



Good afternoon, all. Hope you are well.

The government is temporarily funded, and our team in DC is watching the Capitol closely as fireworks are prepared to go off this week. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy faces a challenge to his leadership which could result in him losing his position as Speaker in the next two days. Representative Matt Gaetz is confident he has the votes to oust McCarthy, but the Speaker says, "Bring it on."

Congress faces a new deadline of November 17 to pass long-term funding bills for the government. If no compromise takes place between hard-line conservatives and the larger Republican party, we may be repeating the same song and dance of a potential shutdown before Thanksgiving.

Former President Donald Trump is in a New York court this week for a civil fraud trial. President Joe Biden is also in the hot seat as impeachment hearings began against him last week in the House of Representatives. We are monitoring both proceedings accordingly.

Thousands of employees are leaving the VA due to increased workload as a result of the PACT Act. Claims processors are inundated with overdue claims, quotas, mandatory overtime requirements, and alleged insufficient training. Our team will also keep an eye on this situation as it develops.

There is no shortage of news items this week, all of which can be found below. We encourage you to continue reading about these events as they evolve further.

Wishing you well for the rest of your week, and we hope you have a restful three-day weekend.

With high regard,

-Sandy Vorhies, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander



House members [successfully avoided a shutdown](#) of the federal government over the weekend. Lawmakers passed a continuing resolution to keep funding at current levels until November 17, buying them time to hash out a long-term solution. A small group of Republicans still remain at odds with the larger party in the House, threatening Speaker Kevin McCarthy's chance of passing annual funding bills if a compromise cannot be reached by the new deadline.

While the government will remain funded at current levels until November 17, [requests for increased aid to Ukraine](#) were omitted from the continuing resolution. Democratic Senator Michael Bennet temporarily held up the vote in the Senate due to the lack of Ukraine funding in the bill. Ultimately, he acquiesced when the Senate released a bipartisan joint statement supporting Ukraine and agreed to hold a separate vote for President Biden's supplemental funding request.

Representative Matt Gaetz, one of the hard-right conservatives [at odds with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy](#), has introduced a motion to vacate and oust the Speaker from his position. Gaetz's follow-through on previous threats will force the House to vote on whether to keep McCarthy as Speaker [within two legislative days](#). A floor vote will require a majority to succeed, likely requiring some Democrats to vote in support of McCarthy. It is unclear how this may be leveraged against the Speaker in the next few days.

Yesterday, former President Donald Trump appeared in a New York court to begin his [civil fraud trial](#). The \$250 million lawsuit case could last up to three months as New York Attorney General Letitia James squares up against former President Donald Trump, his company, and his two adult sons. Live updates on the proceedings can be found [here](#).

Former White House Chief of Staff John Kelly has confirmed former President Donald [Trump's comments disparaging servicemembers and veterans](#). On Monday, Kelly claimed Trump called members of the military, prisoners of war (POWs), and veterans "suckers" because "there is nothing in it for them." He also alleged that Trump said "it doesn't look good for [him]" when wounded veterans attended events. These claims follow similar accounts from former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley.

Thousands of workers are reportedly leaving the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) due to a [massive influx of new cases and quota demands](#) brought on by the PACT Act. Exiting employees are citing backlog, mandatory overtime, inadequate training, and quota

demands. "The PACT Act came in like a bull," one of the current processors said. "Morale is on the floor."

California Governor Gavin Newsom has announced that he will appoint EMILY's List President Laphonza Butler to [fill the Senate seat](#) left behind by Senator Dianne Feinstein, who passed away late last week. Butler is expected to be sworn in on Wednesday by Vice President Kamala Harris. Feinstein's colleagues and friends continue to mourn her loss and [remember her legacy](#) as the longest-serving woman in the U.S. Senate.

On Saturday morning, Representative Jamaal Bowman [pulled a fire alarm](#) in the Cannon House Office Building shortly before the House was scheduled to vote on the government funding bill. The Congressman, who was caught on security footage pulling the alarm, claimed it was an accident while attempting to open a door. The incident is under investigation.

Last Thursday, the House Oversight Committee held its first official hearing since Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced an [impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden](#). Experts agree the hearing appeared "scattered" as House GOP members sought to prove Biden's alleged wrongdoing. House Democrats remained united in opposition to the proceedings. More testimony is likely to follow in the coming weeks.

The VA has announced that pregnant veterans will soon have access to "[maternity care coordinators](#)" who provide a range of supportive services. This is part of President Biden's effort to support populations who are at an increased risk of pregnancy complications. According to the VA, beginning October 1, maternity care coordinators will be available to veterans a full year after giving birth.

Critics of the VA are claiming that [veterans are still being denied benefits](#) granted under the PACT Act. Numerous types of cancer are not covered under the law, and the VA is allegedly excluding some veterans whose conditions are explicitly covered as presumptive. An Army veteran said, "I feel like we will see, a lot of veterans are gonna fall through the cracks."





Representative Gaetz believes he has the votes to [oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy](#). "I have enough Republicans where at this point next week, one of two things will happen: Kevin McCarthy won't be the Speaker of the House, or he'll be the Speaker of the House working at the pleasure of the Democrats," he said. "And I'm at peace with either result because the American people deserve to know who governs them."



This Week's Events

October
4

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

VA Accountability and Transparency: A Cornerstone of
Quality Care and Benefits for Veterans

This week's SVAC hearing, originally scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed. More updates can be found [here](#).

*The **Senate** is in session this week.*

*The **House** is in session this week.*



Starting July 16th, 988 will be a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

In the meantime, please continue to share 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to be connected with a trained, caring counselor.

We're here for you.

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