



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

**FLISA Member Meeting Agenda**  
**Hyatt Regency Newport Beach**  
**Committee Work Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>—2PM-4PM Garden Room II**  
**Membership Meeting Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>— 9AM-4PM Garden Room II**  
**Reception 5PM-7PM Garden Room**

**Please bring your laptop/device for Committee Work.**

## **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 2027),

*\*Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment*

**Sarah Wedge** (Secretary thru March 2027),

**Craig Hutcheson (Past President thru March, 2026)\***

*\*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 (retired).*

**Mary Ticknor** Advocacy Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)

**Bob Reichert\*\*\*** Membership Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)

**Mark Cross** Messaging Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)

**Non-Voting Members-Bookkeeper—Cathie Peznowski (Past President)**

**Past-Presidents—Non Voting:**

Terry Tamblyn	Tom Madden	Sandy Doeber	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

**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 Spring Meeting—Sarah Wedge**

- A. Document has been posted on the FLISA website

**VI. Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report—Cathie Peznowski/Jerry Ellender**

- A. FY 26 Budget Presentation (**Action Item**)
  - 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.
  - a. Includes Miscellaneous Line-Item (\$600) for Awards/Recognition
- D. Reminder to update district contact information on the website under update 7002 Data
- E. Membership Letters out in July (Remember there's a New Address)
- F. Review of Membership Numbers (71 Paid)

Dues Structure 2025-2026						
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.						

# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

- IX. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update**— Craig Hutcheson/Christine Walker
- A. Update on NAFIS Organization
    - a. Executive Director Search
  - B. NAFIS Conference: Suggestions?
  - C. Department of Education Staffing Status
  - D. Share Your District's Newest Initiatives with NAFIS Staff for publication Reminder
  - E. Anticipated NAFIS Dues Increase
  - F. Impact Aid Hall of Fame— **New Idea Alert**

**Brent Gish, NIISA:** *What if an "Impact Aid Hall of Fame" was created? And what if it was initiated by the 4 subgroups? Criteria for eligibility would be adopted, an inaugural class inducted with new members entering annually or periodically honoring outstanding or exemplary service and commitment to the Impact Aid community.*

*During difficult and challenging times, it's easy to lose our optimism and enthusiasm for what we do routinely. As a superintendent, I challenged my leadership team to be "purveyors of hope" every day and many times day. I believe a hall of fame recognizing people who were instrumental in getting us to this day can not only be inspiring to others, but also a recognition of the contributions made by key individuals who helped make our organizations what they are today.*

- X. Executive Director: Legislative Update**
- A. FLISA Organization is humming...Federal Government not so much.
  - B. Share your stories (See: Highland Falls and Elwood)

**XI. Review of 119<sup>th</sup> Congress and 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.
- Even though it came out in May, we are still waiting to see what is in the President's Budget before making Project 2025 a discussion item. We don't want to be the ones to bring it up. (See Ed. Week article)
  - 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. Other NAFIS Legislation for 119<sup>th</sup> Congress:

### From NAFIS Talking Points on Impact Aid Funding:

#### Future of the Department of Education

- 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.

#### FLISA Department of Education statement (See Attached)

#### 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.

#### 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*

# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

## Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

*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.

### Impact Aid Caucus

- The bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Impact Aid Caucus, formerly the House and Senate Impact Aid Coalitions, were established in the 1990s and have 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, suggest that they join. It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid.
  - Contact [JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org](mailto:JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org) to join.

### XIII. Committee Updates and Committee Work (See Below)

- A. Mary Ticknor--**Advocacy Committee (Mike McElduff, Highland Falls)**
  - a. Status of "Leave Behind Packets" for September
  - b. **Section 7002 Federal Lands Coalition or Caucus--New Idea Alert**

**Mike McElduff, Highland Falls:** *Section 7002 Federal Lands Coalition or Caucus of Congressional members supporting our type of impact aid. This would obviously be in addition to all types of Impact Aid, but specifically for 7002. It would clearly need to be bi-partisan and we would need to find someone who is 7002 impact aid "first".*

*Not sure yet, what that Caucus of 7002 would look like or what it would do aside from being a supporter of language advocating for increased impact aid spending overall and 7002 specifically. However, it may be helpful in pointing out what districts would be specifically hurt with the elimination of 7002. We would obviously grow this Caucus past the first two bi-partisan members...but its not going anywhere without the two start up bi-partisans.*  
(Jason Misner and Steph Long contributing)

- c. **Breach of Contract Suit—New Idea Alert**

**Stephanie Long, Leland:** *Our FLISA group hire a lawyer now to draft a lawsuit to be filed on the day 7002 funds get cut suing the government for breach of contract. Have him take the case pro-bono for name recognition. The odds that 7003 gets cut are small given the military connection and the sheer number of schools and kids it would impact. We are specifically named in Project 2025 and we are smaller and less represented on the NAFIS board.*

- B. Bob Reichert--**Membership** Committee
  - b. Review “Why Join” Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June
- C. Mark Cross--**Messaging** Committee
  - c. Review Leave-behind and messaging for 119<sup>th</sup> Congress/OMB
  - d. **Town Hall Event to Spread Awareness of Impact Aid—New Idea Alert**

**Mike McElduff, Highland Falls:** *Town Hall was a great success, with participation from representatives at both the federal and state levels. We had an attendance of over 80 individuals, and we believe the session effectively encouraged attendees to engage our politicians through letter-writing. We had pre-written letters for families as well as letters for community members who don't have children in our schools. We also have letters at each of our schools for parents to review and sign and we are working with advocacy groups to hand them out at the local Library and other locations. Our next step is to engage our faculty, staff and students to all write a letter by the end of May.*

#### **XIV. Nominations for FLISA Extra Mile Award**

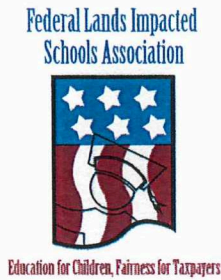
- A. Tom Madden Recognition Discussion (Fall NAFIS Conference)
- B. Highland Falls

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

- A. Interim communications
- B. Fall 2025 NAFIS Conference—Washington DC
- C. Winter 2025 FLISA Meeting Information—St. Petersburg, Florida

#### **XVI. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations**

- a. **NAFIS Fall 2025 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 13<sup>st</sup> thru Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>
- b. **FLISA Winter, 2026 Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—*Registration Form Available June, 2025*
  - 1. Committee Work Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> —2PM-4PM
  - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> —4PM-6PM
  - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>—9AM-4PM
- c. **NAFIS Spring 2026 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 14<sup>st</sup> thru Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>
- d. **FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting—**Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--*Registration Available January, 2026*
  - 1. Committee Work Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>—2PM-4PM
  - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> —4PM-6PM
  - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>—9AM-4PM
- e. **NAFIS Fall 2026 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> thru Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- f. **FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—*Registration Form Available June, 2026*
  - 1. Committee Work Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> —2PM-4PM
  - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> —4PM-6PM
  - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>—9AM-4PM



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\*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 Spring Meeting Minutes (NAFIS Conference)**

**17-B. Approval Final FY 26 Budget**

**17-C—D--E. Nomination of Members at Large Committee Chairpersons for the specific committees designated in the Advocacy Action Plan.** Members at Large shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Executive Board or the President.

