# RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

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**Post Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

**Certification:** *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

**Private Sponsor(s):**
America First Policy Institute

**Travel Dates:**
09/25/2026 to 09/27/2026

**Name of accompanying family member (if any):**

**Relationship to Traveler:**

## Expenses

| Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meals Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|---|---|---|---|
| $383.80 | $220.00 | $165.00 | $0.00 |

*I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:*

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

*Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.*

October 14, 2026
Date

ANDREW ROTHE
Printed Name of Traveler

Andrew Rothe
Signature of Traveler

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER**

*I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.*

October 14, 2026
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

# ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

**Note:** Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

## Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

○ Yes ● No

| Expense Change | Revised Amount | Explanation |
|---|---|---|
| There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses. | | |

## Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

● Yes ○ No

**Explanation:** Itinerary change – Breakout Sessions (1:00–2:30 PM). The two breakout sessions listed in the pre-travel submission were combined into a single program attended by all Senate participants, with each segment lasting approximately 45 minutes. Group A (Working with the House, White House, and Agencies): Natalie Burkholter and Renee Hudson were unable to attend and were replaced by Hannah Anderson, Senior Director, Healthy America, America First Policy Institute, and Eric Ueland, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget. AFPI had originally invited an additional speaker based on his prior White House service. That speaker was reviewed by AFPI and the Committee prior to travel under the name he commonly uses, and no lobbying registration was found. Several days before the summit, AFPI learned that he is a registered lobbyist under a different legal name. AFPI notified the Committee on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, and removed him from the program. During the Group A segment, the moderator, then an AFPI employee, invited him to join the panel. That invitation was contrary to AFPI's decision and was made without the organizers' knowledge or authorization. He did not participate in any Senate staff programming other than this panel. AFPI disclosed his participation to the Committee on September 29, 2026, has addressed the matter internally, and the moderator is no longer employed by AFPI. Group B (Maximizing the Message): Proceeded as described in the pre-travel submission with the exception of Alex Miller, who did not attend. The combined session remained educational in nature, consistent with its pre-travel description. No advocacy for specific legislation, political positions, or campaign-related matters occurred at any point in the session, including during the lobbyist's participation.

## Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ● No

**Explanation:** There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

July 6, 2026

AMERICA FIRST
SENATE WORKING GROUP

Dear Andrew Rothe,

On behalf of America First Policy Institute's Senate Working Group, we cordially invite you to the **2026 Senate Deputy Chiefs of Staff & Deputy Staff Directors, Legislative & Communications Directors Summit**. The event will be held **Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27, 2026**, at **The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia**.

As the largest gathering of Senate Deputy Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Staff Directors, Legislative Directors, and Communications Directors outside of Washington, D.C., the Summit brings together our country's leaders, policy experts, and key thinkers for an educational deep dive into the most pressing issues facing our nation.

By stepping outside the day-to-day pressures of the Capitol and into a setting built for collaboration, this Summit offers a focused environment to examine the challenges and opportunities before us—and to explore how we can ensure the American Dream remains achievable for every American.

America First Policy Institute will coordinate all logistical arrangements for the Summit, including room reservations, travel, meals, meetings, and other activities during the event.

America First Policy Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and this summit is fully compliant with Senate Ethics rules. No lobbyists will be in attendance.

To **RSVP**, please visit: https://events.americafirstpolicy.com/swg_fall_retreat_26

We understand your attendance is pending Ethics' approval. If you have any questions, concerns, or need additional information, please contact me directly at (858) 336-0293 or jkimmey@americafirstpolicy.com

Thank you for your consideration and we look forwarded to seeing you at the Greenbrier!

Sincerely,

JKimmey

James Kimmey
Director, Senate Working Group
America First Policy Institute

# RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

**Pre-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

**Name of Traveler:**
Andrew Rothe

**Employing Office/Committee:**
MORENO, BERNIE

**Private Sponsor(s):**
America First Policy Institute

**Destination(s):**
White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

**Travel Dates:**
09/25/2026 to 09/27/2026
**NOTE:** If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

## Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

The Summit provides substantive policy training and access to resources and information that are not otherwise available to me through the Senate and are directly relevant to my official responsibilities.

**Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?**
No

**Name and Relationship to Traveler:**
N/A

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

August 26, 2026
Date

Andrew Rothe
Signature of Employee

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER**
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Bernie Moreno
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Andrew Rothe
(Print Traveler's Name)

*an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.*

*I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.*

☑ (signify "yes" by checking box)

8/26/2026
Date

Bernie Moreno
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

# America First Policy Institute: 2026 Senate Deputy Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Committee Staff Directors, Legislative & Communications Directors Summit

## ANDREW ROTHE

**Title:**
None

**Employing Office/Committee:**
MORENO, BERNIE

**Duty Station:**
WASHINGTON,DC

**Destination(s):**

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

## Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

The Summit provides substantive policy training and access to resources and information that are not otherwise available to me through the Senate and are directly relevant to my official responsibilities.

**Name of accompanying family member (if any):**
Not Entered

**Name and Relationship to Traveler:**
None

## Organization Information

**Organization Name**
America First Policy Institute

**Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?**
(●) Yes ( ) No

**§501(c)(3) Organization Type**
Public Charity

**Address**
1455 Pennsylvania Ave NE

**Address 2** (Optional)
Suite 225

**City, State Zip**
Washington, District Of Columbia 20004 United States

**Phone Number**
8583360293

**Organization URL**

## History of Congressional Travel

The America First Policy Institute (AFPI) has direct experience sponsoring educational travel for congressional staff in compliance with Senate ethics rules. Most recently, in spring 2026, AFPI sponsored an educational program in Palm Beach, Florida for Senate Chiefs of Staff and Committee Staff Directors, featuring policy briefings with subject-matter experts on issues before the Senate. The trip was conducted pursuant to Senate Ethics Committee requirements, including advance approval, detailed itineraries, and full transparency regarding expenses. AFPI's experience also includes programs historically conducted by the Senate Working Group (SWG), founded in 2021 and later acquired and integrated into AFPI. SWG organized multiple domestic educational programs for Senate Chiefs of Staff, Committee Staff Directors, and other senior staff, focused on policy education, expert briefings, and site-based learning, all conducted in full compliance with Senate Ethics Committee requirements.

## Educational Activities

The America First Policy Institute conducts public policy and civics education, including policy research and analysis, educational briefings, seminars, and publications designed to inform policymakers, congressional staff, and the public on a range of public policy issues. AFPI regularly produces policy papers, reports, and issue analyses across a variety of subject areas, and hosts educational forums designed to provide nonpartisan, substantive information on policy challenges and proposed solutions. The Institute also convenes subject-matter experts, former government officials, and industry leaders to engage in educational discussions and briefings intended to inform policymaking and public understanding.

## Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

**Lobbyist Registration Status:** *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

**Foreign Agent Registration Status:** *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

## Foreign Government Involvement

**Foreign Agent Registration Status:**

- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

**Comments**

## Signature Page

The signature page is below.

## Purpose and Details

**Provide a brief description of the trip.**

The 2026 Senate Deputy Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Staff Directors, Legislative & Communications Directors Summit is a domestic educational program designed for senior Senate staff. The Summit will consist of structured briefings, panel discussions, and educational sessions focused on public policy topics and emerging policy challenges.

**Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.**

The America First Policy Institute's mission includes public policy and civics education through research, analysis, and educational convenings. This Summit directly advances that mission by providing educational programming, expert briefings, and structured discussions focused on public policy issues and challenges. The program is designed to inform understanding of policy matters relevant to federal governance and public service through nonpartisan educational engagement.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

## Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

## With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

**Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations**

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

**Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.**

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

## Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

## Invitees

- Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will not** receive invitations.

**The list of invitees is below.**

## Travel Details

**Trip Start Date/Time:**
09/25/2026 @ 04:00 PM

**Trip End Date/Time:**
09/27/2026 @ 11:00 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

## Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

## Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $383.80 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

| Transportation Type | Class | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Ground Transportation | N/A | $383.80 |

**Note**
Mileage reimbursement in accordance with IRS rates. 505 roundtrip miles.

## Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $220.00 )

| Check-In | Check-Out | Facility | City | State | Country | Nights | Cost/Night | Cost Exceed Per Diem |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/25/2026 | 09/27/2026 | Greenbrier Resort | White Sulphur Springs | West Virginia | United States | 2 | $110.00 | No |

## Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $165.00 )

| Date | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner | Incidentals | Total | City | State | Country | Cost Exceeds Per Diem |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/25/2026 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $51.00 | $0.00 | **$51.00** | White Sulphur Springs | West Virginia | United States | No |
| 09/26/2026 | $16.00 | $19.00 | $28.00 | $0.00 | **$63.00** | White Sulphur Springs | West Virginia | United States | No |
| 09/27/2026 | $51.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | **$51.00** | White Sulphur Springs | West Virginia | United States | No |

## Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00 )

| Expense Type | Amount | Notes |
|---|---|---|

There are no miscellaneous expenses.

