



NATIONAL VETERAN
SMALL BUSINESS
COALITION

Strategy & Legislative

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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2026 Legislative Roundup

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This week marks less than 50 days until the midterm elections and Congress has returned for a short stint before departing to focus on the final stretch of campaigning. The Senate is scheduled to be in session for three weeks, though rumors indicate they might also depart early. The House has returned for its final week in session prior to the election. Both chambers are focused on clearing the vote slate prior to departing.

On 1 September 2026, the House passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through 11 December. The measure, which the Senate approved in August, passed the House is a 370 to 48 vote. President Trump signed the bill into law on 2 September. By passing this CR, the House and Senate can push consideration of the remaining FY2027 appropriations bills until after the election, during the lame duck period before the start of the new Congress. Although, there is some talk the Senate may post their respective appropriations

bills onto the website prior to the election.

During the lame duck session, the priority will be to complete the FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the FY2027 Appropriations, and Reconciliation 3.0 which includes both the emergency supplemental to support efforts in Iran and additional administration priorities.

NVSBC members should stay engaged as these developments progress. Every year offers both challenges and opportunities for the Veteran small business community to make your voices heard.

*Authored by the Van Scoyoc Associates
Team*

NVSBC and Van Scoyoc Associates

Working with Van Scoyoc Associates, NVSBC is developing and implementing a focused engagement plan with both congress and federal agencies on behalf of our members and Veteran owned small businesses throughout the nation.

Meet the VSA Team



Col. Mike Shupp, USMC (Ret.)

Vice President (Team Leader)

- Lead's Defense Practice
- 18-years VSA Experience
- Retired Marine with 27-years of service
- Former Legislative Assistant to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Jennifer Cave

Associate Vice President

- 18-years VSA Experience
- Hill experience with Senator John Warner of Virginia, SASC and with the NSC
- Assists with execution of engagement strategies, research and analysis



Madhu Thyagarajan

Legislative Assistant

- Joined the VSA team in October 2024
- Interned with Department of State
- Assists with Congressional & Federal Agency research and analysis focused on Veteran Affairs, Small Business, Defense and Homeland Security Issues



Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA) is a bipartisan, bicameral government relations firm comprised of talented and experienced policy experts. Established more than 30-years ago, VSA has earned its reputation as one of the most successful and highly regarded lobbying firms in Washington, DC.

NVSBC 2026 Legislative Priorities

National Veteran Small Business Coalition serves as the leading advocate for the 50,000+ Veteran owned small businesses serving as federal contractors. Working with Van Scoyoc Associates, we are developing and implementing a focused engagement plan with both Congress and Federal Agencies on behalf of our members and Veteran owned small businesses throughout the nation. NVSBC and Van Scoyoc Associates are working diligently to define and advance legislative priorities that will most effectively support the Veteran small business community. Engaging our members is essential to this process and we are actively advocating for these key focus areas,

- **Expand Congressional and Executive Branch Advocacy.** Highlight NVSBC activities, expand engagements, and seek support for legislative priorities that create opportunities for Veteran small business owners.
- **Legislative and Executive Policy Oversight.** Monitor, introduce, shape, and endorse legislation and policy initiatives that support Veteran small business owners.
- **NVSBC Consultation and Fellowship Program.** Strengthen and expand Veteran workforce and entrepreneurial development programs.

In this ever-changing climate, NVSBC and VSA are committed to furthering your legislative priorities by expanding Congressional, Federal, and Executive engagements. Your suggestions are important and guide NVSBC's legislative efforts. If you have any issues that you would like to bring to our attention, please contact us at members@nvsbc.org.

2026 Veteran Owned Small Business Legislation

Federal Acquisition Revision (FAR). NVSBC is monitoring and ensuring the interests of Veteran-Owned businesses are considered and guarded in the FAR rewrite (otherwise known as FAR 2.0).

NVSBC is actively supporting the following Legislation

In April 2026, Congress advanced key small business innovation legislation, including passage of the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act, signaling continued momentum toward strengthening and securing federal R&D programs for small businesses.

