Legislative Update

Committee for Dulles

7/29/26

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Agenda

- *Funding and appropriations*
- *Authorization and policy*
- *Midterms*
- *Administration updates*
- *Discussion*

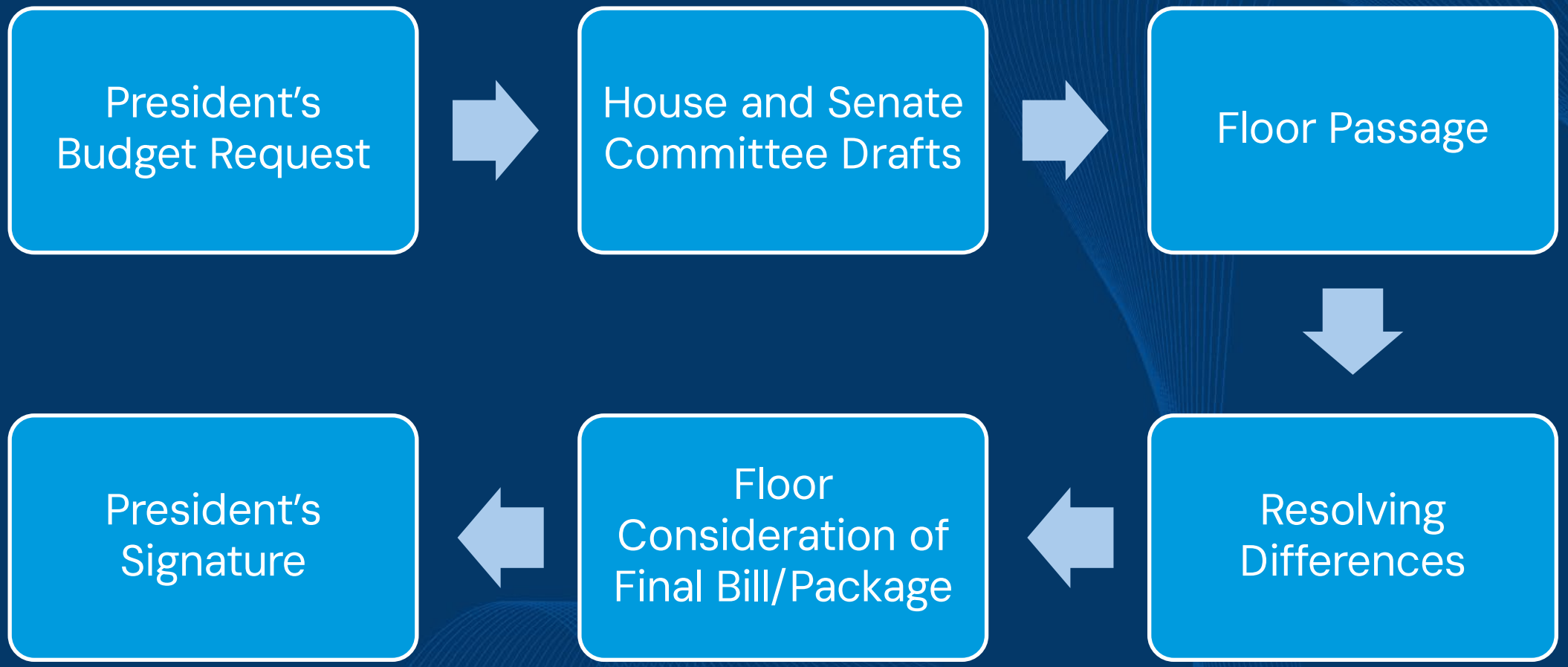
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Capitol Hill – State of Play

- Tight margins
- Primary losses
- Key retirements
- Midterms around the corner

Funding and Appropriations

Budget and Appropriations



President's Budget Request

- Budget and policy document
- Increase in FAA Operations Account to boost ATC hiring
- Requested full $4B for AIP
- Would eliminate Essential Air Service
- Proposed other changes
  - No funding for TSA staffing of exit lanes
  - Requirement for category III and IV airports to enroll in Screening Partnership Program

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FY27 Appropriations – House proposal

- $4B for AIP in House committee-passed bill
  - + $240.8M in Community Project Funding
- Fully funds Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program ($45.9M)
- Key report language:
  - Request for additional details on ATC modernization
  - Addresses FAA staffing levels
  - Directs FAA to implement sections of 2024 FAA Reauthorization related to aircraft noise and noise mitigation

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FY27 Appropriations – continued

- House bills must be taken with grain of salt!
- No Senate bills yet
- Working on a Continuing Resolution (again)
- Secure America Act (Reconciliation 2.0) signed
  - Provides funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through end of FY2029

Backstops During Shutdowns

- S. 1045/H.R. 5451 – Aviation Funding Stability Act
  - Continuing appropriations for FAA
- S. 3031/H.R. 5851 – Keep America Flying Act
  - Continuing appropriations for FY26
- H.R. 6086 – Aviation Funding Solvency Act
  - Continues appropriations from Aviation Insurance Revolving Fund; prioritizes payments for Air Traffic Controllers
- S. 2721 – Prevent Government Shutdowns Act
  - Triggers automatic 2-week CR

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Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- **Airport Terminal Program:** Final year of awards announced
- **Airport Investment Grants:** Final year of new funding released; available to use on rolling basis through FY29
- **Federal Contract Tower:** More rounds through repurposed AIG (AFR)
- What's next?

