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The Institute

Turning Information into Insight

Policy Tracker

The Institute's Policy Tracker covers state and federal policy focused research and aims to educate and inform about Relevant challenges, opportunities, and potential non-partisan solutions.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) use matched savings and financial education to help low-income workers invest in homes, education, transportation, and small businesses.

Individual Development Accounts

Background

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are special matched savings accounts designed to help low-income individuals and families build assets and achieve long-term financial goals. Participants contribute money from their earnings, and those savings are often matched by government, nonprofit, or private funds, allowing balances to grow more quickly. IDA funds are typically used for qualified purposes such as purchasing a first home, paying for higher education or job training, or starting a small business. Many IDA programs also provide financial education and counseling to help participants develop budgeting, saving, and wealth-building skills.

Significance

Poverty, low asset ownership, and high basic costs keep many low-income households in Northeastern Pennsylvania from long-term financial security. Local Household Survival Budgets show the gap: in 2024, a single adult needed an annual income ranging between $28,704 to $39,576 across Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties to cover essentials, while a two-adult, two-child household with child care needed at least $65,000. These budgets cover only basic needs and exclude savings for emergencies, retirement, college, or other goals. Across the broader nine-county region, 41 percent of households lived below the ALICE Threshold in 2024, including 13 percent in poverty and 28 percent classified as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), underscoring the widespread nature of financial hardship even among working families.

Median household income data highlight the financial constraints facing many households across Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 2024, median household income in six of the nine regional counties fell below Pennsylvania's statewide median of $77,971. Median income ranged from $62,381 in Wayne County to $72,460 in Wyoming County, while Lackawanna County ($66,223) and Luzerne County ($63,691) also lagged behind the state average.

Similar patterns were evident in neighboring counties, including Carbon ($67,554), Schuylkill ($68,313), and Susquehanna ($68,487). Although Pike County ($81,323) and Monroe County ($83,565) exceeded the statewide median, income levels across the region remain uneven and often insufficient to support long-term wealth building. Employment alone does not guarantee financial security, as between 3.6 percent and 6.3 percent of workers across the region remained below the poverty line in 2024, limiting their ability to save for emergencies, homeownership, education, transportation, or business development.

Housing costs further limit asset building. In 2024, renters spent 31 percent of household income on rent in Lackawanna County, 31.3 percent in Luzerne County, and 31.9 percent in Wayne County—above Pennsylvania's 30.5 percent renter cost burden and the 30 percent affordability benchmark. Wyoming County was lower at 23.9 percent but rent still consumes income that families could otherwise save for a down payment, emergency fund, or long-term goal.

Housing costs further limit asset building across Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 2024, renters in Monroe County (35.1 percent), Pike County (31.9 percent), Wayne County (31.9 percent), Luzerne County (31.3 percent), and Lackawanna County (31.0 percent) spent more than 30 percent of household income on rent, exceeding both the commonly used affordability benchmark and Pennsylvania's statewide renter cost burden of 30.5 percent. Rent burdens were somewhat lower in Carbon County (28.7 percent), Schuylkill County (28.4 percent), Susquehanna County (27.3 percent), and Wyoming County (23.9 percent). High housing costs consume income that families could otherwise save for emergencies, homeownership, education, transportation, or other long-term wealth-building goals.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Individual Development Accounts (cont.)

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Across local regions analyzed in the Economy Tracker, households with at least $2,000 in emergency savings ranged from 61 percent to 75 percent, with lower levels in regions containing Scranton, Hazleton, and Wilkes-Barre.

The need is especially acute for families with children across the region. Child poverty rates were highest in Luzerne County (24.7 percent), Carbon County (20.1 percent), Lackawanna County (19.7 percent), and Schuylkill County (19.4 percent), but significant shares of children also lived below the poverty line in Wyoming (17.3 percent), Susquehanna (16 percent), Monroe (14.9 percent), Wayne (14.6 percent), and Pike (13.2 percent) Counties. Poverty among children under the age of five was particularly severe in Carbon County (32.1 percent), Luzerne County (25.5 percent), Wyoming County (24.2 percent), Lackawanna County (22.9 percent), and Schuylkill County (22.1 percent), while younger children in Susquehanna, Pike, Wayne, and Monroe Counties also experienced substantial economic hardship. These data underscore the need for strategies that help families move from short-term survival to long-term stability across all nine counties in the region.

