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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026

No. 219

House of Representatives

The House met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 2, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend John Kellogg, Christ Church Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we commend to Your care the Members of Congress as they begin this new year of service. Bless and protect them, along with their families and staffs. Grant them wisdom, patience, and clarity of purpose as they carry out the duties entrusted to them.

May their work be guided by integrity, compassion, and a commitment to the common good.

It is with grateful hearts that we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 30, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit sealed envelopes received from the White House on December 30, 2025, at 3:17 p.m., said to contain messages from the President on his objections to H.R. 131 and H.R. 504.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

FINISH THE ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-119)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) is a water pipeline currently being built to provide municipal and industrial water to communities in southeastern Colorado. It was originally authorized as part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project in a bill signed by President Kennedy in 1962. For decades

it was unbuilt, largely because the AVC was economically unviable. Under the original plan, the costs of the project were to be initially funded by the Federal Government, but repaid by local users, with interest, over a 50-year period following completion of construction. But participants were unable to comply with that repayment obligation.

In 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which not only reduced the repayment obligation from 100 percent to 35 percent but also provided that miscellaneous revenues from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project at large would count towards the AVC cost share. Even then, however, construction did not begin until 14 years later, after the State of Colorado authorized \$100 million in loans and grants for the project.

The current bill would now have the Federal Government extend the repayment period (on the already-reduced repayment requirement) for an additional 25 years, creating a 75-year repayment period. The bill would also cut the interest rate in half.

More than \$249 million has already been spent on the AVC, and total costs are estimated to be \$1.3 billion. H.R. 131 would continue the failed policies of the past by forcing Federal taxpayers to bear even more of the massive costs of a local water project—a local water project that, as initially conceived, was supposed to be paid for by the localities using it.

Enough is enough. My Administration is committed to preventing American taxpayers from funding expensive and unreliable policies. Ending the massive cost of taxpayer handouts and restoring fiscal sanity is vital to economic growth and the fiscal health of the Nation.

For these reasons, I cannot support the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act. Therefore, it is my duty to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H6135

return H.R. 131 to the House of Representatives without my approval.

This project is a mismanagement disgrace. Went from 249 million dollars to 1.3 billion dollars—and going higher! Now they want the Federal Government to reduce interest rate and extend payment to 75 years. So wrong. Really bad government. Pay up—Veto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 29, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the veto message and the bill will be printed as a House document.

Without objection, further consideration of the veto message and the bill, H.R. 131, is postponed until the legislative day of January 8, 2026.

There was no objection.

MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA AMENDMENTS ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-120)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 504, the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act.

The subject of this bill is a specific area in the Everglades National Park known as the "Osceola Camp." In 1998, the Congress passed the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act, which authorized the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (Tribe) to permanently occupy a certain area within Everglades National Park. The reserved area did not include the Osceola Camp. Nonetheless, the Tribe has a residential community in that area, including infrastructure for wastewater treatment and water supply, and is experiencing periodic flooding. H.R. 504 would require the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Tribe, to take appropriate actions to safeguard structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding events.

The Osceola Camp was constructed in 1935, without authorization, in a low area that was raised with fill material.

It served as a family residence and gift shop initially, and then later a site for air-boat rides. None of the current structures in the Osceola Camp are over 50 years old, nor do they meet the other criteria to be considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The previous administration developed a plan to protect and replace unauthorized infrastructure at the Osceola Camp, which could cost up to \$14 million. But despite seeking funding and special treatment from the Federal Government, the Miccosukee Tribe has actively sought to obstruct reasonable immigration policies that the American people decisively voted for when I was elected.

My Administration is committed to preventing American taxpayers from funding projects for special interests, especially those that are unaligned with my Administration's policy of removing violent criminal illegal aliens from the country. Ending the massive cost of taxpayer handouts and restoring fiscal sanity is vital to economic growth and the fiscal health of the Nation. This principle carries especially heavy weight here; it is not the Federal Government's responsibility to pay to fix problems in an area that the Tribe has never been authorized to occupy.

For these reasons, I cannot support the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act. Therefore, it is my duty to return H.R. 504 to the House of Representatives without my approval.

Veto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 29, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the veto message and the bill will be printed as a House document.

Without objection, further consideration of the veto message and the bill, H.R. 504, is postponed until the legislative day of January 8, 2026.

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 11:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 6936. A bill to require that individuals provide government photo identification and proof of United States citizenship to vote in Federal elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 6937. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the H-1B program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 6936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 6937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3119: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 4615: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4721: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 5843: Mr. LIEU.

H. Res. 337: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 and 3 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETE RICKETTS, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 2, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETE RICKETTS, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. RICKETTS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL SATURDAY,
JANUARY 3, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 12 noon on Saturday, January 3, 2026 and will reconvene for the 2nd session of the 119th Congress.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3 and 40 seconds p.m., adjourned until Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 12 noon.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 3:00:03 p.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 3:00:40 p.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R. 6936–6937, were introduced. **Page H6136**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6136**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bresnahan to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6135**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. John Kellogg, Christ Church Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. **Page H6135**

Presidential Veto Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted his Memorandum of Disapproval of H.R. 131, to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, and explained his reasons therefore—ordered printed (H. Doc. 119–119). **Pages H6135–36**

Without objection, the House postponed further consideration of the veto message and the joint resolution until the legislative day of January 8, 2026. **Page H6136**

Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted his Memorandum of Disapproval of H.R. 504, to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding,

and explained his reasons therefore—ordered printed (H. Doc. 119–120). **Page H6136**

Without objection, the House postponed further consideration of the veto message and the joint resolution until the legislative day of January 8, 2026. **Page H6136**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 4 p.m. and adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Saturday, January 3

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Saturday: Senate will convene the Second Session of the 119th Congress.

House Chamber

Program for Saturday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11:30 a.m.



Congressional Record

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