

# Congressional Republicans Who Repeatedly Suspended The Debt Ceiling As President Trump Spent \$7 Trillion Are Now Refusing To Do So Under President Biden, Even Though 97% Of Current Federal Debt Was Incurred Before The Biden Administration Took Office.

**SUMMARY:** The [federal debt limit](#), also known as the debt ceiling, is the amount of money the U.S. government is allowed to borrow to meet its existing obligations. Unless Congress acts, the federal government is expected to be unable to meet its financial obligations sometime in the [fall of 2021](#), prompting Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to warn of "[absolutely catastrophic](#)" consequences for financial markets and average Americans.

Meanwhile, over 145 congressional Republicans have [stood against](#) raising the debt ceiling, echoing the 2011 fight that resulted in the [first U.S. credit downgrade in history](#) and tumbling stocks. Many of these same Republicans then raised the ceiling "[with minimal drama](#)" while the Trump administration added [\\$7 trillion](#) in federal debt – debt the Biden administration inherited, with **one estimate showing that [97%](#) of the current federal debt was incurred before President Biden assumed office.**

An Accountable.US review shows that there were three debt limit suspensions during the Trump administration, and around half of sitting Republican senators [voted for each of these](#)—including most of the party's [current leadership](#).

**Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Not Only Voted In Support of [The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019](#), Which Suspended The Debt Limit During The Trump Administration, He Repeatedly Spoke In Favor Of Raising Or Suspending It Long Before Trump's term:**

- **VIDEO:** In August 2019, Mitch McConnell [Voted](#) For The Bipartisan Budget Act Bill, Stating It "[Secures Our Nation's Full-Faith And Credit](#) And Ensures That Congress Will Not Throw This Kind Of [Unnecessary Wrench Into The Gears Of Our Job Growth And Thriving Economy](#)."
- In September 2017, Mitch McConnell Supported A [Continuing Resolution](#) Which Suspended The Debt Limit, Arguing "[We Must Act Quickly When It Comes To The \[Debt Limit\]](#)" Just Days Before.
- **VIDEO:** Also In September 2017, Mitch McConnell Said It Was The "[Definition Of An Emergency](#)" That The Treasury Secretary Had To Borrow More Money Than Was Allowed By The Debt Ceiling.
- January 2013: Mitch McConnell Demanded The Democratic Majority Quickly Raise The Debt Limit "[Rather Than Waiting Until The Last Minute](#), Abdicating Responsibility."
- October 2013: After Republican Resistance To Funding The ACA Resulted In A 16-Day Partial [Government Shutdown](#), Mitch McConnell Said, "[We're Not Going To Do This Again In Connection With The Debt Ceiling](#) Or With A Government Shutdown."
- In 2011, The Term "[McConnell Rule](#)" Was Coined After Mitch McConnell Proposed Giving The President Authority To Raise The Debt Limit.

**In August 2019, During The Trump Administration, Several Current Members Of Senate Republican Leadership And Other Prominent Senators Also Voted For Or Spoke In Support of [The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019](#), Which Suspended The Debt Limit:**

- **VIDEO: Current Senate Republican Whip John Thune (R-SD)** Spoke On How Important It Was To Pass A Debt Resolution In Order To "Fund The Government And Make Sure We [Don't Default On Our Obligations](#)."
- **VIDEO: Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)** Said "[We Have To Raise The Debt Ceiling At Some Point](#)," Noting That Not Doing So Would Cause "[A Cascading Problem Of An Economic Response](#)" With "Ramifications For The Stock Market."
- **VIDEO: Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)** Believed [One Of The Most Important](#) Effects Of Getting The Deal Done Was "Provid[ing] Stability For Our Nation" And Avoiding A Potential Government Shutdown.
- **VIDEO: Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)** Released A Statement Praising The Deal As "Fund[ing] The Government And [Ensuring Our Nation Meets Its Financial Obligations](#)." Previously In 2011, Hoeven Said, "[The Uncertainty With The Spending And The Debt Ceiling Issue Is Part Of What's Holding Private Investment Back](#)."
- **Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)** Had Faith That "In The End There Will Be Enough Members To [Do The Responsible Thing](#)" By Joining Him In Support Of The Budget Deal
- **Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)** Voiced Urgency In The Need To Get A Budget Deal Done Because It Is "[Not In 'Anybody's Best Interest To Have That Fight](#)" In September Up Against The Debt Limit."
- **Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)** Spoke Out In July 2019 In Support Of the Budget Deal Stating The "[Last Thing](#)" She Wanted To See Was A "Government Shutdown Or A One-Year Continuing Resolution."
- **Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)** Suggested It Was Necessary To Maintain Military Funding While Arguing Failure To Secure A Deal Would Have "[Drastically Increased Likelihood Of The Political Weaponization Of Government Shutdowns](#)."
- **Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)** Released A Statement Asserting That "Failing To Pass An Agreement Would Have [Sent The United States Into Default For The First Time In Its History](#)."
- **Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK)** Believed It Was "[A Victory](#)" And "[The Right Thing To Do](#)—For Our Troops, For Our Veterans And For The American People."
- **Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)** Believed It Was "Necessary To [Provide Fiscal Certainty](#) At The Federal Level."
- **Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)** Praised The Deal As "[Provid\[ing\] Funding Certainty](#) For Our Armed Forces And Ensuring Our Military Readiness."
- **Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)**, The [Current Chair](#) Of The Senate Republican Conference, [Voted For](#) The Deal.
- **Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)**, The [Current Chair](#) Of The Senate Republican Policy Committee, [Voted For](#) The Deal.
- **Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)**, The [Current Vice Chair](#) Of The Senate Republican Conference, [Voted For](#) The Deal.

**If The Federal Debt Ceiling Is Not Suspended Or Increased After Its August 31, 2021 Reinstatement, The U.S. Government May Be "Unable To Meet All Its Obligations In Full And On Time" Sometime This Fall, Leading To Potentially "Catastrophic Consequences For Financial Markets And Americans Throughout The Country."**

**The Federal Debt Limit—Which Does Not Authorize New Spending But Allows The Federal Government To Borrow To Meet Existing Obligations—Was Reinstated On August 1, 2021, Limiting Government Expenditures Until It Is Either Raised Or Suspended.**

**The Federal Debt Limit, or Debt Ceiling, Was Automatically Reinstated On August 1, 2021.** "The debt limit places a statutory constraint on the amount of money that Treasury may borrow to fund federal operations. The debt limit is currently suspended, and scheduled for reinstatement on August 1, 2021, at a level precisely accommodating federal borrowing at that point." [Congressional Research Service, [03/17/21](#)]

**The Debt Limit Is The Amount Of Money The Federal Government Is Allowed To Borrow To Meet Existing Obligations—The Debt Limit Does Not Authorize New Spending.** "The debt limit is the total amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including Social Security and Medicare benefits, military salaries, interest on the national debt, tax refunds, and other payments. The debt limit does not authorize new spending commitments. It simply allows the government to finance existing legal obligations that Congresses and presidents of both parties have made in the past." [U.S. Department of the Treasury, [06/29/21](#)]

**August 2, 2019: The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019 Was Enacted, "Suspending The Debt Ceiling Until July 31, 2021" And "Modif[ying] Discretionary Spending Limits."** "On August 2, 2019, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (BBA 2019; P.L. 116-37; H.R. 3877), which modified discretionary spending limits, was enacted, suspending the debt limit until July 31, 2021." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