These conditions support a policy response that pairs matched savings with financial coaching and flexible eligible uses tied to housing, education, transportation, employment, and small business development. Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) provide that structure by helping low- and moderate-income participants save earned income for approved goals while building financial capability. Recent research reinforces the need: income alone does not capture household stability, and wealth – including emergency savings, home equity, retirement assets, and investments – is essential for resilience. Nationally, nearly 60 percent of families lack sufficient income and resources for basic monthly expenses, and families fall more than $13,000 short on average when income and available resources are combined.

Local data also show gaps in emergency savings and household balance sheets.

Across local regions analyzed in The Institute's Economy Tracker, households with at least $2,000 in emergency savings ranged from 61 percent to 75 percent, with lower levels in regions containing Scranton, Hazleton, and Wilkes-Barre. Those urban areas also had higher delinquent debt and housing cost burden, while retirement-plan access varied considerably, including relatively low access in Scranton and South-Central Luzerne County. These patterns suggest a statewide asset-building strategy should help households convert limited earnings into emergency savings, productive assets, and long-term financial security.

Targeting households below 200 percent of the federal poverty level would align eligibility with those most likely to face persistent instability. Across the nine-county Northeastern Pennsylvania region, nearly 325,000 residents live at or below this threshold, representing approximately 30.6 percent of the population for whom poverty status is determined, compared with 26.6 percent statewide. Luzerne County has the highest share of residents below 200 percent of poverty level at 34.2 percent, while six other counties in the region also exceed the statewide rate (Carbon, Lackawanna, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties). A statewide Individual Development Account (IDA) program would address a measurable need by helping low-income households convert limited earnings into emergency savings, education, homeownership, small business investments, and other wealth-building assets. By strengthening financial resilience and expanding pathways to economic mobility, such a program could promote greater long-term financial security for families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Individual Development Accounts (cont.)

Below Poverty Level												
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Wyoming		Four Counties		Statewide	
Population for whom poverty status is determined	208,287		316,636		48,064		25,163		598,150		12,600,920	
50 percent of poverty level	15,191	7.3%	25,038	7.9%	2,944	6.1%	1,216	4.8%	44,389	7.4%	712,218	5.7%
125 percent of poverty level	39,130	18.8%	62,346	19.7%	7,883	16.4%	3,556	14.1%	112,915	18.9%	1,901,468	15.1%
150 percent of poverty level	48,252	23.2%	77,692	24.5%	10,059	20.9%	4,604	18.3%	140,607	23.5%	2,371,480	18.8%
185 percent of poverty level	59,370	28.5%	98,946	31.2%	13,487	28.1%	6,180	24.6%	177,983	29.8%	3,043,880	24.2%
200 percent of poverty level	64,974	31.2%	108,385	34.2%	14,938	31.1%	6,757	26.9%	195,054	32.6%	3,350,750	26.6%
300 percent of poverty level	102,155	49.0%	165,448	52.3%	24,060	50.1%	11,762	46.7%	303,425	50.7%	5,321,451	42.2%
400 percent of poverty level	133,409	64.1%	208,343	65.8%	32,389	67.4%	15,837	62.9%	389,978	65.2%	7,116,550	56.5%
500 percent of poverty level	156,938	75.3%	239,245	75.6%	37,071	77.1%	18,896	75.1%	452,150	75.6%	8,588,699	68.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

By strengthening financial resilience and expanding pathways to economic mobility, such a program could promote greater long-term financial security for families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Recommendations

Pennsylvania should enact a statewide IDA program through a PA Asset Building Act, providing a standardized 3:1 savings match for participants earning less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and capping annual matches at $3,000 per participant. The proposal would draw on bipartisan IDA systems in Oregon and Indiana, where matched savings programs have helped low- and moderate-income households build assets, strengthen financial capability, and move toward long-term self-sufficiency.