**C. Advocacy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Messaging:** \_\_\_\_\_

**17-F. Approval of Craig Hutcheson to be the Past-President as per FLISA By-Laws thru March, 2026.**

**XVIII. Member Presentation—April Moore, Superintendent Sierra Sands, CA**

*"Rebound, Reimagine, Rebuild -- A District Reorganization Story"*

**XIX. Reception Reminder/Adjournment**

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

**Enhancing the FLISA Meeting Agenda** – Our Thanks to April Moore for volunteering to present at today's Meeting...We are now looking for volunteers for Winter Meeting, in Clearwater in 2025.

*Steph 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.



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## MINUTES

FLISA Member Meeting Agenda

NAFIS SPRING Conference—Washington DC

MARCH 9TH—10:45-11:45 AM Congressional A Room

MARCH 10TH—8:30-10AM Congressional A Room

- I. Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA – Christine Walker
  - A. Reviewed vision and mission
  - B. Introductions of attendees and executive committee officers
- II. FLISA Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider
  - A. Overview and review of packet information
  - 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
  - D. Horse in the hospital analogy - trying times for the country, FLISA is doing well
  - E. FLISA Organization is humming...Federal Government not so much.
  - F. Position is that Dept. of Ed is running efficiently, best it's ever run, and needs to be preserved
  - G. NAFIS and FLISA statements on Dept. of Ed
  - H. Budget process review - reconciliation process, continuing resolution strategies
  - I. DOGE and denigrating public employees
  - J. Supreme Court rulings helping, slightly, to reign in recklessness
  - K. Emphasized keeping all the FIA sections together - we do not want our subgroups to be separated into different departments - We are Title VII - one location that we can all advocate for collectively
- III. Approval of minutes from FLISA Winter Meeting—Stephanie Long
  - A. Posted on the FLISA website
- VI. Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report—Jerry Ellender
  - A. FY 26 Tentative Budget Presentation
    - a. Budget and dues overview - need to increase dues; proposal was approved to put to the vote to the membership (Action item)
    - b. Goal is to have one-year of expenses on hand.

VII. Messaging Committee Update - Mark Cross

- A. Aligned the FLISA talking points to NAFIS messaging
- B. Be calm, rational, and stick to facts to avoid responding emotionally to the political theatre of current administrative tactics
- C. Connect message to individual students regardless of section
- D. NAFIS will reintroduce the advancing toward full funding bill
- E. Reviewed the specifics of the funding ask - for our students

**MONDAY - March 10th 8:30 - 10:00 am**

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

- A. Strategic Plan at board level. Working with consultant Brian Riggs
- B. Board voted to require in-office work three days a week for all staff, including exec. director and offered Nicole a one-year contract
- C. Increase number of board meetings with the addition of zoom meetings in between quarterly board meetings
- D. Lots of support from sub-group partners; importance of staying together and not being parceled off to other departments
- E. Cuts is necessary will be catastrophic for most districts - classroom teachers and programs
- F. Christine Walker elected to NAFIS board, Tom moving off , Craig moves to VP role
- G. Tom Schneider ready to respond if 7002 eliminated and is acting now to line up support

VIII. Update from NAFIS Exec. Director - Nicole Russell

- A. Thank you for being here and importance of attending the conference
- B. Concerned about 7002 funding going forward. Need to share your stories on the hill. NAFIS supports our funding and whole program - stay united. Strongly oppose the dissolution of the 7002 as outlined in Project 2025. Uphill climb but FIA appears to be better poised to be okay than other sources of funding.
- C. Q: How is NAFIS adjusting to the threat of elimination? Break down to per-student allocation? A: Connect the funding to the students - stories how we are changing lives, humanize the funding, what would be cut if we lost funding. Ask legislators to put pressure on the top. OMB director pulling strings, how influence him?
- D. Nicole will ask Fatima to address why so many districts have not received any funding
- E. NAFIS ready to issue statements in the event worst case scenario - differentiate between posturing and executing - behind the scene coalitions working together. Staffers understand the impact of FIA to students. Hosting briefing to staffers- encourage your staffers to attend.
- F. Subgroups and NAFIS consistent in messaging
- G. Worst case scenario is a concern only for FY26. Education cuts currently focused on higher education funding. Stay focused - distractions on purpose. AASA champion of FIA and we work collaboratively with them
- H. Impact Aid Caucus still active- ask your reps to join the bi-partisan, bi-cameral group
- I. Grass Roots flood to our reps, specifically hand written notes from students

- J. Let NAIFS know how meetings go tomorrow and any follow-up that needs to happen
- IV. Share Your District's Newest Initiatives with NAFIS Staff for publication
- V. Fly-In Thanks
  - A. Wes, Mary, Christine, Stephanie, Jerry (and Schneider)
- VI. Anticipated NAFIS Dues Increase
- VII. Ad Hoc Committee on Distribution of Impact Aid Funds
- VIII. 119<sup>th</sup> Congress and FY 25—FY 26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask
- IX. Membership By-Law and Dues Structure changes (Action Items) Discussion
  - A. Desire to expand exec board leadership by adding one co-chair to each committee
  - B. Discussion to change dues structure
  - C. Invoices for dues will go out in June after summer meeting
- X. Committee Reports and Goals for Spring/Summer Meeting:
  - A. Mary Ticknor--Advocacy Committee and Status of "Leave Behind Packets"
    - a) for congressional offices who have not been contacted by members of our group to educate them on our program and solicit their support
    - b) Need volunteers to drop the packets on Hill day even if not in your state and leave your name and name of reps with Mary so they can follow up with those offices
  - B. Bob Reichert--Membership Committee. Review "Why Join" Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June
    - a) Continue focus on contacting non-member districts who receive funds but not participating
    - b) Website update - why join NAFIS
  - C. Mark Cross--Messaging Committee
    - a) Leave behind flyers to take by each team
    - b) Talking points - take those
- XIV. Recognition/Awards - Tom Schneider
  - A. Mark Naugle and Wes Eversole Recognition
    - a. Wes is retiring after 20 years and provided remarks on his experience as a NAFIS/FLISA board member and participant
    - b. Mark is retiring after 21 years and provided remarks on his experience as a board member and participant
  - B. 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 Summer, 2025 Meeting—Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, CA—June 19-20th—Registration Available Now/Attached and on website
  - c) Committee Work Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>—2PM-4PM
  - d) Board Meeting Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> —4PM-6PM
  - e) Membership Meeting Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>—9AM-4PM

B. NAFIS Fall 2025 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> thru Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

C. FLISA Winter, 2026 Meeting, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—Registration Form Available June, 2025

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- g) Board Meeting Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> —4PM-6PM
- h) Membership Meeting Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>—9AM-4PM

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

E. FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting—Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--Registration Available January, 2026

- a) Committee Work Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>—2PM-4PM
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d) \*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,  
Mark Cross moved  
Mary Tichnor seconded  
Motion passes

17-B. Approval of By-Law Change Article V Section 2.f.

Brook Hazel-Massieux moved

Jerry Ellenger second

Motion carries

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

Mark Naugle moved

Shawn Stowe seconded

Motion Carries

17-D. Approval of Tentative FY 26 Budget

Kevin Feeney moved

Tim Paige seconded

Motion carries

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

Exec board recommended

Wes Eversole seconded

Motion carries

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

Exec board recommended

Mary Ticknor seconded

Motion carries

XVIII. Adjournment

Mark Cross

Jason Misner seconded

Motion carries - adjourn at 10:01 am

XIX. Call for Presentations

- A. April Moore and her team from Sierra Sands, CA have volunteered for our FLISA Summer Meeting in 2025.
- B. Steph Long and her team from Leland, Michigan volunteered for our FLISA Summer Meeting in 2026.
- C. Winter FLISA Meeting 2026
  - a. 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.

