

As An Unprecedented Debt Default Looms, Republicans Continue To Downplay The Deadline Admitting They Are Willing To Hold The Economy "Hostage" To Get Their Way

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Has Warned The U.S. Is Expected To Breach Its Debt Limit As Early As June 1, 2023, As Senior Department Officials Have Asked Other Federal Agencies "Whether They Can Make Upcoming Payments At A Later Date."

As Of May 2023, The U.S. Is Expected To Breach Its Debt Limit By June 1, 2023.

May 2023: In An Interview With "Meet The Press," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Reaffirmed The U.S. Is Expected To Breach Its Debt Limit And Risk Default If It Does Not Raise The Limit By June 1, 2023. "Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen reaffirmed June 1 as the 'hard deadline' for the US to raise the debt ceiling or risk defaulting on its obligations. 'I indicated in my last letter to Congress that we expect to be unable to pay all of our bills in early June and possibly as soon as June 1. And I will continue to update Congress, but I certainly haven't changed my assessment. So I think that that's a hard deadline,' Yellen said during an interview on NBC's 'Meet the Press.'" [CNN, [05/21/23](#)]

In May 2023, Senior Officials At The Treasury Department Told Federal Agencies To Keep The Department "Closely Appraised Of Their Spending," And "Asked Federal Agencies Whether They Can Make Upcoming Payments At A Later Date."

May 2023: The U.S. Treasury "Asked Federal Agencies Whether They Can Make Upcoming Payments At A Later Date." "The Treasury Department has asked federal agencies whether they can make upcoming payments at a later date, two people familiar with the matter said, as senior Biden officials search for fresh ways to conserve cash and prevent the U.S. government from facing an unprecedented default." [The Washington Post, [05/23/23](#)]

A Memo Obtained By The Washington Post Showed Senior Officials At The Treasury "Sent A Memo To Federal Agencies Instructing Them To Take Additional Steps To Keep The Treasury Department Closely Appraised Of Their Spending." "The planning has become increasingly urgent in recent days. Last week, senior Treasury staff sent a memo to federal agencies instructing them to take additional steps to keep the Treasury Department closely apprised of their spending. In the memo — which was obtained by The Washington Post and has not been previously reported — David A. Lebryk, fiscal assistant secretary for Treasury, ordered agency officials to notify Treasury at least two days in advance of all 'deposits and disbursements' between \$50 million and \$500 million. Payments above \$500 million require five days notice, the memo said." [The Washington Post, [05/23/23](#)]

House Republicans Have Continued To Downplay The Seriousness Of The Approaching Default Deadline, Questioning "Why We Accept" The June Default Date And Stating They "Don't Believe That The First Of The Month Is A Real Deadline."

In May 2023, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Said He Would Not Raise Taxes Or Put A Clean Debt Ceiling On The Floor, Adding Work Requirements For Social Safety Net Programs Was A "Red Line."

May 2023: House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Said He Would Not Consider Raising Taxes Or Passing A Clean Debt Ceiling As Part Of Negotiations With President Biden. "There's only a couple things I will not do, Mr. President, I will not raise taxes [...] I will not put a clean debt ceiling on the floor. Why? Because we have spent more than we ever spent before and we have the highest debt we have ever had before." [C SPAN, [05/24/23](#), 07:56]

May 2023: Speaker McCarthy Said That "Work Requirements For Public Assistance Programs Are A Nonnegotiable In Debt Ceiling Talks," Calling It A "Red Line." "Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on Tuesday said work requirements for public assistance programs are a nonnegotiable in debt ceiling talks, laying out one of his first hard stances ahead of an afternoon meeting with President Biden and other top congressional leaders. [...] Asked whether work requirements were a 'red line' for him in debt ceiling negotiations, McCarthy said: 'Yes, it is.'" [The Hill, [05/16/23](#)]

In May 2023, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) Told Reporters He Would "Like To See More Transparency" About How Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Came To An X Date Of June 1, 2023.