The state could finance the match through a dedicated IDA fund supported by a dollar-for-dollar corporate tax credit, leveraging private-sector investment while reducing reliance on direct state appropriations. Oregon's statewide IDA initiative shows how tax incentives can encourage private contributions, while Indiana has used a tax-credit fundraising mechanism to expand access and resources.

Community Action Agencies and other nonprofits could administer accounts locally, providing recruitment, financial education, account management, and referrals for housing, transportation, employment, and public-benefit services. Oregon and Indiana both rely on community-based organizations to pair matched savings with individualized financial coaching and support.

Eligible uses should include home purchase costs, post-secondary education, vocational training, employment-related transportation, essential home repairs, and small business development. Annual reporting should track savings levels, asset purchases, housing stability, educational attainment, business creation, and changes in public assistance use to evaluate effectiveness, demonstrate returns, and ensure accountability.

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INTEGRATING MATERNAL PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS INTO NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S MEDICAID SYSTEM

INTEGRATING MATERNAL PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS INTO NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S MEDICAID SYSTEM

Clinical evidence shows that pairing low-income mothers living in rural areas with certified peer specialists leads to a 40 percent improvement in treatment follow-through and significant mental health progress.

Integrating Maternal Peer Support Specialists into Northeastern Pennsylvania's Medicaid System

Background

Pennsylvania currently faces rising maternal morbidity and other care delivery challenges, which are compounded by postpartum depression and mental health needs during the perinatal period. In the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) region, persistent issues include provider shortages in rural areas, transportation and geographic barriers, economic obstacles, and social stigma. As a result, mothers with lower incomes often lack accessible pathways to timely behavioral healthcare during the first year after childbirth. Pennsylvania's Medicaid program covers clinical behavioral healthcare, but it lacks a standardized, sustainable mechanism to reimburse Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSs) specializing in maternal and perinatal care.

Maternal-focused peer support specialists are providers with lived experience navigating postnatal mental health needs. These individuals also meet the state's thorough certification standards to deliver structured, evidence-based support for patients. Their shared experiences reduce prevailing stigma while improving early identification of symptoms related to maternal health. Additionally, their work strengthens trust between families and clinical care teams. CPSs also increases ongoing treatment participation, minimize emergency department utilization, and improve overall stability. Clinical evidence shows that pairing low-income mothers living in rural areas with certified peer specialists leads to a 40 percent improvement in treatment follow-through and significant mental health progress. This demonstrates the need for maternal peer support and shows its potential for broader implementation across Pennsylvania.

Establishing a Medicaid reimbursement pathway for maternal peer support specialists would create a more affordable and trusted workforce to support vulnerable rural communities. Other states have shown that integrating maternal peer specialists into perinatal care improves maternal mental health and infant care engagement through wellness visits while supporting lasting economic security. For instance, Texas and Indiana effectively demonstrate that Medicaid-funded maternal peer support yields measurable financial savings and bipartisan policy momentum. Furthermore, longitudinal data and trends help explain decreases in psychiatric emergencies, where prolonged inpatient stays can be costly, as well as reduced reliance on extended institutional care in state residential settings. Collectively, these states' experiences offer strong evidence for implementing maternal peer support in Pennsylvania's Medicaid system and in the local NEPA region.

Significance

Rural parts of Northeastern Pennsylvania feature limited options for maternal care. This reflects scarce care options, with higher-risk patients routinely encountering barriers to mental health evaluations and community-level psychiatric services. Structural challenges resulting in isolation, stigma, and long-term economic impact emphasize the need for non-clinical, community-based support that delivers early intervention informed by shared lived experience and remains accessible to mothers in their daily environments.

More specifically, economic strain and geographic distance leave rural mothers more vulnerable to postpartum depression and other mental health conditions, such as anxiety. Limited transportation options, including public transit or access to cars, further restrict access to clinical psychological providers, deepen gaps in consistent services, and force mothers to travel longer distances or delay care altogether. Additionally, stigma has persisted over time and created an environment in which individuals may find it difficult to seek support because of societal norms. As a result, judgment and child-welfare concerns often prevent mothers from sharing symptoms – or lead them to underreport symptoms – with those who could help, such as physicians or state caseworkers. Broader challenges tied to downstream economic impact are critical, given that untreated mental health conditions during the perinatal period make mothers significantly less likely to rejoin the labor force and ultimately strain household finances. As

INTEGRATING MATERNAL PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS INTO NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S MEDICAID SYSTEM

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It is important to place maternal peers in everyday service locations that are primarily used by patients seeking support during the prenatal and postnatal periods.