## FY 26 FLISA Proposed Budget

	A	C
	FY24-25 Adopted Budget	FY25-26 Proposed
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>		
1 Membership Dues	24,000	54,750
2 Winter Conference	5,500	5,500
3 Summer Conference	4,500	4,500
4 <b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>64,750</b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>		
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
FISEF Grant		500
FLISA Awards		250
17 Legal Expenses	2,500	-
18 Subtotal	2,500	1,000
19 FROMISA/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 <b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>50,450</b>	<b>61,250</b>
33 <b>Net Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>(16,450)</b>	<b>3,500</b>
34 <b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>57,597</b>	<b>42,000</b>
35 <b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>41,147</b>	<b>45,500</b>

**Section 7002 YTD FLISA Treasurer's Report**  
**July 1, 2024 - May 28, 2025**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
	FY24-25 Adopted Budget	FY 23-24 Actuals	FY 24-25 Current Status	Variance	FY22-23 Actual	FY21-22 Actual	FY20-21 Actual	FY19-20 Actual	FY18-19 Actual	
<b>Revenue</b>										
1 Membership Dues	24,000	21,400	25,000	3,600	22,900	24,100	12,550	21,600	21,750	1
2 Winter Conference	5,500	4,640	5,400	760	5,230	4,000		4,960	5,120	2
3 Summer Conference	4,500	4,600	4,400	(200)	3,680	3,720	1,000	-	4,160	3
4 <b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>30,640</b>	<b>34,800</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>31,810</b>	<b>31,820</b>	<b>13,550</b>	<b>26,560</b>	<b>31,030</b>	4
<b>Expenditures</b>										
6 Executive Director										5
7 Compensation	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	6
8 Travel	8,000	7,696	6,406	(1,290)	2,660	6,466	95	3,170	8,409	7
9 Printing/Other	1,000	500	90	(410)	1,125	-	809	2,194	1,565	8
10 Subtotal	19,000	18,196	16,496	(1,700)	13,785	16,466	10,904	15,363	19,975	9
11 Bookkeeper										10
12 Compensation	2,500		1,250							11
13 Travel	8,000	1,436	3,901							12
14 Subtotal	10,500		5,151							13
15 Executive Committee										14
16 Printing	-	136	152	16	-	-	-	-	36	15
17 Legal Expenses	2,500	1,012	2,250	1,238	-	-	-	-	500	16
18 Subtotal	2,500	1,148	2,402	1,254	-	-	-	-	536	17
19 FRO/MISA/NIISA Outreach (3)										18
20 Travel	4,000	3,806	3,524	(282)	-	-	-	500	2,036	19
21 Printing/Other	500	500	302	(198)	500	500	-	-	-	20
22 Subtotal	4,500	4,306	3,826	(480)	500	500	-	500	2,036	21
23 General Operations										22
24 Bank Charges	250	30	-	(30)	385	209		12	-	23
25 Website Development Maintenance	2,000	7,577	1,250	(6,327)	8,035	440	588	617	926	24
26 Software License	900	815	665	(150)	702	712	228	755	360	25
27 Printing	200	200		(200)					193	26
28 Miscellaneous	600	289	326	37	234		1,335	132	9	27
29 Winter Conference	5,500	6,719	5,883	(836)	7,740	2,753	2,000	3,676	5,901	28
30 Summer Meeting	4,500	4,498	1,685	(2,813)	4,672	858	-	-	1,556	29
31 Subtotal	13,950	20,128	9,809	(10,319)	21,768	4,972	4,151	5,192	8,943	30
32 <b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>50,450</b>	<b>43,778</b>	<b>32,533</b>	<b>(11,245)</b>	<b>36,054</b>	<b>21,938</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>21,055</b>	<b>31,490</b>	31
33 <b>Net Income</b>	<b>(16,450)</b>	<b>(13,138)</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>15,405</b>	<b>(4,244)</b>	<b>9,882</b>	<b>(1,505)</b>	<b>5,505</b>	<b>(460)</b>	32
34 <b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>57,597</b>	<b>70,735</b>	<b>59,834</b>	<b>(10,901)</b>	<b>74,979</b>	<b>65,097</b>	<b>66,602</b>	<b>61,097</b>	<b>61,558</b>	33
35 <b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>41,147</b>	<b>57,597</b>	<b>59,864</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>70,735</b>	<b>74,979</b>	<b>65,097</b>	<b>66,602</b>	<b>61,097</b>	34
36 Winter Conference Revenue	5,500	4,500	5,400	900	5,230	4,000	-	4,960	5,120	35
37 Winter Conference Expenditures	5,500	6,500	5,883	(617)	7,740	2,753	2,000	3,676	5,901	36
38 Winter Conference Net Income	-	(2,000)	(483)	1,517	(2,510)	1,247	(2,000)	1,284	(781)	37
39 Summer Conference Revenue	4,500	4,500	4,400	(100)	3,680	3,720	1,000	-	4,160	38
40 Summer Conference Expenditures (4)	4,500	4,500	1,685	(2,815)	4,672	858	-	-	1,556	39
41 Summer Conference Net Income	-	-	2,715	2,715	(992)	2,862	1,000	-	2,604	40

**Footnotes**

Line 7 with Tom's compensation does not include his June payment of \$5000 for FY 25  
Line 8 with Tom's travel expenses for our FLISA and NAFIS meetings does not include the \$ summer 2025 meeting  
Line 12 with Cathie's compensation does not include her \$1250 payment in June  
Line 13 with Cathie's travel does not include her travel expenses to the summer meeting in FY 25  
Line 26 includes the cost of Quickbooks for \$664.80  
Line 21 includes the recognition gift expenses for FY 25

*This status doesn't include the final cost for the Summer 2025 meeting along with expenses noted above.*



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

## Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

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Statement on Staff Reductions at Department of Education  
March 12, 2025

*Last night, the Trump administration announced that they would be cutting 50% of the Department of Education workforce. This is another step in the Trump administrations' process to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education.*

*With so much confusion during these times, FLISA is issuing this statement so that that the administration and Members of Congress clearly understand that every student in a Federal Lands (Impact Aid Section 7002) school is directly tied to and dependent upon 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 in January, 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. Federal impact aid is an obligation and a promise made to our students and communities that every administration and Congress is duty bound to maintain and support.*

# 2025 Legislative Agenda

**NAFIS advocates for Impact Aid, federally impacted school districts, and the students they serve.**

Impact Aid is a federal education program that reimburses school districts for lost tax revenue and additional costs due to the presence of nontaxable federal land, including military installations, Indian trust and treaty lands, federal low-income housing, national laboratories, and other federal properties. Since most public school districts rely on local taxes for funding, districts containing federal property can face significant financial challenges. Impact Aid funding can be used to meet any general fund need, including staffing, mental health services, technology, and transportation, benefiting all students. Despite its importance, Impact Aid has not been fully funded in decades. **To ensure Impact Aid fulfills its purpose, in 2025 NAFIS is advocating to:**

## **Increase Impact Aid funding for FY 2026**

With schools facing many challenges, including the need for facilities upgrades, teacher recruitment and retention issues, and recent funding cuts, Impact Aid is more crucial than ever. Additional funds are essential to make certain that federally impacted school districts have the resources they need to provide a quality education.