- **The Act "Raised Spending Levels And Suspended The Debt Limit For Two Years."** "In August 2019, policymakers enacted a bipartisan budget deal that raised spending levels and suspended the debt limit for two years." [Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**Once The Debt Ceiling Suspension Authorized by The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019 Lapses, The Secretary Of The Treasury May "Employ Extraordinary Measures To Meet Federal Financial Obligations."** "Once that suspension lapses, the Treasury Secretary can employ extraordinary measures to meet federal financial obligations. Several factors could make debt limit projections more uncertain in 2021." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

**Although The Treasury Department Will Be Able To Make Use Of Certain "Extraordinary Measures" To Maintain Government Operations, These Measures Are Likely To Only Last Until The Fall Of 2021, At Which Time The U.S. Will Be "Unable To Meet All Its Obligations In Full And On Time" Leading To "Catastrophic Consequences For Financial Markets And Americans Throughout The Country."**

**The Treasury Department Can Make Use Of "Extraordinary Measures" To Temporarily Maintain Government Operations After The Debt Limit Is Reinstated And The Treasury Secretary May No Longer Borrow Money To Meet Existing Obligations.** "The debt limit, set by law, restricts the total amount of money that the federal government can legally borrow. When the debt limit is reached, the Treasury Department can

no longer borrow money to cover government operations. It can temporarily draw on 'extraordinary measures'—accounting maneuvers that can allow the government to continue standard operations for a limited period." [Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**If The Debt Limit Isn't Suspended Before These "Extraordinary Measures And The Treasury's Cash Reserves Run Out" The Federal Government Will Reach The "'X Date'" When It Is "Unable To Meet All Its Obligations In Full And On Time," Leading To "Catastrophic Consequences For Financial Markets And Americans Throughout The Country."** "Once those extraordinary measures and the Treasury's cash reserves run out, the federal government would reach the 'X Date'—the day on which the U.S. government is unable to meet all its obligations in full and on time. This unprecedented event would likely have catastrophic consequences for financial markets and Americans throughout the country." [Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

- **"Absent Action By Congress, BPC Projects That The X Date Will Arrive Sometime In The Fall."** [Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In June 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Urged Congress To Quickly Work Towards A Debt Limit Solution As The COVID-19 Pandemic Made It Hard To Estimate When These "Extraordinary Measures" Would Be Exhausted, Causing The U.S. To Default On Its Debt For The First Time In History.**

June 2021: During Testimony Before A Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Urged Congress To Quickly Work Towards Either Raising Or Suspending The Debt Ceiling Before The August Recess, As The COVID-19 Pandemic "Created Uncertainty" About When These "Extraordinary Measures" Would Be Exhausted. "The U.S. could run out of room to keep paying the government's bills some time during Congress's August recess unless lawmakers raise or suspend the federal borrowing limit before then, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Wednesday. [...] Testifying before a Senate panel, Ms. Yellen emphasized that the pandemic has created uncertainty around the size and timing of government payments, making it difficult to estimate when the Treasury might exhaust those measures." [Wall Street Journal, [06/23/21](#)]

**Yellen Said That "Failing To Increase The Debt Limit Would Have Absolutely Catastrophic Economic Consequences" And Could "Precipitate A Financial Crisis."** "Without congressional action to suspend or raise the limit after July 31, the government could begin to miss payments on its obligations, triggering a default on government debt, which Ms. Yellen called unthinkable. 'Failing to increase the debt limit would have absolutely catastrophic economic consequences,' she said, noting that the U.S. has never defaulted on its legal obligations. 'I believe it would precipitate a financial crisis. It would threaten the jobs and savings of Americans at a time when we're still recovering from the Covid pandemic.'" [Wall Street Journal, [06/23/21](#)]

- **"America Has Never Defaulted On Its Debt."** [The Balance, [11/30/20](#)]

**Over 145 Congressional Republicans Have Been Opposed To Raising The Debt Ceiling Under Biden, Even After Doing So "With Minimal Drama" As The Trump Administration Added \$7 Trillion In Federal Debt.**

**August 2021: Over 145 Republican Members Of Congress Vowed They Would Not Vote To Increase The Debt Ceiling, With 46 Senators Blaming "Democrats' Reckless Tax And Spending Spree" They Claimed Would Cost Over \$5 Trillion...**

August 11, 2021: 46 Republican Senators Signed A Letter Vowing They Would Not Increase The Debt Ceiling Due To "Democrats' Reckless Tax And Spending Spree." "U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, signed a [letter](#) led by Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin)

and other Republican senators pledging not to vote to increase the debt ceiling, 'whether that increase comes through a stand-alone bill, a continuing resolution, or any other vehicle.' A debt ceiling increase will be necessary because of Democrats' reckless tax and spending spree that will cost over \$5 trillion and increase our debt to \$45 trillion by 2031." [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [08/11/21](#)]

- **46 Republican Senators Signed The Letter.** [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [08/11/21](#)]

**August 30, 2021: More Than 100 House Republicans Signed A Letter Stating They Would Not Increase The Debt Ceiling "Under Any Circumstances," Claiming Democrats Should "Take Responsibility" For It.** "More than 100 [House Republicans](#) signed a letter Monday promising not to vote to increase the debt ceiling under any circumstances, saying that [Democrats](#) should 'take responsibility for increasing the debt ceiling' because of their trillions in proposed government spending. 'Democrats have embarked on a massive and unprecedented deficit spending spree. Without a single Republican vote, they passed a \$1.9 trillion 'Covid relief' bill in March,' the letter, which garnered the support of 103 House Republicans, says. 'Now they have passed a \$3.5 trillion Budget Resolution, again without a single Republican vote.'" [Fox News, [08/30/21](#)]

### **...Even Though They Raised The Debt Ceiling With "Minimal Drama" As The Trump Administration Added \$7 Trillion In Federal Debt.**

**August 2021: In A "Reversal," Senate Republicans Threatened To Oppose Raising The Debt Ceiling Even After Allowing The Trump Administration To Add \$7 Trillion In Federal Debt.** "Senate Republicans on Wednesday threatened to vote against an increase to the debt ceiling unless Congress first agrees to new spending cuts or other measures, raising the potential for a major political showdown that could carry vast implications for both the global economy as well as President Biden's agenda. The new ultimatum marked a reversal for Republicans, who agreed to address the debt ceiling — the statutory amount the government can borrow to pay its bills — multiple times to advance policies under President Donald Trump that helped add \$7 trillion to the federal debt during his term." [The Washington Post, [07/21/21](#)]

**"Republicans Raised The Debt Ceiling With Minimal Drama Under Donald Trump."** "Republicans raised the debt ceiling with minimal drama under Donald Trump. Now Democrats are prepared to make them publicly refuse to do the same for Joe Biden. Senate Republicans are digging in deeper and deeper in their resistance to raising the nation's borrowing limit, with 46 of them vowing to oppose an increase this fall that will need at least 10 Republican votes." [Politico, [08/30/21](#)]

### **The Congressional Republicans' Demands Echoed The 2011 Debt Ceiling Fight That Resulted In The First U.S. Credit Downgrade In History And Tumbling Stocks.**

**Some Congressional Republicans Have Signaled They Will Only Approve A Debt Ceiling Increase In Exchange For Spending Cuts—Recalling The 2011 Debt Ceiling Fight Which Resulted In "Tumbling" Stocks And "The First Downgrade To U.S. Credit."** "Some Republicans have signaled they will press for spending cuts in exchange for signing onto a debt ceiling increase, despite supporting a surge of red ink under Trump. Among many Democrats, memories of a 2011 brawl between House Republicans and President Barack Obama on the debt ceiling are still fresh, as it sent stocks tumbling and caused the first downgrade to US credit." [Business Insider, [06/23/21](#)]

**97% Of The Current National Debt Existed Before The Biden Administration—Raising The Debt Ceiling Would Allow For Treasury To Pay For These Existing Obligations.**



