

DC State of Play

July 25, 2026

Where Are We Now?

Trump Administration:

- 18 months into second Trump term
- Some Cabinet changes, but otherwise relatively stable
- Unprecedented OMB Power
 - Uniform Guidance (Over 340,000)
- USDA reorg ongoing; support across REE & release of RFAP NOFO

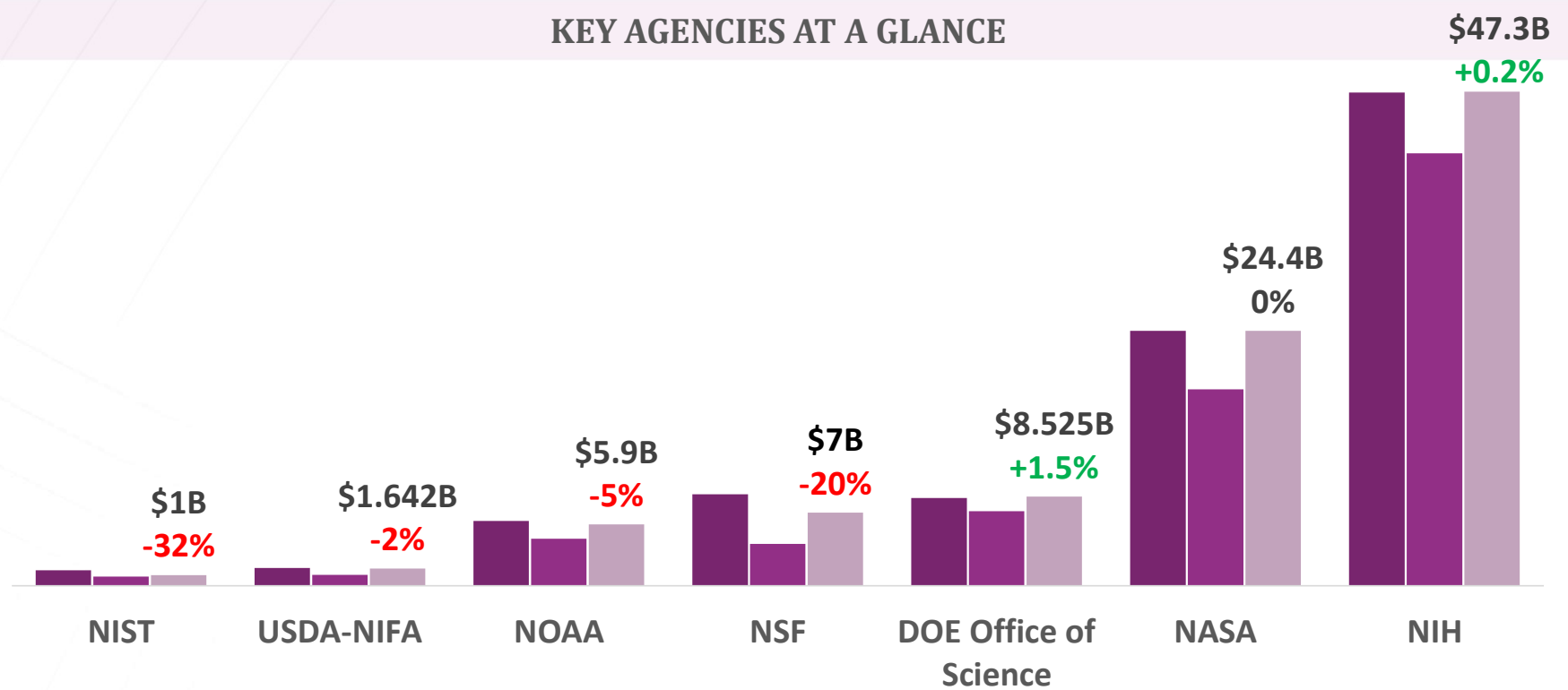
119th Congress: Razor Thin Margins, Few Legislative Days, Legacies on the Line

