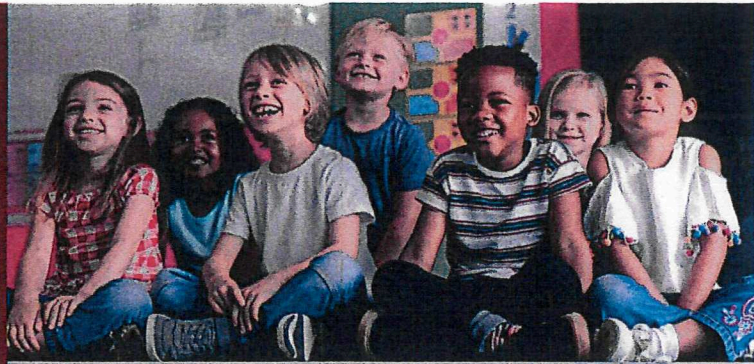




Federally impacted schools receive on average just seven cents on the dollar in Impact Aid, compared to what would be received from local property taxes.

New property added by the federal government results in existing schools getting a smaller portion of the funding.

Section 7002 has not been fully funded in decades, putting our local schools and communities at a disadvantage compared to our neighboring districts.



## Our Request for Support of our Schools and Students

- Provide \$83.5 million in Section 7002 funding for FY27, an increase of \$3.5 million.
- Join the bipartisan Congressional Impact Aid Caucus (formerly the Coalition).
- Support the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act (H.R. 5195 and S. 2921).

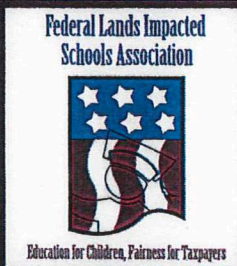
March 2026



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

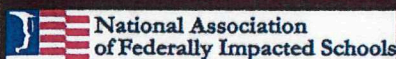
[www.nafisd.org](http://www.nafisd.org)

## Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers



### Who We Are

FLISA represents 900,000 children as well as our local taxpayers from roughly 200 school districts that have federally owned land within our boundaries under Program Section 7002. FLISA is part of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), which also includes schools with military bases and Indian reservations.



### Why Our Children, Schools, and Taxpayers Need Federal Impact Aid

- This is essential replacement of lost revenue for our students that is delivered and utilized efficiently and controlled locally.
- Our taxpayers and communities rely on Federal Impact Aid to provide essential educational instruction and services, as well as partially offset the loss of local property tax dollars.

#### Impact Aid is...

- Vital to maintain educational programs and services
- Highly efficient, flexible, and locally controlled
- Essential for our students as well as our local taxpayers
- Supported through many years of bipartisan efforts
- Funded at just 7 percent, so continued support is critical

#### Funding is Used for...

- Smaller Class Sizes
- Direct Student Instruction
- Highly Qualified Teachers
- Academic Interventions
- Art, Music, STEM, Gifted
- Career and Technical Ed
- Physical and Mental Health
- School Safety and Security
- Before and After School Care
- Summer School Programs



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March 6, 2026

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## House Republicans will try to pursue a second reconciliation bill

**Happy Friday morning.**

**Gonzales retiring.** Embattled GOP Rep. **Tony Gonzales** (Texas) [announced late Thursday night](#) that he won't seek reelection. This came after Speaker **Mike Johnson** and House GOP leaders [called on Gonzales](#) to end his reelection campaign. [Gonzales has publicly admitted](#) to having an extramarital affair with a staffer who died by suicide last year. The three-term lawmaker is [under Ethics Committee investigation](#) over that relationship.

**Gonzales' decision** means **Brandon Herrera**, a controversial pro-gun rights activist who goes by "[The Akguy](#)," is the GOP nominee in Texas' 23rd District. Much more in the [Midday](#) edition.

**News:** Are you ready for another Big Beautiful Bill?

**Mike Johnson is.**

**House Republican leaders** decided at their Florida retreat last weekend that they're going to pursue a second reconciliation package this year, according to multiple sources who attended the gathering.

**The only problem** is they have no idea what will go in the package or how they're going to pay for it.

**Johnson is** the most optimistic person — some would say unrealistic — in the House Republican leadership. He's been on a bit of an island in his desire to draft and pass a second reconciliation package.

**The rest** of the House GOP leadership is skeptical that the Republican Conference has the political will — or discipline — to cobble together another such bill. To be fair, we're also skeptical given Republicans' one-vote cushion in the House. There's also serious doubt in the Senate that this can happen.

**The prevailing wisdom** in some corners of the GOP leadership is that Republicans should focus on small-bore bills that could help their endangered incumbents.

**But with eight months** until Election Day, Johnson doesn't want to give up on a second fast-track bill, seeing it as a wasted opportunity with so much time left in this Congress. Much of next week's House Republican retreat in Doral, Fla., will be focused on trying to find consensus on this topic.

**"We'll finalize** our Venn diagram and see what fits in the middle," Johnson said in an interview Thursday. "I've got some ideas but I don't want to get out in front of that conversation."

**Hurdles.** The big problem here is that House GOP conservatives would almost certainly demand that every penny of a reconciliation package be offset by spending cuts. And the GOP leadership has no clue if or how they will find cuts that'll pass muster with House Republican moderates.

**"The offsets** are the areas that are hard to get agreement," House Majority Leader **Steve Scalise** told us. "And we don't have any agreement on those yet. But we're trying to find consensus amongst our members."

**Left unsaid here** by nearly everyone in GOP circles is that the OBBB didn't give Republicans the political boost they wanted or needed. It's so far underwater that President **Donald Trump** calls it by another name instead.

**In this case,** House Republicans seem to be reverse engineering the process. Instead of agreeing on policies and then finding spending cuts to offset them, the GOP leadership is signaling they'll look to find offsets first and then decide what kind of narrow policies can fit within that framework.

**House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington** (R-Texas), a big booster of a reconciliation redux, took his argument about another bill to the Elected Leadership Committee's retreat at Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., last weekend. He'll also speak next week at the retreat at Trump National Doral near Miami.

**In an interview Thursday,** Arrington made the case that if Trump wants more money for the Pentagon, it may be better to pass that under reconciliation, which only needs 51 votes in the Senate.

**Arrington,** a red-district Republican who isn't running for re-election, sees political upsides on a second reconciliation despite the difficulties in finding agreement.