Future of IIJA Programs

- Awkward timing
  - IIJA served as reauthorization for all major surface transportation programs
  - FAA programs reauthorized separately in 2024
- Budget considerations
- Chance for PFCs to fill the gap?

Authorization and Policy Changes

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Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- House bill – BUILD America 250 Act
  - Includes reauthorization of TIFIA for airports
  - NO extension of other IIJA programs or advance appropriations
- Senate bill still in the works… but aviation staff not engaged
- Always harder in an election year!
  - Fewer days in session
  - Becomes a waiting game



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ROTOR vs ALERT

- Separate efforts to address recommendations from DCA crash
- ROTOR passed Senate
- ALERT Act passed House
  - Does NOT include ADS-B In standard
  - DOES include restriction on use of ADS-B data
    - Pilot and Aircraft Privacy Act (PAPA)



Other Legislative Efforts



National Defense Authorization Act

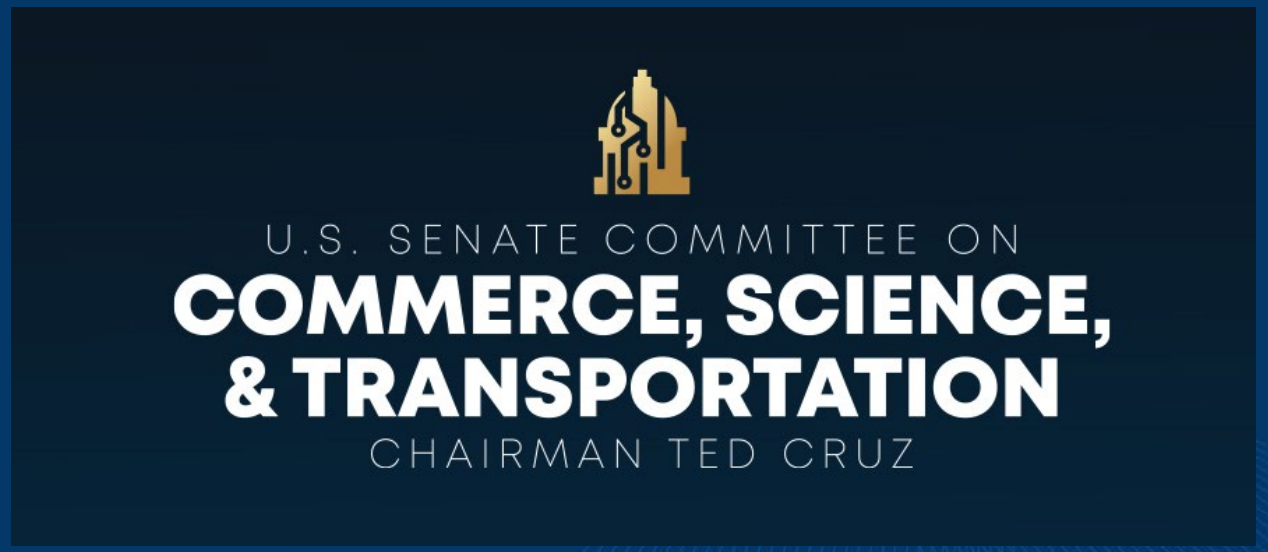


Reconciliation 3.0?

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FAA Reauthorization Act of… 2028?





Committees to kick off reauthorization process again as soon as next year

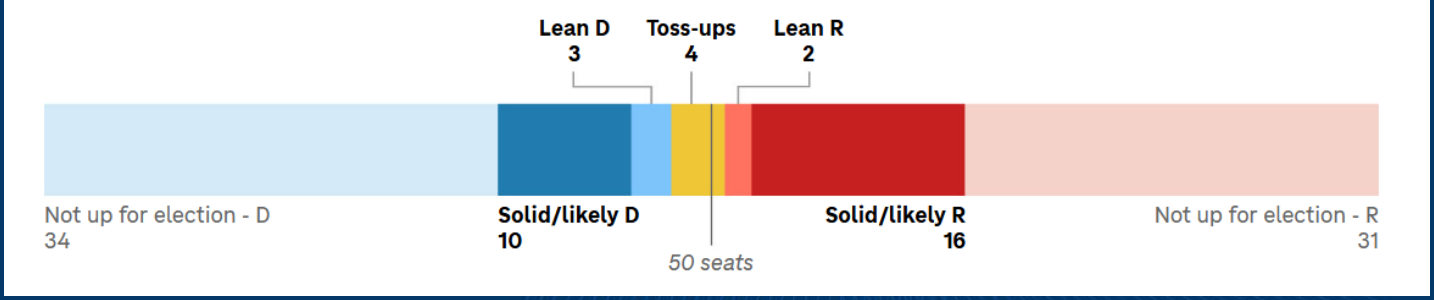
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Midterm Elections and Committee Changes