## **Reintroduce and build support for the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act***

The Federal Government has not met its responsibility to fully fund Impact Aid since 1969. The bipartisan *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* would create a five-year plan to fully fund Section 7003 Basic Support and offer a proportional increase to Section 7002 Federal Property. It would also provide substantial boosts to Section 7003(d) Children with Disabilities and Section 7007 Construction. These increases would deliver significant annual funding improvements for school districts, helping ensure all students have the resources they need to reach their full potential.

## **Build support for the *Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act (S. 1275/H.R. 2629)***

The current Impact Aid Construction allocation of just \$19 million per year is insufficient to meet most internal renovation needs and provides no funding to build new schools or address teacher housing. The *Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act* proposes an additional \$250 million annually for four years for the program, providing students and staff in federally impacted school districts with access to safe, modern education facilities.

## **Celebrate the 75th anniversary of Impact Aid**

2025 marks the 75th anniversary of Impact Aid, which was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in 1950. To commemorate this milestone, NAFIS will work with Impact Aid champions in the Senate and House to introduce celebratory resolutions recognizing September 30, 2025, as "Impact Aid Day."

## **Grow the Congressional Impact Aid Caucus**

By joining the bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Impact Aid Caucus (formerly the House and Senate Impact Aid Coalitions), Members of Congress show support for federally impacted school districts and Impact Aid. Established in the 1990s, the Caucus has led many successful efforts to protect and prioritize the Impact Aid program.



# National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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

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## TALKING POINTS: 2025 NAFIS Spring Conference

### Future of the U.S. Department of Education

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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

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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 Lujan (D-NM) – Katie Mertens - [katie\\_mertens@lujan.senate.gov](mailto:katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov)**
    - **Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA) – Sam Gottlieb - [sam.gottlieb@mail.house.gov](mailto: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

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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 Lujan (D-NM) – Katie Mertens - [katie\\_mertens@lujan.senate.gov](mailto:katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov)
  - Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA) – Eileen Lee - [eileen.lee@mail.house.gov](mailto:eileen.lee@mail.house.gov)

## Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act

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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](mailto:ben_strand@hirono.senate.gov)
  - Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) – Abigail Leonard - [abigail.leonard@mail.house.gov](mailto:abigail.leonard@mail.house.gov)

## Congressional Impact Aid Caucus

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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 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.**
- **It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid.**
- Contact [JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org](mailto:JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org) to join.

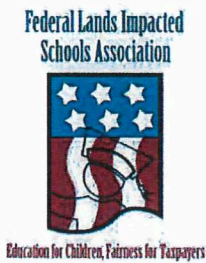
## Congressional Staff Briefing: Impact Aid 101

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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

## 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 impactation 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 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 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. Please contact [JSchimmenti@nafisd.org](mailto:JSchimmenti@nafisd.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

## Did you know?

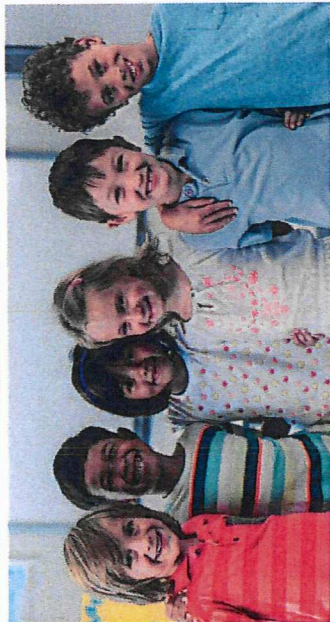
Even when Impact Aid funding increases, new property added by the federal government results in existing school districts getting a smaller portion of the available funding.

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 Coalition and supporting the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act. Visit [www.nafisdc.org](http://www.nafisdc.org) for details.



## 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](http://www.flisa.org)

[www.nafisdc.org](http://www.nafisdc.org)

## 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

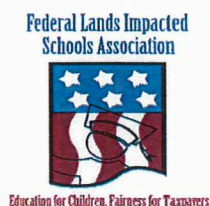
- Smaller Class Sizes
- Academic Interventions
- Art, Music, STEM, Gifted
- Career and Technical Ed
- Mental and Physical Health
- School Safety and Security
- Before, After, and summer School Programming
- Highly Qualified Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Data current as of March 2025

# PREPARING— FOR MARCH— FLISA HANDOUT

Hill Day September 16<sup>th</sup>

This article is on Page 42-43



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

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**Protect your funding. Learn to Advocate. Be informed. Join FLISA.**  
***The Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) Mission***

- The Mission of National 7002 Impacted Schools is to secure federal funding which reimburses eligible districts for tax revenue lost due to the federal government's removal of land from the local tax rolls; such revenue to be used for the public education of students.

## ***Reasons to join FLISA***

- Membership dues enable FLISA to advocate on Capitol Hill for public education and specifically the Federal Properties portion (section 7002) of the Impact Aid program. The new administration has identified the Federal Properties section as a target for elimination. Your membership, and advocacy efforts from other FLISA members and the NAFIS family, are critical for sustaining your District's annual program funding.
- Your membership dollars help provide the resources FLISA needs to increase funding levels and move toward a fully funded program. Currently, section 7002 Federal Lands funding is funded approximately 7 cents on the dollar.
- You will have a say and vote when it comes to new initiatives, budgets, funding formula changes, etc.
- You will have access to resources necessary to keep fully up to date on the program and your district's funding.
- Section 7002 Federal Properties is the smallest section of the Impact Aid program. We need to continue to grow our membership to have a strong voice for our districts.
- The law that provides for Impact aid funding gets re-authorized and updated periodically which includes proposed changes to the funding formula. Proposed updates are written by the 7002 members. Becoming a member and being involved protects your district's funding and future financial interests.

## ***How to Become a Member of FLISA***

- School leaders looking to protect their Impact Aid Funding can join FLISA by completing our membership form sent annually or contacting the FLISA Executive Director, Tom Schneider directly at:  
[schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com](mailto:schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com) or 219-545-1011. Information is also available on our website: [www.FLISA.org](http://www.FLISA.org).



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

March 11, 2025

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

Dear Representative Bresnahan:

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 the bi-partisan Section 7002 Impact Aid 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](mailto:schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com)  
219-545-1011

# PREPARING FOR MARCH

## Committee Work

## Leave Behind Letter

# Budget reconciliation in U.S. Congress

A comprehensive resource on the process and use of budget reconciliation with details on the laws and rules governing the process, summaries and analysis of historical use, and coverage of reconciliation bills during the second Trump administration

## What is budget reconciliation?

Budget reconciliation is a legislative process that can be used to override the filibuster and expedite the approval of a package of legislation in Congress that changes spending, revenues, or the debt limit. Budget reconciliation bills have limits on debate so they require a simple majority (51 votes) instead of the three-fifths majority (60 votes) usually needed in the Senate to bring bills to a vote.

The reconciliation process occurs if Congress passes a budget resolution for the fiscal year that gives reconciliation instructions. The provisions of reconciliation bills are crafted by committees or added through amendments. The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the budget resolution limit the content of the reconciliation bill. Those limitations are enforced through the *Byrd Rule*.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Why does it matter?

