increase the slide.

The first of the cases has already reached the Supreme Court, briefly, sort of. Hampton Dellinger was the head of the Office of the Special Counsel, and independent agency established by Congress to do things like protect whistleblowers in the government. He was appointed by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate to a five-year term. The statute establishing the position makes provision for the President to fire the special counsel "only for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance." But on February 7 Trump fired Dellinger without claiming any of those things. A district reinstated Dellinger temporarily, and the Trump administration appealed, losing 2-1 at the appellate level. From there they went to the Supreme Court.

The Court also declined to overturn the district court's order, but it's hard to read much into that decision, because essentially it is just giving time for the lower court to complete its work. The restraining order runs out Wednesday, when the district court has a hearing scheduled.

The issues here get to the heart of the separation of powers, because it's hard to see how the OSC can do its job if the head of it can be fired on a presidential whim. Presidents typically dislike whistleblowers, so the OSC won't be much of a protector if it has no independence from the President. If it finds for Trump, the Court will be saying that the goal the Congress had in mind can't be achieved.

The good scenario. Obviously, Trump is going to do a lot of harm no matter what anybody else does. The USAID freeze is already killing people in Africa, and no one knows how much damage American medical research will suffer from having its funding stream interrupted or perhaps cut off altogether. A lot of the near-term impact of the research-funding freeze will depend on unpredictable events like whether some future mutation of bird flu enables human-to-human transmission. Trump's almost vandal-like approach to Biden's climate change initiatives is going to make it that much harder to deal with long-term challenges that already threaten catastrophe. In short, the voters made an enormous mistake in November, and that mistake will have consequences.

But in my mind those consequences pale compared to the establishment of a lasting autocracy in the United States -- and that outcome is still avoidable. The scenario that avoids it goes like this:

- Trump continues losing popularity. He never had much, but his brand becomes politically toxic.

- That lack of voter support makes support from congressional Republicans waver. They may not openly defy Trump, but the slim Republican majorities (especially in the House) lose their cohesion, making it impossible to pass legislation without at least some Democratic support. The lack of legislative accomplishments feeds back into public opinion: Maybe Trump isn't such a strong leader.

- The Supreme Court, at least partly influenced by public opinion, refuses to invent new legal principles to justify Trump's seizures of power.

- The refusal of congressional Republicans and Trump's own appointees on the Supreme Court to go along with his wishes feeds back into public opinion: If even his would-be minions can't fully support him, maybe his critics are right.

- Facing an extreme lack of public support as well as dissension in his own ranks, Trump reluctantly obeys court orders. Or, if he doesn't, the military refuses orders to crack down on mass public protests.

- Republicans get soundly defeated in the November, 2025 Virginia elections, sending Republican elected officials into a panic.

- Democrats win back control of the House in 2026, putting them in a position to block future usurpations.

- Trump is dissuaded from trying to hang onto power in 2028. The MAGA movement splinters into its component factions -- tech bros, racists, burn-it-down nihilists, etc. -- none of which is able to win the national election.

That scenario is far from a sure thing, but the way is still open. We'll learn a lot from future polls, from how Congress handles the possible March 14 government shutdown, and from what the Supreme Court does as cases arrive on its doorstep.

Outlook

Messaging Committee Tasks - March 2025

From Mark Cross <mcross@cassd63.org>
Date Fri 1/31/2025 1:39 PM
To Kevin Feeney <kfeeney@209u.net>; Stephanie Long <slong@lelandschool.com>; Matt Swick <mswick@209u.net>; Jerry Ellender <jerry.ellender@madriverschools.org>; Carolynn Anderson <carolynn.anderson@k12.sd.us>; Eversole, Wes <weversole@ldisd.net>; Sarah.Wedge@k12.sd.us <sarah.wedge@k12.sd.us>; teri.reynolds@k12.sd.us <teri.reynolds@k12.sd.us>; sally.crowser@k12.sd.us <sally.crowser@k12.sd.us>; Tim Page <t.page@elwoodschool.com>; John Cosner <jcosner@ssusd.org>; amoore@ssusd.org <amoore@ssusd.org>; Charlie Kyle <ckyle@ccsd180.org>; sstowe@lelandschool.com <sstowe@lelandschool.com>
Cc Frank Sheboy <frank.sheboy@hffmcsd.org>; CWALKER@hueneme.org <cwalker@hueneme.org>; Tom Schneider <schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com>

Tom, Frank, and Christina,

Following are the updated tasks of the Messaging Committee to complete between now and the March NAFIS Conference. Unless you have other suggestions or needs from our committee, please update the list as follows:

1. Update the FLISA Leave Behind flyer
2. Update the FLISA Talking Points and align with NAFIS
3. Share school and child-centered pictures for FLISA website and materials
4. Develop Congressional letter for non-attending FLISA school districts (in collaboration with Advocacy and Membership)

Thank you!