**"We're going to do** farm bills, FISA — all the things that are regular business that are not going to move the needle," Arrington said of the rest of the 119th Congress. "They have to be done. They're important. They're not going to move the needle in November, and

they're not going to substantially change the things that have been broken over the last four years. What we can put in reconciliation will substantially change that. It will motivate our base."

**What could go in a bill.** GOP moderates would love to do something about health care costs, but it would be very challenging to get agreement on that among Republicans. For example, the Trump administration *wants Congress* to address "most favored nation" drug pricing efforts, but that policy has GOP skeptics in the House and Senate.

**Addressing fraud** in government programs sounds good to Republicans, but some of their proposals wouldn't meet reconciliation rules. Others might cut spending so much that they spook moderates.

**Scalise said** one option would be providing tax credits for first-time homebuyers, playing into interest from Trump and Republican moderates in affordable housing legislation. But there's also a lot of GOP disbelief that tax changes could be part of a second package after so much went into OBDD.

**Trying to address** tariffs would probably kill the whole project because the issue divides Republicans as is.

**If Trump is** interested in new funding — like money for the Pentagon amid the war with Iran or to address the Department of Homeland Security shutdown — that could make some sense. But again, House Republicans would likely have to offset the full cost.

**The case for skepticism.** Notably, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-Mo.) is an outspoken skeptic of the reconciliation 2.0 push. Smith told us that rather than starting with a difficult budget resolution process, House Republicans should try first to unite behind a bill and pass it using the typical process, then see what the Senate says.

**"I've said it** all along that we need one big reconciliation [bill] because I didn't see a path that there was enough juice for two, and I still stand by that," Smith said.

March 10, 2026



**Headwinds watch.** During the opening day of the House GOP retreat, hosted for the second year running at Trump's Doral resort, Republican leaders acknowledged that holding the House in November would be an uphill climb.

**"History will tell** us that the party in the majority is supposed to lose seats," Rep. Lisa McClain, the House Republican Conference chair, said on Monday. "But I don't know about you, history has been wrong a lot this year."

Trump put it this way: "We're fighting a little tradition."

**2018 was the** last election cycle that House Republicans were in a similar spot. Democrats ended up gaining 41 seats in that "Blue Wave" year. Facing political headwinds that year, 34 House Republicans passed on running for another term.

**After Rep. Darrell Issa's** (R-Calif.) retirement announcement on Friday, the tally for the 2026 cycle has now hit 35. And it's only March 10.

**Democrats also note** that a significant portion of these retirements are in battleground seats, including Michigan's 10th District, Arizona's 1st District, Nebraska's 2nd District and Issa's seat in California's 48th District. There are other reach opportunities for Democrats in open seats in South Carolina's 1st District, Kentucky's 6th District, Montana's 1st District and Iowa's 2nd District.

**Sticking by Trump.** Trump's approval rating is 19 points underwater, per a polling average. A January New York Times poll found **49%** of Americans say they are worse off now than a year ago.

**Republican leaders** are, unsurprisingly, sticking by Trump, given his stranglehold on the GOP electorate. Speaker **Mike Johnson** said the United States was in "a new golden age." McClain hailed Trump as a "history-defying president."

**It's not all doom and gloom** for the GOP, we'll note. Last month, we **broke down** the GOP money advantage; how a potential Supreme Court decision overturning Section Two of the Voting Rights Act would boost Republicans; and how messy Democratic primaries stand in the way of a Democratic majority.

March 11, 2026

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**AM**

**THE MIDTERMS**

## NRCC Chair Hudson: House battleground is 'less than 30 seats'

**DORAL, Fla.** — NRCC Chair **Richard Hudson** (R-N.C.) said House Republicans will benefit from the smallest House map in recent memory to hold their razor-thin majority in 2026.

**House Republicans** have spent all week at their annual retreat predicting they will "defy history" and keep control of the chamber. Hudson tried to back up this claim by arguing that this cycle is different from past wave elections.

"If you look at history, the president's first midterms usually go the other way, but I think it's because presidents usually sweep in a bunch of House seats that you shouldn't have won," Hudson said. "That didn't happen this time because of gerrymandering."

We'll still note that Democrats are the favorites to win the House, given the current political environment. But a lot could still change between now and Election Day.

The NRCC chair said control of the House will be decided by "probably less than 30 seats, each one can be decided by 1,000 votes or less."

"Picture 30 knife fights in 30 dark alleys to determine the majority," Hudson added. Here are some other highlights from our conversation with Hudson.

**Retirements.** Hudson pushed back on Democratic claims that the 35 House Republicans forgoing reelection will harm the GOP's election chances.

"We don't have a retirement problem," Hudson said. "You look at 2018, Trump's last midterm, we had 24 Republicans in competitive seats retired. We have four this time around."

**Economic concerns.** Despite voters listing the high cost of living as a top concern, Hudson insists voters won't blame the GOP.

"[Democrats'] job is to try to convince people that we burned down your house, but you should trust us to put out the fire. That's a much tougher job than ours," Hudson said. "The economy is getting better."

**Florida redistricting.** Hudson wouldn't get into details on how many seats Republicans could net in the Sunshine State. We've heard Florida Republicans may try to redraw between two to five seats in a special session next month. However, that's very tentative, and two looks more likely than five.

Hudson said, "it makes sense for them to balance their reapportionment" given the rapid population growth Florida has experienced.

**Top seats to watch.** The North Carolina Republican singled out Rep. **Marcy Kaptur's** (D-Ohio) district — which President **Donald Trump** won by 11 points in 2024 — as a top target of the House GOP this fall.

Hudson also named Texas Democratic Reps. **Vicente Gonzalez** and **Henry Cuellar** as leading flip opportunities in South Texas. Hudson said GOP nominees **Eric Flores** and **Tano Tjjerina** are "great candidates."

If **Michael LiPetri** knocks off Rep. **Tom Suozzi** (D-N.Y.) in New York's 3rd District, then it will be "a really good night for us," Hudson added.

— Max Cohen

## Which congressional lawmakers aren't seeking reelection in 2026?

BY MAX REGO - 03/07/26 9:42 AM ET



With only months to go before the 2026 midterms, lawmakers in both chambers of Congress are making decisions as campaign season inches closer.

In total, 63 congressional lawmakers and one House delegate, 39 of them Republicans, are not seeking reelection. Of that group, 12 senators are retiring or seeking higher office, over 10 percent of the upper chamber.