Since budget resolutions and budget reconciliation have limits on debate so that they cannot be filibustered in the Senate, the package of bills passed through reconciliation requires support from 51 senators instead of 60. Republicans had as of February 10, 2025, a 53-47 majority in the Senate and a 218-215 majority in the House.<sup>[1]</sup>

Between 2010 and 2024, Democratic trifectas passed three budget reconciliation bills, Republican trifectas passed one, and one was passed by a Republican-controlled Congress and vetoed by a Democratic president in a divided government. Reconciliation is most frequently used when one party has trifecta control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, but does not have a 60% majority in the Senate.<sup>[2]</sup>

## What is the background?

The budget reconciliation process was created by Title III of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The law, in addition to the budget reconciliation process, created congressional budget committees and the Congressional Budget Office. President Richard Nixon (R) signed the law into effect on July 12, 1974. The Byrd Rule, which provides senators with a mechanism to attempt to remove or block provisions from a reconciliation bill by raising points of order against them, was adopted in the 1980s and formally included in the Congressional Budget Act in 1990. The Senate Parliamentarian is tasked with advising the Vice President as to whether points of order should be sustained or not.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

## Explore the topics below

How does reconciliation work and why are 51 Senate votes needed instead of 60?

READ MORE →

What are the roles of the Vice President and the Parliamentarian in the Byrd Rule?

READ MORE →



## CONGRESS

**Trump sends a scorched-earth budget plan. GOP lawmakers hate it already.**

The request for obliterating many domestic programs sets up a clash with Congress ahead of the Sept. 30 shutdown deadline.

Updated: 05/02/2025 01:35 PM EDT



President Donald Trump is seeking massive, unprecedented funding cuts across the federal government, unveiling a budget blueprint asking Congress to slash non-defense programs by more than \$163 billion while keeping military funding flat. Already, Republicans in Congress are alarmed.

The proposal released Friday pressures Republican lawmakers to cleave more than 20 percent from federal coffers Trump has already been freezing without their approval since Inauguration Day. Congress isn't accustomed to cutting anywhere near what Trump is proposing, amplifying tension between the White House and congressional Republicans as GOP leadership works to fund the government before the Sept. 30 shutdown deadline.

President Donald Trump gestures as he departs the White House April 3, 2025. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

By **ADAM CANCRYN** and **JENNIFER SCHOLTES**

05/02/2025 10:48 AM EDT

Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-Maine) publicly objected to the administration's request to keep the military funded at about \$893 billion, while criticizing Trump's proposed cuts to biomedical research, education support programs for low-income households and subsidies to help the poorest Americans cover the cost of heating and cooling their homes.

Noting that the budget was "late" and lacks "key details," Collins voiced "serious objections to the proposed freeze in our defense funding given the security challenges we face," as well as the White House's proposed cuts "and in some cases elimination" of non-defense programs.

Former Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who is now chair of the Senate's defense funding panel, slammed the White House budget office for asking Congress to keep defense spending static for the upcoming fiscal year, saying in a statement that the extra cash Republican leaders are hoping to pour on through the tax and spending megabill they are hoping to enact this summer is "not a substitute for full-year appropriations."

"OMB accounting gimmicks may well convince Administration officials and spokesmen that they're doing enough to counter the growing, coordinated challenges we face from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and radical terrorists. But they won't fool Congress," McConnell said.

The White House's request would be "a cut in real terms" for the military, said Senate Armed Services Chair Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) in a statement, agreeing with McConnell that the additional \$150 billion in military funding GOP leaders want to pass through their separate party-line package was not meant "to paper over" the White House budget office's "intent to shred to the bone our military capabilities and our support to service members."

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Congress often dismisses the White House's budget ideas in favor of its own spending plan, and the House's top appropriator has not committed to using Trump's overall totals as the ceiling for the dozen funding bills House Republicans plan to push through committee by August.

"Look, we're supportive of this administration, what it's trying to do," House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) told reporters this week. "But with all due respect to anybody, I think the members have a better understanding of what can pass and what can't than the Executive Branch does."

But Trump could always threaten to veto any funding bills he doesn't like, and House fiscal hawks are expected to demand Speaker Mike Johnson commit to deep cuts. A senior Office of Management and Budget official told reporters

Friday that the administration would not rule out using so-called impoundment to override Congress' funding decisions by withholding cash lawmakers approve, but that it has so far had productive conversations with Hill Republicans.

"We're working with Congress to see what they will pass, and I believe that they have an interest in passing cuts," the official said.

If Republicans do consider going along with the White House's plans, they will risk losing the Democratic support they'll likely need to get past the next funding cliff in less than five months — particularly in the Senate, where Republicans lack the votes to overcome the filibuster.

Democrats are also under heightened pressure to hold the line against the kind of cuts Trump is seeking. Still fresh from his political drubbing in March for serving up the votes to pass the GOP's last funding package, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed Friday that "Democrats are going to fight this heartless budget with everything we've got," calling Trump's request "a betrayal of working people from a morally bankrupt president."

The fiscal 2026 spending plan rolled out Friday, better known as the president's "skinny budget," represents an administration wish list that is typically viewed as symbolic. It nevertheless serves as a roadmap of Trump's spending priorities and political goals — and one that has taken on heightened importance amid the president's ongoing efforts to wrest the power of the purse away from lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

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The old budget day adage on Capitol Hill — "the president proposes, Congress disposes" — rings less true this year, since Trump has been canceling and freezing hundreds of billions of dollars without Congress' consent, sparking lawsuits throughout the country and 39 watchdog investigations into whether the Trump administration is violating the law by "impounding" funding Congress already enacted.

As Trump has sought to rapidly reshape the federal government in his first months in office, he has tasked Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency with slashing spending in ways that have generated widespread upheaval. Those moves have at times put Trump at odds with congressional appropriators in his own party, setting the stage for a battle in the coming

months over government spending.

Trump's latest budget asks for dramatic reductions to key environmental, energy, education and foreign aid programs for the fiscal year that starts in October, as well as the gutting of hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and other projects that the White House has deemed "wasteful." In some cases, the administration is calling for the elimination of entire agencies.

At the same time, Trump wants Congress to increase funding for priority areas like border security, as well as for air and rail safety and law enforcement activities.

In a letter to senior appropriators, White House budget director Russ Vought called the current government funding levels "laden with spending contrary to the needs of ordinary working Americans."

"Just as the Federal Government has intruded on matters best left to American families, it has intruded on matters best left to the level of government closest to the people," Vought wrote, arguing for shifting more responsibility to states and localities.

Against that backdrop, the budget proposal serves as the White House's most comprehensive salvo, seeking to cut federal non-defense discretionary spending to just \$557 billion in fiscal 2026 — a reduction of roughly \$163 billion from the current levels.

The lower spending target would mean far-reaching changes to domestic programs and foreign aid, including defunding Environmental Protection Agency initiatives that the White House dismissed as "environmental justice" efforts and cutting millions of dollars of Department of Education grants for teacher support and preschool development that the administration accused of promoting "critical race theory" and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

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The White House is also advocating for shuttering USAID and the U.S.

Institute of Peace, two of the most prominent agencies targeted in recent months by DOGE. At the Department of Health and Human Services, the administration would cut millions of dollars from public health agencies like the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and consolidate several smaller health offices — changes in line with an earlier leaked budget document that laid out plans for a sweeping department-wide reorganization.

The blueprint would slash discretionary funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by more than 40 percent. The Department of the Interior and Department of Labor would also face steep budget cuts of over 30 percent, compared with their current enacted levels.

The administration also detailed deep proposed cuts to dozens of programs across various offices and agencies, from State Department programs meant to promote U.S. soft power abroad to NASA scientific initiatives and support for the International Space Station, to a range of conservation efforts.

The White House is expected to send a full budget request later this month with hundreds of pages on proposed funding for each program and agency, providing Congress with far more detailed guidance than the 46-page document lawmakers received on Friday.