MARK R. CROSS
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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Outlook

FLISA Congressional Letter Draft

From Mark Cross <mcross@cassd63.org>
Date Thu 1/30/2025 2:18 PM
To Kevin Feeney <kfeeney@209u.net>; Stephanie Long <slong@lelandschool.com>; Matt Swick <mswick@209u.net>; Jerry Ellender <jerry.ellender@madriverschools.org>; Carolynn Anderson <carolynn.anderson@k12.sd.us>; Eversole, Wes <weversole@ldisd.net>; Sarah.Wedge@k12.sd.us <sarah.wedge@k12.sd.us>; teri.reynolds@k12.sd.us <teri.reynolds@k12.sd.us>; sally.crowser@k12.sd.us <sally.crowser@k12.sd.us>; Tim Page <t.page@elwoodschool.com>; John Cosner <jcosner@ssusd.org>; amoore@ssusd.org <amoore@ssusd.org>; Charlie Kyle <ckyle@ccsd180.org>; sstowe@lelandschool.com <sstowe@lelandschool.com>
Cc Frank Sheboy <frank.sheboy@hffmcsd.org>; CWALKER@hueneme.org <cwalker@hueneme.org>; Tom Schneider <schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com>

Please review, and I will share this via Google Docs as well. Thanks, Wes!

Mark

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, Zip Code]
[Email Address]
[Date]

The Honorable [Congressman's Name]
[Congressman's Office Address]
[City, State, Zip Code]

Dear Congressman [Last Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today as a concerned constituent and advocate for education in our community. I would like to bring to your attention the critical importance of Section 7002 Impact Aid funding for our schools and, by extension, our students and families.

Impact Aid is a vital federal program that provides financial assistance to school districts that are affected by federal activities, such as military installations and Indian lands. Section 7002, in particular, addresses the needs of districts that lose property tax revenue due to the presence of federal properties. This funding is essential for maintaining quality education and ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

In our district, the presence of federal installations has a significant impact on our budget. The loss of property tax revenue means that our schools often struggle to provide adequate facilities, hire and retain qualified teachers, and implement essential programs. Without Section 7002 funding, we risk compromising the quality of education that our children receive, which can have long-lasting effects on their academic and social development.

Furthermore, the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated existing disparities in funding and resources. Schools are facing increased demands for mental health services, technology upgrades, and support for students who have fallen behind. Section 7002 funding can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges and ensuring that our schools can continue to meet the needs of all students, regardless of their background or circumstances.

I urge you to advocate for the continued support and expansion of Section 7002 Impact Aid funding. Our schools play a foundational role in shaping the future of our community, and we must ensure they have the resources necessary to provide a high-quality education for every student.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your dedication to our community and look forward to seeing positive action taken to support our schools.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]
[Optional: Your Title/Organization, if applicable]

MARK R. CROSS
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Membership Committee Action Plan Priorities

*Review and update Membership Committee one pager. Include a review of the NAFIS membership one-pager. Additional information to emphasize that membership dues enable FLISA to advocate on the Hill for public education. Also note that the federal lands portion of Impact Aid has been identified by the new administration as a target for elimination.

* Work with Advocacy and Membership Committee to identify key legislators we need to visit on the Hill that we are not already visiting. Identify non-member districts in the state of these legislators and target them for membership.

* Work with the FLISA Executive Director to update the website. Update the "join" link on the FLISA website to "why join" and to include the membership committee one pager and a subsequent link to upload the membership invoice.

* Continue efforts to contact non-member districts and provide information on the importance of becoming a member. Contact the appropriate Impact Aid coordinator first. If no response is received, send information to the School Board.

