

Every time we vote on appropriations bills and every time we are putting forward legislation, we ought to be thinking about these Americans who lost their lives at the hands of these non-Americans. We ought to be thankful we have a President who recognizes that these non-Americans needn't be on our streets, that we should be siding with ICE and Border Patrol, and that we should be defending the men and women in our law enforcement across the country so we can protect these Americans. So that we can choose to side with the American citizens, not the non-Americans who are dangerous, and we can side with law enforcement to protect these.

We can act. This is my message to my Republican colleagues: We have a choice this year. We can retreat and get into the mode of elections. Or we can lead, we can work, and we can roll our sleeves up and right now codify the rules, the laws, and the actions of the President to secure our border and ensure that no future President can abuse them.

We can do that right now. We can pass H.R. 2. We can send it to the Senate. We can force the Senate to act if we just have the will to do it.

We can send the SAVE Act again. We can add voter ID. We can send it to the Senate. We can dare them to break the filibuster by forcing a talking filibuster instead of the fake filibuster of a forced 60-vote threshold.

Make them work. Make 51 Senators sit on the floor and have a quorum. Make them speak. Make them do their job so that we can defend our country and defend our people. Pass the SAVE Act, pass voter ID, and secure American elections. Secure our border permanently instead of just having it depend on the current President. Reform our immigration system. Pause it. We have done it before. Pause it, review it, and stop people from overstaying their visas. Fix the system.

Make sure we are not importing people who are adherent to sharia law and want to undermine Western civilization and create mayhem and be against our way of life.

Choose the path of leadership. Come here as a Congress and bind together. Don't sit around complaining about having a two- or three- or four-seat majority.

Lead, act, and go.

That is why we are here. That is why that flag exists. Madam Speaker, put your trust in God, and put the armor of God around you. Stand up and lead for this country.

If we do it, then the American people will send us back here in a bigger majority.

If we do it, then President Trump will be able to accomplish even more in the next 2 years than in these 2 years.

If we act now, then we can actually save this country.

If we act now, then we can secure the border.

If we act now, then we can secure our elections.

If we act now, then we can guarantee an immigration system that no longer imports people into our country who want to undermine it.

We can provide healthcare freedom, and we can balance the budget if we act and we lead. Right now, let's secure our country. We can do it this year. That is our calling.

We are not here to get re-elected. We are here to deliver for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MANDATE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina was recognized for 30 minutes.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of the Special Order into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, in November of 2024, the American people didn't just cast votes. They issued a thunderous mandate. It was loud, it was clear, and it was unmistakable. They rose up, and they declared: Enough is enough. Enough of the reckless spending that mortgages our children's future. Enough of open-borders flooding our communities with chaos and danger. Enough of unelected bureaucrats and activist judges lording over a free people, and enough of weakness abroad and surrendering to our enemies while our adversaries laugh.

The voters didn't send House Republicans back to Washington to warm chairs, cut ribbons, and play defense. They sent us here to fight. They sent us here to do government differently, to reverse the damage, and to restore what made America great.

Now the moment of truth has arrived.

What must the House Republican majority do in 2026, and why must we act boldly without apology and without hesitation?

In 2026 the American people expect a Republican-led Congress to deliver results. Alongside President Trump, we must leverage our House and Senate majorities to advance a bold agenda fulfilling more of our promises. We must act urgently in the first quarter of 2026, using every tool available to compel the Senate to deliver now. The stakes extend beyond the next election. America's future depends on it.

This evening I want to take a few moments to lay out that answer, four priorities, four commitments, and four reasons the future of the Republic depends on what we do next.

□ 2040

First of all, there must be a priority to cut spending because a nation that can't balance its books can't defend its future. The most fundamental duty of any government worthy of the name is stewardship of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollar.

Families balance their checkbooks every month. Small businesses live within their means or they fail. Yet, for too long, Washington has acted as if math, morality, and accountability simply don't apply here.

Today, right now, in January of 2026, our national debt stands at more than \$38.4 trillion. Madam Speaker, that is not just statistics, it is a theft from our children. It is bondage for our grandchildren. It is a crushing burden that grows by billions every single day, while interest payments alone devour more than a trillion dollars a year.

Please, let's be crystal clear with America. We do not have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem and a massive fraud problem in this country. Just look at the scandals exploding across this country right now. In Minnesota, Democrats allowed millions of taxpayer dollars to flow to fraudulent daycare centers, fake operations with misspelled signs, empty buildings, no children in sight. Yet, they pocketed huge sums from programs meant to help the vulnerable children.

