

Freshmen “Rising Stars”



Rep. Maggie Goodlander (NH-02)

- White House Senior Advisor and Deputy Asst AG in Biden Administration
- Clerk for Judge Garland and Justice Breyer
- Foreign Policy Advisor to Senators McCain and Lieberman
- Counsel in the first impeachment of President-elect Trump
- Intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve



Rep. Laura Gillen (NY-04)

- Hempstead Town Supervisor (first Democrat elected for the position in 112 years)
- Litigator at Cahill, Gordon & Reindel, LLP



Rep. George Whitesides (CA-27)

- NASA Chief of Staff in the Obama Administration
- First CEO of Virgin Galactic
- Co-founder of Megafire Action, an organization dedicated to ending the wildfire crisis



Rep. Julie Johnson (TX-32)

- Worked as an attorney, largely advocating for students, the mentally disabled, and gender equality in sports
- Authored the Live Well Texas bill, which would have expanded Medicaid in Texas
- Women's reproductive rights advocate



Senator Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

- Deployed to Iraq in 2005 as a Marine
- Served as the U.S. Representative for Arizona's 3rd District since 2015
- 119th Cmte assignments: Banking, Energy, HSGAC, Veterans



Senator Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)

- Former National Security Official and CIA analyst
- Served as a U.S. Representative for Michigan's 7th district since 2019
- 119th Committee assignments: Agriculture, Armed Services, HSGAC, Veterans



Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ)

- Worked at the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the National Security Council
- Served as U.S. Representative for New Jersey's 3rd district since 2019
- 119th Cmte assignments: HSGAC, Banking, Commerce, HELP



Senator Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD)

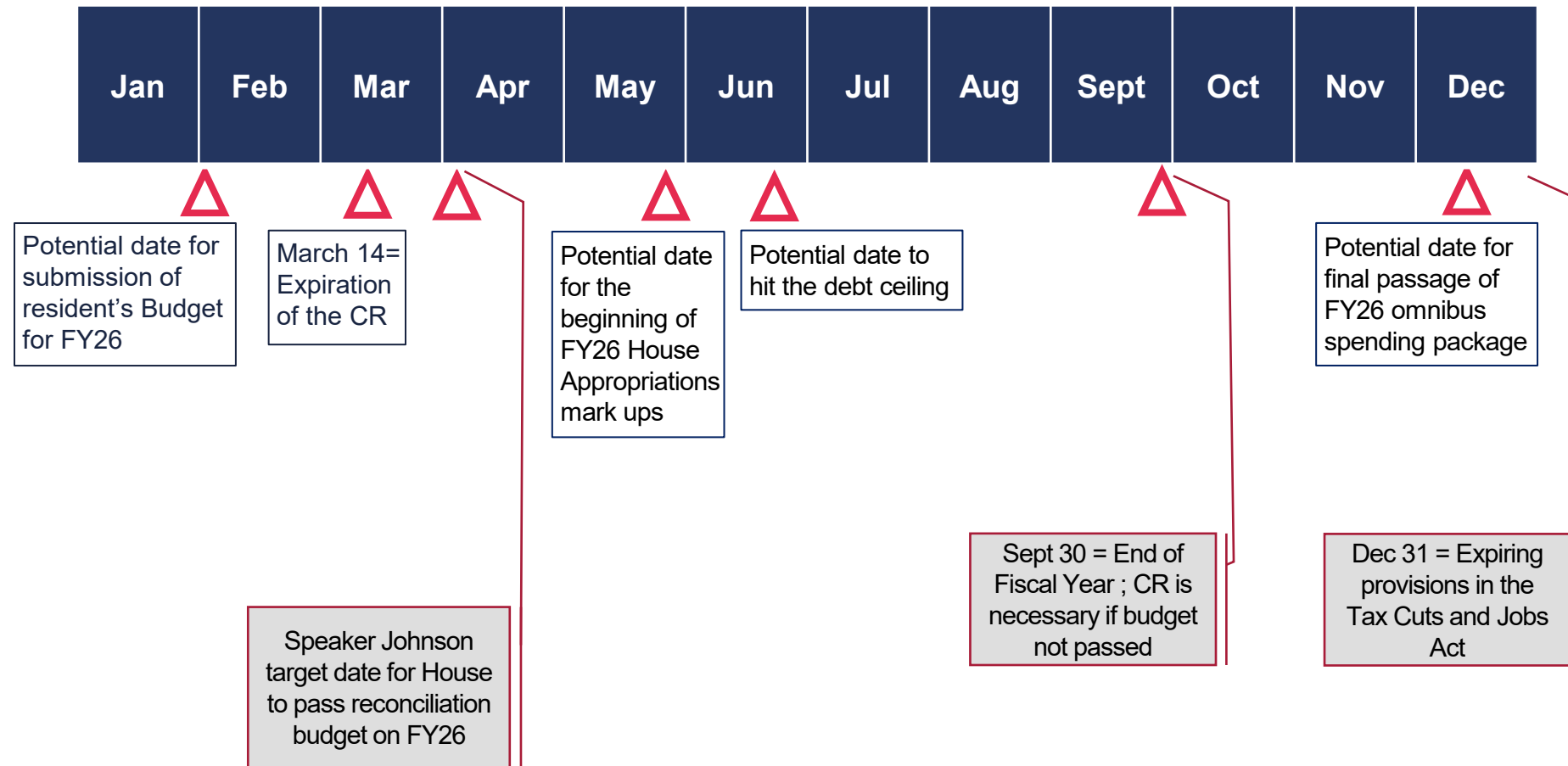
- Prince George's State's Attorney
- Prince George's County Executive
- Advocates for expanding access to healthcare and education, mental health and youth outreach
- 119th Cmte assignments: Banking, EPW, HELP, Aging