➤ **H.R. 4123 – FIT Procurement Act**

This legislation was introduced by Representative Eric Burlison (R-MO-07) in June 2025. This Act would require the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to update acquisition policies, regulations, and other procedures to remove barriers that disproportionately limit the ability of small businesses to win federal procurement contracts. The bill sets new baseline acquisition thresholds and gives agencies increased flexibility to evaluate bids from small contractors. This bill increases the simplified acquisition threshold from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and the micro purchase threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000. This legislation has passed the House and is awaiting Senate action.

➤ **H.R. 2804 – Protecting Small Business Competitions Act for 2025**

This legislation was introduced by Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-07) in April 2025. The Act would codify the “Rule of Two” to ensure fair competition for small businesses, broaden the industrial base, and promote economic growth. It will not only encourage Veteran Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business owners but will support the entire small business community. This legislation has been referred to the House Small Business Committee.

➤ **S. 3171 – Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act**

This bill was introduced by Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) in November 2025. The measure would address financial barriers to SBA’s two main lending programs, the 7(a) and 504 loan programs, for veteran entrepreneurs by decreasing down payment requirements and waiving fees on SBA loans of up to \$1 million to veterans. Borrowers contribute a down payment, typically around 10% of the loan amount, and pay fees, such as a guaranty fee and servicing fee, on SBA loans. The measure also directs the Small Business Administration (SBA) to collect and publicize data on reservists and military spouses utilizing lending and entrepreneurial development programs administered by the SBA. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

Several bipartisan bills introduced in 2025 remain under consideration in the 119th Congress, focusing on expanding opportunities, improving procurement practices, and strengthening support for Veteran-owned small businesses. Please see [here](#) for legislation we continue to monitor.

NVSBC encourages our members to contact your Member of Congress and Senators to support these pieces of legislation for Veteran Owned Small Businesses.

Find your Member of Congress here: www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative.

FY27 Appropriations Update

FY27 Appropriations Update

On 2 September 2026, President Trump signed a Continuing Resolution funding the government through 11 December into law. The Senate passed the measure in a 90–6 vote on 8 August. The House approved the measure in a 370–48 vote on 1 September prior to sending it to the president.

The law extends several expiring authorities and programs through 11 December, including transportation and highway programs, Department of Veterans Affairs programs, National Flood Insurance, etc.

With the Continuing Resolution cleared, lawmakers will now have time after the election to consider the remaining FY2027 appropriations bills.

Impact to Veteran Owned Small Businesses

- Under a CR, the U.S. Government can only spend at the previous Fiscal Year levels, and no new programs are allowed to start. Program offices cautiously spend as it is unclear when the final appropriations measures will be completed.
- NVSBC/VSA were delighted to see the following requested language included in the House Appropriations Committee's MilCon/VA report (See below). VSA will continue to advocate for this language as the FY27 appropriations process moves forward.

Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.—The Committee notes successful efforts on aiding incoming Veteran entrepreneurs in standing up their businesses, however, there has been little sustainment or support for these businesses as they seek to overcome the challenges of expanding their work. The Committee urges the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to increase follow-on entrepreneurial training opportunities to ensure the success of Veteran business owners.

Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) Scale and Success Training Program.—The Committee encourages the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) in providing follow-on entrepreneurial training and technical assistance to Veteran Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs).

Status of the 12 Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Bills

■ Completed ■ Skipped ■ In Progress ■ Still to Complete



FY27 National Defense Authorization Act

FY27 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

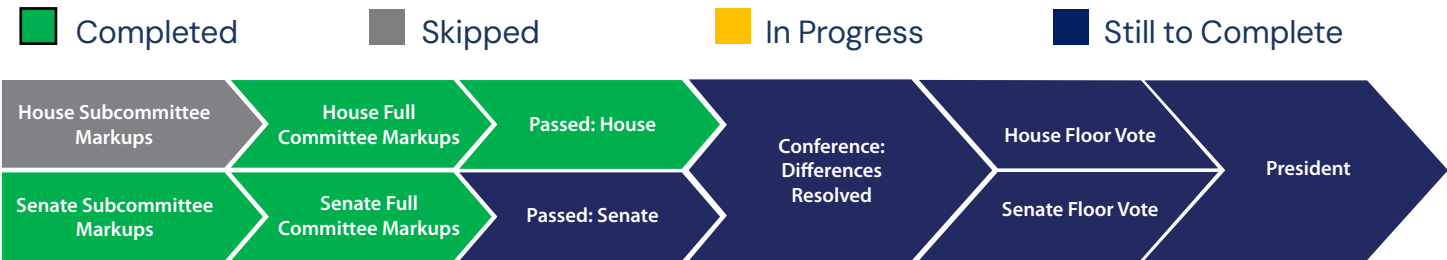
Impact to Veteran Owned Small Businesses