A viral investigation by independent journalist Nick Shirley has triggered Federal probes, payment freezes, and demands for accountability. Money that was intended for children, stolen by criminals exploiting government incompetence.

Back home in my own State of North Carolina, a fresh Federal audit just revealed that 54 percent—more than half—of the State's nondomiciled commercial drivers' licenses were issued illegally, often to foreign nationals whose driver licenses were valid long after their lawful presence in the United States had expired.

I submit to you, this isn't a clerical glitch. It is a systemic failure that is putting the lives of Americans at risk on our highways, wastes taxpayer resources, and, yes, threatens millions in Federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, fraud is never victimless. It robs seniors of the benefits they earned. It shortchanges our veterans who sacrificed for this country. It burdens working families already struggling to get ahead, and it saddles future generations with debts they never agreed to carry.

In 2026, I believe House Republicans must do what Washington has refused to do for decades: hunt down waste, fraud, and abuse, and shut it off at its source. That means oversight with real teeth, audits that trigger prosecutions, not just reports, and zero tolerance. Cut funding to any agency that refuses to clean house and deal with the situation.

Only a year ago, several in my party were hyping up DOGE, the Department

of Government Efficiency. I must ask, where is the enthusiasm now? Why are we not continuing to slash the waste, fraud, and abuse? We did it with USAID, NPR, and PBS, but, listen, we can't stop there.

While we are wielding the budget ax, let's be unequivocal about what should never receive another dime of taxpayer money—no taxpayer-funded abortions, period. Full stop. The Federal Government must never force Americans of faith, or any Americans for that matter, to bankroll the destruction of innocent life. Life begins in the womb, and America must never apologize for defending the most vulnerable among us.

There is one more pipeline that I believe must be severed: no funding for lawless jurisdictions. Cities and States that are defying Federal immigration law, harboring criminals instead of enforcing the law should receive not one more cent of Federal grants. We cannot, we must not continue rewarding sanctuary politicians who put American lives in the crosshairs.

This past Saturday, on what would have been Laken Riley's 24th birthday, we paused to remember a bright, compassionate nursing student whose life was stolen far, far too soon. Laken was jogging on a college trail, doing what young Americans do every day, full of promise, full of faith, full of the future. She never made it home. My colleague talked about her killer tonight: an illegal alien with ties to the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua who crossed our border, was released, and then brutally ended her life.

Don't forget Laken, don't forget Rachel Morin, don't forget Joycelyn Nungaray, don't forget the countless American victims—daughters, sons, mothers, and fathers—who have been lost to the chaos of reckless open-border policies that have been pushed by the radical progressive Democrats.

These same Democrats remain unashamed. They fight harder, they fight louder for violent criminal aliens than they ever do for the American families that have been left shattered. They shield sanctuary cities that harbor lawbreakers, defund enforcement, and turn their backs on our people. However, we remember, and because we remember, we must act.

In 2026, House Republicans must keep fighting. No more Federal dollars for sanctuary jurisdictions that defy the law, and I mean no more excuses, no more American blood on the hands of politicians who choose criminals over citizens. Laken's memory demands it. America's safety requires it. We will not rest until justice is restored for Laken, for every victim, and for every family that deserves to feel safe in their own country.

If a city wants our taxpayers' money, it must follow Federal law. If it chooses to act as a sanctuary for lawbreakers, let it do so on its own dime, not ours. Cut the waste. Cut the fraud. Cut the funding to lawlessness.

That is how we will restore fiscal sanity. That is how we will restore public safety. That is how we will restore moral clarity to Washington, and I mean starting today.

There is a second priority: to conserve our way of life, because a Republic only survives if its foundations are defended. The Bible says in Psalms 11:3 that if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

The second mission of the House Republican majority in 2026 is clear and nonnegotiable: We must conserve the American way of life. What good is economic prosperity if our freedoms, the very soul of our Nation, are eroded day by day?

Let's start with the foundation of self-government. Yes, I am talking about our elections. Only American citizens should vote in American elections. This is not controversial. This is common sense. The House has already acted decisively. We passed the SAVE Act requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register for Federal elections.

The need for the SAVE Act couldn't be clearer. Just in my own State of North Carolina last fall, the DMV admitted to registering an unknown number of noncitizens, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Americans, I believe, demand that we have secure elections, and yet the SAVE Act has been sitting in the Senate gathering dust. The question is clear: When will the Senate pass it?

A nation that cannot secure its elections cannot preserve its liberty, and election integrity is not voter suppression, it is the bedrock of a representative government.

