Federal Update

Status of Key Policy Priorities as the 119th Congress Closes

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Status of FY2027 Appropriations

- Congress passed a continuing resolution ("CR") through December 11, 2026, therefore extending FY26 appropriation levels.
- An additional CR is until early spring, or even for the full fiscal year, is very likely.
- House Appropriations has passed all 12 of their bills through Committee, with 3 passing the full House.
- Senate Appropriations released all 12 of their funding bills by November 16th.
- CPRA has 7 pending Congressionally Directed Spending items totaling $253.75 million for FY27.

Project	Total Funding	Member
Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge Reduction	$1M	Kennedy
Morganza to the Gulf	$162M	Scalise
MRGO Ecosystem Restoration	$10M	Cassidy, Kennedy
SELA	$500K	Cassidy, Kennedy
Southwest Coastal	$20M	Cassidy, Kennedy
St. Tammany Flood Risk Management	$3.25M	Scalise
Upper Barataria Basin	$57M	Cassidy, Kennedy

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Status of CWPPRA Reauthorization

- Congress passed an extension of the surface transportation legislation through December 11, 2026, as part of the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027.
- Section 3201 of Public Law 119-103 extended the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act through December 11, as well.
- Therefore, CWPPRA was extended alongside the surface transportation bill but will need further action to continue.
- The surface transportation legislation will likely be extended into 2027.
- With the Democratic control of the House and Senate in the 120th Congress, talk has arisen about an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 2.0.



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Status of WRDA 2026

- House passed H.R. 9497, WRDA 2026, on September 16, 2026 with a 415 – 9 vote.
- Senate EPW Committee passed S. 4949, WRDA 2026, on July 15, 2026.
- The House and Senate are informally conferencing the legislation, and observers hope it will be passed by year's end – perhaps on the National Defense Authorization Act.



Project / Issue	Provision	House or Senate
MRGO Ecosystem Restoration	Ability to utilize easements to satisfy property right requirements	Sec. 318 (House) Sec. 1350 (Senate)
Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study	Expedited Completion	Sec. 221 (House) Sec. 1202 (Senate)
St. Charles Parish / Baton Rouge and Ama, LA	Authorized feasibility study for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration	Sec. 201 (House) Sec. 1201 (Senate)
Pilottown anchorage	USACE maintain the anchorage at federal expense	Sec. 319 (House) Sec. 1313 (Senate)
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)	Broad study on inland and intracoastal waterways (House) Direction to maintain authorized width or depth of GIWW (Senate)	Sec. 206 (House) Sec. 1345 (Senate
Coastal Storm Risk Management Trust Fund	USACE study creation of a trust fund and funding sources for coastal projects	Sec. 207 (House)
Nonstructural Policy Improvements	Affirms nonstructural is part of USACE mission (House) Supports nonstructural expertise, empowers local sponsors, allows funding relocation assistance and wind risk measures as part of project cost for select pilot projects (Senate)	Sec. 133 (House) Sec. 1118 (Senate)

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Status of Permitting Reform

- **The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act** (S. 5643) was introduced by the Senate Environment and Public Works and Senate Energy & Natural Resources chairs and ranking members in September.
- While a faction of House Democrats are voicing opposition and House Republicans are advocating for additions, it appears that permitting reform has a strong shot at passage this year.
- Monday, the Senate voted 70-27 to invoke cloture on Senator Capito's substitute amendment, setting the stage for this bill to be voted on before the Thanksgiving recess.

- **Aspects of Permitting Changed via BAAJA**: NEPA, CEQ, Permitting Council, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species, Nuclear Energy Licensing, Energy (transmission, permitting for renewables), and Historic Preservation.



GOMESA Amendment Pending

Sen. Kennedy, with Sen. Cassidy's support, has offered Amendment #6892, which would expand the parishes eligible for GOMESA to any that are currently in the Coastal Zone. If successful, the amendment would add Ascension Parish to GOMESA.