## Additional Attachments

**Document Name**

There are no additional attachments.

**PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL**

**SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE**

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: 2026 Deputy Chief, Deputy Staff Director, Legislative & Communications Director Summit

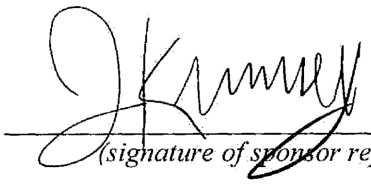
Travel Date(s): September 25 - 27, 2026

Travel Destination(s): The Greenbrier Resort - White Sulphur Springs, WV

Sponsor: America First Policy Institute

James Kimmey — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Director, Senate Working Group — *(title)*



*(signature of sponsor representative)*

08/18/2026 — *(date)*

AMERICA FIRST SENATE WORKING GROUP

# 2026 Senate Deputy Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Committee Staff Director, Legislative & Communications Directors Summit

## Senate Invitees

**Adam Webb**
Communications Director, Sen. Thom Tillis (NC)

**Adam Wek**
Legislative Director, Sen. John Thune (SD)

**Alexandra Slocum**
Legislative Director, Sen. Alan Armstrong (OK)

**Alison Whitaker**
Legislative Director, Sen. Joni Ernst (IA)

**Alyssa Burleson**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Tim Sheehy (MT)

**Amanda Coyne**
Communications Director, Sen. Dan Sullivan (AK)

**Amanda Critchfield**
Communications Director, Finance

**Amber Bland**
Legislative Director, Sen. John Barrasso (WY)

**Andrew Rothe**
Legislative Director, Sen. Bernie Moreno (OH)

**Angela Lingg**
Communications Director, Sen. Jerry Moran (KS)

**Angela Ramponi**
Legislative Director, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (AK)

**Annie Clark**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Susan Collins (ME)

**Arden Koenecke**
Communications Director, Sen. Mike Rounds (SD)

**Audrey Cook**
Communications Director, Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN)

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Communications Director, Sen. Mike Lee (UT)

**Blair Taylor**
Communications Director, Commerce, Science, & Transportation

**Brad Patout**
Deputy Staff Director, Armed Services

**Brendon Gallo**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Tim Scott (SC)

**Brent Scott**
Communications Director, Environment & Public Works

**Brooke Starr**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Alan Armstrong (OK)

**Caitlin Affolter**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Steve Daines (MT)

**Caitlin Miller**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Ted Budd (NC)

**Cami Morrison**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. John Barrasso (WY)

**Charles Adams**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Jim Risch (ID)

**Charles Sedore**
Legislative Director, Sen. Ashley Moody (FL)

**Chris Gallegos**
Communications Director, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)

**Chris Lucas**
Deputy Staff Director, Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs

**Chris Prandoni**
Deputy Staff Director, Energy & Natural Resources

**Christian McMullen**
Communications Director, Sen. Ted Budd (NC)

**Christina Salazar**
Deputy Staff Director, Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs

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Communications Director, Sen. Chuck Grassley (IA)

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Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Josh Hawley (MO)

**Corey Weber**
Deputy Staff Director, Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry

**Courtney Rutland**
Legislative Director, Sen. Ron Johnson (WI)

**Craig Abele**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Darline Graham (SC)

**Craig Berning**
Legislative Director, Sen. Deb Fischer (NE)

**Craig Wheeler**
Communications Director, Sen. Deb Fischer (NE)

**Dan Gerig**
Legislative Director, Sen. Steve Daines (MT)

**Dan Hillenbrand**
Legislative Director, Sen. Roger Wicker (MS)

**Daniel Auger**
Legislative Director, Sen. John Hoeven (ND)

**Daniel Ulmer**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)

**Daniel Yarbrough**
Legislative Director, Sen. Pete Ricketts (NE)

**Danielle Janowski**
Deputy Staff Director, Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions

**Dave Vasquez**
Communications Director, Armed Services

**David Adkins**
Policy Director, Majority Leader

**Dilan Maxfield**
Communications Director, Sen. John Curtis (UT)

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Deputy Staff Director, Budget