With lawmakers focused on midterm elections, the FY2027 NDAA is on hold until the lame duck session. However, members of the Armed Services Committees have confirmed there will be an informal NDAA conference again this year.

The Senate and House Armed Services Committees are preparing a side-by-side comparison of their respective NDAA bills in preparation to reconcile differences. Congress is still expecting to complete the NDAA by the end of the year.

- The annual NDAA establishes policy for the Department of Defense but also authorizes funding. However, programs must be appropriated to receive funds.
- The NDAA is considered an annual must-pass piece of legislation.
- This bill is often seen as a vehicle for small business initiatives.
- VSA is closely monitoring the FY27 NDAA process and will report items of interest as they come to fruition.

Status of the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act



What's on the ballot in November 2026?

The 2026 midterm election will determine control of Congress for the final two years of the current presidential term. Republicans currently hold majorities in both chambers, while Democrats are seeking to net gains needed to win control of the House, the Senate, or both. All 435 House seats and 35 Senate seats, including two special election seats, will be on the ballot. Gubernatorial and state legislative elections will also take place across much of the country.

SENATE

Current composition: 53 REP – 47 DEM

What's at stake: 22 of the 35 Senate seats up for election are Republican held, giving Democrats a chance to flip the chamber

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Current composition: 218 REP – 212 DEM

What's at stake: 21 seats are rated as toss-ups by the Cook Political Report, putting control of the chamber in play

GOVERNOR

Current composition: 26 REP – 24 DEM

What's at stake: 36 states will hold gubernatorial elections, with 5 seats rated as toss-ups by the Cook Political Report

