

# Issues That Were Not Resolved This Year May Arise Again in 2023 and Affect Americans' Budgets

Lawmakers from Washington are hurrying to solve various issues before the calendar year and the lame-duck session of Congress finish. Certain changes and updates made in 2022 could impact the personal finances of Americans next year and force them to look for a [money loan app by payday](#) as the additional option to finance their lives. Other proposed changes and initiatives haven't been made yet.



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It can also influence personal and household budgets until Congress gets the chance to review them again. Keep on reading to learn about some issues that weren't resolved in 2022 and

how Americans can protect their money.

## What Is a Lame Duck Session?

What is a [lame duck session](#) of Congress? It is a session scheduled after an election but before the newly elected members take office. Speaking of partisan views on such types of sessions, 23% of democrats, 25% of independents, and 40% of republicans consider them a good idea as the members can address problems that they didn't have time for before the election.

Source:

<https://today.yougov.com/topics/politics/articles-reports/2018/12/13/lame-duck-legislative-sessions-arent-popular>

The majority of partisan views were against these sessions as members should cast votes on significant bills before facing the voters, not wait until after an election for this purpose. The meeting of both or just one chamber of Congress happens after a November election. The "lame duck" name of this session applies to any outgoing politician serving his final months in office and lawmakers who are about to retire or didn't win the new elections.

This expression is now widespread in American politics, but it originates from the 18th century when stockbrokers who didn't make a profit on their debts were called lame ducks. This phrase comes from Great Britain.

Later, this phrase applied to outgoing politicians at the beginning of the 19th century. Then, in 1926, this phrase was first used to apply to a U.S. president.

## What Do Politicians Do During These

# Sessions?

What usually happens during these sessions? They are meant to negotiate urgent, specific problems or resolve other unfinished issues from a regular session. Politicians can discuss a vast number of questions and proposals during such sessions, including major trade deals and war-connected matters.

Recently, post-election sessions and meetings were concentrated on discussing government budget changes. Congress had issues trying to pass its spending bill in 2018 during the lame duck session as President Trump asked for \$5 billion to finance a border wall.

This year, a new period of divided government came to the USA. Democrats are hurrying to complete a long list of chores that comprises landmark civil liberties legislation, a bill to prevent another January 6, and a routine but necessary spending package.

There are just a few days left before the power changes in Congress, and the control of Democrats will finish in Washington. Despite numerous efforts by policymakers, many policy updates to address the daily needs of low-income households were left out. Here is how problems that weren't resolved in 2022 may arise again in 2023.

## Child Tax Credit Enhancement

Millions of households obtained their last monthly child tax credit checks last December. The child tax credit was more reasonable to help American parents deal with the effects of the global pandemic in 2021. Advance monthly payments were also included there. The maximum child tax credit amounts raised up to \$3,000 per child aged 6 to 17 and \$3,600 per child under the age of 6.

Finally, households with low or no income could also apply for this tax credit. It lowered child poverty rates. Some politicians insisted on including the child tax credit in the new tax laws. Other lawmakers prefer adding more child tax credit regulations, including work demands. So, this new policy could become less generous compared with the 2021 version.

## **Social Security Program Financing**

Extra financing is provided for the Social Security Administration through the current budget. But it isn't enough to fund everything. The deal comprises a \$785 million, or 6% boost, over the agency's 2022 financing level.

President Joe Biden requested a \$1.4 billion increase. Senate and House committees also added more financing for the agency. This extra funding may be helpful to lower the backlog of the Social Security Administration.

However, beneficiaries and applicants need to wait for the benefits they have earned for another year. The revisit of the Social Security funding won't happen until next autumn.

## **Supplemental Security Income Changes**

SSI, or Supplemental Security Income, is a federal program that offers benefits to the disabled, elderly, and blind. However, many rules of this program haven't been changed or reviewed for years.

The proposal of two senators to raise the asset limits for beneficiaries to \$20,000 for couples and \$10,000 for individuals didn't make the cut, although many advocates hoped for that. Nowadays, the asset limits of this program are \$2,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples. It places

certain limitations on the sum of savings people can have.

## **A Boost for Emergency Savings**

Proposals for emergency savings were added to the agenda as well. Employers will be able to enroll their workers automatically in different accounts. Employees can save up to \$2,500 for their short-term goals using these accounts as well as retirement funds.

A new provision for emergency savings will allow participants to take out \$1,000 annually for urgent monetary needs without paying fees or penalties. There will be certain restrictions, but not many.

Retirement accounts will be separated from emergency funds. This new provision will assist about 50 million employees who aren't offered retirement plans at work to put their emergency savings.

## **The Bottom Line**

Politicians come back to Washington after the Thanksgiving holiday with a long agenda. It is only a few weeks until a new Congress starts. Republicans will be in charge starting from January 3.

The two-year period of Democratic management will end. Apart from partisan preparation, Congress must conduct the lame duck session between the elections and the end of this term. Certain topics are necessary to discuss, including military spending bills and government financing.

Some unfinished issues that weren't resolved in 2022 can arise again next year and affect American households. These topics include child tax credit improvement, Supplemental Security Income updates, Social Security program financing, and a boost for emergency savings.