Integrating Maternal Peer Support Specialists into Northeastern Pennsylvania's Medicaid System (cont)

reliance on public assistance grows, state and federal social service systems face escalating and ongoing expenses.

Recommendations

Medicaid-funded maternal peer support specialists could offer Pennsylvania, especially rural NEPA, a proven and cost-efficient strategy to reduce postpartum depression severity, improve infant wellness checks, support long-term maternal economic stability, and address perinatal mental health disparities through reimbursement, specialized training, and community-based peer positions.

Establishing a formal Medicaid pathway is a crucial first step for integrating maternal peer support into Pennsylvania's care system and ensuring that these mental health and related provider services can be delivered consistently. It is recommended that the state advise or coordinate with the Department of Human Services to submit a State Plan Amendment creating a dedicated reimbursement code for CPS. This change to the billing structure would allow managed care organizations in the NEPA region to direct funding toward consistent peer services and integrate them into existing maternal health networks to strengthen long-term sustainability.Additionally, policymaker investment in regional training programs would expand the maternal peer workforce by enabling NEPA health service facilities to onboard, upskill, and certify women with lived perinatal mental health experiences. A state-funded grant program would enable health care providers to cover certification expenses. It could also cultivate a workforce that reflects the cultural, geographic, and economic conditions shaping NEPA's rural and underserved communities. This would strengthen the capacity for community-based maternal mental health support that is coordinated with the needs of the region.

It is also important to place maternal peers in everyday service locations that are primarily used by patients seeking support during the prenatal and postnatal periods. Specifically, local Women, Infants, and Children agencies and pediatric clinics would make services more accessible to mothers who currently rely on these sites for infant and related maternal care. Co-location removes many traditional clinical barriers, reduces structural stigma, and encourages early engagement by placing peer specialists trained in maternal health where families naturally seek connection and assistance.

Sources

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County	Risk Factors Score*	PMH Providers	Est. Annual Births	Provider Ratio	**Provider Shortage Gap
Carbon	12	1	575	1.74	2
Lackawanna	12	5	1,965	2.54	5
Luzerne	18	3	3,159	0.95	13
Monroe	11	5	1,305	3.83	2
Pike	12	0	489	0	2
Schuylkill	11	1	1,273	0.79	5
Susquehanna	10	0	311	0	2
Wayne	8	3	386	7.77	-1
Wyoming	6	1	235	4.26	0

Source: Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health, 2025

**Risk is assessed on a scale of 1-45, with 45 being the most severe risk.*

***the number of additional maternal mental health providers/non-profit programs that would be required to meet a county's MMH need*

STATE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

A curated briefing of state legislative proposals and recent legislative actions

STATE BRIEFINGS

- **Municipal Moratorium on Data Center Development**
- **Protecting Vulnurable Homeowners**
- **2026-2027 State Budget**
- **Investing in NEPA Communities**

Municipal Moratorium on Data Center Development SB 1345

Senate Bill 1345 would amend Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code to allow municipalities to temporarily pause the acceptance or consideration of applications for high-impact data center projects. The legislation was introduced in response to the rapid growth of proposed data center developments throughout Pennsylvania and concerns from local governments regarding infrastructure demands, water consumption, power needs, noise, and land use impacts.

The bill would authorize municipalities to enact a temporary moratorium, not exceeding 18 months, while local officials review zoning ordinances and establish development standards tailored to their communities. As of July 12, 2026, the legislation received second consideration in the Senate after advancing through the Senate Local Government Committee and Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee.

Protecting Vulnerable Homeowners HB 96

House Bill 96 amends Pennsylvania's Real Estate Tax Sale Law to provide additional protections for homeowners who may be at risk of losing their property through a tax sale. The legislation allows a property owner to designate another individual to receive notices of delinquent taxes and pending tax sales.