STATE LEGISLATURE

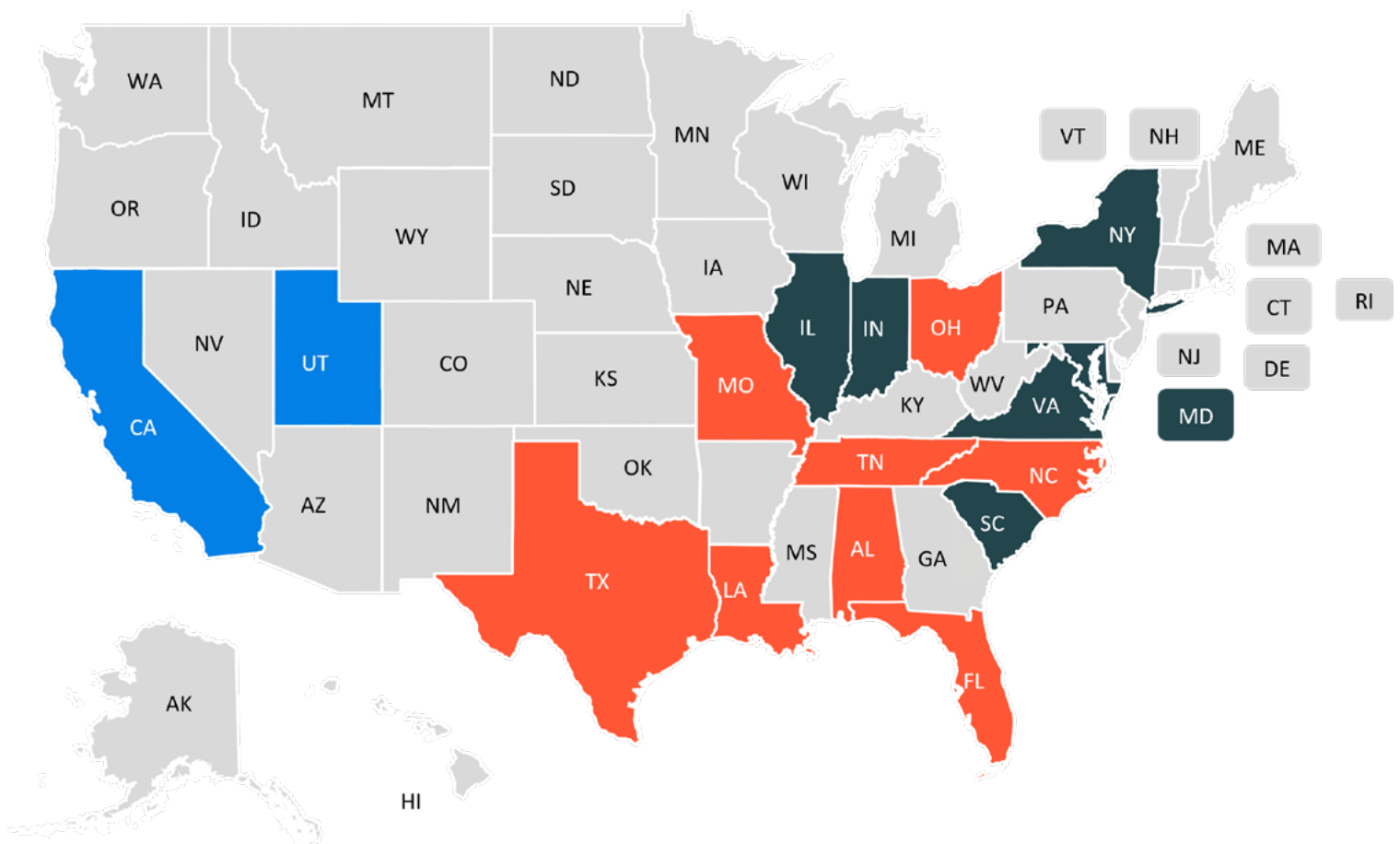
Current composition: Republicans control roughly 55% of state legislative seats nationwide

What's at stake: 88 of 99 state legislative chambers will hold elections in 2026

2026 Redistricting Efforts

Mid-decade redistricting has become an important factor in the 2026 House elections. Since summer 2025, 10 states have changed their congressional maps, although court decisions and ballot measures continue to affect which maps will apply. The potential electoral effect varies by state and may influence the number and competitiveness of districts available to each party.

- Redistricting enacted, likely to benefit Democrats
- Redistricting enacted, likely to benefit Republicans
- Redistricting in progress
- Redistricting under consideration
- Redistricting failed/halted



Calendar of Congressional Events

Congressional Schedule and Key Dates

SEPTEMBER 2026

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September Calendar

- 1-4 September. Only House in Session
- 7 September. Labor Day (Federal Holiday)
- 8-11 September. House Out for District Work Period
- 9 September. NVSBC DC Engagement Dinner and Training Academy
- 23 September. NVSBC San Antonio Engagement Dinner
- 30 September. End of Fiscal Year 2026
- 30 September. NVSBC Huntsville Engagement Dinner

OCTOBER 2026

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October Calendar

- 2 October – 6 Nov. House and Senate Out of Session for Elections
- 7 October. NVSBC Colorado Springs Engagement Dinner
- 7 October. NVSBC Philadelphia Engagement Dinner
- 12 October. Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day (Federal Holiday)
- 15 October. NVSBC 2026 Veteran Small Business Advocate Awards Gala
- 22 October. NVSBC Tampa Engagement Dinner

Both chambers in session
 House only in session
 Senate only in session
 Federal Holiday

Please see a joint full-year House and Senate 2026 Congressional Calendar [here](#).

*While congress usually likes to adjourn on Thursday evenings to travel back to their states/districts for the weekends, please note that the Senate is planning to stay in session for most Fridays.

September Legislative Focus Areas



**National Veteran
Small Business
Coalition**



Over the past month, VSA has actively supported NVSBC in the following activities:

- NVSBC/VSA requested and conducted “Parity for Patriots” meetings with senior leaders of the Small Business Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Department of War, and the Executive Office of the President. Per their requests, NVSBC/VSA shared a draft Executive Order for their review and follow-on support. NVSBC/VSA is working with the Agencies to finalize the Executive Order for the consideration of the President.
- NVSBC/VSA worked closely with the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee to ensure both Majority and Minority Staff Director participation in the 1st annual NVSBC Virtual Town Hall on 29 September 2026.