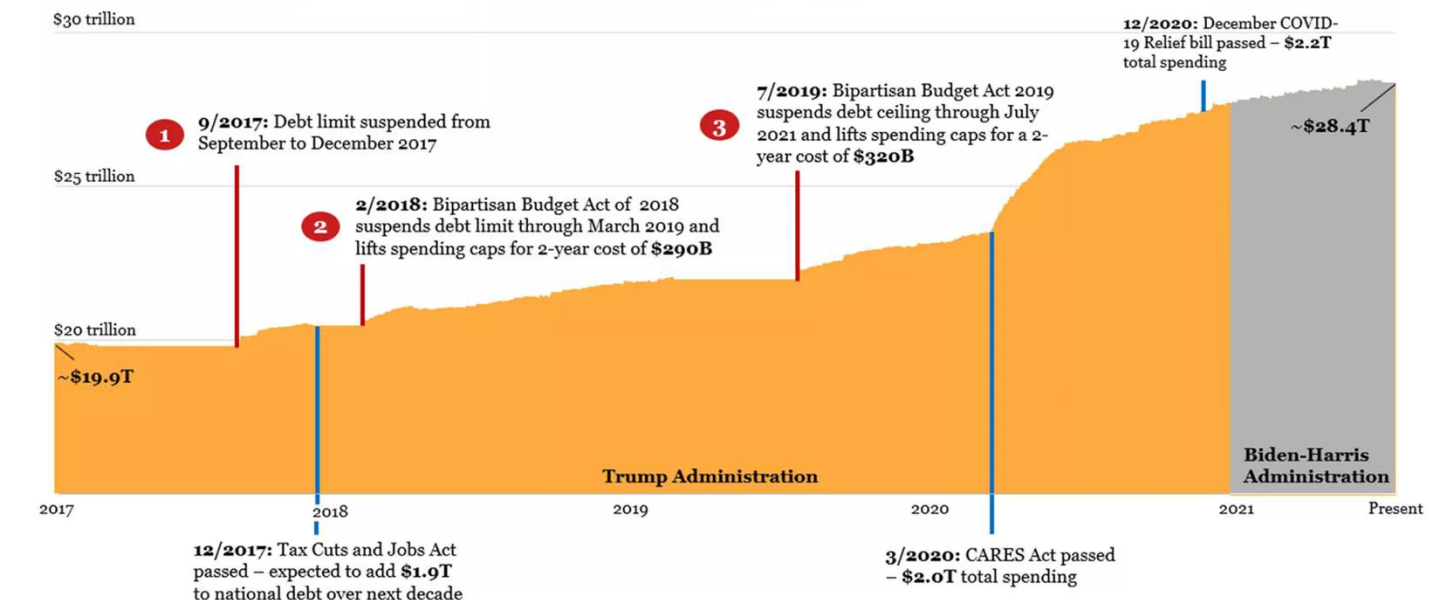
## As Of September 2021, 97% Of The National Debt Existed Before The Biden Administration, Having Risen From \$19.9 Trillion To About \$27 Trillion Under Trump.

As The Biden Administration Argued For Raising Or Suspending The Debt Limit, It Has Noted That 97% Of The \$28.7 Trillion National Debt Existed Before Biden Assumed Office. "Biden administration officials are briefing senior Democratic Senate aides about why Congress needs to raise or suspend the federal debt limit. Why it matters: By coordinating its message with Congress, the White House is trying to ensure Democrats stay unified on a simple argument: that 97% of the \$28.7 [trillion national debt](#) was incurred before President Biden assumed office." [Axios, [09/01/21](#)]

The National Debt Was \$19.9 Trillion At The Beginning Of The Trump Administration In 2017 And Rose To Approximately \$27 Trillion At The End Of The Trump Administration—About \$3.9 Trillion In Debt Was Added From The Trump Tax Cuts' Projected 10 Year Cost And The CARES Act Alone. [Axios, [09/01/21](#)]

### **This is far more President Trump's Debt than President Biden's**

#### **Debt Subject to Limit Since the Beginning of the Trump Administration**



[Axios, [09/01/21](#)]

## The Debt Ceiling Allows The Federal Government To Finance Existing Obligations And Does Not Create Or Authorize New Spending—As Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Has Said, Raising It "Simply Allows Treasury To Pay For Previously Enacted Expenditures," Such As Social Security, Medicare, And Tax Refunds.

The Debt Ceiling Allows The Federal Government To Finance Existing Obligations, Such As Social Security, Medicare, And Tax Refunds. "For starters, the federal debt is the amount of money the government currently owes for spending on payments such as Social Security, Medicare, military salaries and tax refunds. The debt limit allows the government to finance those existing obligations." [CNBC, [08/11/21](#)]

**Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Noted That Increasing Or Suspending The Debt Limit "Simply Allows Treasury To Pay For Previously Enacted Expenditures," And Does Not Create Or Authorize New Spending.** "Increasing or suspending the debt limit does not increase government spending, nor does it authorize spending for future budget proposals; it simply allows Treasury to pay for previously enacted expenditures," Treasury Secretary [Janet Yellen](#) said in a statement Monday." [CNBC, [08/11/21](#)]

## **Around 25 Sitting Republican Senators Voted For Each Of The Three Bills That Suspended The Debt Limit During The Trump Administration.**

### **There Were Three Debt Limit Modifications Enacted During The Trump Administration, All Of Which Suspended The Limit:**

**There Were Three Debt Limit Modifications During The Trump Administration, Not Counting A Previously Enacted One That Ended March 16, 2017:**

March 16, 2017	P.L. 114-74	19,809 <sup>i</sup>	1,696
September 8, 2017	P.L. 115-56	20,456 <sup>k</sup>	647 <sup>k</sup>
February 9, 2018	P.L. 115-123	21,988 <sup>l</sup>	1,532 <sup>l</sup>
August 2, 2019	P.L. 116-37	m	

[Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

- **The Debt Limit Modification Dated March 16, 2017 Was Originally Enacted November 2, 2015, Before The Trump Administration.** "On November 2, 2015, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA2015; H.R. 1314; P.L. 114-74) was enacted, which suspended the debt limit through March 15, 2017, and relaxed discretionary spending limits." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

**September 8, 2017: The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017 Suspended The Debt Limit Through December 8, 2018.** "On September 8, 2017, enactment of a continuing resolution (Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017; P.L. 115-56) suspended the debt limit through December 8, 2018." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

**February 9, 2018: The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 Suspended The Debt Limit Through March 1, 2019.** "Once that suspension lapsed, extraordinary measures were used to meet federal obligations. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA 2018; P.L. 115-123), enacted on February 9, 2018, included a provision (Section 30301) that suspended the debt limit through March 1, 2019." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

**August 2, 2019: The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019 Suspended The Debt Limit Until July 31, 2021.** "On August 2, 2019, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (BBA 2019; P.L. 116-37; H.R. 3877), which modified discretionary spending limits, was enacted, suspending the debt limit until July 31, 2021." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

### **Around 25 Sitting Republican Senators—including All But One Of Current Party Leaders—Voted For Each Of The Bills That Suspended The Debt Limit In 2017, 2018, And 2019:**

**In 2017, 2018, And 2019, Around 25 Sitting Republican Senators Voted For Legislation Suspending The Debt Limit—4 Of The 6 Senators Currently In Senate Republican Leadership Posts Voted For All 3 Bills:**

