COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov*, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Kaitlin Makuski

2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None

   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

3. a. Dates: Departure: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 Return: Friday, October 16, 2026

   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Keswick, VA Return City: Washington, DC

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: The conference included sessions critical to my work as Director of Coalitions, including potential policy agendas for 120th Congress, conversations on the economics shaping the affordability crisis, and working groups focused on lessons learned from public-private partnerships.

7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:

   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;

   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;

   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***

   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.

8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*

   b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Kaitlin Makuski **Date:** 11/5/2026

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Speaker Mike Johnson **Date:** 11/5/2026

Signature of Supervising Member: Mike Johnson

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

■ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward
2. Travel Destination(s): Keswick, VA
3. Date of Departure: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, October 16, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Tiffany Guarascio, Chris Hixon, Kaitlin Makuski

   Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total **Transportation** Expenses	Total **Lodging** Expenses	Total **Meal** Expenses	Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	$0.00	$340.00	$375.00	$500 (waived registration fee)
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. ■ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: R. Kilburg **Date:** Friday, October 16th, 2026

Name: Riley Kilburg **Title:** Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

■ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA

Telephone: (563) 542-6821 **Email:** riley@center-forward.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Kaitlin Makuski

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Kaitlin Makuski

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler):

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Office of Speaker Mike Johnson

Office Address: H-232, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515

Telephone Number: 202-225-4000

Email Address of Contact Person: kaitlin.makuski@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: *travel.requests@mail.house.gov*.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Kaitlin Makuski

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Kewsick, Virginia

4. a. Date of Departure: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, October 16, 2026

   b. Yes ☐ No ■ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____

5. a. Yes ☐ No ■ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?

6. a. Yes ☐ No ■ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes ■ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

   As Director of Coalitions for the Speaker of the House, much of my work is helping build coalition support and communicate effectively on a broad range of policy ideas. This conference includes sessions that are critical to that work, from understanding the economic issues shaping the affordability conversation to understanding the media's impact on policymaking across a broad range of issues. Small group sessions provide the opportunity to dive deeper into the topics on the forefront of lawmakers and their constituent's minds, such as artificial intelligence and rural development, identifying opportunities to build or reinforce coalitions and engage with new partners.

9. **Yes ☐ No ■ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ **Date:** 9/11/26

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   Center Forward

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):

   Please see attachment.

5. Yes ☒ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, October 16, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Friday, October 16, 2026
   b. Destination(s): Kewsick, VA
   c. City of return: Washington, D.C.
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   See attached.
13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☒ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify: Car or mini bus.)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☒ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Keswick Hall City: Keswick, VA Cost Per Night: $250
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Ample space for meeting with necessary A/V set up near Washington D.C.
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$100.00	$500.00	$375.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	$100.00	$500.00	$375.00

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$250.00	Waived-registration-fee
For each Accompanying Family Member	$0.00	

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Riley Kilburg Date: ~~Wednesday, September 2, 2026~~ Friday, October 16th, 2026

Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA

Email: riley@center-forward.org Telephone: (563) 542-6821

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

October 9, 2026

Ms. Kaitlin Makuski
Office of the Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Makuski:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Keswick, Virginia, scheduled for October 14 to 16, 2026, sponsored by Center Forward.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:amr

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental				
First	**Last**	**Title**	**Affiliation**	**Reason**
Parish	Braden	Majority Staff Director	House Committee on Agriculture	As the Majority Staff Director for the House Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Braden can provide insights on the energy needs associated with agricultural production in rural communities.
Sonali	Desai	Executive Director	Office of the House Democratic Caucus Chairman Pete Aguilar (D-CA)	As Executive Director in the Office of Chairman Pete Aguilar, Ms. Desai can offer insight on how House leadership builds bipartisan support and navigates competiting legislative priorities across the House and Senate.
Patrick	Dumas	Majority Staff Director	House Committee on Ways and Means | Subcommittee on Health	As the Majority Staff Director for the House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, Mr. Dumas can offer expertise on the future of American health care, the emerging technologies that are impacting patient care, and efforts to make health care more affordable and sustainable.
Arthur	Ewenczyk	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on the Judiciary	As Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. Ewenczyk can speak to the legal challenges emerging from artificial intelligence, including questions surrounding intellectual property, competition, and how existing law applies to rapidly developing technologies.
Jamie	Fleet	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on House Administration	As the Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on House Administration, Mr. Fleet can discuss how congressional modernization efforts or lack thereof are impacting effective policymaking across committees.
Sajit	Gandhi	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on Foreign Affairs	As the Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gandhi can provide insight into the similarities and differences between public-private partnerships both domestically and internationally, highlighting the private industry's role in international collaboration.