Supporters believe the measure will help protect seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable residents by ensuring family members, caregivers, or trusted contacts are notified before a property is sold for unpaid taxes. The bill was signed into law as Act 27 of 2026 on July 12, 2026.

Bipartisan State Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

On July 12, Governor Josh Shapiro signed Pennsylvania's bipartisan 2026-27 budget into law. The $50.85 billion spending plan includes significant investments in education, workforce development, public safety, mental health services, economic development, and childcare support. The budget provides additional funding for K-12 schools, career and technical education programs, Pennsylvania State Police cadet classes, and the newly created Innovate in PA 2.0 program.

The budget also continues multiple tax relief programs while maintaining approximately $8 billion in reserves through Fiscal Year 2027. Administration officials highlighted the budget as a bipartisan compromise that advances key policy priorities while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Investing in Northeast Pennsylvania Communities

On July 16, Governor Josh Shapiro announced more than $52.5 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) investments for 42 projects across Northeast Pennsylvania. The investments support public infrastructure, workforce training, healthcare expansion, community redevelopment, housing, public safety improvements, and economic development initiatives.

Several projects in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, Pike, Schuylkill, Columbia, and Monroe Counties received funding. The projects are intended to strengthen local economies, support job creation, modernize infrastructure, and improve quality of life throughout the region.

STATE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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STATE BRIEFINGS

- **Eliminating Blight**
- **Governor Shapiro Signs Data Center Executive Order**
- **Regulation of Prediction Markets**

Eliminating Blight and Improving Property Accountability HB 858

House Bill 858 establishes a county property contact information list to improve communication between local governments and property owners. The legislation requires property owners to provide up-to-date contact information, giving municipalities an additional tool to address vacant, neglected, or blighted properties.

Supporters argue that improving owner identification and communication will help local governments more effectively address code violations, encourage redevelopment, and support neighborhood revitalization efforts. The bill was signed into law as Act 29 of 2026 on July 20, 2026.

Governor Shapiro Signs Executive Order on Data Center Development

On August 18, Governor Josh Shapiro signed Executive Order 2026-05 establishing new requirements for data center development in Pennsylvania. The order directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review permit applications only after developers commit to the Administration's Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) standards and obtain local approval. The standards address energy affordability, environmental protection, workforce development, transparency, and community engagement.

The Executive Order also removes data center proposals from the Commonwealth's Fast Track permitting program and prohibits the use of nondisclosure agreements on these projects. The Administration stated the action is intended to provide local communities with a stronger voice while ensuring large-scale developments do not negatively impact utility costs, natural resources, or local infrastructure.

Regulation of Prediction Markets HB 2711

House Bill 2711 would establish a regulatory framework for prediction markets in Pennsylvania and create civil penalties for violations. The proposal stems from growing concerns about the potential for insider trading and market manipulation within prediction market platforms.

The legislation seeks to provide oversight and consumer protections while clarifying how these markets may operate within the Commonwealth. As of July 22, 2026, the bill was referred to the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee for consideration.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

A curated briefing of federal legislative proposals and recent legislative actions

FEDERAL BRIEFINGS

- **119th Congress Overview**
- **Current Landscape of Bills and Resolutions**

119th Congress Overview

Since the 119th Congress (2025–2026) convened in January 2025, 10,183 bills have been proposed in the House and 5,367 in the Senate. The House has introduced more simple resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and joint resolutions than the Senate – 1,497, 114, and 214, respectively, compared with 849, 39, and 212. Conversely, the Senate has submitted significantly more amendments than the House: 6,768 compared with 267. Since the beginning of 2025, 102 pieces of public legislation have been enacted. Only two private laws, both related to awarding the Medal of Honor, have been passed, although 13 private bills have been introduced.