<b>Senator (<u>Current Leadership In Bold</u>)</b>	<b><u>Vote on Bill Containing 2017 Debt Limit Suspension</u></b>	<b><u>Vote on Bill Containing 2018 Debt Limit Suspension</u></b>	<b><u>Vote on Bill Containing 2019 Debt Limit Suspension</u></b>
<b>Barrasso, John (R-WY)</b>	Y	Y	Y
Blackburn, Marsha (R-TN)	N/A	N/A	N
<b>Blunt, Roy (R-MO)</b>	Y	Y	Y
Boozman, John (R-AR)	Y	Y	Y
Braun, Mike (R-IN)	N/A	N/A	N
Burr, Richard (R-NC)	Y	N	Y
Capito, Shelley Moore (R-WV)	Y	Y	Y
Cassidy, Bill (R-LA)	Y	N	N
Collins, Susan M. (R-ME)	Y	Y	Y
Cornyn, John (R-TX)	Y	Y	Y
Cotton, Tom (R-AR)	Y	Y	N
Cramer, Kevin (R-ND)	N/A	N/A	Y
Crapo, Mike (R-ID)	Y	N	Y
Cruz, Ted (R-TX)	Y	Y	N
Daines, Steve (R-MT)	N	N	N
<b>Ernst, Joni (R-IA)</b>	N	Y	Y
Fischer, Deb (R-NE)	N	Y	N
Graham, Lindsey (R-SC)	N	Y	Y
Grassley, Chuck (R-IA)	N	N	Y
Hagerty, Bill (R-TN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hawley, Josh (R-MO)	N/A	N/A	N
Hoeven, John (R-ND)	Y	Y	Y
Hyde-Smith, Cindy (R-MS)	N/A	N/A	Y
Inhofe, James M. (R-OK)	Y	Y	Y
Johnson, Ron (R-WI)	N	N	N
Kennedy, John (R-LA)	Y	N	N
Lankford, James (R-OK)	N	N	N
Lee, Mike (R-UT)	N	N	N
Lummis, Cynthia M. (R-WY)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marshall, Roger (R-KS)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>McConnell, Mitch (R-KY)</b>	Y	Y	Y
Moran, Jerry (R-KS)	N	Y	Y
Murkowski, Lisa (R-AK)	Y	Y	Y
Paul, Rand (R-KY)	N	N	N
Portman, Rob (R-OH)	Y	Y	Y
Romney, Mitt (R-UT)	N/A	N/A	N
Rounds, Mike (R-SD)	Y	Y	Y
Rubio, Marco (R-FL)	No Vote	Y	N
Sasse, Ben (R-NE)	N	N	N
<b>Scott, Rick (R-FL)</b>	N/A	N/A	N
Scott, Tim (R-SC)	Y	Y	N
Shelby, Richard C. (R-AL)	Y	Y	Y
Sullivan, Dan (R-AK)	No Vote	Y	Y
<b>Thune, John (R-SD)</b>	Y	Y	Y
Tillis, Thom (R-NC)	Y	Y	N
Toomey, Patrick J. (R-PA)	N	N	N
Tuberville, Tommy (R-AL)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wicker, Roger F. (R-MS)	Y	Y	Y
Young, Todd (R-IN)	Y	Y	Y



Yea Votes	24	26	25
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**Before And During The Trump Administration, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Repeatedly Called For The Senate To Quickly Address The Debt Ceiling In Order To Avoid A Prolonged Government Shutdown Or Default On U.S. Debts—The Term "McConnell Rule" Was Even Dubbed After He Proposed Giving The President The Authority To Raise The Debt Limit In Order To Avoid Crises.**

**In August 2019, Current Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Voted For A Bipartisan Bill Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit" Through July 21, 2021, Stating That The Senate "Need[ed] To Address The Debt Limit And Secure The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States" ...**

Senator Mitch McConnell Is The Current Senate Republican Leader. [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

August 1, 2019: Senator McConnell Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit." [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

- "The Bill Suspends The Public Debt Limit Through July 31, 2021." [Congress.gov, accessed [06/24/21](#)]
- The Bipartisan Bill Passed The Senate By A Vote Of 67-28 And The House By 284-149. [Congress.gov, accessed [06/24/21](#)]

During Floor Remarks Made In Support Of The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Senator McConnell Stated The Senate "Need[ed] To Address The Debt Limit And Secure The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States." "But today, the Senate will turn our attention to legislation. We need to address the debt limit and secure the full faith and credit of the United States. We need to continue to secure the funding that our national defense demands. Fortunately, the pending legislation will accomplish precisely that." [Office of Republican Leader McConnell, [08/01/19](#)]

McConnell Had Been "Lobbying GOP Senators Hard" To Secure Support For The Deal. "The Senate passed a two-year bipartisan budget deal and sent it to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature, putting an end to the threat of a debt crisis this fall and easing the path toward funding the government past Sept. 30. The vote was 67-28, with a majority of Senate Republicans supporting the measure. Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) had been lobbying GOP senators hard the past several days to gain their approval, and their efforts paid off Thursday morning." [Politico, [08/01/19](#)]

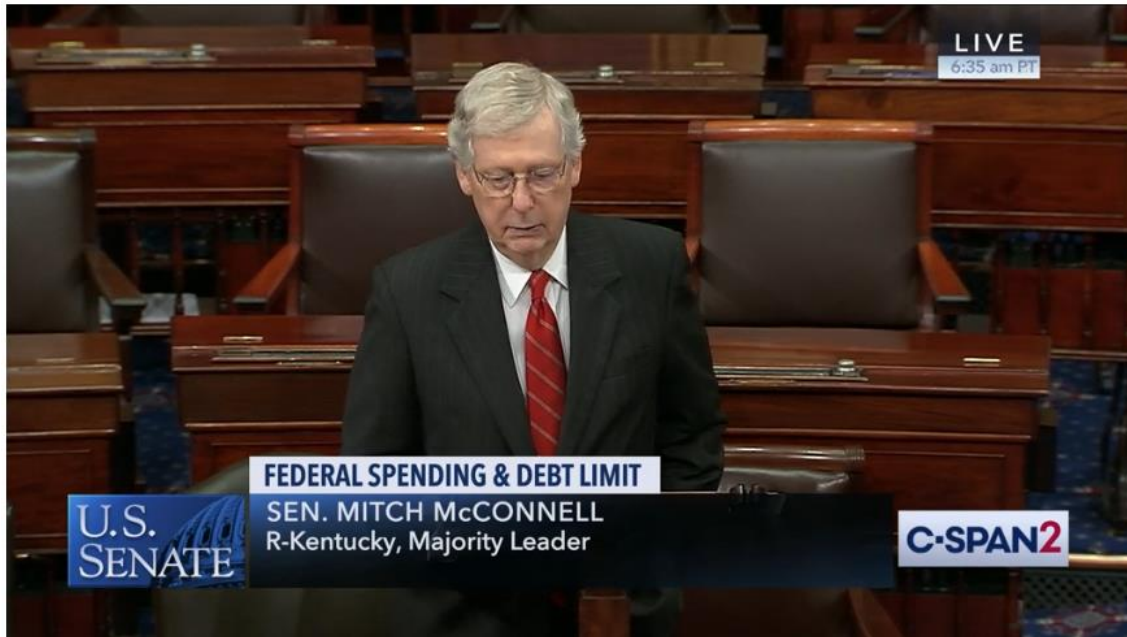
**...McConnell Said That, Due To The Deal, "Congress Will Not Throw This Kind Of Unnecessary Wrench Into The Gears Of Our Job Growth And Thriving Economy."**

McConnell Added That, Due To The Debt Agreement Reached In The Act, "Congress Will Not Throw This Kind Of Unnecessary Wrench Into The Gears Of Our Job Growth And Thriving Economy."