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental				
First	**Last**	**Title**	**Affiliation**	**Reason**
Hope	Goins	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on Homeland Security	As the Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on Homeland Security, Ms. Goins can address how the integration of artificial intelligence in the public and private sectors will impact national security, the U.S.'s ability to combat emerging threats, and the protection of critical infrastructure.
Steve	Gonzalez	Majority Deputy Staff Director	House Committee on Veterans' Affairs	As the Majority Deputy Staff Director for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Mr. Gonzalez can speak to the unique affordability challenges facing America's veteran population, including access to health care and the ability to find stable employment.
Tiffany	Guarascio	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on Energy and Commerce	As the Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Guarascio can elaborate on how the lack of access to strong broadband disproportionately impacts rural communities.
Chris	Hixon	Majority Staff Director	House Committee on the Judiciary	As the Majority Staff Director for the House Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. Hixon can speak to what a legal framework for the federal regulation of artificial intelligence would encompass and its impact on the legal frameworks already in place.
Megan	Jackson	Majority Staff Director	House Committee on Energy and Commerce	As the Majority Staff Director for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Jackson can speak to the committee's priorities and surrounding energy, health care, and technology policy, and how it navigates the legislative priorities across chambers.

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental				
First	**Last**	**Title**	**Affiliation**	**Reason**
Kaitlin	Makuski	Deputy Director of Coalitions	Office of the Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA)	As the Deputy Director of Coalitions to Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, Ms. Makuski can provide insights on the Speaker's policy priorities and initiatives related to public-private partnerships and economic investments in the 119th Congress.
Carson	Middleton	Senior Advisor	House Committee on Rules	As Chief of Staff to the Chairwoman for the House Committee on Rules, Mr. Middleton can provide a unique perspective on how legislation moves through the House and the practical challenges of advancing bipartisan priorities.
Joel	Miller	Majority Deputy Staff Director	House Committee on Energy and Commerce	As the Majority Deputy Staff Director for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. Miller can offer insight into the regulatory questions surrounding AI and emerging technologies, particularly how policymakers can encourage innovation while developing a workable federal framework.
Veronique	Pluviose	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on Education and the Workforce	As the Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Mrs. Pluviose can discuss the unique challenges facing rural communities as they work to develop a thriving workforce for emerging industries.
Brian	Sowyrda	Minority Staff Director	House Committee on Agriculture	As the Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Sowyrda can speak to how Congress can work with agricultural stakeholders to address challenges facing rural communities and how emerging technologies can be a tool for economic growth.

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental				
First	**Last**	**Title**	**Affiliation**	**Reason**
Center Forward Fall Issues Conference is being convened to bring together pragmatic policy influencers from various industries, organizations, and the public sector. Center Forward's organizational mission is to provide centrists with the information they need to craft common-sense solutions and provide support in turning those ideas into results. Center Forward brings together Members of Congress, not-for-profits, academic experts, trade associations, corporations, and unions to find common ground. Center Forward is the sole organizer of the trip. Center Forward is planning the conference and is responsible for the organization and execution of the event logistics, as well as the programming content. Discussion topics will include: Affordability, workforce, energy, artificial intelligence, rural development, and public-private partnerships.				