Here are all the members of Congress not running for reelection to their current roles.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, 86, announced on Jan. 7 that he will not seek reelection in 2026. The decision makes the former No. 2 House Democrat the oldest congressional lawmaker to announce retirement ahead of next November.

He followed Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who announced late last year that she would not seek reelection for another term — closing the book on a four-decade career that included becoming the first female House Speaker and securing her legacy among the most powerful lawmakers to serve in Congress.

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), another longtime lawmaker, also announced March 6 that he would not seek another term in Congress after over two decades in office. The decision comes after his San Diego-area district was redrawn to favor Democrats following a November referendum.

Reps. Danny Davis (D-Ill.), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.), Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.), Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas) — who vowed to retire if Texas advanced its new maps — and Dwight Evans (D-Pa.) are the other House Democratic members above the age of 70 who are

calling it quits. District of Columbia Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), 88, also announced her retirement.

The youngest retiring lawmaker is Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine), who announced he will not seek reelection.

Twelve others, Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.), Neal Dunn (R-Fla.), Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), Morgan Luttrell (R-Texas), Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), Don Bacon (R-Neb.), Michael McCaul (R-Texas), Jesús "Chuy" García (D-Ill.), Troy Nehls (R-Texas), Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.), Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) are also departing Congress.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) also resigned in January following a public spat with President Trump. The president pulled his endorsement in light of the rift.

### House members running for higher office

A total of 24 House members are seeking higher office, representing more than 5 percent of the lower chamber.

Just under half, 10, have launched gubernatorial bids.

Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.), who has been in headlines over a recent incident at an airport, announced her bid for governor in August.

Others who have launched campaigns for governor are Reps. David Schweikert (R-Ariz.), Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa), Ralph Norman (R-S.C.), John Rose (R-Tenn.), Byron Donalds (R-Fla.) — who has been backed by Trump despite pushback from term-limited Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) — John James (R-Mich.) and Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.).

Another 13 House members are hoping to move up to the Senate.

That list includes Reps. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas), Haley Stevens (D-Mich.), Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Seth Moulton (D-Mass.), Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa), Barry Moore (R-Ala.), Mike Collins (R-

Ga., Buddy Carter (R-Ga.), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), Robin Kelly (D-Ill.), Angie Craig (D-Minn.), Andy Barr (R-Ky.) and Chris Pappas (D-N.H.).

Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas), a prominent member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, is running for Texas attorney general — launching a bid in August to replace outgoing Attorney General Ken Paxton (R), who is running for Senate.

### Senators retiring and not seeking higher office

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the former longtime Republican leader, announced in February he will not seek reelection. McConnell, who has been plagued in recent years by a series of falls and freezing episodes, stepped down from leadership in 2024.

The 83-year-old Kentucky Republican will be joined in retirement by four GOP colleagues: Sens. Joni Ernst (Iowa), Thom Tillis (N.C.) and Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), and Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

On the Democratic side, four senators are stepping down: Sens. Dick Durbin (Ill.) — the current minority whip — Gary Peters (Mich.), Tina Smith (Minn.) and Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.).

Three senators are currently eyeing the governor's mansion in their respective states.

Sens. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), have launched gubernatorial bids for 2026.

The incumbent governor in all three states — Tennessee Republican Bill Lee, Alabama Republican Kay Ivey, and Colorado Democrat Jared Polis — are term-limited.

## One vote to lose: Life inside a chaotic House GOP majority

MAR 9, 2025

By  Sarah Ferris

As Speaker Mike Johnson and his team have navigated the House's slimmest margin since before World War II, they've seen it all.

Once, Republicans were headed for a second, embarrassing failed attempt to impeach then-President Joe Biden's Homeland Security chief because of internal disputes — unless they could round up one more GOP vote. They phoned up a Republican who was resting at home with a heart condition, whose doctor had warned against flying to Washington. The member flew anyway.

Another time, a Republican member was in Washington when he learned of his mother's death. GOP leaders had to ask him to stick around for a few more hours or they'd fail a vote. He stayed.

And just last month, dozens of House Republicans attended a White House coal industry event but couldn't get back to the US Capitol for a vote because protests — including throngs of Buddhist monks — had closed the streets. The GOP leadership team frantically phoned members telling them to ditch their rides and hoof it to the Metro.

House Republicans are living in a constant struggle to maintain control of their chamber as evidenced by such instances, which were described by multiple members and aides in GOP leadership.

With the slimmest margins since the 1930s, Johnson can afford to lose only a single vote on the House floor. It's an extraordinarily difficult task in this fractious GOP conference, with a handful of hardliners willing to defy the party — and even President Donald Trump — on key issues. GOP leaders must also navigate demands from battleground members anxious to survive the midterms, plus dozens more Republicans with their own priorities running statewide campaigns.

And while the House is unlikely to pass major legislation in the coming months, Trump and GOP leaders are still eager to use Congress to show their priorities ahead of November's elections — requiring the party to be in lockstep.

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer recalled a conversation in recent days with a Republican threatening to support a Democrat-backed resolution because, as they told him, "no one's listening to me and my district is going to be a problem."

Emmer offered a terse reply: "If you do this, it ain't your district that's going to be a problem."

It could soon get more difficult for Johnson.

If he loses even one more seat, Republicans acknowledge it could become virtually impossible to govern the chamber.

One of their members, **Texas Rep. Tony Gonzales**, is facing calls to resign his seat after admitting to an affair with a staffer who later died by suicide.

GOP leaders are also closely monitoring the health of Rep. Neal Dunn of Florida, who some fear may need to leave his seat early for health reasons, multiple Republicans told CNN.

And there's private concern among leadership that their members who lose statewide bids, such as Rep. Wesley Hunt of Texas, could threaten to stop showing up altogether, multiple sources told CNN.

The margins leave zero room for error — and that is assuming every member is present, which is never guaranteed with 218 Republicans from all corners of America. It's an undertaking that often requires minute-by-minute monitoring, with an intricate knowledge of members' moods and calendars.

"We have to watch every single flight to make sure every single member gets on that flight," one person in GOP leadership told CNN.

Sometimes, it requires particularly painful conversations, such as asking members to return to Washington while still grieving losses of their spouses or children. Many members cite Rep. Steve Womack, a respected senior Republican, who lost his wife of 41 years in January and returned to vote days later — before the family held a burial — to oversee his spending bill on the floor. Others have had to battle through their own health challenges, including House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, who was actively voting during much of his treatment for blood cancer a few years ago.

