



# **2026: A Compressed Calendar**

## **The Critical Next 13 Months**

As the nation emerges from the longest government shutdown in history, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is preparing for a fast-paced and politically charged 13-plus months in Washington, D.C. Midterm election years always bring a compressed congressional schedule. 2026 will be no exception. On average, the U.S. House of Representatives meets just 130 days in even-numbered years. The Senate averages 142, which is roughly three weeks fewer than in non-election years.

This condensed schedule means less time for Congress to legislate, debate, negotiate and even less time for groups like ours to ensure our priorities are heard. The 2025 government shutdown further reduced the year's "work days," leaving lawmakers with a backlog of unfinished business to address in the months ahead.

With razor-thin majorities in both chambers and Republicans maintaining narrow control, the political stakes will be high. The GOP will be under growing pressure to deliver tangible results before voters head to the polls in November. Reauthorization of the highway bill will be among the top priorities. It provides one of the most direct opportunities for both parties to advance their policy goals.

That's why sustained engagement by the MRF is more critical than ever. When Congress moves quickly, there's no time to introduce ourselves or educate new staff about our priorities. Success in these moments depends on preparation, relationships, reputation, and readiness built long before the legislative rush begins.

The MRF's government relations team continues active outreach with key committees, congressional offices, and regulatory agencies to ensure the voice of motorcyclists remains part of every relevant discussion. As these 13-plus months

unfold, your involvement, your outreach, your stories, and your presence will be vital to securing the victories we need.

In a compressed political environment, preparation and persistence will determine success. By staying engaged and ready, the MRF and its members can continue to protect and advance the rights of all motorcyclists when opportunity strikes.

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Join The MRF

#### **About Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.

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