May 2023: House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) Told Reporters That He Would "Like To See More Transparency On How [Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen] Came To That Date." "We'd like to see more transparency on how they came to that date,' House Majority Leader Steve Scalise told reporters after a closed meeting on Tuesday. 'It looks like they're hedging now and opening the door to move that date back.'" [Bloomberg, [05/23/23](#)]

In May 2023, Freedom Caucus Chairman Scott Perry (R-PA) Said He Wasn't Sure "Why We Accept" The June Default Date, Adding "We Haven't Seen [Janet Yellen's] Work."

May 2023: House Freedom Caucus Chairman Scott Perry (R-PA) Said He Doesn't Know "Why We Accept" The Default Date When "We Haven't Seen [Janet Yellen's] Work." "I don't know why we accept that,' House Freedom Caucus Chairman Scott Perry (R-Pa.) said of the date. 'We haven't seen her work. We haven't seen any figures.' He mentioned quarterly tax revenues are coming in June and said, 'There's absolutely no reason to do this, and we all know it.'" [The Hill, [05/23/23](#)]

In May 2023, Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) Told Reporters: "I Want To Trust The Treasury's Math," Adding A Lack Of Urgency From The President "Raises More Questions" "About How They Justify The Date."

May 2023: Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) Told The Hill, "I Want To Trust The Treasury's Math," But Added If The President "Doesn't Have A Sense Of Urgency," This Raises More Questions "About How They Justify The Date." "I want to trust the Treasury's math, but they're going to have to show their work," McHenry told The Hill. 'And if the White House team doesn't have a sense of urgency, if the President doesn't have a sense of urgency here, then that raises more questions — valid questions — about how they justify the date.'" [The Hill, [05/23/23](#)]

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) Told CNN News "I Don't Believe That The First Of The Month Is A Real Deadline," Adding He Wondered "Why We're Not Making Janet Yellen Show Her Work."

May 2023: Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) Told CNN News, "I Don't Believe That The First Of The Month Is A Real Deadline" And Wondered "Why We're Not Making Janet Yellen Show Her Work." "GAETZ: "I don't believe that the first of the month is a real deadline. I don't understand why we're not making Janet Yellen show her work." [CNN via Grabien, [05/23/23](#)]

Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) Told Reporters In May 2023: "I Do Think Yellen Will Say" "We Do Have Money Coming In," Adding That "Everybody Knows" The June 1 Deadline Is "False."

May 2023: Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) Told Reporters: "I Do Think Yellen Will Say That" "We Do Have Money Coming In." "For this president just to sit back and act like nothing's happening, this isn't something he can do. I do think Yellen will say that, you know, we do have money coming in," Norman told reporters on Tuesday." [Yahoo! News, [05/23/23](#)]

- **Norman Added: "She Will Extend It But Right Now She's Using June 1. Everybody Knows That's False."** "She will extend it, but right now she's using June 1. Everybody knows that's false." [Yahoo! News, [05/23/23](#)]

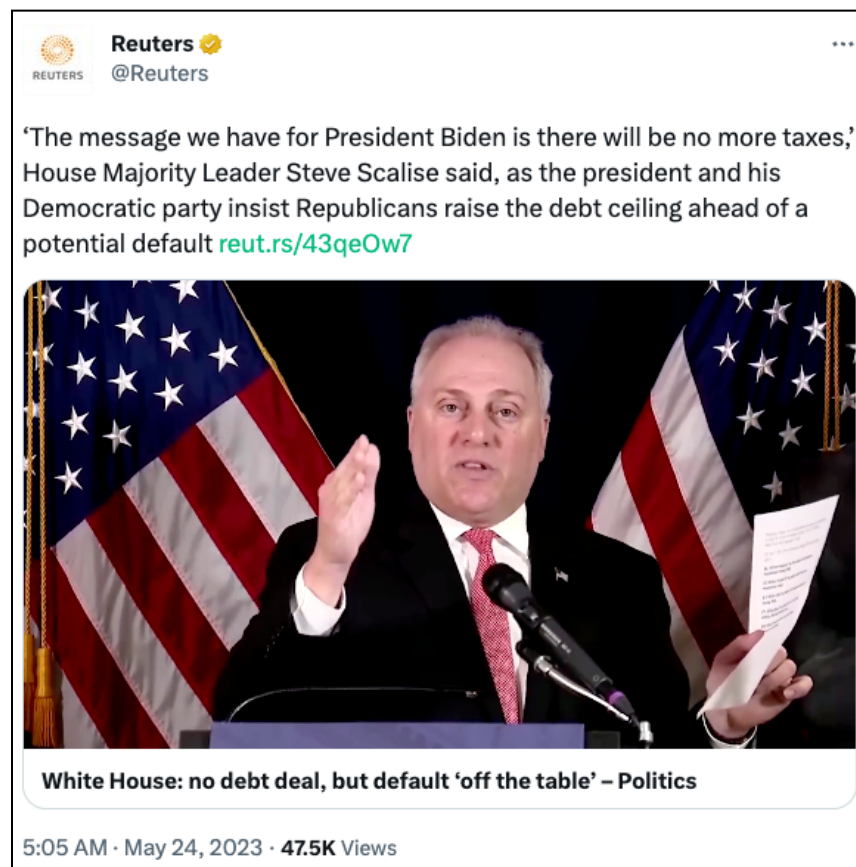
During Debt Ceiling Negotiations, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Said "I Think Everybody Needs To Relax."