"I think those are some of the most difficult conversations we have to have," another person involved in the GOP vote-counting operation said.

### 'Real leverage'

With every vote tight, any Republican threatening to defect can now get an audience with GOP leaders — and sometimes Trump. Rep. John Rose of Tennessee recently vowed to tank a party priority as he sought to get a boost from the president in his governor's race, as CNN reported.

"I love it. I'm getting everything I want," quipped Rep. Andrew Garbarino of New York, a leadership ally, of the attention.

Sometimes, the conference's most recalcitrant members have simply refused to tell leadership how they plan to vote, forcing Johnson and his team to gamble.

Emmer recalled a time during appropriations season when he huddled on the floor with Scalise and their whip teams deciding whether to call certain members' bluffs and hold a vote. When Scalise asked aloud what the team wanted to do, Emmer pretended to throw a handful of dice. They went ahead with the vote and won.

"There are people who understand what real leverage is. And there are people who think they're leveraging that have nothing to leverage," Emmer said.

It also requires tough decisions from GOP leaders. Johnson has needed to bar his own members from promotions inside the Trump administration and quash members' dreams of Senate appointments, such as keeping them out of the running to backfill Marco Rubio Florida's seat last year, according to multiple GOP leadership aides.

Sometimes there simply aren't enough members to hold votes. Weeks ago, House Republicans were forced to pull a personal Trump priority — a bill to increase shower pressure levels — from the schedule because they didn't have enough "bodies on the floor" to defeat a Democratic procedural vote, as one GOP aide put it. Last week alone, GOP leaders canceled two days of votes because of attendance.

The GOP leadership staff have become fluent in the sparse flight schedules of tiny rural airports, as well as the can't-miss campaign events for dozens of House members who are trying to balance statewide races back home. Other times it's the weather that complicates things. Last July, as House GOP leaders prepared for final passage of Trump's sweeping domestic policy bill, GOP leaders watched flight after flight get canceled. With flight-tracker apps pulled up on their computers, the leadership team phoned members from all over the country, telling them to get in a rental car and drive.

"You're trying to see when you can put a vote on the floor based on weather — I mean, based on the weather!" Rep. Kevin Hern, a member of Johnson's leadership team, exclaimed to CNN. "It makes it very difficult, because you don't get along with your family, obviously, all the time, and we are family."

Earlier this year, Johnson recalled telling his members — and not in jest — "take your vitamins" and avoid "adventure sports" because he couldn't afford anyone coming down with sickness or injury.

Some things, though, cannot be avoided. Rep. James Baird of Indiana returned to Washington in a neck brace after he and his wife were in a serious car accident. His wife later died following complications from her injuries. (Baird's accident in January was a jolt to GOP members: It

happened around the same time as the sudden loss of their longtime colleague Rep. Doug LaMalfa of California.)

And there are plenty more health scares that go unreported.

"One of our colleagues, I'm not going to tell you who, literally came here to vote and then went back to the hospital," Rep. David Joyce of Ohio said, adding that members feel the weight of their obligations. "Your duty is here. You got elected to do your job here."

## Matters of 'life and death'

Until recent years, House members were free to occasionally miss votes for more routine life events back home, such as a kid's big sporting event or a grandchild's wedding. For most of the modern era, party leaders have had large enough margins that attendance was not an issue. They could even afford for members to resign mid-term.

Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska, one of this Congress' retiring members, said he's been asked why he's bothering to stick around for the rest of the year when there's almost no chance of big legislation going through.

"People say, 'Why don't you just resign now?'" Bacon recalled, but he noted he's been firm: "I wouldn't do that to my district" — or, he added, to Johnson.

Democratic Rep. Steny Hoyer spent decades in leadership, including when the party in charge had a majority of 50 votes. But over the years, the nation's bitter partisanship and redistricting gambits have shrunk those margins dramatically. By the time Biden and Hill Democrats had full control of Washington in 2021, they were down to single digits.

"We had four. That's a landslide compared to what he's got now," Hoyer said of Johnson. (Republicans like to point out that Democrats also used pandemic-era proxy voting during that time, which made attendance far less of a problem.)

GOP leaders repeatedly warn that only matters of "life and death" should prevent members from attending votes. That includes even noncontroversial votes because Republicans cannot risk losing a procedural vote to Democrats. If they did, that would effectively cede control of the floor to the minority party.

"If we're in the majority for a day, there are plenty of ways that we could make their lives very annoyingly difficult," one House Democratic aide said. "We could make a lot of mischief."

The whip team takes attendance so seriously that when they find out any member must miss votes, it's treated as classified information — lest Democrats find out.

Members, too, take the mandate seriously.

Rep. Kat Cammack of Florida has not missed a single vote since she gave birth to her daughter last August. (She didn't time it that way, but acknowledges it worked out because members do not have maternity leave.)

"Two weeks after I gave birth, I put my daughter on a train, because I didn't want to fly with her. That was a 16-hour train ride. She's been on dozens of flights. She goes back and forth with me. We make it work," Cammack said.

Democrats know that their attendance in Washington is one of their most powerful tools from their perch in the minority.

Rep. Brittany Pettersen flew with her newborn son almost immediately after giving birth in January 2025. The Colorado Democrat [campaigned for remote voting privileges for new parents](#) — but GOP leaders opposed it and ultimately blocked the effort.

The year before, Democrats' perfect attendance helped tank the GOP's first attempt to impeach Biden's Homeland Security secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas — dealing a humiliating defeat to Johnson and Trump.

Republicans went ahead with the vote despite key defections on their side, gambling that Democrats would be down a member, since Rep. Al Green of Texas had been out all week for abdominal surgery. But in the final moments, Green emerged on the floor in hospital garb and a wheelchair to defeat the measure.

Emmer will never forget which Republicans voted against the party that day — including then-Wisconsin Rep. Mike Gallagher, who led a coveted China panel at the time.

The GOP whip added that he sometimes wished party leaders had played hardball with Gallagher, recalling what he would have loved to say to him at the time: "Look, I love you Mike, but if I don't have you on this one, maybe this China subcommittee — maybe someone else has to do it."