"Fortunately, the pending legislation will accomplish precisely that. In recent weeks, key officials on President Trump's team engaged in extensive negotiations with Speaker Pelosi and the Democratic House. Given the exigencies of divided government, we knew that any bipartisan agreement on funding levels would not appear perfect to either side. But the administration negotiated a strong deal. 'First and foremost, it ensures our federal

government will not approach any kind of short-term debt crisis in the coming weeks or months. It secures our nation's full-faith and credit and ensures that Congress will not throw this kind of unnecessary wrench into the gears of our job growth and thriving economy.'" [Office of Republican Leader McConnell, [08/01/19](#)]

**VIDEO:**



[C-SPAN, [08/01/19](#)]

**In September 2017, McConnell Supported A Continuing Resolution Which "Suspended The Debt Limit Through December 8, 2017"—At The Time, He Said It Was The "Definition Of An Emergency" That Treasury's Borrowing Was Limited By The Debt Ceiling.**

**September 8, 2017: A Continuing Resolution Was Enacted Which "Suspended The Debt Limit Through December 8, 2017."** "On March 16, 2017, the debt limit was reset at \$19,809 billion, which triggered the use of extraordinary measures. On September 8, 2017, P.L. 115-56 was enacted, which included a continuing resolution and suspended the debt limit through December 8, 2017." [Congressional Research Service, [04/01/21](#)]

- **H.R.601 - Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, Which Became Public Law 115-56, Passed The Senate By Voice Vote On August 1, 2017 And Was Passed 80-17 As The Senate Resolved Differences With A House Amendment On September 7, 2017.** [Congress.gov, [01/23/17](#)]
  - **McConnell Was Among The 80 Senators Who Voted To Concur With The House Amendment.** [U.S. Senate, accessed [06/29/21](#)]

**Just Days Before This Resolution Was Enacted, Senator McConnell Tweeted That "We Must Act Quickly When It Comes To The [Debt Limit]."**



Leader McConnell ✓  
@LeaderMcConnell

...

We must act quickly when it comes to the [#DebtLimit](#) given the new uncertainty from the large costs of storm recovery.

4:09 PM · Sep 5, 2017 · Twitter Web Client

[Twitter, [09/05/17](#)]

**September 7, 2017: McConnell Said It Was The "Definition Of An Emergency" That The Treasury Secretary Had To Borrow More Money Than Was Allowed By The Debt Ceiling.** "We have the debt ceiling expiring because there's more borrowing the Secretary of the Treasury needs to do than the current debt ceiling allows him. If this isn't a definition of an emergency I don't know what is." [C-SPAN, [09/07/17](#)]

- **McConnell Said He Would Try And Advance A Debt Ceiling Suspension If It Was What Then-President Trump Negotiated With Then-Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer And Speaker Nancy Pelosi.** "In the meeting down at the White House, as I indicated, the president agreed with Senator Schumer and Congresswoman Pelosi to do a three-month CR and a debt ceiling into December. And that's what I will be offering, based on the President's decision, to the bill. And then we'll try to get 60 votes and move forward." [C-SPAN, [09/07/17](#)]
- **Asked If He Was Surprised That Trump Sided With Democrats On A Budget Deal, McConnell Said Trump's "Feeling Was That We Needed To Come Together, To Not Create A Picture Of Divisiveness At A Time Of Genuine National Crisis."** Reporter: "Were you surprised that the president sided with Democrats against the longer-term measure that Republicans were seeking?" McConnell: "Look, the president can speak for himself. But his feeling was that we needed to come together, to not create a picture of divisiveness at a time of genuine national crisis." [C-SPAN, [09/07/17](#)]
- **VIDEO:**



[C-SPAN, [09/07/17](#)]

## **January 2013: Then-Senate Minority Leader McConnell Demanded The Democratic Majority Quickly Raise The Debt Limit "Rather Than Waiting Until The Last Minute, Abdicating Responsibility."**

**January 2013: Then-Senate Minority Leader McConnell Demanded That The Democratic Majority Quickly Raise The Debt Limit And Enact Spending Cuts "Rather Than Waiting Until The Last Minute, Abdicating Responsibility."** "A day after Congress narrowly dodged a tax hike on all Americans, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell called on Democrats to move quickly to raise the nation's borrowing limit and enact deep spending cuts – 'rather than waiting until the last minute.' 'Washington's credit card has reached its limit again, and the Senate majority must act on legislation early in February — rather than waiting until the last minute, abdicating responsibility and hoping someone else will step in once again to craft a last-minute solution for them,' McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said in a statement on Wednesday." [Politico, [01/02/13](#)]

**HEADLINE: McConnell calls for quick action on debt ceiling** [Politico, [01/02/13](#)]

**The Federal Government Had Hit Its \$16.4 Trillion Borrowing Limit On December 31, 2012, Prompting Then-Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner To Take "Extraordinary Measures" To Avoid The Country Defaulting On Its Debt.** "The federal government hit its \$16.4 trillion legal borrowing limit on New Year's Eve, forcing Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner to pursue what he called several 'extraordinary measures' so the country does not default on its loans before the end of February. The fiscal cliff deal Congress sent to President Obama on Tuesday also delays massive spending cuts to defense and domestic programs for two months. With Congress voting to extend tax cuts for all but the richest Americans, Republicans say Washington must now focus on reining in spending and its \$1 trillion annual deficit." [Politico, [01/02/13](#)]

## **October 2013: After Republican Resistance To Funding The ACA Resulted In A 16-Day Partial Government Shutdown, McConnell Said, "'We're Not Going To Do This Again In Connection With The Debt Ceiling Or With A Government Shutdown.'"**

**Following October 2013's Debt Ceiling Crisis, McConnell Said Republicans Would No Longer Use The Debt Limit To Extract Concessions They Wanted, Saying "'We're Not Going To Do This Again In Connection With The Debt Ceiling Or With A Government Shutdown.'"** "After Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, emerged from hiding last week to help negotiate an end to the debt crisis, he announced that Republicans would no longer use the same kind of extortion to get their way. 'We're not going to do this again in connection with the debt ceiling or with a government shutdown,' he told The National Review." [The New York Times, [10/21/13](#)]

**October 2013: The Federal Government Partially Shut Down For 16 Days Over Disagreements Over Funding The Affordable Care Act And Resumed Normal Operations After President Obama Signed An Appropriations Act That Suspended The Debt Limit Until February 2014.** "October 2013 [...] The federal government undergoes a 16-day partial shutdown after Congress fails to enact either appropriations bills or a continuing resolution, the result of disagreements surrounding funding for the Affordable Care Act. [The shutdown ends](#) when President Obama signs the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2014 on October 16, just weeks away from the projected 'X Date.' The act provides a temporary solution to the government funding impasse and also suspends the debt limit until February 7, 2014. Concerned about continuing political brinkmanship around the debt limit, the Treasury Department publishes a report detailing the possible consequences of a [default on U.S. obligations](#)" [Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed [06/29/21](#)]

## **In 2011, The Term "'McConnell Rule'" Was Coined After McConnell Proposed Giving The President Authority To Raise The Debt Limit,**

**July 2011: The Term "'McConnell Rule'" Was Dubbed After Then-Senate Minority Leader McConnell Proposed Giving The President The Authority To Raise The Debt Limit Unless Both Chambers Of**



**Congress Voted To Override.** "July 2011 [...] Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) proposes a possible debt limit fix dubbed the '[McConnell Rule](#).' Under McConnell's plan, the president would have the authority to propose an increase to the debt limit that would go into effect unless both houses of Congress voted to override. Thus, Congress would still have the authority to reject the increases by vote, but would not need to approve them." [Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed [06/29/21](#)]

**In August 2019, Several Current Members Of Senate Republican Leadership Voted in Support of The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit."**