May 2023: Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Downplayed The Current Situation, Saying "I Think Everybody Needs To Relax." "Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY.) called for calm, saying, 'I think everybody needs to relax' and reiterating his belief that the country won't default. He said the current situation is 'not that unusual' and is 'almost entirely required when you have divided government.'" [The Hill, [05/23/23](#)]

House Republicans Threatened Negotiations Claiming They Would Not Accept Anything Short Of Their Full Limit, Save, Grow Act, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) Admitted He Doesn't Think Republicans Should Negotiate With "Our Hostage."

In A Statement Directed At President Biden, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise Said There Would Be "No More Taxes" In Any Resolution To Debt Ceiling Negotiations, Only Cuts To Spending.

May 2023: House Majority Leader Steve Scalise Said In A Press Conference That He Refuses To Include "More Taxes" In Any Resolution To Debt Ceiling Negotiations. "The message we have for President Biden is there will be no more taxes, it's the spending in Washington that is the problem and it's the spending in Washington that we have to address to solve this situation we're in with the debt ceiling":



[Twitter, [05/24/23](#), 00:33]

Reps. Patrick McHenry And Garret Graves (R-LA) Emphasized Republicans Would Only Be Offering A Raised Debt Ceiling To Democrats In Negotiations, Graves Saying “That’s What They’re Getting.”

May 2023: Rep. Patrick McHenry Told Reporters Republicans Were Only Offering “The Debt Ceiling” In Exchange For Democratic Votes, And Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) Emphasized “That’s What They’re Getting.” “Asked Tuesday evening what Republicans were offering to get Democratic votes, Rep. Patrick T. McHenry (R-N.C.) gave a brief answer: ‘The debt ceiling. ‘That’s what they’re getting,’ added Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.)” [Washington Post, [05/24/23](#)]

Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK) Reductively Likened Debt Ceiling Negotiations To “Buying A Business Or Negotiating A Contract,” In Which He Wouldn’t “Change My Terms, Until The Other Side Acted.”

May 2023: Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK), The Chair Of The Conservative Republican Study Committee, Likened The Debt Ceiling Negotiations To “Buying A Business Or Negotiating On A Contract,” Saying He Wouldn’t “Go Change My Terms, Until The Other Side Acted.” “When I put something forward, if I was buying a business or negotiating on a contract, I put it forward and I expected the person that was on the other end to put something back to me,’ said Rep. Kevin Hern (Mo.), the chair of the Republican Study Committee, a conservative group. ‘I didn’t go change my price. I didn’t go change my terms, until the other side acted.” [The Washington Post, [05/24/23](#)]

- Rep. Kevin Hern Represents Oklahoma’s First District. [Rep. Kevin Hern, accessed [05/24/23](#)]

Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) Told Reporters He Would Not Accept Anything Short Of The Full Limit, Save, Grow Act, Insisting Speaker McCarthy Not Negotiate Unless President Biden Accepted It Too.