## For Democrats, control of the Senate now in play

BY BILL PRESS, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 03/10/26 9:30 AM ET



"This may be the most important election in our lifetime." We say that every two or four years, but this year it looks more true than ever. Because the 2026 midterms are the first opportunity to put the brakes on Donald Trump.

True, Trump's not on the ballot in 2026. But he will be the central player in every House and Senate race. The midterms are, in effect, a referendum on the first year of Trump's second term. And Democrats will be making the case that only by regaining control of Congress can they clip Trump's wings before he sends the military into any more cities, drives the price of gas and groceries any higher, assassinates any more foreign leaders, or starts another war.

Most political analysts agree that Democrats have a good chance of winning back the House. With Republicans today holding a slim 218-214 majority in the House, Democrats have to flip only three seats to regain control. The odds historically favor the opposition party in midterm elections, but Republicans are further hobbled by resignations of 34 members and the failure of Trump's redistricting plan to give Republicans as many new seats as they'd hoped.

The online betting site Kalshi, in fact, gives Democrats an 83 percent chance of taking the House, while giving Republicans 17 percent chance.

The Senate is a different story. With Republicans now holding a 53 to 47 majority, Democrats have to flip four seats to regain control. Until now, that has been considered unrealistic, but suddenly that grim prognosis has changed.

For Democrats, the U.S. Senate is now clearly in play in six states: Alaska, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Montana.

Until recently, with Trump's endorsement, Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) appeared to be coasting to reelection. Then former Rep. Mary Peltola (D) jumped into the race. Peltola's the last Democrat elected statewide in Alaska. According to the New York Times, six out of eight Alaskan polls show Peltola with a slight lead over Sullivan.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) has always defied the odds. This time, Democrats think they can finally topple her with either Gov. Janet Mills (D), favored by the Democratic establishment, or

outsider oysterman Graham Platner (D). Last week's Pan Atlantic Research poll shows Platner beating Collins 44 to 40 percent, with Mills in a dead heat against Collins, 44 to 44 percent.

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) is retiring, and popular former Gov. Roy Cooper (D) is the Democratic nominee. He will face former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Whatley (R). Cooper leads in every poll released so far.

If there's one Democrat capable of winning Ohio, it is former Sen. Sherrod Brown (D), elected three times statewide. To the delight of Democrats, he agreed to challenge Sen. Jon Husted (R) in 2026.

Every few years, Democrats get all excited about winning Texas, only to go down in flames (remember Beto O'Rourke?). But this time, they're more excited than ever with 36-year-old seminarian and state Rep. James Talarico (D), who won the Democratic primary for Senate amid record turn-out and strong support from Latino voters. In November, he'll be up against either Sen. John Cornyn (R) or Attorney General Ken Paxton (R). Talarico is favored to beat Paxton, but he'll also be a strong challenger to Cornyn, who has little going for him.

Montana is the strangest case of all. A week ago, nobody would have talked about Montana as a possibility for Democrats. But just minutes before the filing deadline, in a pre-arranged political hat trick, Republican Sen. Steve Daines dropped out, leaving just enough time for his ally Kurt Altmeyer (R) to jump in. That appeared to leave Democrats without a serious candidate for Senate — until they took another look at Seth Bodnar, former president of the University of Montana, running as an Independent. Bodnar's no Democrat, but he's no Trumpster, either. He would probably join Independents Bernie Sanders and Angus King in voting with Democrats in the Senate.

So in just one week, the political landscape has improved significantly for Democrats. They now have a great chance of taking back the House and — if they can hold on to Georgia and Michigan, and flipping four of the above states — a good chance of also taking back the Senate.

That assumes, of course, that Trump doesn't declare an emergency and cancel the midterms. Unfortunately, there's also a chance of that.

*Bill Press is host of "The Bill Press Pod." He is the author of "From the Left: A Life in the Crossfire."*

# Why do Americans hate each other while Canadians love each other?

[ROBERT REICH](#)

MAR 10

Friends.

A [survey](#) released last Thursday by the Pew Research Center finds that 53 percent of American adults describe the morality and ethics of our fellow citizens as “bad” (ranging from “somewhat bad” to “very bad”).

This puts Americans way out front of other nations on the we-hate-our-compatriots scale. In the 24 other countries polled by Pew, most people called their fellow citizens somewhat good or very good.

At the opposite end of the spectrum from the United States is Canada, where 92 percent say their fellow Canadians are good, while just 7 percent say they’re bad.

Why are we so down on our fellow citizens? It may have something to do with our politics.

Some thirty years ago, my dear friend, the late Republican Senator Alan Simpson, told me Democrats viewed Republicans as stupid and Republicans viewed Democrats as evil. “I’d rather be in the stupid party,” he chuckled.

I asked him why Republicans saw Democrats as evil.

He took a deep breath. “Religion.”

I said I didn’t understand.

“It’s the Christian right,” he said as if talking to a five-year-old. “Since Reagan, my party has been a magnet for religious conservatives and Christian fundamentalists, where it’s all about good and evil. Too bad, pal. You’re on the evil side.”

That was thirty years ago. Since then, the divide has only sharpened.

In 2012, Mitt Romney told supporters that “47 percent” of Americans would vote for Obama no matter what because they’re “dependent upon government ... believe that they are victims ... believe the government has a responsibility to care for them ... [and] pay no income tax.” Insulting 47 percent of Americans was no way to win an election. It was also no way to unite the country.

Then in 2016, Hillary Clinton described half of Trump’s supporters as a “basket of deplorables.” Also no way to win or to foster mutual trust. Once Trump took office, dislike of our fellow citizens soared.

Before he entered the White House, 47 percent of Republican and 35 percent of Democrats said people in the opposing party were “immoral.” By 2022, after years of Trump’s venom: 72 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of Democrats called people in the opposing party “immoral.” Since he’s been back in the Oval, it’s got even worse.

After Charlie Kirk was assassinated last September, Trump blamed a “radical left bunch of lunatics” for the killing. Vice President JD Vance, parroting Trump, vowed to “punish these radical leftist lunatics.”

As Democratic Senator Chris Murphy noted at the time, “Kirk’s assassination could have united Americans against political violence, but the Trump camp seems to be preparing a campaign to destroy opponents.”