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Changes in USACE Leadership

- On September 3, President Trump designated Adam Telle to be the acting U.S. Secretary of the Army. Telle had been leading the U.S. Army Corps as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.
- Lee Forsgren has assumed the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)).
- Robyn Colosimo is now the Senior Officeial Performing the Duties of the Principal Deputy ASA(CW).
- Major General Kimberly Peeples relinquished command from the Mississippi Valley Division in June. No permanent commanding general has been publically named to this position. Colonel Melin is serving as the acting commander.



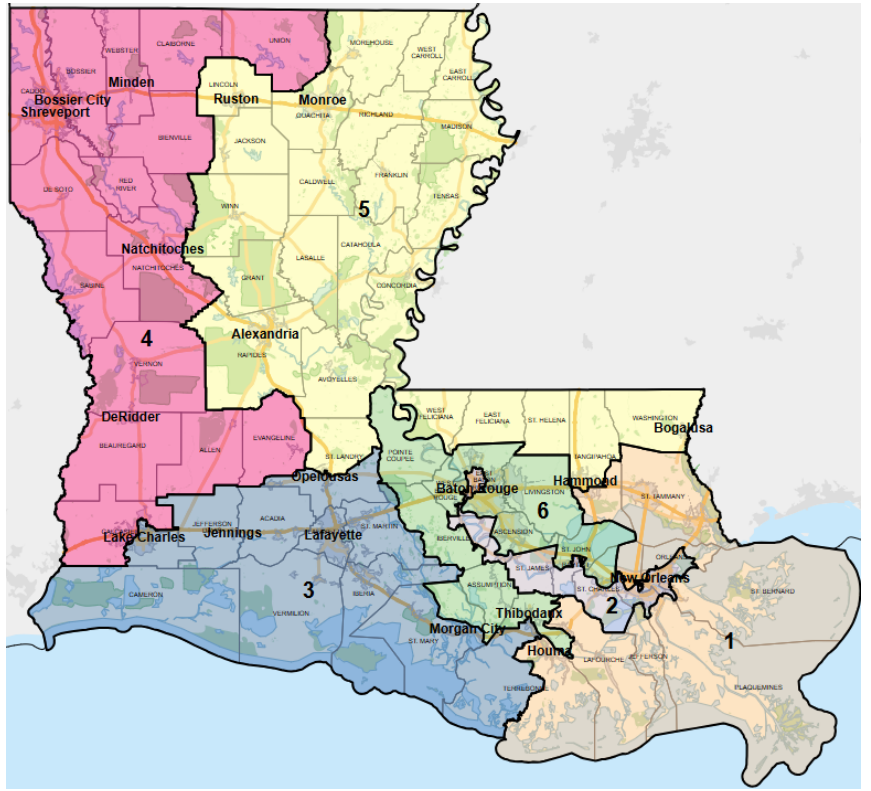
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Changes in Louisiana's Congressional Delegation

House Delegation

- Following the midterm election cycle, Speaker Johnson announced he would step aside as the top House Republican leader.
- Rep. Scalise did not win the internal election to be the House Minority Leader for the 120th Congress, as Rep. Jim Jordan won.
- Rep. Carter was reelected and is poised to lead the Congressional Black Caucus for the 120th Congress.
- Rep. Higgins was reelected for the 3rd District.
- With Rep. Letlow's election as Senator and Rep. Fields decision not to run, the 5th and 6th Congressional Districts were open and led to a December 12th runoff.
  - State Reps. Gabe Firment and Pat Moore face off for the 5th District seat.
  - State Sen. Blake Miguez faces former East Baton Rouge Council member Chauna Banks for the 6th District seat.



Senate Delegation

- Rep. Letlow will be the next U.S. Senator of Louisiana. Her committee assignments are to be decided.
- For coastal, Sen. Cassidy's departure leaves a gap on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over GOMESA. His departure means the end of the RISEE Act legislation. Future reform pushes will likely require a new, or revised legislative package.

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Questions?

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