- Everything is STILL about the Midterms on November 3, 2026
 - To Do list is substantial with only 46 (House) and 64 (Senate) legislative days remaining:
 - *In Process: FY 2027 appropriations bills*
 - *In Process: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)*
 - *In Process: Farm Bill – extended through Sep 30, 2026*
 - *Passed: Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Reauthorization*
- And Also....Reconciliation 3.0, Farm Rescue Package, Iran War Supplemental*

Appropriations Accounts	<u>FY 2026 Enacted</u>	<u>FY 2027 BAA Request</u>	<u>FY 2027 PBR</u>	<u>FY 2027 House</u>
NIFA Total	\$1,677,010	n/a	\$1,022,004	\$1,642,700
Research				
Hatch Act	\$265,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$265,000
Evans-Allen Research (1890 Research)	\$89,000	\$125,000	\$50,000	\$89,000
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	\$5,500	\$17,867	\$5,000	\$5,500
McIntire-Stennis	\$38,000	\$46,000	\$20,000	\$38,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	\$435,000	\$500,000	\$419,378	\$435,000
Cooperative Extension System				
Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c)	\$325,000	\$420,000	\$175,000	\$325,000
Extension Services at 1890 Universities	\$72,000	\$102,000	\$62,000	\$72,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	\$12,000	\$17,867	\$11,000	\$12,000
Smith-Lever 3 (d)	\$88,600	\$115,000	\$67,000	\$88,600
Education				
Payments to the 1994 institutions	\$8,000	\$17,867	\$7,000	\$8,000

FY 2027 House Proposal

KEY AGENCIES AT A GLANCE





~~2023, 2024, 2025~~ 2026?

Farm Bill Progress

- House passed its bill April 30
- Senate “discussion draft” released end of June, markup TBD
- BAA priorities well-represented in both packages
- Major Issues: SNAP Cost-Share, year- round E15, Prop 12
- Pending election results/majority margins lame duck bill is possible; extension is likely

Elections 2026: Setting the Stage for the 120th Congress

The 2026 election season has seen the rise of insurgent Democratic candidates campaigning to connect local issues to the overarching national conversation around affordability, government corruption, and economic populism

Recent Democratic primary winners ranging from progressives in solid blue states, and more moderate new candidates in red and purple states have all found success in different tones of a similar economic populist message

- This is likely to be a unifying point in the House next year.

Republican candidates are following the common approach of midterms as a 'referendum on the president' as exemplified by Trump endorsements swaying primaries even over incumbents.

- *If* past is prologue, this will be the last time that will be the case as people start to jockey to be the future party leaders.

How Will Campaign Messaging Translate to Congressional Actions?

- **Affordability** - Housing, energy and utility prices, healthcare
- **Corruption** – Banning stock trading, congressional investigations into WH activity
- **Corporate power** – AI, data center, and tech regulation, and antitrust
- **Oversight** – impoundment and firings, hearings on EOs
 - University collaboration with the WH and speech on campus could be under fire again from the left this time

Member Dynamics in the 120th Congress

More than 13 percent of Congress has announced they will not seek reelection for their current seat, a modern-day high

Even candidates riding the anti-establishment, “change election” wave, will still face the same Congressional institutions that determine committee assignments, leadership roles, and the realities of thin margins that will force compromise

- Seniority, fundraising, and regional alliances continue to matter

Getting Wins Under Gridlock

Messaging bills, oversight hearings, and dear colleague letters will be common tools to make progress

Committees of Interest

- Significant turnover in both chambers will force a reshuffling of committee assignments
- Prime opportunity to educate freshmen and new committee members of interest
- Too many variables to project where Members will land, especially with Agriculture, appropriations, and the uncertain fate of the Farm Bill
- **Positioning now:** “What does your boss want to do next year? How can we help?”

Questions



LEWIS-BURKE
ASSOCIATES LLC

lewis-burke.com