When a federal judge ruled in March that Trump didn’t have authority to send National Guard troops into Los Angeles, White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly — in language typical of what we hear from the Trump regime — called him a “rogue judge” and claimed Trump “saved Los Angeles” from “deranged leftist lunatics sowing mass chaos.” After ICE agents killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, Kristi Noem, Trump’s former secretary of Homeland Security, called the two of them “domestic terrorists.” Since then, the Department of Homeland Security has sent out a steady stream of tweets — catching some 380 million views on X — claiming that its agents have been under attack by U.S.

citizens whom it describes as “terrorists,” “rioters,” and “agitators,” and asserting, among other things, that “Americans are fed up with rampant criminality ruling this country.”

Meanwhile, Trump has been threatening to cut off funding for various programs that help poor Americans, by vilifying them as “fraudsters” and withholding money from Democratic-led states.

A few days ago, Vance charged that Medicaid and food assistance programs were rife with fraud perpetrated by “bad actors in our society... who take the goodwill and trust of the American taxpayers and use it against us, [who] decide to make themselves rich.”

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For almost a decade, Trump has told us that certain other Americans should be feared: among them, Democrats, liberals, Mexican Americans, Muslim Americans, Black Americans, transgender people, and LGBTQ+ people. All are presumed to be the “enemy within.”

As Barack Obama said at Jesse Jackson’s memorial on March 6, “Each day, we’re told by those in high office to fear each other and to turn on each other, and that some Americans count more than others, and that some don’t even count at all.” Is it any surprise that a majority of Americans now describe the morality of other Americans as “bad?”

But I can’t help wonder: How much of our distrust and resentment is the byproduct of something more fundamental that’s been unfolding in America for over four decades — something Trump took exploited but that would have invited a hateful demagogue like Trump eventually: the increasing concentration of wealth and power in fewer and fewer hands?

Trump took advantage of anger and distrust that had been building for years — at a system increasingly seen as rigged against most of us.

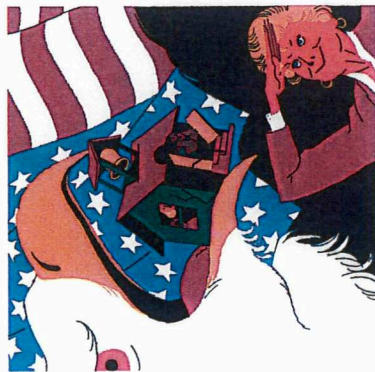
What do you think?

The New York Times

## Jessica Grose

OPINION

February 18, 2026



Eleanor Davis

### What does 'Priests for Life' have to do with public education?



By Jessica Grose

After spending nearly a year [gutting her own department](#) — a policy choice that was ripped from the pages of [Project 2025](#) — the secretary of education, Linda McMahon, has launched a cross-country tour called “[History Rocks!](#)”

The tour, which is meant to highlight civics education and celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary, is made possible by the Education Department’s leftover funds from the 2025 fiscal year (perhaps when you fire [over 1,300 people](#), you have some money lying around). McMahon’s involvement includes visiting classrooms, speaking to students, delivering a speech and hosting American history-themed games.

“The History Rocks! initiative is a key component of the U.S. Department of Education’s America 250 celebrations, coordinated with [the America 250 Civics Education Coalition](#), a national partnership with the America First Policy Institute, Turning Point USA, Hillsdale College, and more than 50 national and state organizations,” according to a [news release](#) from the Department of Education.

Hutz H. Hertzberg, the chief education officer of Turning Point Education, is quoted in another D.O.E. [news release](#) saying, “Turning Point USA, which includes Turning Point Education, is more resolved than ever to advance God-centered, virtuous education for students flourishing across our nation,” and with that in mind, he is thrilled to partner with coalition partners like Moms for Liberty, Priests for Life, and Project 2025’s creators, the Heritage Foundation.

This information is publicly available from the D.O.E. (In December, my newsroom colleague, Tracey Tully, was [haired from entering a school on McMahon’s tour](#) in New Jersey, though [some local press](#) was allowed inside.) I had read that the tour had spurred protests in many states, and I had questions about why a right-wing organization that wants to advance “God-centered” education was getting involved in history games with Linda McMahon.

I spent the last week talking to public school parents who were not excited to hear that the secretary was coming to Alabama, Illinois, New Jersey and Connecticut because of the extremely conservative, anti-L.G.B.T.Q. and Christian

makeup of the America 250 Civics Education Coalition. They were concerned that this tour was part of a larger Trumpian effort to [whitewash American history](#).

Visits to schools in [Fairfield, Conn.](#), and [Mobile, Ala.](#), were canceled after a swift backlash. Parents in Illinois that I spoke to were unhappy that McMahan appeared at Genoa-Kingston High School with Erika Kirk, the widow of Charlie Kirk and the chief executive of Turning Point USA.

Though McMahan's appearance with Kirk was not, according to the Department of Education, an official part of the History Rocks! Tour, there seemed to be confusion among Genoa-Kingston organizers about that fact. (I reached out to the superintendent about the McMahan/Kirk appearance; he did not get back to me.) An invite from the school's Club America, which a local parent shared with me, associated the event with History Rocks! Students appeared to think the two efforts were related — they were expecting a straightforward civics lesson. "It just felt like this wasn't educational at all. You're handing me a bracelet that says "We are Charlie Kirk." I'm just trying to learn about America's history," a senior at Genoa-Kingston High School told Peter Medlin of Northern Public Radio.

Parents made clear to me that they saw McMahan's tour as overtly conservative. John Fallon, a parent in the Fairfield, Conn., school district, was particularly disturbed by a video from the America First Policy Institute, [a conservative think tank founded](#) by President Trump's secretary of agriculture, Brooke Rollins, and other MAGA luminaries after the end of his first term. That video, which Fallon perceived to be the "prime advertisement" for the tour, had "highly objectionable political undertones," he said.

The Department of Education links directly [to the A.F.P.I.'s site](#). The video there, which has McMahan's image in it, declares: "American education was once a shining light, guiding generations, built on faith, heritage, patriotism. But over the past 60 to 70 years, that brilliance has been dimmed. A great institution has been crumbled from within, overtaken by those who teach hatred for America, false revisionist history, and division." It then goes on to show a clip of Barack Obama under the headline, "Georgetown University Hid Religious Symbols at White House Request."