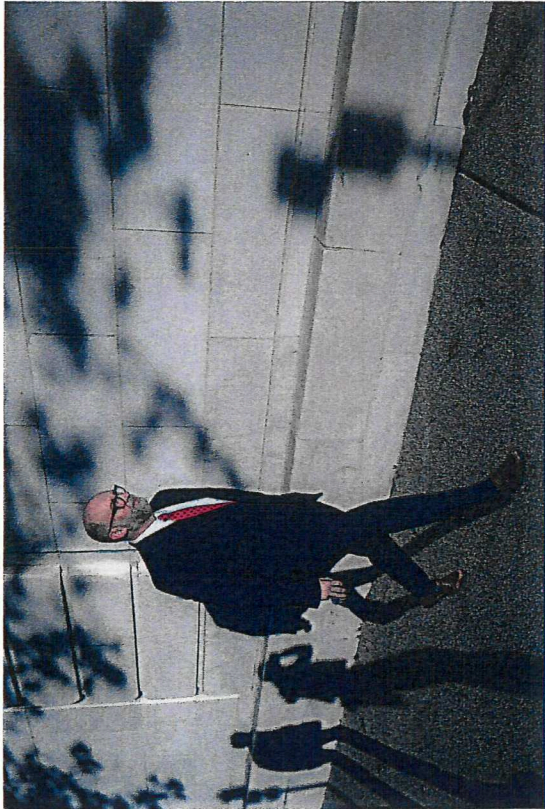
President Donald Trump sent the nitty-gritty of his budget proposal to Congress on Friday, fleshing out which programs he wants Republicans to cut deeply — or wipe out entirely — when they vote to fund the government in September.

Expanding upon the so-called skinny budget the White House transmitted to Capitol Hill earlier this month, the new documents detail the White House's ambitions for spending cuts across government agencies. They show which accounts the president wants GOP lawmakers to target as Trump seeks non-defense funding cuts of more than 22 percent in the upcoming fiscal year and a flat military budget.

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Besides the White House's release Friday of a more than 1,200-page appendix to Trump's May 2 budget request, individual agencies also posted their own "budget in brief" documents. Among the proposed cuts to most federal departments, the administration is asking Congress to slash \$12 billion from federal education programs, \$5 billion from agriculture efforts and a total of more than \$60 billion from health, housing and community development work.

**CONGRESS**  
**Trump tells Congress what to chop in 22 percent budget slashing**  
Several GOP lawmakers have said they'll buck the president's request as Congress faces a Sept. 30 government shutdown cliff.



Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought is seen here on Capitol Hill on Dec. 9, 2024. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

By JENNIFER SCHOLTES  
05/30/2025 04:35 PM EDT  
Updated: 05/30/2025 07:43 PM EDT



Senior GOP members of both the House and Senate have already scorned Trump's initial budget request, heightening the conflict between Republicans on Capitol Hill and those in the Trump administration as Congress races to head off a government shutdown in four months.

The White House still owes Congress several other pieces of its budget, and White House budget director Russ Vought said this week that the full proposal won't be released until after Republicans enact their party-line megabill this year with tax cuts and funding increases for the military and border security. "A budget is a proposal. We are in the business of actually passing law," Vought said on Fox Business.

Democrats mocked the Trump administration for failing to submit all of the required documents before lawmakers begin writing the dozen appropriations bills that fund the government each year.

"This is not a complete budget," the House's top Democratic appropriator, Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro, said in a statement.

From the other side of the Capitol, the Senate's top Democratic appropriator, Washington Sen. Patty Murray, said it's "telling" that Trump "has chosen to release his budget on a Friday night with no fanfare whatsoever." The budget would "raise costs for working people, destroy basic services we all count on, and let our adversaries run circles around us," she added.

Many of the budget documents the Trump administration posted Friday were full of zeros. The Education Department's brief, for example, contains entire pages of programs the Trump administration wants to eliminate, including federal grants that support preschools, education services for homeless children and those living in rural areas.

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The Environmental Protection Agency is asking Congress to eliminate funding for dozens of grant programs, including those that support the enforcement of pesticide rules, pollution control and restrictions on toxic substances.

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On Capitol Hill, top Republican appropriators have said they won't cut the EPA as deeply as Trump wants. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who chairs the EPA funding panel, knocked the Trump administration this month for "indiscriminate" funding freezes, an "unserious" budget request and "massive" reorganizations within agency.

Just how deeply congressional Republicans are willing to slice into federal

programs will start to become clear next week, when House GOP appropriators plan to debut the first of a dozen annual funding bills. That includes the measure that covers agriculture programs and the Food and Drug Administration, and the bill that funds initiatives supporting military construction and veterans.

The White House has not threatened to veto funding bills that exceed, or depart sharply from, the president's request. But Trump's budget chief has said the administration hasn't ruled out continuing to use "impoundment" to withhold congressionally approved funding the administration doesn't want to spend.

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"Impoundment is still on the table and something we will consider," Vought said this week, repeating what he said earlier this month at the time of the skinny budget's initial release.

That threat has **irked Republican lawmakers** who argue that the tactic is illegal under the 51-year-old law created to prevent presidents from undermining the "power of the purse" Congress is granted under the Constitution.

Whatever government funding legislation makes it to Trump's desk in the fall will first need the support of several Democrats in the Senate, where Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is under pressure to hold the line against drastic cuts after **caving in March** to help advance the stopgap bill Republicans unilaterally

crafted after abandoning bipartisan negotiations.

Attracting Democratic support in the Senate is likely to require higher funding levels, which could prompt Republican opposition across Capitol, House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole acknowledged this month.

"Anything they do to get Democratic support in the Senate — which they have to do under their own rules — will almost certainly cost me Republican support over here," said the Oklahoma Republican.

That was not the case earlier this year when House GOP leaders **mustered near-unanimous GOP support** in their chamber to pass a funding patch through September. However, several House Republicans have already warned they won't back another stopgap this fall, insisting instead on enactment of full-year appropriations bills. Lawmakers in both parties also want to pass updated funding levels, while locking in earmarks to ensure federal cash flows to specific projects in their districts.

"I don't want to do it again," Cole told reporters this month about the prospect of another short-term funding measure. "I want to deal."

## Musk turns on Republicans - and gives Trump's big bill a harder path

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Anthony Zurcher

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Musk - who weeks ago wore a hat reading "Trump was right about everything" - has attacked the president's signature bill for 130 days, tech billionaire Elon Musk was a 'special government employee' working inside the Trump administration to slash what he said were wasteful government programmes and bloated departments.

Now, after his exit last week, he is back on the outside. And it is the Trump administration - and the massive spending legislation the president is currently pushing - that is drawing the ire of this new, seemingly unshackled Musk.

In a series of social media posts on Tuesday, he took aim at Trump's signature tax and spending bill that is being considered by the Senate after House Republicans passed it last month. After saying he couldn't "stand it anymore", Musk called the bill a "disgusting abomination".

"Shame on those who voted for it," he said. "You know you did wrong."

And on Wednesday afternoon he went a step further, calling on voters to contact their representatives in Congress to voice their opposition. "Bankrupting America is not OK!" he wrote on X. "KILL the BILL."

Musk's diatribe against the Trump-backed bill, which includes huge tax breaks and more investment in defence, comes after he spent months pushing for cuts to government spending.