**Erik Elam**
Legislative Director, Sen. Dan Sullivan (AK)

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Deputy Staff Director, Finance

**Gabrielle Lipsky**
Communications Director, Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs

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**Jake Bornstein**
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Policy Director, Aging

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Communications Director, Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions

**Joel Wellum**
Policy Director, Commerce, Science, & Transportation

**Joey Brown**
Staff Director, Senate Republican Communications Center

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Deputy Staff Director, Majority Whip

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Policy Director, Conference Chair

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**Jordan Roberts**
Communications Director, Energy & Natural Resources

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**Justin Anthony**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Mike Lee (UT)

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**Kami Capener**
Communications Director, Sen. John Hoeven (ND)

**Kate Noyes**
Communications Director, Majority Whip

**Kate Williams**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (AK)

**Kathleen Gayle**
Policy Director, Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs

**Kathryn Cromack**
Legislative Director, Sen. Jim Justice (WV)

**Katie Warbinton**
Communications Director, Sen. Cynthia Lummis (WY)

**Katie Weissert**
Legislative Director, Sen. Rick Scott (FL)

**Katy Montgomery**
Communications Director, Sen. Dave McCormick (PA)

**Kelley Moore**
Communications Director, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

**Kendall Moore**
Legislative Director, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)

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**Kristin Sapperstein**

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Deputy Staff Director, Appropriations

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**Nic Pottebaum**
Legislative Director, Sen. Chuck Grassley (IA)

**Nichole Kotschwar**
Deputy Staff Director, Rules & Administration

**Nick Petromelis**
Communications Director, Sen. John Kennedy (LA)

**Nicole Christus**
Deputy Staff Director, Commerce, Science, & Transportation

**Palmer Brigham**
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**Parker Reynold**
Legislative Director, Sen. Bill Cassidy (LA)

**Patrick Lehman**
Policy Director, Policy Chair

**Payton Fuller**
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**Penne Barton**
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**Peyton Roth**
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**Phoebe Keller**
Communications Director, Appropriations

**Preston Howey**
Legislative Director, Sen. Ted Cruz (TX)

**Rachel Dumke**
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**Rita Lari**
Deputy Staff Director, Judiciary

**Rob Macgregor**
Policy Director, Energy & Natural Resources

**Robert Borden**
Legislative Director, Sen. Mike Lee (UT)

**Robert Donachie**
Communications Director, Sen. Bill Hagerty (TN)

**Robyn Engibous**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Dan Sullivan (AK)

**Rosie Heiss**
Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director, Sen. John Boozman (AR)

**Ryan Cannon**
Commerce Committee Coalitions and Member Services Advisor

**Ryan Wrasse**
Communications Director, Sen. John Thune (SD)

**Samantha Gonzalez**
Deputy Staff Director, Veterans' Affairs

**Samantha Scoca**
Deputy Staff Director, Small Business & Entrepreneurship

**Sara Lasure**
Communications Director, Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry

**Sarah Drake**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Roger Wicker (MS)

**Sarah Seitz**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. James Lankford (OK)

**Sarah Young**
Communications Director, Sen. Bill Cassidy (LA)

AMERICA FIRST
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**Skylar Sowder**
Policy Director, Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry

**Stephanie Penn**
Communications Director, Sen. Mitch McConnell (KY)

**Stephen Newton**
Legislative Director, Sen. Katie Britt (AL)

**Stephen Simonetti**
Legislative Director, Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN)

**Stephen Tausend**
Legislative Director, Sen. John Cornyn (TX)

**Suzanne Wrasse**
Deputy Staff Director & Communications Director, Foreign Relations

**Tate Mitchell**
Communications Director, Sen. Tim Sheehy (MT)

**Tatum Wallace**
Communications Director, Sen. Tom Cotton (AR)

**Taylor Reidy**
Communications Director, Sen. Darline Graham (SC)

**Taylor Reidy**
Communications Director, Budget

**Thomas Power**
Deputy Staff Director, Aging

**Tiffany Delgado**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Bill Hagerty (TN)

**Tim Corley**
Policy Director, Majority Whip

**Tyler Hardy**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. John Hoeven (ND)

**Victoria Garrastacho**
Chief Investigative Counsel, Sen. Rick Scott (FL)

**Vijay Menon**
Legislative Director, Sen. Josh Hawley (MO)

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**Wesley Davis**
Legislative Director, Sen. John Kennedy (LA)

**Whitney Ray**
Deputy Chief of Staff, Sen. Ashley Moody (FL)

**William O'Grady**
Communications Director, Sen. Ashley Moody (FL)

AMERICA FIRST
SENATE WORKING GROUP

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

*Revitalizing the American Dream*

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

### EVENT REGISTRATION/ HOTEL CHECK-IN

**4:00 PM – 5:30 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

This period is reserved for participant arrival and administrative check-in. No programming or substantive discussion will occur during this time.

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### WELCOME RECEPTION

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

The welcome reception provides an informal opportunity for attendees to engage in professional networking and collegial interaction. No structured programming, policy discussions, or official business will be conducted during this time.

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### WELCOME DINNER

**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

James Kimmey, Director, Senate Working Group
Matthew Henderson, Chief Government Affairs Officer, AFPI
Martin Gillespie, Executive Director, AFPI
Greg Sindelar, President, AFPI

This welcome session offers an introduction to the history, mission, and institutional structure of the America First Policy Institute, presented by AFPI's senior leadership. Drawing on the experience of AFPI's Director of the Senate Working Group, Chief Government Affairs Officer, Executive Director, and President, the discussion will address the organization's founding, its policy research work, and its engagement with congressional offices. The session is intended to enhance institutional understanding among attendees and does not involve political messaging, campaign strategy, or advocacy on behalf of any candidate, party, or legislative initiative.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

### GRAB-AND-GO BREAKFAST

**7:00 AM – 9:00 AM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

Senate participants are required to attend one of these sessions

**Group A: Effective Communicating In An Ever Changing Environment**
David Popp, Senior Advisor, Senator McConnell*
Will O'Grady, Communications Director, Senator Moody
Hogan Gidley (Moderator), Former White House Deputy Press Secretary & AFPI Senior Advisor

This session provides an educational discussion of communications operations within the United States Senate, examining how congressional offices and committees structure and manage public communications in a rapidly evolving media environment. Drawing on the professional experience of senior communications staff, the discussion will address organizational approaches to media relations, digital and traditional communications tools, and internal coordination between offices and committees when responding to a fast-paced news cycle. The session is intended to enhance institutional understanding of communications operations and does not involve political messaging, campaign strategy, or advocacy on behalf of any candidate, party, or legislative initiative.

**Group B: The America First Agenda**
Josh Grant, Legislative Director, Senator Tim Scott
Laura Atcheson, Legislative Director, Senator McCormick

Katie Wiesert, Legislative Director, Senator Rick Scott
Matthew Henderson (Moderator), Chief Government Affairs Officer, America First Policy Institute

This session provides an educational discussion of policy priorities associated with the America First agenda as it may develop in the next Congress, drawing on the professional experience of senior legislative staff from across the Senate. The discussion will address how congressional offices are approaching anticipated legislative priorities, the process for advancing policy proposals in a new Congress, and institutional considerations relevant to legislative planning and staff coordination. The session is informational in nature and is intended to enhance understanding of the legislative landscape heading into the next Congress. It does not involve advocacy for specific legislation, political positions, or campaign-related discussion.