* Work with NAFIS office and Joel on membership toolkit.

* Create a mentor program that assigns mentors to new attendees/members. Contact NAFIS prior to DC conferences to confirm new 7002 district attendees. Make contact with the new attendees to answer any questions that they might have, inquire to see if they have scheduled Hill visits and if not, encourage them to do so. Offer to go with them on their initial visits.

*Follow-up with districts who have been members in the past but are not current members.. Bookkeeper will continue to double invoice those district's who were members in the previous year but have not paid the subsequent year's invoice. Bookkeeper will also be looking at the past history of districts who were once members but have not been a member for several years.

*Contact new member districts – Send a communication to see if they are interested in becoming an active member (I.e. attending conferences and/or work session meetings, Hill visits).

Notes from FLISA Advocacy Committee
January 30-31, 2025 FLISA Winter Meetings

Present: Christine Walker, Craig Hutcheson, Sally Crowser (sally.crowser@k12.sd.us), Mike McElduff, Mary Ticknor, Tom Schneider

From the list of FLISA-funded school districts who receive at least $80,000, we have identified approximately 24 non-participatory school districts within 18 different legislative districts to target. Our plan is to work with the Messaging Committee to prepare informational packets for distribution to these congressional offices during the spring NAFIS conference in March.

We plan to draft a general letter template with help from the Messaging Committee to use as a cover letter that would go with the packet of materials. We are hopeful that the cover letter could be personalized with specific pertinent information.

We are looking at using our FLISA meeting at the March NAFIS conference to have FLISA members help the Advocacy Committee deliver the informational packets to the congressional offices who do have constituent school districts visiting them. If someone is already going to a particular House building, for example, that person might also be willing to take a packet of information to a congressional office that we've identified as not being visited during the NAFIS conference.

Also we are considering sending a letter to the superintendent and board president of the non-participatory school districts informing them that we have provided FLISA packets to their representatives.

So we're starting small in March, we can review how it went during our June summer FLISA meeting and then decide how to proceed for the September NAFIS conference.

We've decided our role as the Advocacy Committee within the FLISA organization, which itself exists for the purpose of advocacy, is information-sharing with members of Congress who aren't regularly communicated with by our FLISA members.

What does the Advocacy Committee want to accomplish:

- Between now and the March NAFIS Conference?
  - Add name of education staffer and his/her contact information for each of the targeted congressional offices on the spreadsheet – Mary
  - Add location of DC office on the spreadsheet – Mary
  - Work with Messaging Committee about what materials should go into a packet of information that we will leave at the targeted congressional offices – Mary and Mark
  - Work with Messaging Committee to draft cover letter template that would be included in the packet of information - Mary and Mark
  - Figure out physically copying materials and assembling packets
  - Develop general directions for our FLISA members who are going to take packets to targeted congressional offices

- Between March and our June FLISA meeting?
  - Follow up emails to the targeted offices

POTENTIAL LETTER TO A DISTRICT THAT IS NOT A MEMBER:

Subject: Eligibility for Federal Impact Aid Through FLISA

Dear Superintendent [Last Name],

I am reaching out to inform you that your school district may be eligible to receive **federal Impact Aid funding** through membership in the **Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA).** This funding is designed to support districts like yours that experience a loss of local tax revenue due to the presence of **federally owned, tax-exempt land** within their boundaries.

What is FLISA?

FLISA is a national organization that advocates on behalf of school districts that qualify for **Impact Aid under Section 7002** of the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).** Our mission is to ensure that the federal government fulfills its obligation to provide financial assistance to districts that cannot fully generate local property tax revenue due to federal land ownership.

Why is FLISA Important?

By joining FLISA, your district will gain:

- **Access to Additional Federal Funding** – Your district could receive approximately **[$ Amount]** in federal Impact Aid funding.
- **A Stronger Advocacy Voice** – FLISA works directly with lawmakers to protect and increase funding for impacted districts.
- **Collaboration with Similar Districts** – Membership provides valuable networking and shared resources with other federally impacted schools across the country.

Next Steps

We encourage you to explore this opportunity and determine how **Impact Aid funding** could benefit your district's students, programs, and overall financial stability. We would be happy to connect you with FLISA representative to schedule a time to discuss the details further and guide you through the process of joining FLISA.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or to express your interest in learning more. Thank you for your time and commitment to your district's students and community.