In a statement, McMahan insisted that there was nothing partisan about the History Rocks! Tour, and how dare anyone imply that there might be: "Some have tried to brand this tour as 'radical,' 'dangerous' and 'partisan indoctrination.' How absurd. What you see is not politics — it is a shared commitment to our nation's story. It speaks volumes about certain voices in our society that they would seek to distort a celebration of America's 250th anniversary and deprive children of this experience."

A Department of Education official sent me some sample civics games shared by McMahan at school visits and two speeches she gave, one in Alabama and one in New York. The games were straightforward and factual, and the speech was not distinctly conservative, though it was heavy on expressing that "America is the greatest country on Earth."

The official added that "the department does not direct or supervise or control the membership of the coalition" or the materials it creates. I asked whether McMahan agrees with the message of the America First Policy Institute video, considering that her name and image are used repeatedly in it, and why the institute describes its relationship with the Department of Education as a "formal partnership." I did not receive a response.

I was also told that anybody could join the America 250 Civics Education Coalition, but when I asked if nonpartisan or even liberal groups were invited to join, the official said she'd have to get back to me on specifics. I'm still waiting.

Even if one believes that the History Rocks! Tour is scrupulously unbiased, I question the wisdom of embarking on such a tour when the Department of Education has so many other problems.

Schools are continuing to dig out from Covid-related learning loss and trying to raise test scores that have been on a [downhill slope for about 15 years](#). A truly nonpartisan leader in the Department of Education might help states share wisdom and research. As my colleague Nick Kristof pointed out, some red states are leading [the way in math and English recovery](#). Instead of trying to help spread knowledge about best practices, the Trump administration attempted to cut over

\$300 million in funding to Regional Educational Laboratories that help with this work, calling it “woke spending” last year.

While a judge told the administration to reinstate some of that funding months later, researchers can’t just pick up where they left off, especially since the future is so uncertain. As part of the 1,300 layoffs in the D.O.E., McMahon cut the Institute of Education Sciences, which was established by George W. Bush to explore the best teaching practices, down to the bone. According to the Hechinger Report, the I.E.S. went from more than 175 employees to fewer than 20.

Ideally, McMahon would be trying to fix some of these pivotal issues affecting our nation’s children, instead of touring the country asking students, “How many original colonies were there?” which was one of the sample questions provided to me from McMahon’s tour. Perhaps there’s just not much work to manage in Washington because she already fired everyone who might make a difference.



### **This Restaurant Serves Only One Person**

The 10 February 1953 issue of Krokodil magazine ran a Ganf cartoon titled 'In America - At This Restaurant Only One Person Is Served'. It shows a restaurant where waiters serve piles of money to a soldier, labeled "War". Judging from the types of money they serve, the four waiters represent four Western countries. The man with the knife slices U.S. dollars, hinting that he is an American, perhaps former U.S. President Harry S. Truman (who was already succeeded by Dwight D. Eisenhower by the time this cartoon was printed in Krokodil). The obese man with monocle serves British pounds and could either be then-Prime Minister Winston Churchill or the British national personification John Bull. The man with a whole plate with money, decorated with smelly cheese, is a Frenchman, possibly French Prime Minister Antoine Pinay. The wrinkly green man with swastika badge is West German chancellor Konrad Adenauer (who ironically was active in the German resistance movement during World War II). While 'War' is fed with delicious Western financial nutrition, four other customers wait in vain for service. Their tables are labeled 'Education', 'Health Care', 'Libraries' and 'Art'...

Often, when Ganf's cartoon is reproduced, its original ... anti-American context is omitted by shortening the title to 'At This Restaurant Only One Person Is Served', or by showing just the image itself, without the captions. But the satire is instantly understandable without text, even outside the Cold War context. One can argue that the situation depicted in the cartoon applies to all countries, not just the United States. This powerful and timeless critique of government and business spending on military defense continues to attract attention in the Internet age.

[https://www.lambiek.net/artists/g/ganf\\_yuliy.htm](https://www.lambiek.net/artists/g/ganf_yuliy.htm)



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

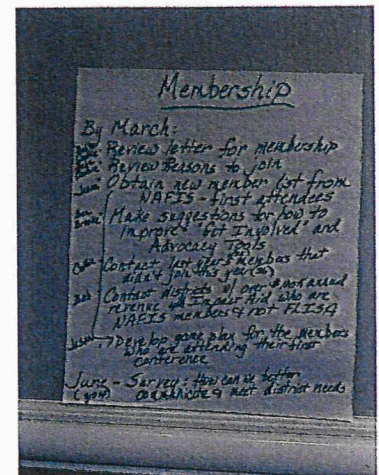
## FLISA 2026 Winter Meeting Committee Notes

### Membership:

Membership Motto: Booze 'em up; Sign 'em up

#### By March:

- Review letter for Membership—Responsible: Bob, Cathie,
- Review Reasons to Join 1-pager—Responsible: Bob, Cathie,
- Obtain new member list from NAFIS (first attendees) —Responsible: Jason
- Make suggestions for how to improve—"Get Involved" and Advocacy Tools—Responsible: Ben, Brooke
- Contact last year's members that didn't join this year—Responsible: Cathie
- Contact district with over \$100K annual revenue in Impact Aid who are NAFIS members but not FLISA—Responsible: Bob
- Develop game plan for the members who are attending their first conference—Responsible: Jason,



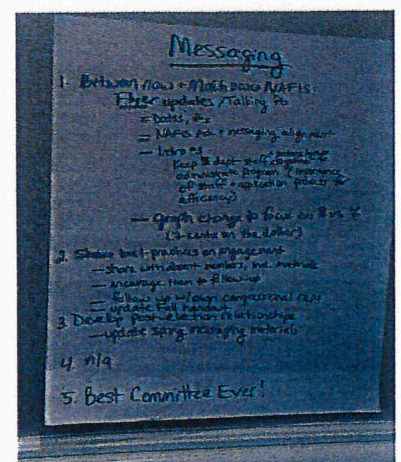
#### In June:

- Survey: How can we better communicate and meet district needs in June—Responsible: Entire Committee

### Messaging:

#### By March:

- Flyer and Talking Points Updated
  - Dates and numbers
  - NAFIS Ask and Messaging alignment
  - Intro #3: Keep dept staff and sections/groups together, administrative program (importance of staff and application process for efficiency)
  - Graph change to focus on \$ not % (7 cents on the dollar)



## Messaging Continued:

- Shore best practices on engagement
  - Share with absent members materials
  - Encourage them to follow-up
  - Follow up with own congressional reps.
  - Update Fall NAFIS Hill Visit Handout
- Develop post-election relationships
  - Update Messaging Materials
- Best Committee Ever!

