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# Appropriations tracker: Senate passes 1 package, but not another

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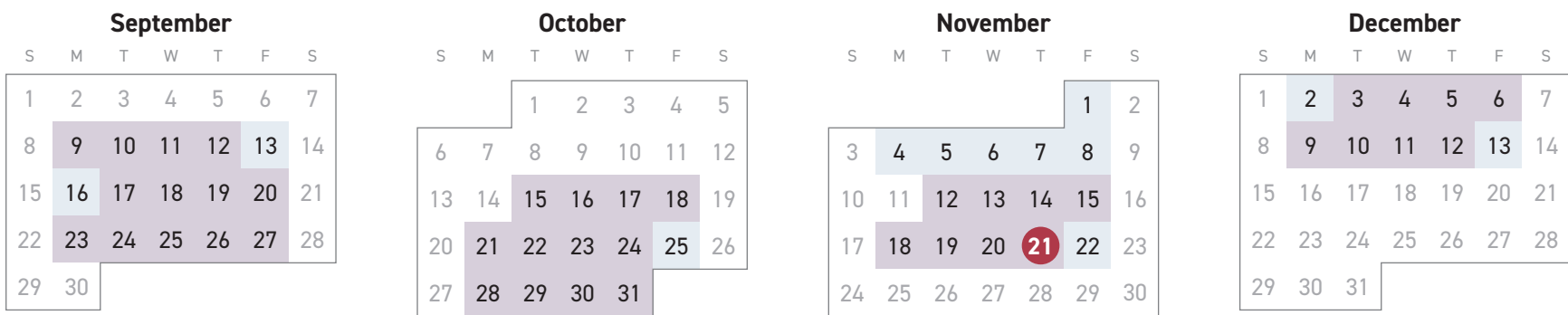
With just three weeks remaining before the current stopgap funding measure expires, the Senate has managed to pass an initial bipartisan package of bills that would fund key parts of the government, including the Department of Agriculture.

However, a second package to fund the Defense, Labor, HHS and Education Departments failed along partisan lines. According to Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), funding increases for federal health programs and President Donald Trump's proposed border wall are the greatest sources of disagreement in the chamber.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have signaled a desire to finish the process entirely by the end of the calendar year — and may enforce that deadline by setting up the next continuing resolution to expire on Dec. 31. This could set up a final confrontation in which lawmakers would need to choose between a compromise spending plan or a potential government shutdown.

## 2019 Congressional Calendar

Senate in session Both chambers in session Continuing resolution deadline



## Progress in Senate may jumpstart conference talks

The first package of appropriations bills to pass the Senate floor this year funded major agencies, such as Agriculture, Transportation and Interior. The package drew strong bipartisan support, raising hopes that it could serve as the foundation for negotiations between the House and Senate.

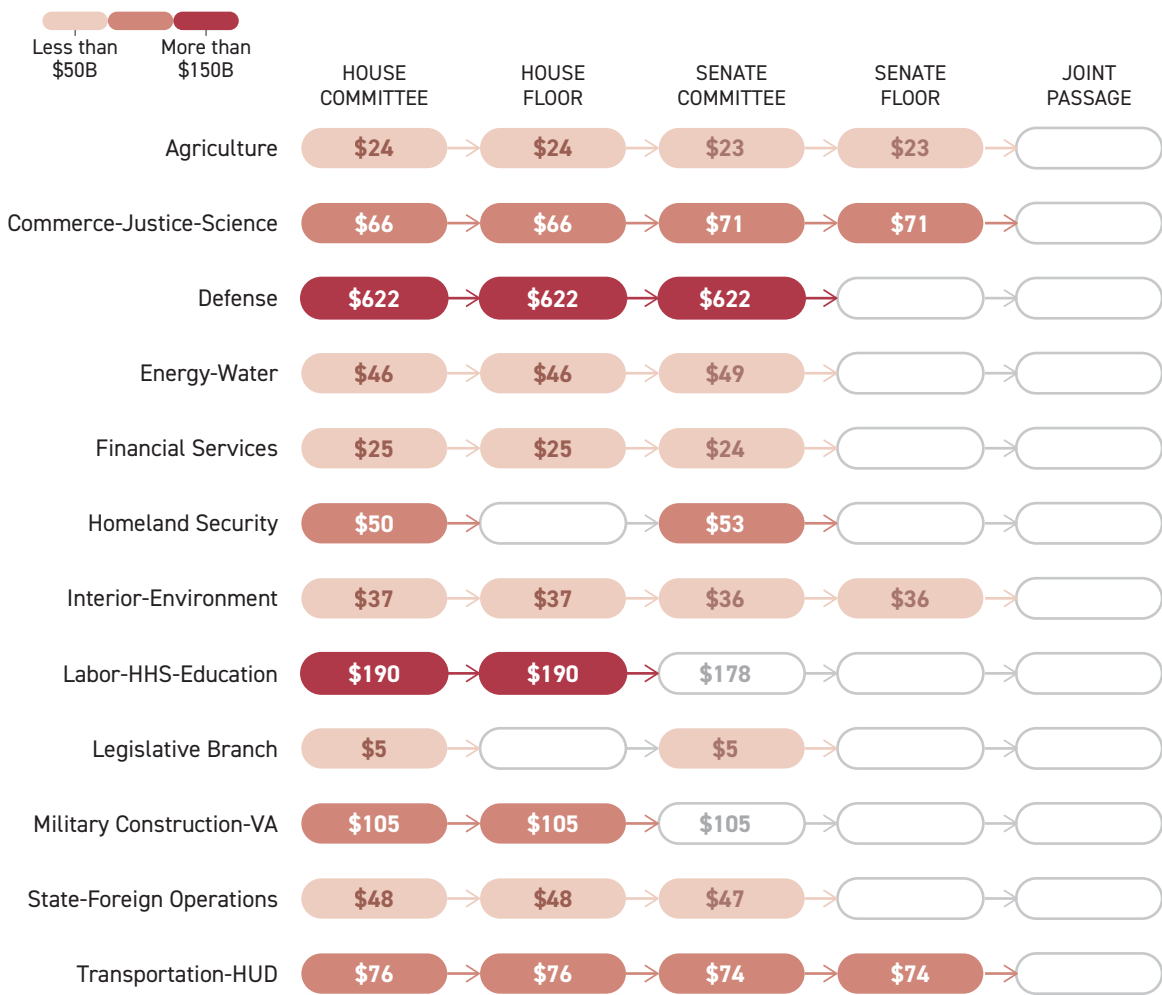
During the final week of October, White House officials met with Republican and Democratic aides from both chambers to discuss outstanding issues. According to Shelby, this was the first time the two sides engaged in more formal negotiations on the overall funding levels, known as 302(b) allocations.

Senate Armed Services Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) introduced a "skinny" defense authorization bill that would reauthorize critical military functions in case negotiators fail to reach a broader agreement. But the backup bill lacks a detailed list of authorized military construction projects — likely because Trump has diverted funds from such projects to begin construction on his proposed border wall.

Note: Figures exclude OCO military, census funds and changes to mandatory programs. House and Senate bills for Legislative Branch appropriations are not fully comparable because each chamber sets its own spending levels, per tradition.

Sources: Senate Appropriations Committee; Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, "Appropriations watch: FY 2020"; John Donnelly, "Skinny defense bill omits key element: CQ Roll Call

## Legislative passage and funding levels (in billions) for FY 2020 appropriations bills



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