Congressional activity has been most prevalent in the policy areas of health, with 2,125 bills and resolutions; armed forces and national security, with 1,495; and government operations and politics, with 1,396. Other frequently addressed areas continuing into 2026 include international affairs, taxation, and crime and law enforcement. By contrast, relatively few measures have addressed animals, with fewer than 70 bills and resolutions.[1]

Current Landscape of Bills and Resolutions Proposed in Congress

Approximately seven percent of the 18,469 bills and resolutions introduced during the 119th Congress are expected to become law. To date, 104 bills have been signed by the President and enacted. In addition, 414 bills and joint resolutions – which require approval by both chambers of Congress – have been enacted or incorporated into other legislation. Since the start of the year, 36 bills and resolutions have failed to pass, and two additional bills were vetoed following unsuccessful override attempts in the House.

Health has been the primary focus of legislation introduced during this period, with 1,976 bills and resolutions categorized within health-related policy areas. These include health care coverage and access (130 bills), health care costs and insurance (106), program administration and funding (96), Medicare (86), and health personnel (85).

Overall, 15,947 bills were introduced, with 607 passing the House and 159 passing the Senate. Additionally, 775 bills and resolutions have received substantial numbers of votes in one of the two chambers. Of the 104 measures signed into law by the President or enacted under the ten-day rule, 25 related to Native Americans, public lands, and natural resources. Twenty-four addressed armed forces and national security, as well as crime and law enforcement. Another 18 concerned financial matters, including foreign trade, the economy, and taxation. Sixteen focused on energy, environmental protection, science, technology, and communications. Government operations and politics accounted for four enacted measures, while agriculture and food, commerce, housing and community development, immigration, and law each accounted for two. One law each was enacted in the areas of health, international affairs, social welfare, sports and recreation, and transportation and public works. The subject matter of two enacted bills was not published on the website.

The five most recent legislative actions, as of August 2026, include:

- An amendment to the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (S. 629) that streamlines eligibility for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) so that producers and forest landowners can access funding when natural disasters occur.
- Legislation to expand the housing supply throughout the nation and enact other associated measures through the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act (H.R. 6644). This policy aligns with a variety of recommendations informed by The Institute's research, summarized here.
- Lulu's Law (S. 1003) ensures that the Federal Communications Commission allows wireless emergency alerts to be issued to mobile phones when shark attacks occur.
- An amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (S. 254) to preserve Alaska Native cultural traditions and support the livelihoods of handicraft producers and producers of aquatic mammal ivory goods.
- The Secure America Act (S. 2), which provides funding to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement through Fiscal Year 2029. [2]

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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FEDERAL BRIEFINGS

- **Actions Taken by President**

Recent Actions Taken by President

A total of 613 presidential actions have been documented since August 31, 2026. One of the most recent executive orders focuses on national security, foreign policy, and infrastructure, including the cyber protection of the electric grid. Other executive orders address citizenship, tourism, geographic renaming, and enhancing trust in the Smithsonian Institution.

Additional recent executive actions include presidential nominations and appointments submitted to the Senate in August 2026. These nominations included Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic, Inspector General of the Department of the Interior, and multiple appointments as Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America. Other nominations were made for positions related to economic and financial development and communications, including Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the International Development Finance Corporation, and Member of the Federal Communications Commission. Additional nominations covered transportation, science, and health positions, such as Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and Member of the National Mediation Board.

Recent presidential proclamations include the formation of the United States Space Academy and action to ensure affordable beef prices for consumers nationwide. Two other proclamations issued in mid-August related to commerce in beverages, dairy products, and motor vehicles, as well as imports of aircraft systems. Other recent proclamations recognized the fifth anniversary of the attack at Abbey Gate, Dolly Parton, National Substance Use Primary Prevention Month, and National Purple Heart Day. The two most recent presidential memorandums pertained to national and economic security and included establishing the National Space Transportation Policy and rebuilding the Navy and the shipbuilding industrial sector.[3]

Recent presidential proclamations include actions to carry out provisions and conditions contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, related to trade affecting countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. Another proclamation issued in early April modified certain pharmaceutical materials and ingredients pursuant to the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Other recent proclamations recognized Memorial Day, Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, Military Spouse Day, Victory Day for World War II, National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, National Foster Care Month, and Henry Clay Day.

The most recent presidential memorandum authorized Bridger Pipeline Expansion LLC to construct, connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities at a crossing between the state of Montana and Canada. [3]

Sources

1 https://www.congress.gov/browse
2 https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/
3 https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/

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