## Advocacy

### By March:

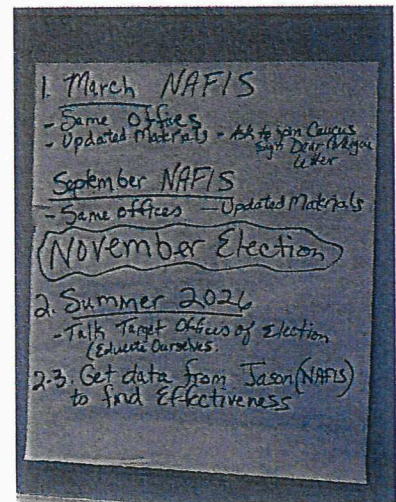
- Same offices
- Updated materials—Ask to join caucus (sign Dear Colleague Letter)

### By September:

- Same offices
- Updated materials—Ask to join caucus (sign Dear Colleague Letter)

### November Elections

- Summer 2026
  - Talk to target offices of election (educate ourselves)
  - Get data from Jason (NAFIS) to find effectiveness





# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

## FLISA Summer Meeting 2026

THURSDAY, June 18, 2026—Committee Meetings As Scheduled (Between 2PM-4PM)

FRIDAY, June 19, 2026—9AM-4PM Central Time

Park Place Hotel and Conference Center--300 E State St, Traverse City, MI 49684

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM AND INVOICE

PLEASE PRINT/TYPE ALL INFORMATION:

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact Name/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Conference Registration includes lunch and a post meeting reception (open to attendees and their guests). Breakfast will be on your own. **No registration refunds will be given after May 18, 2026.**

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

Please mail your payment with this form by **May 18, 2026** made payable to FLISA to:

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

**Hotel Reservations:** Make your hotel reservations as early as possible. Park Place Hotel and Conference Center 300 E State St, Traverse City, Michigan. Meeting participants should use this link to reserve their room under the group code: **F2M561.**

<https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=62003&chain=16552&Group=F2M561>

The nightly rate is \$259 for Thursday and \$289 for Friday--plus tax and fees which may vary. **Extended Stays** outside the contracted group dates, will be accommodated based on general hotel availability. The hotel recommends booking the contracted dates online first, then contacting the hotel directly. To do so, contact Elizabeth Schultz at [resv-grp@park-place-hotel.com](mailto:resv-grp@park-place-hotel.com). Please note: Rates for non-contracted dates are subject to availability and current occupancy levels. The hotel will only hold rooms thru **Monday, May 18, 2026.**

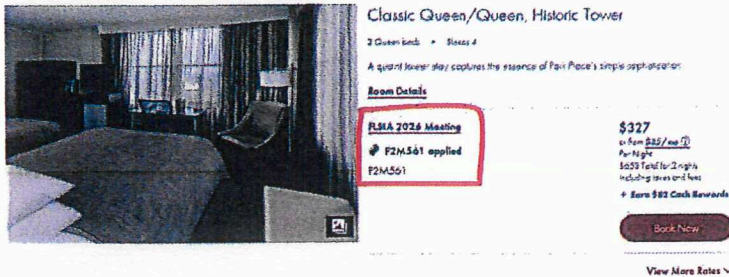
Group Name: FLSIA 2026 Meeting

Group Code: F2M561

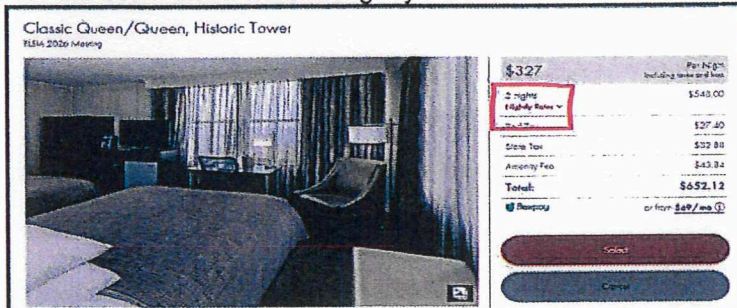
Group Link: <https://be.synxis.com/?hotel=62003&chain=16552&Group=F2M561>

To ensure a smooth and accurate booking experience, please keep the following in mind:

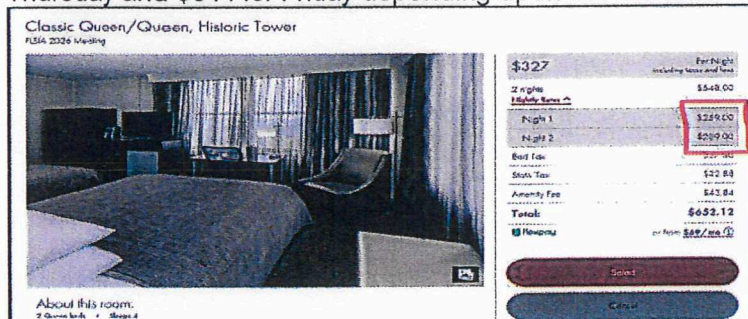
- **Room Types & Availability:** We offer a variety of room types to accommodate both families and individual travelers. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once a specific room type is fully booked, we kindly ask guests to choose from the remaining available options, as we cannot guarantee changes to room types.
- **Group Rates:** Contracted group rates apply only to the dates outlined in your group agreement. The online portal will clearly indicate when these rates are in effect.
- Make sure to choose the one that says FLSIA 2026 Meeting and click on the name.



- Click the down arrow next to Nightly Rates.



- This will show the nightly rate of \$259 for Thursday and \$289 for Friday. Approximately \$309 for Thursday and \$344 for Friday depending upon tax and fees.



- **Extended Stays:** If a guest wishes to stay outside the contracted group dates, we are happy to accommodate based on general hotel availability. We recommend booking the contracted dates online first, then contacting me directly to request any adjustments.  
*Please note: Rates for non-contracted dates are subject to availability and current occupancy levels.*
- **Primary Point of Contact:** Elizabeth Schultz is the Reservation and Group Sales Coordinator, she will personally manage all group reservations. Her standard hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The best way to reach her is via email at [resv-grp@park-place-hotel.com](mailto:resv-grp@park-place-hotel.com).