□ 2050

Now, let's talk about justice. We are witnessing a dangerous trend: rogue, unelected district judges legislating from the bench—you know it—issuing sweeping nationwide injunctions that overrule the will of the people, the President, and the Congress.

That is not how our Constitution works. That is why the House passed the No Rogue Rulings Act, limiting injunction to the parties in a case, not the entire country.

Yes, once again, it awaits Senate action. The question I raise, once again: When will the Senate pass it? Courts interpret the law; they do not make it. They do not govern the Nation. We must also defend the rule of law itself. American law is grounded in one Constitution, not foreign legal systems.

Let me say it clearly: Sharia law has no place superseding Federal or State law in the United States of America. We must protect our Nation from violence and ideologies that are antithetical to the Constitution. We are one Nation, one Constitution, and one rule of law, period.

Finally, while we are talking, think about free speech, the First Amendment right our Founders placed first for a reason. Yet, today, as a pastor, I

understand that pastors are being muzzled and churches intimidated. The IRS has been weaponized as a tool of censorship, threatening tax-exempt status for daring to speak Biblical truth on the moral issues of today.

That is why I introduced the Free Speech Fairness Act, to repeal the remnants of the Johnson amendment and restore pastors' God-given right to preach freely from the pulpits across this land.

I am sorry, but no government bureaucrat should dictate what a pastor can say about life, about marriage, or about liberty. No politician should decide which moral truths are acceptable. Free speech is not a privilege bestowed by Washington. It is a right that is endowed by our creator.

Sadly, America has been drifting away from basic common sense, and nowhere is this more painfully evident than in the world of sports. Our daughters are being forced to compete against males. Our sisters are being forced to share locker rooms and changing spaces with boys.

Today, the highest Court in our land is grappling with this very issue. This very day, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two critical cases, *Little v. Hecox* and *West Virginia v. BPJ*, to decide whether State laws that protect girls' and women's sports by basing eligibility on biological sex at birth violate Title IX or the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

I submit to you tonight that the American people have already spoken clearly. It was a January 2025 New York Times poll that found that 79 percent of Americans, including a majority of Democrats, believed athletes who were male at birth but pretend to be female should not be eligible to compete in women's sports.

That is exactly why the House passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, which restores fairness by clarifying that Title IX protects biological females in federally funded athletic programs. Yet, Senate Democrats blocked it last year, standing against the overwhelming will of the American people.

When will Democrats stop rejecting common sense and start listening to the American families they claim to represent?

In 2026, House Republicans will keep pushing these bills forward, demanding Senate action, defending our elections, our courts, our laws, and our voices because if we don't conserve the American way of life right now, who will? Who will?

We will not apologize. We will not back down. We will defend it for our children, for our faith, and for our future.

The third priority that I think is critical, and let me move quickly, is that we codify our border wins because a nation without borders is not a nation.

The third task before the House Republican majority is urgent and non-negotiable. We must codify our border wins into law.

President Trump has delivered on his promise to secure the border. Customs and Border Protection has achieved 7 straight months of—get this—zero releases of apprehended illegal immigrants into the United States from the border.

In 2025, DHS enforcement operations resulted in more than 605,000 deportations, but I submit to you tonight that executive action is not enough. Temporary enforcement is not enough. America needs permanent border security. We must ensure the security of our Nation is not undone by the stroke of a pen of a future administration.

That means passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. This legislation, as you will recall, finishes the wall, ends catch and release, restores interior enforcement, and puts American sovereignty back where it belongs, in American hands.

For years, we were told securing the border was impossible, and then President Trump proved it was possible simply when the law is enforced.

Now, it is time to lock those victories into statute. No more open borders. No more fentanyl flooding our streets. No more surrender to cartels and traffickers. A sovereign nation controls who enters its territory, and the House Republican majority must ensure Americans exactly that.

The fourth and final priority: celebrate freedom. Celebrate freedom because America's greatness flows from liberty, not government control.

In 2026, House Republicans must do what the radical left despises most: We must celebrate and defend freedom. Yes, that starts with healthcare, where Big Insurance and Big Government have trapped Americans into a broken, unaffordable system they don't control.

Just last month, a bombshell GAO report exposed the truth. The ObamaCare marketplace rubberstamped approvals for 96 percent of fake applications. Fictitious identities, stolen Social Security numbers, dead people, yet billions in taxpayer subsidies flowed straight to the insurance companies. Your hard-earned dollars were wasted on fraud while families faced skyrocketing premiums.