May 2023: Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) Told Reporters He Would Not Accept Anything Other Than The Republicans Default Bill Suggesting Speaker McCarthy Not Negotiate With President Biden Unless He Accepted It As Is. “We’re not going to accept anything other than what we have put. I would suggest that McCarthy not meet until [President Biden] puts something in writing, his words have no meaning. Put it in writing and if it is anything less we’re not going to accept it”:

 **Manu Raju**
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Freedom Caucus members warn on debt talks
Anything less than House bill, "we're not going to accept," Ralph Norman says.

On compromising with WH: "Why would we? We have a winning hand,"
Bob Good says. "The Senate needs to pass the House's bill."

Any deal would need D votes



6:04 PM · May 18, 2023 · 470.9K Views

[Twitter, [05/18/23](#), 00:04]

The House Freedom Caucus Called For “No Further Discussion” On Legislation To Raise The Debt Ceiling Until The Senate Passes The House Republicans’ Approved Bill Last Month.

May 2023: The House Freedom Caucus Called For “No Further Discussion” On Legislation To Raise The Debt Ceiling Until The Senate Passes The House Republicans’ Approved Bill Last Month. “The House Freedom Caucus is calling for ‘no further discussion’ on legislation to raise the debt ceiling until the Senate passes the bill House Republicans approved last month that would pair an increase in the borrowing limit with steep spending cuts.” [The Hill, [05/18/23](#)]

In May 2023, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) Admitted He Doesn’t Think He And His Conservative Colleagues Should Negotiate With “Our Hostage,” Referring To The Economy And Debt Limit.

May 2023: Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) Called The Economy And Debt Limit “Our Hostage,” Saying He Doesn’t Think He And His Conservative Colleagues Should Negotiate. “I think my conservative colleagues for the most part support Limit, Save, Grow, and they don’t feel like we should negotiate with our hostage”:



[Twitter, [05/23/23](#), 00:14]

In May 2023, Republican Lawmakers Said "They Want Border Policies In The Mix" In Order To Raise The Debt Ceiling, With Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) Stating It "'Is Now A Central Part Of Any'" Debt Debate.

May 2023: Republican Lawmakers Said "They Want Border Policies In The Mix" To Raise The Debt Ceiling. "Key GOP lawmakers are signaling they want border policies in the mix as congressional leadership and the White House try to negotiate a debt ceiling deal, the day after Republicans passed a sweeping border and immigration bill." [Politico, [05/12/23](#)]

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) Said The Legislation The House Passed On Immigration "'Is Now A Central Part Of Any Debt Ceiling Or Spending Debate For The Remainder Of The Year.'" "We passed the bill that I think does the job. ... And by the way, I think this is now a central part of any debt ceiling or spending debate for the remainder of the year," Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) said in an interview on Friday. [Politico, [05/12/23](#)]

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) Said Debt Ceiling Negotiations Were About “Saving The Country” And Urged Republican Colleagues To Avoid Compromising The Tenets Of The Limit, Save, Grow Act “Solely In The Quest Of A ‘Deal.’”

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) “Complained That We Aren’t Winning” In Debt Ceiling Negotiations And That Negotiations Should Not Be About A Deal But “Saving The Country.”



[Twitter, [05/23/23](#)]

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) Sent A Memo To Republican Colleagues Urging Them To “Hold The Line” And Not Abandon Any Provision Of The Limit, Save, Grow Act “Solely In The Quest For A ‘Deal.’” “I hope these [talking points] help as Speaker McCarthy continues to pressure President Biden to do what is right for the American people [...] The following reforms were part of the Limit, Save, Grow Act - each are critical and none should be abandoned solely for the quest of a ‘deal.’” [Twitter, [05/24/23](#)]

Many of you asked for the talking points I offered during our conference meeting on Tuesday. I hope these help as Speaker McCarthy continues to pressure President Biden to do what is right for the American people. We give him the strongest hand by: *1) making clear we are unified to hold the line; and 2) messaging the specific purposes behind the Limit, Save, Grow Act.*

[...]

The following reforms were part of the Limit, Save, Grow Act – each are critical and none should be abandoned solely for the quest of a “deal.”

[Image 1, Twitter, [05/24/23](#)]