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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our sustainer, You know our thoughts from afar. Because of Your mercy, we are not consumed. Great is Your faithfulness. Lord, send Your spirit to empower us to live worthy of Your great Name.

Guide our Senators as they confront the vicissitudes and challenges of our time. Give them the confidence and the assurance that Your purposes will prevail. In the hectic pace of their lives, help them to slow down long enough to hear Your still, small voice of wisdom. Ease the tensions that pull them apart, and keep them united as they strive to do Your will.

Lord, You know us better than we know ourselves; therefore, have Your way in our Nation and throughout our world.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 684, H.R. 9340.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 684, H.R. 9340, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal standard relating to the recovery of the full, incremental costs of upgrades that serve large-load customers, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5602) to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the planning and construction of any structure or monument at Memorial Circle at Columbia Island/Lady Bird Johnson Park in the District of Columbia.

A bill (S. 5603) to prohibit the demolition of Presidential memorials.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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