**In July 2019, Just A Week Before Voting To Suspend The Debt Ceiling, Current Senate Republican Whip John Thune (R-SD) Spoke On How Important It Was To Pass A Debt Resolution In Order To "Fund The Government And Make Sure We Don't Default On Our Obligations."**

**Senator John Thune Is The Current Senate Republican Whip.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**August 1, 2019: Senator Thune Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit."** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In Late July 2019, Thune Highlighted The Importance Of Passing A Debt Limit Resolution, Stating, "We Have To Fund The Government And Make Sure We Don't Default On Our Obligations."** "I think we will get there,' Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, told CNN. 'It's a process. Our members are reviewing it. Democrat members are reviewing it. I think in the end most people realize that even though they may not like everything about it, this represents the best we can do under the circumstances. We have to fund the government and make sure we don't default on our obligations.'" [CNN, [07/25/19](#)]

**July 23, 2019: In Response To The Debt Ceiling Deal, Thune Said He Hoped It Would Pass To Invest In "The Readiness That We Need To Defend The Country That Will Avoid Default On Our Obligations."** "So I hope that we can, when this is all said and done, get a good strong vote that will make those investments in our men and women in uniform and the readiness that we need to defend the country that will avoid default on our obligations and that will provide for a regular appropriations process without poison pills." [C-SPAN, [07/23/21 \(02:41\)](#)]

- **Thune Was Responding To The Debt Ceiling And Budget Deal Between Congress And The Trump Administration.** "[Majority Leader Mitch McConnell](#) (R-KY) and other Senate Republican leaders spoke to reporters in the Capitol following their weekly caucus luncheon. Senator McConnell defended the deal reached between Congress and the Trump administration on the budget and debt ceiling, saying it was the best deal under the circumstances and that the absence of chaos is an advantage." [C-SPAN, [07/23/21](#)]

**VIDEO:**





[C-SPAN, [07/23/21 \(02:41\)](#)]

**Thune Had "Pressed Senators To Pass The Legislation" And Was Known For "His Urgent Work To Whip Up Support."** "The Senate passed a two-year bipartisan budget deal and sent it to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature, putting an end to the threat of a debt crisis this fall and easing the path toward funding the government past Sept. 30. The vote was 67-28, with a majority of Senate Republicans supporting the measure. Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) had been lobbying GOP senators hard the past several days to gain their approval, and their efforts paid off Thursday morning. [...] Majority Whip John Thune of South Dakota, who pressed senators to pass the legislation, said senators headed 'for the door' when they saw him coming because of his urgent work to whip up support." [Politico, [08/01/19](#)]

### **Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), The Current Chair Of The Senate Republican Conference, Voted In Support Of Suspending The Debt Limit In August 2019.**

**Senator John Barrasso Is The Current Chair Of The Senate Republican Conference.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**August 1, 2019: Senator Barrasso Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

### **Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), The Current Chair Of The Senate Republican Policy Committee, Voted In Support Of Suspending The Debt Limit In August 2019.**

**Senator Roy Blunt Is The Current Chair Of The Senate Republican Policy Committee.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**August 1, 2019: Senator Blunt Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

### **Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), The Current Vice Chair Of the Senate Republican Conference, Voted In Support Of Suspending The Debt Limit In August 2019.**

**Senator Joni Ernst Is The Current Vice Chair Of the Senate Republican Conference.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

August 1, 2019: Senator Ernst Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit. [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**At Least 11 Other Current Republican Senators Supported The August 2019 Budget Deal For A Variety Of Reasons, Including The Need To Avert A Government Shutdown.**

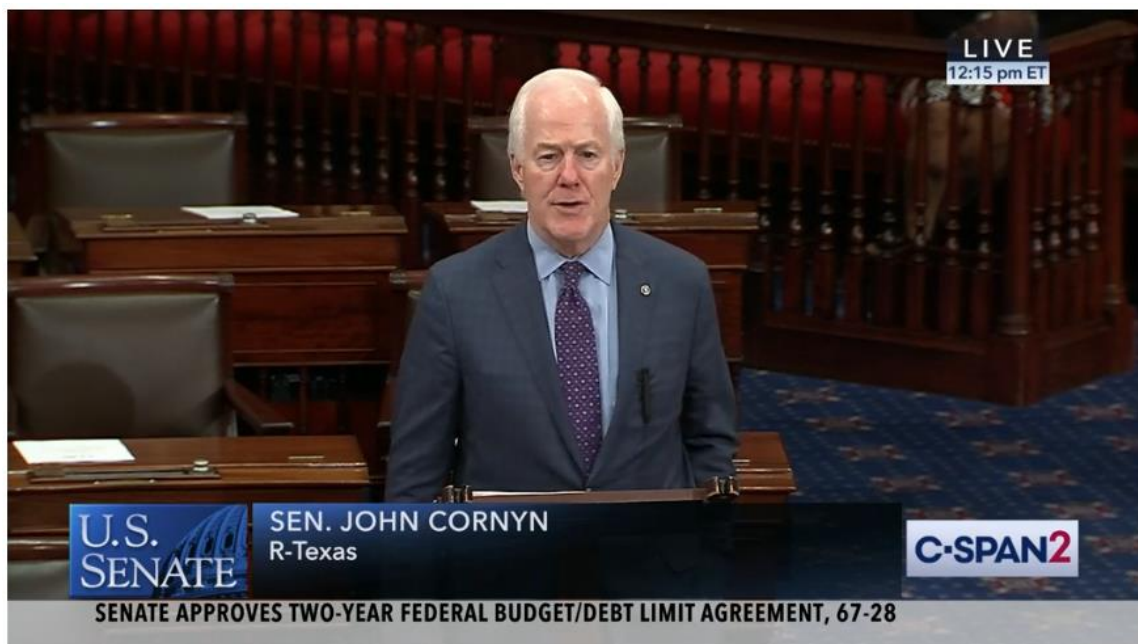
**Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Who Voted In Support Of Lifting The Debt Ceiling In August 2019, Believed One Of The Most Important Effects Of Getting The Deal Done Was To "Provide Stability For Our Nation" And Avoid A Potential Government Shutdown.**

August 1, 2019: Senator Cornyn Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit. [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**Speaking Of The Budget Deal, Senator Cornyn Said One Of Its Most Important Effects Was Avoiding A Potential Government Shutdown.** "The bill raises spending by \$324 billion and lifts the debt ceiling for two years. But Texas Republican John Cornyn says most importantly: passing the funding agreement will help avoid the possibility of a government shutdown. Cornyn says the deal would also boost defense spending and provides more money for things like border patrol, forest management and civil rights enforcement." [ABC27 News, [08/01/19](#)]

**Cornyn Said, "The Funding Agreement We Just Passed Will Provide Stability For Our Nation Through 2020," That It Would Help Avert A Government Shutdown, And "Provides Us The Time And Space For Wide-Ranging Debate" About Spending.** "With the passage of this bipartisan budget deal, we've now taken care of our final piece of business for this work period. The funding agreement we just passed will provide stability for our nation through 2020 and deliver on some of the administration's key priorities. It's been the result of extensive negotiations between President Trump and Speaker Pelosi and represents a compromise between two sides that typically don't agree on much. And yeah, compromise is still not a dirty word. [...] By passing this funding agreement, we are avoiding the possibility of government shutdown again this fall. Instead, it provides us the time and space for wide-ranging debate about our government's spending habits." [C-SPAN, [08/01/19 \(02:45:00\)](#)]

**Video:**



**Prior To The Budget Deal That Lifted The Debt Ceiling In August 2019, Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) Said "We Have To Raise The Debt Ceiling At Some Point," Noting That Not Doing So Causes "A Cascading Problem Of An Economic Response" And Would "Have Ramifications For The Stock Market."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Cramer Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit. [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]**