POTENTIAL LETTER TO FLISA MEMBERS WHO WE WANT TO BE MORE ACTIVE

Subject: Strengthening Our Advocacy Efforts – Your FLISA Membership Matters

Dear Superintendent [Last Name],

As a **current FLISA member**, your district benefits from **federal Impact Aid funding**, receiving approximately **[$ Amount]** annually to help offset the loss of local tax revenue due to federally owned, tax-exempt land. However, in order to protect and potentially **increase this funding**, we need **stronger participation and advocacy** from all member districts.

Why Your Engagement Matters

FLISA plays a critical role in securing **Impact Aid under Section 7002** of the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**. Without continued advocacy and unified representation, **this vital funding could be at risk**. Engaging with **FLISA and NAFIS conferences** strengthens our ability to:

- **Protect and increase Impact Aid funding** by ensuring our collective voice is heard in Washington, D.C.
- **Educate lawmakers** on the financial challenges faced by federally impacted districts.
- **Collaborate with other districts** to develop strategies that maximize our funding opportunities.

Call to Action

We encourage you to **become more involved** by attending **FLISA and NAFIS conferences**, participating in advocacy efforts, and helping us continue to fight for the funding that directly benefits your students. **Your district's voice is crucial to our success.**

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need additional information on how to become more actively engaged. **Together, we can ensure that Impact Aid remains a reliable and growing source of funding for our schools.**

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

POTENTIAL LETTER TO CONGRESS MEMBER OR SENATOR

Subject: The Importance of Impact Aid – Supporting Federally Impacted Schools

Dear [Congressmember/Senator's Name],

On behalf of the **[School District Name]** and the **Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA),** I want to highlight the **critical importance of federal Impact Aid** and urge your support in ensuring its **full funding**. As a member of Congress representing a district that includes a **FLISA-member school district**, your leadership in advocating for Impact Aid is vital to the success of students and families in our community.

What is Impact Aid?

Impact Aid, under **Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA),** provides essential funding to school districts that lose local tax revenue due to the presence of **federally owned, tax-exempt land**. This funding is **not supplemental**; it is a **core operating budget resource** that supports student programs, instructional staff, technology, and infrastructure. Without full funding, federally impacted districts **struggle to provide equitable educational opportunities** compared to non-impacted districts.

Why FLISA Matters

FLISA represents **Section 7002 Impact Aid districts**, which specifically serve communities affected by **military installations, national parks, federal research facilities, and other tax-exempt federal lands**. Our district, **[School District Name]**, receives approximately **[$ Amount]** in **Impact Aid funding** annually. These funds are critical to maintaining quality education and ensuring that **federally impacted students receive the same opportunities as their peers** in non-impacted districts.

The Need for Full Funding

Despite the **federal obligation** to support districts that cannot generate local tax revenue, Impact Aid **remains underfunded**, leaving many districts scrambling to make up for lost revenue through budget cuts, increased class sizes, or reduced programs. We urge you to join the **bipartisan call to fully fund Impact Aid** by:

- **Advocating for full funding of Title VII Impact Aid in the federal budget**
- **Joining the Congressional Impact Aid Coalition** to support long-term solutions for federally impacted schools
- **Ensuring that federal obligations to our schools and communities are met**

Your Leadership Matters

Your support for full Impact Aid funding will directly benefit **[School District Name],** the students and families we serve, and many other school districts in your congressional district and across the country. This is not just an **education issue**—it is a matter of **federal responsibility** and **educational equity**.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss how you can further support Impact Aid and help ensure that **federally impacted students receive the resources they deserve**.

Thank you for your time and commitment to education.