Building Relationships with new Members

- Early engagement is critical
 - Start working with candidates during the election cycle
 - Visits to district sites make a big impact
 - Spend time understanding issues that interest Members
 - Many new Members are former local & state legislators with records on issues
 - Others have business, education, and other leadership experience
- Working with new office staff
 - Some new Members bring campaign staff or local advisors to lead DC office
 - Others hire seasoned Washington DC teams
 - Staff and office dynamics are a barometer of new Member success
- Help before asking for help
 - Engage with network of staffers who may be looking for opportunities & offices needing talent
 - Educate and inform first
 - Understand alignment with new Member priorities and where you have complimentary interests

Notional Milestones for Calendar Year 2025 (FY 2026)



Note: The administration may delay the submission of the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which would likely delay the appropriations processes by several months depending on the situation.

Tech as a Catalyzer and a Subtext

- Energy: Data centers representing the biggest new source of energy demand
- Tax: IRA repeal; R&D deduction; CHIPS Act tax credit; advanced manufacturing tax credit
- Immigration: High-skilled immigration – GOP internal debate
- Defense: DOGE and doing more with less (or more with more!)

Legislative Horizon

- Senate Confirmation process
 - Committee hearings begin next week
 - National security and non-controversial nominees traditionally receive quick consideration
 - Controversial nominees and non-Cabinet appointees take longer
- Reconciliation
 - Ongoing discussions between Congressional Republicans and President-elect Trump on process
 - Process requires passing budget with Committee instructions
 - Senate Byrd Rule limits scope of what is included
 - Traditionally rulings of Parliamentarian stand – does that tradition continue?
- Debt Limit
 - Treasury Department begins extraordinary measures in short order
 - Ultimately likely to be addressed in a bi-partisan fashion as has been the case historically
- Federal Funding
 - Current continuing resolution funds federal government through March 14th
 - FY '26 process will begin while the FY '25 process is resolved

Legislative Horizon II

- National Defense Authorization Act
 - FY '25 was 65th year in a row a defense authorization was enacted
 - Traditionally open House amendment process with limitations on germane items
 - Senate historically has added more tangential items
- Bi-partisan Issues
 - Farm bill reauthorization
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Counter China
 - Surface Transportation
 - Drug pricing/health care costs

Conclusion

- 2025 is going to be a busy year – new Members and veterans alike will have influence
- Some parts of the legislative process will be highly partisan – others will be bi-partisan
- Early engagement and preparation to ensure Members are champions for your issues is critical
- There are two places to be in Washington DC – at the table or on the menu!