In his posts, he said the legislation would add to the US budget deficit and saddle Americans with debt. He also warned Republicans who supported, or are planning to support, the bill that "we [will] fire all the politicians who betrayed the American people" in next year's midterm elections.

And it is that line that could be the most concerning for Republicans.

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In the House, all but three Republican members backed the bill, which passed by a single vote over unified Democratic opposition.

If Musk turns on the majority of Republicans - after spending hundreds of millions to support their campaigns last year - it could cause headaches for incumbents worried about facing challenges in party primaries and represent a devastating blow to Republican hopes of retaining control of Congress for the second half of Trump's second term.

Although Musk had offered more measured criticism in an interview last week, this week marks a stark change from the chummy meeting he had with Trump in the Oval Office on Thursday, where he stood, smiling, as Trump expounded on the importance of what he said will be his defining legislative achievement.

The president has yet to respond to Musk, but he is sure to be asked about the comments. So far, however, the White House has been handling the situation delicately.





Nasa.

In the halls of Congress on Wednesday, established Trump allies were treading a similarly careful path.

"The bill can be made better, but it's not an abomination," Senator Lindsey Graham, a leading figure within the Republican Party and loyal backer of Trump, told the BBC. "Let's pass this bill," he said. "We can make additional cuts to spending as necessary, but I want to put some points on the board. Get the tax cuts, make them permanent, get money, do the border. But [Musk] is right, we should cut more."

Speaker Mike Johnson, meanwhile, reportedly spent time pushing back on Musk's criticism of the bill in a closed-door meeting with Republicans. He also tried to reassure members over the billionaire's threats to oust supporters of the bill, according to Politico.

On Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Trump "already knows" Musk's view on the legislation. "This is one big, beautiful bill, and he's sticking to it," she added.

## ELON MUSK

### Memorable moments from the tech billionaire's time in government

#### RIGHT-HAND MAN

Elon Musk spent over \$250m (£187m) to help Donald Trump win November's presidential election. He often appeared at Republican campaign rallies, and by Trump's inauguration was seen as the president's right-hand man.

Images: Getty / Reuters

Trump may be standing by the legislation, but his task of convincing Senate Republicans to sign off on it will only be more difficult in the face of Musk's opposition.

His criticism could encourage Republican budget hardliners in the Senate who were already expressing concern about how Trump's bill will spike the federal deficit by trillions of dollars over the next decade.

Several, including Rand Paul of Kentucky, Mike Lee of Utah and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, have said they cannot vote for the House legislation unless it undergoes significant changes. Musk has been amplifying a steady stream of posts by Paul and Lee on X, including one article headlined "It's Rand Paul and Elon Musk vs Donald Trump".

If those hardliners have their way and get new spending cuts to popular social programmes, however, centrist Republicans like Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine are likely to revolt.

That matters because, assuming unified Democratic opposition in the US Senate, Republicans can only afford to lose three of the 53 Republicans if they want Trump's bill to pass.

Murkowski would not be drawn on the potential impact of Musk's comments on Wednesday, but she told the BBC he is "an influencer out there, and his words have impact".

Liberated from the constraints of his quasi-governmental job, Musk has tossed a powder keg into all these delicate deliberations to bring the disparate Republican factions into some kind of agreement – and it is not the first time. His criticism sank a government spending bill last year, creating problems it took months for Republicans to solve.

Trump has said he wants the legislation on his desk to sign by the Fourth of July congressional recess. That could prove to be a tall task, but it is one that has a pressing deadline behind it.

His "big, beautiful bill" contains a \$4tn increase in the US debt-limit borrowing authority. Treasury department officials say that if that limit is not increased by sometime in August, the nation would face the unprecedented prospect of defaulting on its national debt.

Musk's noisy opposition has rested, in part, on his warning that the growing US debt is becoming unsustainable. But if his criticism derails the current efforts to pass the bill in Congress, he could speed up that day of financial reckoning.

With additional reporting from Brandon Drenon on Capitol Hill

Follow the twists and turns of Trump's second term with North America correspondent Anthony Zurcher's weekly US Politics Unspun newsletter. Readers in the UK can sign up [here](#). Those outside the UK can sign up [here](#).

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# Trump v Musk: 10 ways they can further hurt each other

If they don't broker a peace deal, their squabble could get messier and more expensive for both of them

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**Dan Milmo**  
Global technology  
editor

Fri 6 Jun 2025 09:40 EDT



📷 Donald Trump on 4 May and Elon Musk on 21 May. Photograph: Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images

The falling-out [between the world's richest person and the president of the world's largest economy](#) will have consequences - for both of them.

[Elon Musk](#), as the boss of multiple companies [including Tesla](#), and [Donald Trump](#), who has benefited from Musk's support in his journey to the White House, have had a mutually beneficial relationship up until now.

Here are 10 ways in which Musk and Trump could hurt each other if they fail to broker a peace deal.

## What Trump could do to Musk

### Cancel government contracts related to Musk's businesses

Responding to Musk's criticism of his tax and spending bill, Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Thursday that cancelling the billionaire's government contracts would be a straightforward way to save money.

"The easiest way to save money in our Budget, Billions and Billions of Dollars, is to terminate Elon's Governmental Subsidies and Contracts. I was always surprised that Biden didn't do it!" Trump said.

In 2024, the New York Times reported that Musk's companies - which include electric vehicle maker Tesla and rocket company SpaceX - have over the past year been promised \$3bn [across nearly 100 different contracts with 17 federal agencies](#).

### Investigate Musk's alleged drug use

The [New York Times](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) have made allegations of [heavy drug use](#) by Musk, raising questions about Nasa requirements for its contractors - including SpaceX - to maintain a drug-free workforce. The Times alleged that Musk has received advanced warning of the tests. SpaceX has been contacted for comment.

Responding to the Times allegations on X last month, Musk wrote: "to be clear, I am NOT taking drugs!" In 2024 he [said](#) he sometimes used ketamine on a doctor's prescription.

### Challenge Musk's immigration status

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Steve Bannon, a Trump ally and influential “alt-right” figure, told the Times on Thursday that Musk’s immigration status should be investigated.

“They should initiate a formal investigation of his immigration status, because I am of the strong belief that he is an illegal alien, and he should be deported from the country immediately,” Bannon said of South Africa-born Musk, who is a US citizen.

### **Use general presidential powers against Musk**

When Trump was elected, observers pointed to the **myriad ways** in which a Musk-friendly White House administration could benefit the financial interests of the world’s richest person. That benign environment, which includes awarding of government contracts and directing federal agencies giving Musk’s businesses an easier ride, could of course be turned hostile.

Richard Pierce, a law professor at George Washington University and a specialist in government regulation, told the Guardian at the time: “All federal regulators and prosecutors work for the president. He can tell them to do something or not to do something with the understanding that he will fire them if they disobey.”

### **Ostracise Musk from the Maga movement**

Trump, as the leader of the “Make America great again” vanguard, can close doors on Musk. The Republican congressman Troy Nehls excoriated the billionaire on Thursday, telling him: ““You’ve lost your damn mind.” He added: “Enough is enough.”

Musk can handle such opprobrium and, given his considerable wealth, he is an important source of funding for Republican politicians.

## **What Musk could do to Trump**

### **Turn X against the White House**

Musk used his X platform, and his more than 220 million followers on it, to rally support for Trump’s victory in the 2024. It also provided a platform for rightwing views that helped publicise the Maga agenda.

Theoretically, Musk could at least use his own X account to criticise Trump with as much regularity as he pumped the president’s policies (the Tesla chief executive is a prolific user of his own platform).