Sincerely,

IMPACT AID Advocacy Committee - TO DO

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A1 School District

School District	State	Amount of 7002 Funds	Representative	Party	FLISA Member	Education Policy Staffer	DC Office Locatio
Westside	AR	$465,408	J. French Hill	R	FLISA Member		
Adams County	CO	$3,088,096	Gabe Evans (New)	R	Not a FLISA member		
Walton Co.	FLA	$292,848	New Member Coming	TBD	Not a FLISA member		
Lincoln Co.	GA	$266,401	Ricky Allen	R	Not a FLISA member		
Bryan Co.	GA	$751,508	Buddy Carter and Rick Allen	R and R	FLISA Member		
Liberty Co.	GA	$694,010	Buddy Carter	R	FLISA Member		
Clay Co.	GA	$143,210	Stanford Bisho	D	Not a FLISA member		
Loogootee	IN	$258,524	Mark Messmer (New)	R	Not a FLISA member		
Perry Central	IN	$262,447	Mark Messmer (New)	R	Not a FLISA member		
Bartholomew	IN	$223,359	Jefferson Shreve	R	FLISA Member		
Russell Co.	KY	$255,449	James Cormer	R	Not a FLISA member		
Trigg Co.	KY	$1,171,502	James Cormer	R	Not a FLISA member		
Center 58	MO	$275,941	Emmanuel Clever	D	Not a FLISA member		
Smithville R - II	MO	$96,728	Sam Graves	R	FLISA member		
Warsaw R-IX	MO	$153,711	Mark Alford	R	Not a FLISA member		
Clay	TN	$119,339	John Rose	R	Not a FLISA member		
DeKalb	TN	$161,927	John Rose	R	Not a FLISA member		
Stewart	TN	$225,055	Mark E Green	R	Not a FLISA member		
Unicoi	TN	$204,464	Diana Harshberger	R	Not a FLISA member		
Taconic and Green	VT	$193,109	Becca Balint	D	Not a FLISA member		
Woodford	VT	$132,907	Becca Balint	D	Not a FLISA member		
Onslow	SC	$2,393,068	Greg Murphy	R	Not a FLISA member		
Delaware Valley	PA	$733,413	Robert Bresnaham (New)	R	New FLISA member		
East Stroudsburg	PA	$589,487	Robert Bresnaham (New)	R	Not a FLISA member		

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Sheet1

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

March 11, 2025

Representative Robert Bresnaham
DC Office Address
Washington, D.C. XXXXX

Dear Representative Bresnaham:

Two public school districts in your legislative district, East Stroudsburg and Delaware Valley, collectively receive approximately $1.3 million annually per the Federal Impact Aid Program, authorized in Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act. The purpose of this letter and accompanying informational material is to increase your awareness of this bi-partisan program and request your support for continuation of this critical funding not only for the school districts in your congressional district, but for all federally impacted school districts across the country.

I serve as Executive Director of the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) and represent school districts who have lost local tax revenue due to the presence of federal property within their boundaries, such as military installations, national parks, federal research facilities, and other tax-exempt federal lands. East Stroudsburg and Delaware Valley school districts are impacted by NAME OF FEDERAL PROPERTY and received $589,487 and $733,413 in impact aid payments respectively during the 2024-25 school year. This vital funding goes directly to these school districts from the Federal Impact Aid Office, which is under the U.S. Department of Education.

Please review the information provided to learn more about the Federal Impact Aid Program and feel free to contact me with any questions. The school districts in your legislative district are counting on your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Schneider, Executive Director
Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association
schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com
219-545-1011