**As Congress Worked Towards A Budget Deal To Increase The Debt Ceiling, Senator Cramer Spoke Out On The Impact It Would Have On North Dakotans, Specifically Citing The Negative Effect A Government Shutdown Would Have On The "Agricultural, Energy And Retail Sectors Of North Dakota."**

"As Congress works to pass a deal that would raise the debt ceiling before September, Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) describes how North Dakota will be impacted. [...] The agricultural, energy and retail sectors of North Dakota would all be impacted if the debt ceiling fails to be raised as industries that rely on government funding, Cramer explained. 'Those days where you're not getting the dollar are lost forever, and it does disrupt the flow,' Cramer said. 'It's also disheartening. It has a societal effect.'" [Gray DC, [07/17/19](#)]

**August 17, 2019: Cramer Said, "We Have To Raise The Debt Ceiling At Some Point," Noting That Not Doing So Would "Have Ramifications For The Stock Market."** "So the debt ceiling is going to be hit sooner than they thought. And by that I mean the government runs out of borrowing money to pay the bills. And that's going to happen probably in mid-September. And the reason that's urgent in early July is because of course Congress is not in session for about five weeks through August and early September. But that means the sooner we deal with it the better. Okay, We have to raise the debt ceiling at some point, because if we don't we can't pay our bills and then we're on a cash-only basis. That would have ramifications for the stock market. It would mean the country could probably, well we'd pay cash, but that's not nearly enough day to day for all of the things that we fund." [Gray DC, [07/17/19 \(00:05\)](#)]

**Cramer Said Not Raising The Debt Ceiling Would Create "A Cascading Problem Of An Economic Response," Adding "We Don't Want That To Happen."** "So you would have bills not getting paid. You would have promises not being kept. You'd have an obvious problem. But beyond that you'd have a cascading problem of an economic response, including the stock markets, and confidence would sink. So it's really a cascading problem. We don't want that to happen. It's not going to happen. We will pass a debt ceiling increase." [Gray DC, [07/17/19 \(00:48\)](#)]

**On The Budget, Cramer Said Of Avoiding A Government Shutdown, "I Think Everybody Has Learned Their Lesson."** "On the budget side I am pretty confident of that. I think everybody has learned their lesson. Everybody that's currently in office, from the Congress to the White House. I think people know that's not, that's not a repeat that we're looking forward to – that is either a total or partial government shutdown. People are so committed on the defense side." [Gray DC, [07/17/19 \(09:53\)](#)]

**VIDEO:**



[Gray DC, [07/17/19](#)]

**Leading Up To The Budget Deal, Senator Cramer Even Praised Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) For Her Work In Negotiating A Deal, Stating That "She Seems To Want A Deal As Much As The President Wants A Deal, And She Should."** "Republican Sen. Kevin Cramer praised House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's work on the debt ceiling, telling CNBC on Friday that the final deal "doesn't need to be perfect." 'I've been pretty impressed with the way Speaker Pelosi has negotiated with Secretary Mnuchin in the past week or two. She seems to want a deal as much as the president wants a deal, and she should. Good politics is good for all players,' Cramer said on 'Squawk Box.'" [CNBC, [07/19/19](#)]

**Senator John Hoeven (R-ND), Who Supported The August 2019 Budget Deal, Released A Statement Following Its Passage That Praised The Deal As "Fund[ing] The Government And Ensur[ing] Our Nation Meets Its Financial Obligations."—In 2011, Hoeven Said "The Uncertainty With The Spending And The Debt Ceiling Issue Is Part Of What's Holding Private Investment Back."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Hoeven Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**Following Passage Of The Bipartisan Budget Act, Senator Hoeven Released A Statement In Which He Praised The Deal As "'Fund[ing] The Government And Ensur[ing] Our Nation Meets Its Financial Obligations At A Funding Level Below The House-Passed Appropriations Bills."** "Senator John Hoeven released the following statement after Congress passed a bipartisan two-year budget agreement: 'The Trump Administration negotiated with House Democrats to reach an agreement that will allow us to fund the government and ensure our nation meets its financial obligations at a funding level below the House-passed appropriations bills.'" [Office of Senator Hoeven, [08/01/19](#)]

**Hoeven's Statement Goes On To State That The "Budget Deal Ensures That We Can Continue To Make Critical Investments To Rebuild Our Military And Support Our Veterans."** "While I would have liked to find additional savings, the Administration negotiated the best deal they could and secured \$77 billion in offsets. At the same time, the budget deal ensures that we can continue to make critical investments to rebuild our military and support our veterans.'" [Office of Senator Hoeven, [08/01/19](#)]



**June 29, 2011: Hoeven Said, "The Uncertainty With The Spending And The Debt Ceiling Issue Is Part Of What's Holding Private Investment Back," Which He Said Was Needed "To Get Our Economy Going."**

"From what we've seen, this would send a tremendous signal to the markets that would help with private investment that we need to get our economy going, that we need for job creation, that we need for economic growth. This is fundamentally important because this provides the certainty that we need to get economic growth going. The uncertainty with the spending and the debt ceiling issue is part of what's holding private investment back. We need that private investment to get our economy going, to get job creation going. And that, combined with controlling our spending is what's going to get us out of the deficit and the debt problem that we face." [C-SPAN, [06/29/11 \(15:39\)](#)]

- **Hoeven Was Speaking At A Press Conference In Which Senate Republicans Discussed Debt Ceiling Negotiations And A Balanced Budget Amendment.** "Senate Republicans talked about their support for a constitutional balanced budget amendment. The amendment would require the president to submit and Congress to pass a balanced budget each year, cap federal spending at 18 percent of gross domestic product, and also require a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate to raise taxes. They also talked about the state of the negotiations on the raising the federal debt ceiling." [C-SPAN, 06/29/11]

**VIDEO:**



[C-SPAN, [06/29/11 \(15:39\)](#)]

**Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), Who Voted in Support of Lifting the Debt Ceiling in August 2019, Had Faith That "In The End There Will Be Enough Members To Do The Responsible Thing" By Joining Him.**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Wicker Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]



**Senator Wicker Had "Advocat[ed] For His Colleagues To Support The Legislation" And Had Faith That "In The End There Will Be Enough Members To Do The Responsible Thing."** "'We're going to avoid this sort of nonsense we've had in the past with shutdowns and brief continuing resolutions,' said Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), who has been advocating for his colleagues to support the legislation. 'In the end there will be enough members to do the responsible thing.'" [Politico, [08/01/19](#)]

**Senator Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), Who Voted in Support of Lifting the Debt Ceiling in August 2019, Voiced Urgency In The Need To Get A Budget Deal Done Because It Is Not In "Anybody's Best Interest To Have That Fight In September Up Against The Debt Limit."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Capito Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In July 2019, Senator Capito Voiced Urgency In The Need To Get A Budget Deal Done In Order To Address The Debt Limit, Arguing It Was Not In "Anybody's Best Interest To Have That Fight In September Up Against The Debt Limit."** "'I think we need to hustle to a caps deal as soon as we possibly can and include the debt limit in it, no doubt,' said Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. [...] Shelby said the mere possibility that the debt ceiling could be breached in September should give 'more sense of urgency' to Congress taking quick action, while Capito said it was not in 'anybody's best interest to have that fight in September up against the debt limit.'" [The Hill, [07/10/19](#)]

**Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Who Voted in Support of Lifting the Debt Ceiling in August 2019, Spoke Out In July 2019 In Support Of the Budget Deal Stating The "Last Thing" She Wanted To See Was A "Government Shutdown Or A One-Year Continuing Resolution."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Collins Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In July 2019, Senator Collins Voiced Support For A Budget Deal To Increase The Debt Limit As The "Last Thing" She Wanted To See Was A "Government Shutdown Or A One-Year Continuing Resolution."** "'I am very concerned that time is running very short,' said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. 'The last thing I want to see is either a government shutdown or a one-year continuing resolution.'" [New York Times, [07/12/19](#)]

**In Explaining His Decision To Support The August 2019 Budget Deal, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) Suggested It Was Necessary To Avert A Government Shutdown While Arguing Failure To Secure A Deal Would Have "Drastically Increased Likelihood Of The Political Weaponization Of Government Shutdowns."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Crapo Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In A Press Release Explaining His Decision To Support The Bipartisan Budget Act, Senator Crapo Said Failure To Secure A Deal Would Have "Drastically Increased Likelihood Of The Political Weaponization Of Government Shutdowns" That Would Have "Driven Up Spending And Caused Economic Damage To Hard-Working Americans And Their Families."** "U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) maintained his track record of supporting U.S. national defense and efforts to counter foreign intrusion and aggression, and today voted to support the Bipartisan Budget Act, which the Senate passed in a 67-28 vote. He issued the statement below following the vote: 'Although I am disappointed this budget agreement did not contain greater spending

cuts, failure to enact it would have resulted in even greater spending. That would have inevitably led to a supercharged partisan push for even higher spending and a drastically increased likelihood of the political weaponization of government shutdowns. That, in turn, would have driven up spending and caused economic damage to hard-working Americans and their families." [Office of Senator Crapo, [08/01/19](#)]

**Crapo's Statement Went On To State That A Continuing Resolution For Funding Would "Result In Unnecessary And Detrimental Cuts To Our National Defense" And That "One Or More Government Shutdowns Would Have Been Even Worse."** "Short-term funding through a continuing resolution would result in unnecessary and detrimental cuts to our national defense, and sideline significant progresses already made to enhance and rebuild the military's readiness. One or more government shutdowns would have been even worse. This agreement protects and strengthens our national security." [Office of Senator Crapo, [08/01/19](#)]

**Crapo's Support For The Deal Was Part Of The "Tipping Point" In Securing A Majority Of Republican Senators.** "The Senate passed a two-year bipartisan budget deal and sent it to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature, putting an end to the threat of a debt crisis this fall and easing the path toward funding the government past Sept. 30. The vote was 67-28, with a majority of Senate Republicans supporting the measure. Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) had been lobbying GOP senators hard the past several days to gain their approval, and their efforts paid off Thursday morning. [...] Grassley — along with Joni Ernst of Iowa, Mike Crapo of Idaho and Dan Sullivan of Alaska — proved to be the tipping point for undecided Senate Republicans. Once leadership got the support of that bloc of votes, it was able to ensure a GOP majority for the legislation: Thirty Republicans ended up backing the measure on the critical procedural vote and 29 on final passage." [Politico, [08/01/19](#)]

### **Following Her Decision To Support The August 2019 Budget Deal, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) Released A Statement Asserting That "Failing To Pass An Agreement Would Have Sent The United States Into Default For The First Time In Its History."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Hyde-Smith Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**Senator Hyde-Smith's Office Described Her Vote For The Bipartisan Budget Act As "The Responsible Choice Needed To Continue The [President Trump's] Agenda To Rebuild The U.S. Military, Secure The Border, And Protect The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States."** "U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) today said her vote for a two-year budget agreement was the responsible choice needed to continue the President's agenda to rebuild the U.S. military, secure the border, and protect the full faith and credit of the United States." [Office of Senator Hyde-Smith, [08/01/19](#)]

**Hyde-Smith's Press Release Goes On To State That "Failing To Pass An Agreement Would Have Sent The United States Into Default For The First Time In Its History."** "Without the agreement, budget sequestration mandated in the 2011 Budget Control Act would have forced steep indiscriminate spending cuts across all federal departments, agencies, and programs, including those serving the military, veterans, farmers, and seniors. In addition, failing to pass an agreement would have sent the United States into default for the first time in its history." Office of Senator Hyde-Smith, [08/01/19](#)

### **Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Who Supported The August 2019 Budget Deal, Believed It Was "A Victory" And "The Right Thing To Do—For Our Troops, For Our Veterans And For The American People."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Inhofe Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**Inhofe Praised Passage Of The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019 As "The Right Thing To Do—For Our Troops, For Our Veterans And For The American People."** "U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today praised the Senate vote on the defense budget agreement, which passed 67-28. 'Passing this defense budget deal is the right thing to do—for our troops, for our veterans and for the American people. Providing sufficient funding for our military and eliminating the threat of sequestration for good are absolutely necessary for our military to have the budgetary stability and predictability they so desperately need. This deal is not perfect—I would have liked to see even more funding for defense—but without this deal, the effects on our military would be devastating,' Inhofe said." [Office of Senator Inhofe, [08/01/19](#)]

**July 26, 2019: Senator Inhofe Authored A Fox News Op-Ed, In Which He Called The Budget Deal "A Victory" For National Security, The Military, Veterans, And American Families.** "Reaching a deal was never going to be easy, but it was necessary. As our newly appointed Secretary of Defense Mark Esper told the Senate Armed Services Committee last week, 'I fully support the need for a two-year budget deal...Again I cannot overstate how important it was for the Department of Defense last year to receive a budget on time.' It's a victory for our national security, it's a victory for our military, and it's a victory for our veterans. It's also a victory for American families, who will sleep easier under the protection of a well-funded, world-class military." [Fox News, [07/26/21](#)]

### **Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Voted In Support Of The August 2019 Budget Deal As She Believed It Was "Necessary To Provide Fiscal Certainty At The Federal Level."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Murkowski Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In A Statement Following Her Vote In Support Of The Bipartisan Budget Act, Murkowski Stated It Was "Necessary To Provide Fiscal Certainty At The Federal Level."** "U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) today issued the following statement after voting in favor of H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 67 to 28 and now heads to the President to be signed into law. 'This bipartisan agreement is necessary to provide fiscal certainty at the federal level. It's the result of a compromise and reflects priorities from both sides of the aisle.'" [Office of Senator Murkowski, [08/01/19](#)]

**Murkowski's Statement Went On To State The Deal "Reduces The Risk Of A Government Shutdown Later This Year," Describing Government Shutdowns As "Wasteful And Detrimental To Contractors, Federal Employees, [And] Our Men And Women In Uniform."** "This agreement also reduces the risk of a government shutdown later this year. Shutdowns are wasteful and detrimental to contractors, federal employees, including our men and women in uniform, and have far-reaching ripple effects." [Office of Senator Murkowski, [08/01/19](#)]

### **Senator Todd Young (R-IN), Who Supported The August 2019 Budget Deal, Praised The Deal As "'Provid[ing] Funding Certainty For Our Armed Forces And Ensur[ing] Our Military Readiness."**

**August 1, 2019: Senator Young Voted In Support Of H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit.** [United States Senate, accessed [06/21/21](#)]

**In A Statement Following His Vote, Senator Young Stated The Bipartisan Budget Deal "Provid[ed] Funding Certainty For Our Armed Forces And Ensures Our Military Readiness."** "U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) today voted for President Trump's bipartisan budget deal that provides funding certainty for our armed forces and ensures our military readiness. The deal passed the Senate on an 67-28 vote. 'As a Marine, I am committed to protecting our troops and ensuring they have the resources needed to keep our country safe and secure. We are facing growing threats from Russia and China and our enemies abroad, and we have a humanitarian and national security crisis at our southern border. President Trump's bipartisan budget deal

provides the critical resources that our service members need to protect themselves and our country.'" [Office of Senator Young, [08/01/19](#)]