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2026 Elections

- Democrats maintain lead on generic Congressional ballot
- Redistricting cuts both ways in House
- Challenging Senate map for Democrats



Credit: Alyson Hurt/NPR using info from Cook Political Report

Likely Committee Changes



- House T&I
  - Chairman Sam Graves to retire
  - Ranking Member Rick Larsen to continue leading Democrats
- Turnover across House Committees
- Other changes?

Administration Issues

FAA Updates

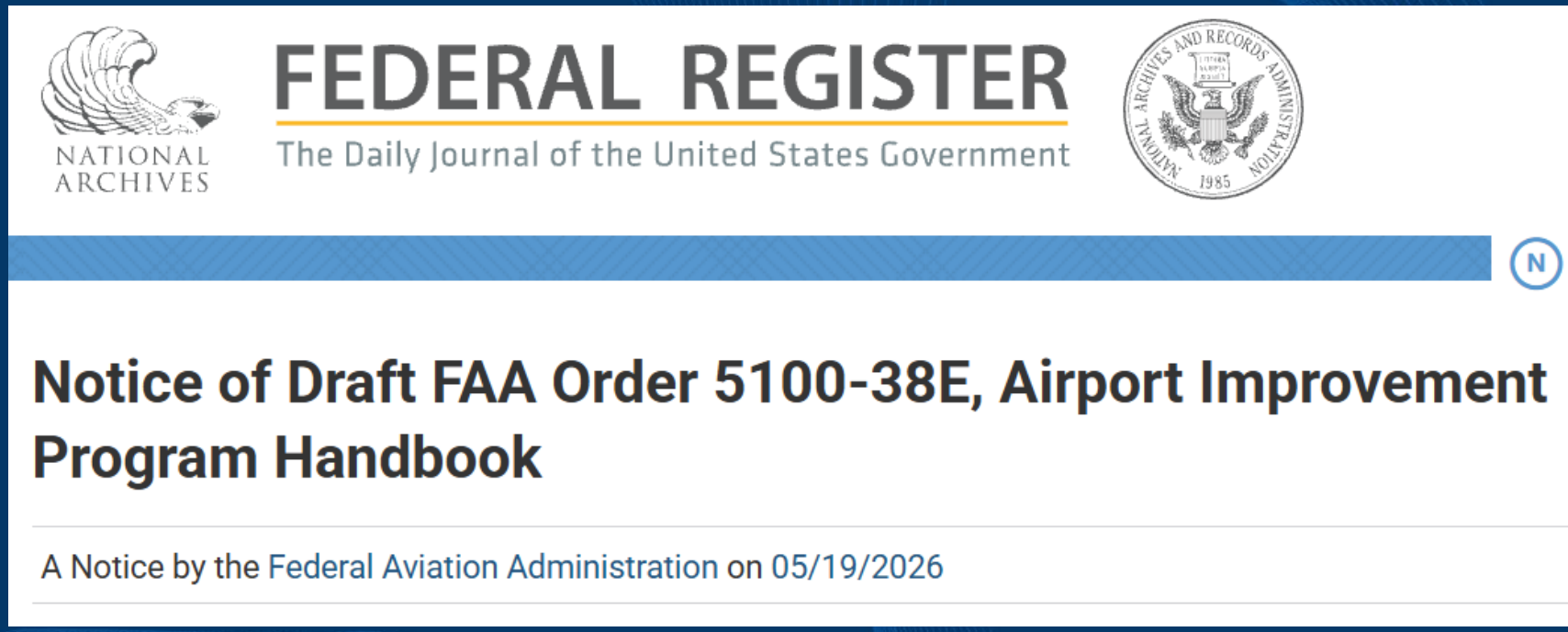


- Air Traffic Control modernization continues…
- Reorganization
- Staffing challenges and key retirements
- Continued implementation of 2024 Reauthorization

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AIP Handbook Update

- Required under 2024 FAA Reauthorization
- First update since 2019
- Draft update released May 15
- Comments due August 17



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government

Notice of Draft FAA Order 5100-38E, Airport Improvement Program Handbook

A Notice by the Federal Aviation Administration on 05/19/2026

Homeland Security

- Continued focus on immigration enforcement
- Threat to withdraw CBP officers from “sanctuary cities”



Kent Nishimura / Bloomberg via Getty Images

Questions?



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