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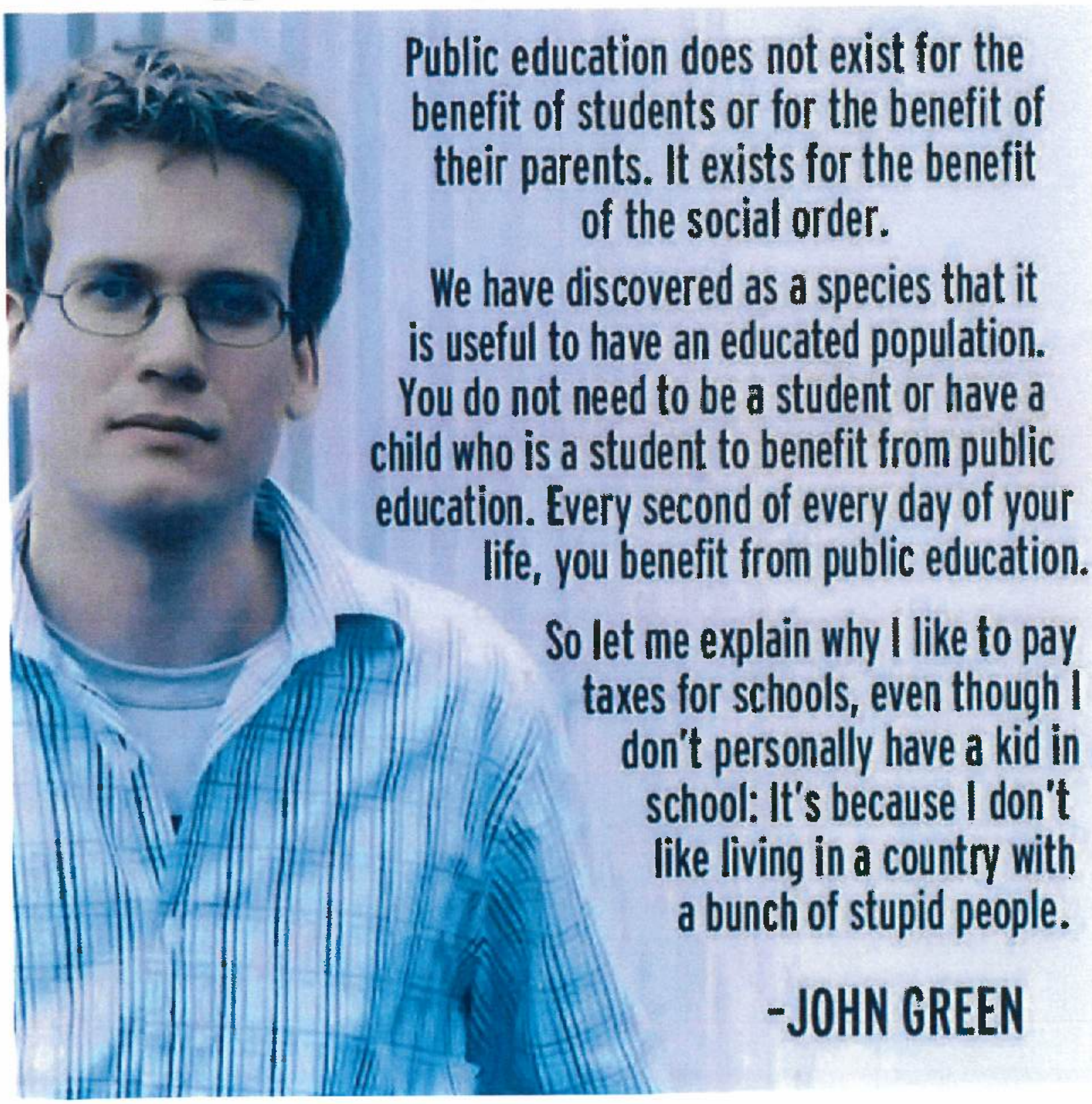

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education for Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Summer Meeting 2025

THURSDAY, June 19, 2025—Committee Meetings As Scheduled (Between 2PM-4PM)
FRIDAY, June 20, 2025—9AM-4PM Pacific Time
Hyatt Regency Newport Beach Resort, 1107 Jamboree Road,
Newport Beach, California
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM AND INVOICE

PLEASE PRINT/TYPE ALL INFORMATION:

School District: ____

Address: ____

Phone: ________________ Emergency Contact Name/Phone: ______________________________

Meeting Participants Name(s): E-Mail Address:

____

Conference Registration includes meeting room and a post meeting reception (open to attendees and their guests). Breakfast will be on your own. No registration refunds will be given after May 19, 2025.

Conference Registration $200* X ______ (*Number of Participants*) Total $___________
*Lunch will be provided.

Please mail your payment with this form by **May 19, 2025** made payable to **FLISA** to:

FLISA—Attention: Bookkeeper
2009 Eastlake Drive
Ottawa, IL 61350

Hotel Reservations: Make your hotel reservations as early as possible. **Hyatt Regency Newport Beach Resort, 1107 Jamboree Road, Newport Beach, California.** Meeting participants should use this link to reserve their room under the group code: G-FLIS.

https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/NEWPO/G-FLIS

The rates of $269-$289 per night (plus tax) extend through the weekend should some of the meeting participants want to stay in the area longer between Wednesday, June 18th and Sunday, June 22nd. Or, you can call Central Reservations at (877) 803-7534 and request to be booked in the block named: *FLISA Summer Meeting Room Block.* The hotel will only hold rooms thru **Monday, May 19, 2025.**