NVSBC is the Lifeline for the Veteran Small Business Community

Facing the challenges of Federal contracting and uncertain funding initiatives, NVSBC provides opportunities to support one another as Veterans always do.

NOW is the time to ACT.

NVSBC needs *YOUR HELP* and *YOUR INVOLVEMENT*! Please *REACH OUT* to your fellow veteran business owners. Let them know that *HELP IS OUT THERE*. Let them know what we are doing to help them. ASK THEM TO *JOIN NVSBC* today to be part of this great expansion!

One Month to Go! Celebrate Veteran Small Business Leaders + Sponsorship & Auction Opportunities



We're recognizing Federal Agencies, GovCon Primes, Veterans, Veteran-Owned Businesses and the Employees that Fuel Veteran Small Business in America at the 2026 Veteran Small Business Advocate Awards Gala, presented by J.P. Morgan, on 15 October 2026 at The Army Museum, 1775 Liberty Dr., Fort Belvoir, VA.

The NVSBC looks forward to honoring our deserving honorees across all five award categories

- **Champion of Veteran Enterprise Award**
Recognizing exceptional commitment to Veteran-owned small businesses
- **Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year Award**
Honoring an individual who has demonstrated outstanding advocacy for Veteran entrepreneurs
- **Gordon H. Mansfield Veteran Small Business Award**
Recognizing excellence and achievement within the Veteran small business community.
- **Small Business of the Year**
Celebrating an outstanding Veteran-owned small business.
- **Small Business Employee of the Year**
Recognizing an employee whose contributions have made a meaningful impact.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Elevate your organization's presence in the GovCon space by sponsoring the NVSBC Awards Gala. Most packages include Gala tickets, a quarter-page ad in the printed program, social media recognition, and visibility across all event marketing materials

Silent Auction: We are still gathering standout items for the NVSBC Awards Gala Silent Auction in support of the NVSBC Education Foundation. If you have an item to donate or a connection to a business that might, we would love to hear from you. To submit your donation, contact **Rebecca Kane** at rebecca.kane@nvsbc.org by **September 25th**.

Donations will be featured in an online auction accessible to our entire community. Access all the details you need to register and explore sponsorship opportunities for the NVSBC Awards at the link [here](#) or below.

2026 Awards Gala

Exhibit Booths Now Open!



The graphic is a promotional banner for the VETS27 Conference. At the top left, it says "New Orleans May 18-21, 2027" next to the NVSBC logo. To the right, it says "VETS27 CONFERENCE" with a star icon. The main text in the center reads "EXHIBIT BOOTHS NOW AVAILABLE" in large, bold letters. Below this, there are four icons with corresponding text: an eye icon for "INCREASE BRAND VISIBILITY", a group of people icon for "CONNECT WITH GOVCON LEADERS", a handshake icon for "DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT", and a bar chart icon for "INVEST IN VETERAN SMALL BUSINESSES". At the bottom, a white button says "RESERVE YOUR EXHIBIT BOOTH TODAY!" and below that, the text "CONNECT | SHOWCASE | NETWORK | GROW" is displayed.

The VETS27 Conference is coming back to New Orleans, 18–21 May 2027 after building on 2,000+ attendees at the VETS26 Conference.

Ready to put your company at the center of the GovCon conversation?

The VETS27 Conference Exhibit Hall is the epicenter of activity—bringing together opportunities for networking, visibility, partnerships, and business development

Exhibiting at VETS27 puts your organization in front of

- Procurement Decision Makers
- Large prime contractors
- Procurement-ready small businesses
- 2,000+ attendees from across the government contracting ecosystem

This is your opportunity to showcase your company, brand, capabilities, and core services while building relationships with the people and organizations helping shape the federal marketplace.

Reserve your space today as Exhibit booths are available now at the link [here](#) or below.

VETS27 Exhibit Booths