



Special Client Note: McCarthy, One Inch at a Time

In a twist that shocked all of D.C., House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has once again managed to beat expectations and figure out a way to avoid failure. While we (and everyone else) expected a shutdown on Sunday, McCarthy instead pulled together a 45-day continuing resolution with a minimum of other policy riders, called a “clean CR.” Stripped of additional aid to Ukraine and border security funding (points of disagreement in previous efforts to construct a CR), the bill ultimately passed with large bipartisan majorities (335-91 in the House and 88-9 in the Senate). In addition to continuing to fund the government, the bill included disaster funding as well as a few other routine extensions and alterations.

Nearly all of the opposition was from Republicans – the only Democrat to vote no was Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL), who did so due to the lack of Ukraine funding. Reports indicate that leadership in both chambers promised to bring up Ukraine funding soon, but details remain sparse.

McCarthy’s crises aren’t over though. McCarthy enemy No. 1 Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) immediately promised to try to oust him as Speaker using the motion to vacate, likely bringing a couple dozen far-right members with him. The biggest remaining question is whether House Democrats will bail McCarthy out to avoid seeing who Republicans might put in his place. But Democrats are feeling burned by McCarthy for breaking his spending caps deal with President Biden, allowing the Biden impeachment inquiry to continue, and refusing Democrats the opportunity to review the CR before voting on it, so Democratic leadership is urging unity to hold out for significant concessions to save McCarthy’s speakership.

And at the end of all of this, we’ll need to do this whole dance again by November 17th, and nothing indicates that it’ll be any easier then. But, at least for now, the federal government’s critical work is allowed to continue, with the House changing their work schedule to remain in D.C. for the next two weeks.

Meet Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA)

Governor Newsom [announced](#) that he would appoint EMILY’s List President, Laphonza Butler, to Sen. Feinstein’s Senate seat sometime this week, bringing Senate Democrats’ back up to 51 seats.

Happy Hour!

As you’ve likely already seen, we’re hosting a happy hour tomorrow, Tuesday, October 3rd on the rooftop of our new office at 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE – perfectly timed to celebrate the government remaining open! We look forward to seeing you, and if you haven’t RSVPed yet, you can do so [here](#).

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