2026 Center Forward Fall Issues Conference
Keswick Hall, Charlottesville, VA
Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 – Friday, October 16th, 2026

Riley Kilburg | (563) 542-6821 | riley@center-forward.org
Ryan McAlpin | (585) 857-1921 | ryan@center-forward.org
Joleena Mundy | (765) 631-9064 | joleena@center-forward.org
Flora French | (504) 655-5121 | flora@center-forward.org

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026

Recommended Attire: Casual

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm Congressional Staff Shuttle departs from Capitol South Metro Station en route to Keswick Hall via shuttle (2 hours 30 min)

Keswick Hall | 701 Club Drive, Keswick, VA 22947

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm Conference Registration – Hardie Boardroom | Keswick Hall

Note: If you arrive after registration is closed, please join us at the pavilion for a welcome reception. Conference registration will reopen at 8:00 AM on Thursday.

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Conference Welcome Reception and Opening Remarks

The Pavilion | Keswick Hall

Note: The pavilion is a short walk from the lobby.

- Ryan McAlpin, Senior Program Manager, Center Forward
- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward

The Center Forward Executive Leadership team welcomes participants to the third annual Center Forward Fall Issues Conference. Speakers will reflect on bipartisan achievements from the

119th Congress, highlighting key legislation on trade, innovation, healthcare, and more. Their remarks will underscore the importance of cross-party collaboration in advancing meaningful policy solutions and set the stage for the conversations ahead. A Q&A session will follow.

Thursday, October 15th, 2026

Conference Program
All sessions take place in the Keswick Ballroom unless otherwise specified

Recommended Attire: Business Casual

8:00 am - 9:00 am Conference Registration – Hardie Boardroom

8:00 am - 9:00 am Breakfast Buffet – Garden Room

9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome Remarks and Introduction – Keswick Ballroom

- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward

9:15 am - 10:00 am What America Is Really Thinking: A Fireside Chat with Neil Newhouse

- Neil Newhouse, Co-Founder, Public Opinion Strategies
- Jen Daulby, Advisory Board, Center Forward (Moderator)

Neil Newhouse, co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, has spent four decades studying American public opinion and is widely regarded as one of the country's most respected pollsters, earning praise from both sides of the aisle. Neil will join us for a candid conversation on what today's polling data reveals about constituent sentiment, and how that sentiment shapes both the work of Congress and the public's perception of the institution. His research spans key demographic groups, such as suburban constituents, whose priorities often signal broader public concerns, as well as shifts in how Americans consume news and media outside traditional channels, giving congressional staff a practical look at how public opinion data can inform their day-to-day work of understanding and responding to the people they serve.

10:00 am - 10:45 am The 101st Senator: A Conversation with Pete Rouse

- Pete Rouse, Former Counselor to the President, President Barack Obama
- Cindy Brown, Advisory Board, Center Forward (Moderator)

Pete Rouse spent more than three decades on Capitol Hill, including as Chief of Staff to Senate leadership and to a sitting senator, before serving as White House Chief of Staff and Counselor to the President. During his time in the West Wing, Pete played a central role in

coordinating the administration's work on some of the era's most consequential legislative efforts, including health care reform, financial regulatory reform, and the economic recovery following the 2008 financial crisis. Pete will join us to discuss the skills it takes to build a career across government and the private sector, how he approached working across the aisle to advance the priorities of the offices and administration he served, and how attendees can apply those same lessons in their own careers. As a new Congress prepares to address these policy issues and more, this conversation offers attendees a firsthand look at how the work they do now can shape a long-term career of impact and service, on and off the Hill.

10:45 am - 11:30 am Holding the Line: How the House Protects Its Priorities in a Two-Chamber Congress

- Cyrus Artz, Former Senior Policy Advisor, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)
- Chris Randle, Former Legislative Director, Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
- Libby Greer, Advisory Board of Directors, Center Forward (Moderator)

Cyrus Artz, former Senior Policy Advisor to Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), and Chris Randle, former Legislative Director to Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), will join us for a conversation on the inner workings of House leadership and the strategies used to navigate complex negotiations, both within caucus and across the aisle. Drawing on their firsthand experience in top leadership offices, including government funding and appropriations negotiations, they will discuss the distinct dynamics between the House and Senate, and what it takes for the House to hold its priorities as legislation moves to the other chamber. This conversation offers attendees a bipartisan look at how leadership staff manages competing pressures to advance their conference's priorities while keeping the broader legislative process moving forward.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lunch | A Conversation with Joelle Gamble Copeland on the Economics of Affordability

- Joelle Gamble Copeland, Chief Economist, General Motors.
- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward (Moderator)

Joelle Gamble Copeland, Chief Economist at General Motors, will join Riley Kilburg for a fireside lunch conversation on the economic forces shaping affordability issues. Drawing on her experience at the White House National Economic Council and the U.S. Department of

Labor, Joelle will discuss current and emerging trends in constituent sentiment on manufacturing, labor, and supply chain issues, offering conference attendees a clearer picture of how these economic pressures are shaping the policy work ahead for Congress.