However, this also depends on Musk’s **influence with the US electorate**. Five out of 10 US adults say they have an unfavourable view of Musk, according to the Pew Research Center. But it should be noted that seven out of 10 Republicans or Republican-leaning adults hold a favourable view - he’s not going to sway many Democrats who dislike Trump anyway.

### **Form a new political movement**

Musk, who is worth more than \$300bn (£220bn), could divert his considerable financial resources away from the Republican party and start a new political entity. Musk spent \$250m on getting Trump elected in 2024, signalling his willingness to invest heavily in politics.

On Thursday he **posted a poll on X** and asked: “Is it time to create a new political party in America that actually represents the 80% in the middle?” More than 80% of the 4.8 million respondents voted “yes”.

### **Create geopolitical problems with his businesses**

The Starlink satellite broadband platform, owned by Musk’s **SpaceX**, is playing a key role in Ukraine’s fight against a Russian invasion, while China is an important manufacturing and consumer base for Tesla. Through his businesses, Musk also has political contacts around the world and is regularly photographed in the company of global leaders. However, any damage Musk causes to Trump’s international standing or interests will have

to be balanced with any knock-on effect on his own businesses.

### **Create problems for Nasa**

Nasa has a close relationship with Musk's SpaceX, with the company's Dragon spacecraft being used to transport the agency's astronauts to and from the International Space Station. Musk immediately pledged to decommission Dragon in the wake of the Trump spat on Thursday - before quickly signalling an about-face. Nonetheless, SpaceX is a crucial part of Nasa's ISS operations.

### **Tell-all on Trump**

Musk has been a fixture of Trump's inner circle for a considerable period of time and, as the contents of his X account show, he is capable of taking multiple damaging swipes at people. However, members of Trump's inner circle will have had the same access to Musk, whose personal life is becoming a media staple.

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## The Reemergence of Social Darwinism

The 19th-century doctrine that most closely resembles Trumpism

ROBERT REICH

MAY 20

Friends,

Cut Medicaid to give billionaires a huge tax cut. But *why*?

They say they want a smaller government, but that can't be it.

Most seek a larger national defense and more muscular homeland security. Almost all want to widen the government's powers of search and surveillance inside the United States — expunging undocumented immigrants, “securing” the nation's borders. They want stiffer criminal sentences. Many also want government to intrude on the most intimate aspects of private, intimate life.

Many call themselves conservatives, but that's not it, either.

They don't want to conserve what we now have. They'd rather take the country backward — before the Environmental Protection Act, before Medicare and Medicaid, before the New Deal and its provision for Social

Security, unemployment insurance, the 40-hour workweek, before official recognition of trade unions, even before the first national income tax, antitrust laws, and Federal Reserve.

Some say they want the American working class to do better. But that can't be it, either, because they're cutting Medicaid and other safety nets the working class depends on in order to finance a huge tax cut for the super-rich. And they support tariffs that will drive up the costs of just about everything the working class buys.

The America they actually seek is the one we last had in the Gilded Age of the late 19th century.

“We were at our richest from 1870 to 1913. That's when we were a tariff country. And then they went to an income tax concept,” Trump said in January.

Yes, we had tariffs during that Gilded Age. It was also an era when the nation was mesmerized by the doctrine of free enterprise, although few Americans actually enjoyed much freedom.

Robber barons such as financier Jay Gould, railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt, and oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller controlled much of American industry.

They corrupted American politics. Their lackeys literally deposited sacks of money on the desks of pliant legislators.

The gap between rich and poor turned into a chasm. Urban slums festered. Women couldn't vote. Black Americans were subject to Jim Crow.

Most tellingly, it was a time when the ideas of William Graham Sumner, a professor of political and social science at Yale, dominated American social thought.

Sumner brought Charles Darwin to America and twisted him into a theory to fit the times.

Few Americans living today have read any of Sumner's writings, but they had an electrifying effect on America during the last three decades of the 19th century.

To Sumner and his followers, life was a competitive struggle in which only the fittest could survive — and through this struggle, societies became stronger over time.

A correlate of this principle was that government should do little or nothing to help those in need, because that would interfere with natural selection.

Listen to today's Republican debates and you hear a continuous regurgitation of Sumner. As Sumner wrote in the 1880s:

"Civilization has a simple choice [of either] liberty, inequality, survival of the fittest [or] not-liberty, equality, survival of the unfittest. The former carries society forward and favors all its best members; the latter carries society downwards and favors all its worst members."

Sound familiar?

Trump and his Republicans on Capitol Hill not only echo Sumner's thoughts but mimic Sumner's reputed arrogance. They say we must reward "entrepreneurs" (by which they mean anyone who has made a pile of money) and warn us not to "coddle" people in need (for example, they want to put work requirements on Medicaid).

They oppose extending unemployment insurance because, they say, we shouldn't "give people money for doing nothing."

Sumner, likewise, warned against handouts to people he termed "negligent, shiftless, inefficient, silly, and imprudent."

Trump and other Republican lawmakers are dead set against raising taxes on billionaires, relying on the standard Republican trickle-down rationale that billionaires create jobs.

Here's Sumner, more than a century ago:

"Millionaires are the product of natural selection, acting on the whole body of men to pick out those who can meet the requirement of certain work to be done. ... It is because they are thus selected that wealth aggregates under their hands — both their own and that intrusted to them ... They may fairly be regarded as the naturally selected agents of society." Although they live in luxury, "the bargain is a good one for society."

Social Darwinism offered a moral justification for the wild inequities and social cruelties of the late 19th century — the era when, according to Trump, "we were richest."

Social Darwinism allowed John D. Rockefeller to claim the fortune he accumulated through his giant Standard Oil Trust was "merely a survival of the fittest." It was, he insisted, "the working out of a law of nature and of God."

Social Darwinism also undermined all efforts at the time to build a nation of broadly based prosperity and rescue our democracy from the tight grip of a very few at the top. It was used by the privileged and powerful to convince everyone else that government shouldn't do much of anything.

Not until the 20th century did America reject Social Darwinism. Instead of Social Darwinism, we created an inclusive society. We created the largest middle class in the history of the world — which became the core of our economy and democracy.

We built safety nets to catch Americans who fell downward through no fault of their own. We designed regulations to protect against the inevitable excesses of free-market greed.

We taxed the rich and invested in public goods — public schools, public universities, public transportation, public parks, public health — that made us all better off.

In short, we rejected the notion that each of us is on his or her own in a competitive contest for survival. We depended on one another.

But now America is in its Second Gilded Age, and its new robber barons have found the same rationale as they did in the First.

Under Trump and his lapdogs in the House and Senate, Social Darwinism is back.

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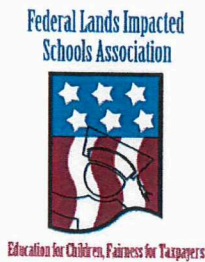










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**Hotel Reservations:** Make your hotel reservations as early as possible. **Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort and Spa, 301 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach, Florida.** Meeting participants should use this link to reserve their room under the group code: **G-FDLD**.

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/PIERC/G-FDLD>

The rates of \$279-\$329 per night (plus tax) extend through the weekend should some of the meeting participants want to stay in the area longer between Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Or, you can call Central Reservations at (877) 803-7534 and request to be booked in the block named: **FLIS Winter Meeting 2026**. The hotel will only hold rooms thru **Friday, January 2, 2026**.