Democrats are fighting tooth and nail. Do you know what they are fighting tooth and nail to do? To keep funneling subsidies to Big Insurance giants, to let wealthy individuals continue to access government-funded healthcare, to allow some Americans to pay zero for coverage while the rest of us foot the bill.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to say tonight that Republicans are fighting for you, the American people, by expanding real choices for families, increasing competition to drive down prices, and putting patients and doctors first, not lining the pockets of Big Insurance.

Something has to change, and we must put healthcare back in the hands of individuals, not bureaucrats in Washington. A powerful first step? Expand health savings accounts, HSAs.

□ 2100

Madam Speaker, HSAs empower families to make their own decisions. Yes, they lower costs. Yes, they increase choice. Yes, they restore freedom to control your own care. Healthcare should serve patients, not bureaucrats or corporate cronies.

We must confront another growing threat most Americans don't yet see, and that is malign foreign influence, especially from Communist China.

Our colleges and universities have taken hundreds of millions—estimates now actually exceed \$426 million in recent years—from foreign adversaries like China. They are selling access, influence, and sensitive research to the highest bidder. This is unacceptable.

That is why the House passed the DETERRENT Act, which includes language from my No Contracts for Foreign Adversaries Act, to force transparency, block shady deals, and stop our institutions from taking money from enemies who wish to harm us.

Once again, that bill is now in the Senate. The question arises once more: When will the Senate pass it?

America's intellectual capital, the minds of our next generation, should never be auctioned off to those who seek to undermine us. Freedom is worth defending economically, culturally, and morally.

In 2026, our House Republican majority will keep leading the charge to reform healthcare to empower individuals, to secure our campuses from foreign threats, and to celebrate the American way of life without apology. We understand that freedom isn't free. That is why we will fight to keep it for our families, for our future, and for our Nation.

In conclusion, I want you to hear my heart because it is a call to courage. This is our moment. As we stand on the threshold of America's 250th birthday—250 years since 56 brave signers pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the Declaration of Independence—we are all called to renew the covenant our Founders made.

The House Republican majority was not sent here to manage decline. We were elected to reverse it, to cut reckless spending, to conserve our God-given way of life, to secure our sovereign borders, and to celebrate and defend the freedoms they fought to secure. History will not judge how cautious we were. It will judge how courageous we were.

As General George Washington declared to his troops, in 1776, on the heels of the Continental Congress' decision for independence, he said: "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and the conduct of this Army."

Madam Speaker, today the fate of unborn millions—our children, our grandchildren, and generations yet to come—depends on us, on our courage, on our conviction, and on our unwavering faith in the exceptional Nation that our Founders envisioned.

I implore my colleagues: Let us act with conviction. Let us lead with faith. Let us govern with courage.

America's best days are not behind us. They are still ahead. If we are bold enough, faithful enough, and courageous enough to fight for them, we will see it through.

Madam Speaker, in this year of America 250, let us recommit to the principles of liberty, self-government, and moral clarity that launched the greatest experiment in human freedom that the world has ever known.

We will not shrink. We will not surrender. We will fight. We will win for what our Founders built and that we are called to preserve.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GROWING THE GDP

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, as a mercy to the poor staff here, I am not going to use the whole half an hour. I am just going to try to run through a couple of concepts.

I did a little tripping up of some details last week, where we were trying to explain some of the things we see going on in the math. I want to walk through a concept.

We actually, right now, as a country, are remarkably blessed. The GDP growth, the economic growth, is actually well beyond almost any of what even my economists were predicting over the last year.

We are seeing some data right now—if you actually look at the Atlanta Fed, GDPNow, nowcasts, some of these—we could hit a five-handle this quarter, which is remarkable.

Looking at some of the data from the third quarter of 2025, it looks like the number of a 4.3 percent GDP growth is going to hold up.

These numbers are actually remarkable, and I want to make a point here for the annualized 2025 GDP number. I know this is geeky. There is a point I am going to come to, and that is the irony that tax collections don't look as robust as the economy. We are going to try to explain what is going on. This is why getting policy right is going to become so critical.

The first quarter of last year, so 1 year ago this quarter, we actually had negative GDP. The first quarter, when the Trump administration started, when our new Congress started, we actually had to go through 3 months of slower growth. Then, it wasn't until the second quarter, third quarter, and now we believe the fourth quarter—we don't have that final number in yet—we finally hit the acceleration pedal.

What is going on out there? We had this irony happening where we have really actually stable and much broader economic growth than we expected. We are actually seeing some odd things.