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Small Group Dialogues

- Austin Carson, Founder & CEO, SeedAI
- Dennis Shea, Executive Vice President, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Katie Vlietstra Wonnenberg, Advisory Board, Center Forward

Following the full conference program, attendees will break into three smaller groups, each focused on a distinct policy area, for a more focused and interactive discussion. These sessions are designed to foster candid, roundtable-style dialogue among a smaller group of participants, allowing for deeper engagement on the issues shaping Congress's current agenda. Each breakout will be guided by a specific policy lens, allowing attendees to exchange perspectives and identify areas of potential bipartisan common ground.

Artificial Intelligence: *This breakout session brings attendees together to examine the legislative landscape surrounding artificial intelligence and to identify areas of bipartisan agreement across committees of jurisdiction. Discussion will center on what a workable federal framework for AI might look like, and how industries ranging from technology and healthcare to trade and education are adapting to both the opportunities and constraints the technology presents. Moderated by Austin Carson, Founder and CEO of SeedAI*

Rural Development: *This breakout session invites attendees to explore how affordability challenges are experienced differently in rural America, and to identify legislative priorities where bipartisan common ground may exist. Conversation will span a range of interconnected issues, including food security, housing, healthcare, workforce development, agriculture, and broadband access, and how they combine to shape daily life in rural communities. Moderated by Dennis Shea, Executive Vice President of the Bipartisan Policy Center.*

Public-Private Partnerships: *This breakout session gives attendees a forum to identify practical ways to strengthen coordination between the public and private sectors. Drawing on their own professional experience, participants will exchange candid observations about what has worked well, what has fallen short, and what continues to slow effective policymaking. The conversation aims to surface actionable ideas for improving how government and industry*

stakeholders work together going forward. Moderated by Katie Vlietstra Wonnenberg, Center Forward Advisory Board Member.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Policy Roundtable Discussions – Crawford's

Perspectives from House Committees on legislative progress made during the 119th Congress and opportunities for further collaboration in the 120th Congress.

3:30 pm - 6:00 pm Break

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Reception – Great Lawn

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to reflect on Thursday's programming and discuss ways to incorporate the lessons learned into their work in Washington, D.C.

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Behind the Headlines: Jessica Tarlov and David Urban Discuss Media's Impact on Policymaking

- Jessica Tarlov, Co-Host, Fox News' "The Five"
- David Urban, Managing Director, BGR Group & CNN Contributor
- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward (Moderator)

Jessica Tarlov, Co-Host of "The Five" on Fox News, and David Urban, Managing Director at BGR Group & CNN contributor, will join us for a lively keynote conversation on the evolving media landscape. Jessica brings years as a leading voice in the policy conversation across cable news, while David draws on a career that spans from Capitol Hill to advising President Trump and industry leaders. Together, they will examine how the changing media environment is reshaping the way Congress communicates, legislates, and engages with the public, offering conference attendees a candid, insider look at the intersection of media and policymaking.

8:30 pm - 8:45 pm Conference Closing Remarks

- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward

Riley Kilburg shares his key takeaways from the 2026 Fall Issues Conference and discusses the importance of continued bipartisan collaboration to promote a healthy and productive Congress.

Friday, October 16th, 2026

Recommended Attire: Casual

8:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakfast Buffet – Garden Room
10:00 am	Congressional Staff Shuttle departs from Keswick Hall en route to Capitol South Metro Station
11:00 am	Keswick Hall Checkout
12:30 pm	Shuttle arrives at Capitol South Metro Station Capitol South Metro Station | 355 First Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003