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BREAK
**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

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LUNCH SESSION
**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

**Public Opinion Research: Methodology and Interpretation**
John Rogers, Executive Director, America First Works

This session provides an educational examination of national public opinion on key issues affecting Americans. The discussion will focus on how major issues are perceived across the country, how public sentiment has evolved over time, and emerging trends reflected in national polling data. The session will address polling methodology and interpretation at a high level and is intended to enhance understanding of issue-based public sentiment. The discussion will not include elections, campaigns, political messaging, or advocacy.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

Senate participants are required to attend one of these sessions

**Group A: *Working with the House, White House, and Agencies***
*Natalie Burkholter, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Department of Homeland Security**
*Renee Hudson, Executive Vice President, America First Policy Institute*
*Matthew Henderson (Moderator), Chief Government Affairs Officer, America First Policy Institute*

This session provides an educational discussion of interbranch and interagency coordination, drawing on the professional experience of former senior White House and federal agency officials. The discussion will address how Senate offices engage with the House of Representatives, the White House, and executive branch agencies to advance policy development, oversight, and effective governance. Speakers will share institutional perspectives on communication channels, organizational structures, and practical approaches to coordination across the legislative and executive branches. The session is educational in nature and is intended to strengthen institutional understanding of how the branches of government work together. It does not involve advocacy for specific legislation, political positions, or campaign-related discussion.

**Group B: *Maximizing the Message***
*Alex Swoyer, Editor, Newsmax / Washington Times*
*Bradley Jaye, Breitbart*
*Alex Miller, Fox News Senate Reporter**

This session provides an educational discussion of the media environment covering the United States Senate, featuring perspectives from journalists and editors across print, digital, and broadcast outlets. Drawing on their professional experience covering Congress, panelists will discuss how congressional news is reported, the practical realities of engaging with the press corps, and considerations for clear and effective public communication. The session is informational in nature and is intended to enhance understanding of the media landscape and press relations. It does not involve political messaging, campaign strategy, or advocacy on behalf of any candidate, party, or media outlet.

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BREAK
**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

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AFTERNOON SESSION
**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

**De/Regulation: Reconciliations, Reauthorizations, Oversight, Fraud, and More**
Hon. Eric Ueland, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget*
*Hon. Mike Faulkender, former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury & Co-Chair of American Prosperity at AFPI*
*Stephen Moore, former Senior Economic Advisor to President Trump & Co-Chair of the Save America Coalition at AFPI*
*Hon. Chad Wolf, former Acting Secretary of Homeland Security & Chair of Homeland Security and Immigration Policy at AFPI*

This session provides an educational discussion of federal regulatory and budget processes, including reconciliation, program reauthorizations, oversight, and efforts to combat waste, fraud, and abuse. Drawing on the professional experience of current and former federal officials, the discussion will address how executive branch agencies and the Office of Management and Budget approach regulatory and budgetary decision-making, and how these processes intersect with congressional oversight responsibilities. The session is informational in nature and is intended to enhance institutional understanding of federal regulatory and budget processes. It does not involve advocacy for specific legislation, political positions, or campaign-related discussion.

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**BREAK**
**4:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

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**DINNER SESSION**
**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

**Safeguarding America: Insights on National Security Challenges**
General Keith Kellogg, AFPI *Co-Chair of the Center for American Security*
Hon. Chad Wolf, former Acting Secretary of Homeland Security & *AFPI Chair of the Center for Homeland Security & Immigration*
Hon. Robert Wilke, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs & AFPI Chair for American Security
(Moderator) Jacob Olidort, Ph.D., *AFPI Chief Research Officer & Director of American Security*

This engaging panel offers an educational exploration of domestic and international security issues, drawing on the expertise of seasoned professionals in the field. Participants will gain perspectives on current threats, historical contexts, and strategic considerations from Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, General Keith Kellogg and former Acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf, moderated by Dr. Jacob Olidort. The session is informational in nature, focusing on enhancing understanding without involving policy advocacy, legislative strategy, or political messaging.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

**BREAKFAST SEND OFF SESSION**
**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
*The Greenbrier Resort*

**Enforcing the Rule of Law: Insights into Federal Litigation and Regulatory Frameworks**
*Harmeet Dillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice

This session offers an educational overview of federal litigation and regulatory enforcement, featuring perspectives from Harmeet Dillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. Drawing on professional experiences, the discussion will explore the structure of enforcement actions, roles of federal agencies and the DOJ, and key considerations in civil and regulatory processes. It is designed to foster institutional understanding in an informational capacity, without engaging in advocacy, specific case involvement, or coordination on ongoing matters.

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**SUMMIT CONCLUDES**
**11:00 AM**

**Invited, not confirmed*