

# Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association Update

**Brad Pickel**
**Executive Director**
**Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association**

**NCBIWA Meeting October 23, 2026**

# AIWA- Who We Are

- **Organized in 1999 as an advocacy, membership organization to encourage the continuation and further development of waterborne commerce and recreation on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.**

- **The Association advocates for regular dredging and adequate maintenance to promote safe, cost-effective navigation.**

- **We are the Unified Voice for 1,100-mile long Marine Highway 95**



# Policy, Leadership & Funding in Washington, D.C.

- **National Navigation Policy- U.S Army Corps of Engineers**
  - **Build Infrastructure, Not Paperwork**
  - **USACE Dredge Contracting Modifications**
    - **Enterprise Dredging Delivery Center (EDDC)/interim Dredging Evolution for Enterprise Production (DEEP)**
- **USACE Leadership Changes**
- **Race to the Finish in Congress- 20 days maximum in the U.S. House of Representatives, 22 days maximum in U.S. Senate**
  - **Appropriations and Continuing Resolution**
  - **Water Resources Development Act**

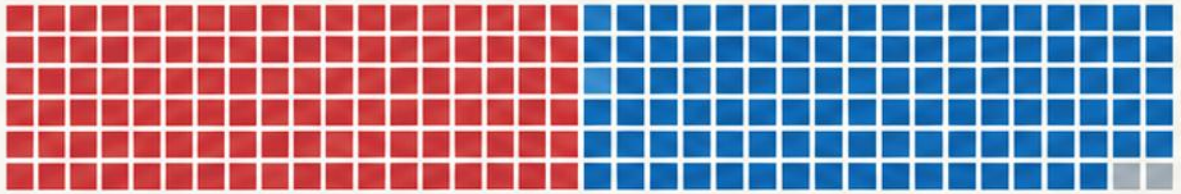
# THE HOUSE: NOW VS. DEMOCRATIC UPSIDE

Current composition and Cook Political Report's October 9, 2026 outlook

## CURRENT HOUSE

**218** Republicans | **214** Democrats | **1** Independent | **2** Vacancies

435 SEATS



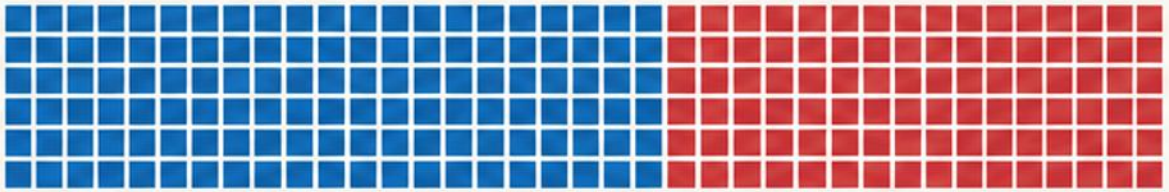
| | |
|---|---|
| Republicans | 218 |
| Democrats | 214 |
| Independent | 1 |
| Vacancies | 2 |
| Total (seats filled + vacancies) | 435 |

## COOK PROJECTION: DEMOCRATIC PICKUP

**9–19** net Democratic seats

Maximum-end scenario: **234** Democrats / **201** Republicans

435 SEATS (MAXIMUM-END SCENARIO)



| | |
|---|---|
| Democrats | 234 |
| Republicans | 201 |
| Total | 435 |

Lower end of Cook's range: **234** Democrats / **211** Republicans

Cook's most likely range; not a prediction of the exact final count.

**Democrats need a net gain of 4 seats for House control.**

**Sources:** Office of the Clerk, U.S. House (Oct. 9, 2026); Cook Political Report, "Eighteen More House Race Ratings Move in Democrats' Favor" (Oct. 9, 2026).

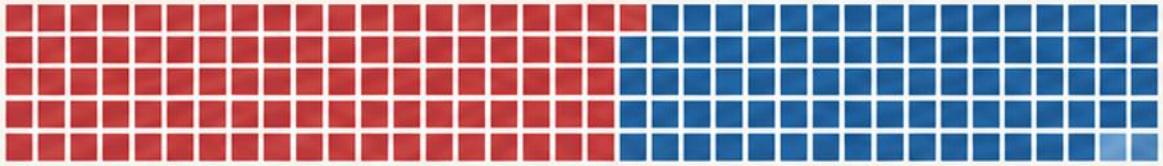
# THE SENATE: NOW VS. DEMOCRATIC UPSIDE

Current composition and Cook Political Report's October 6, 2026 outlook

## CURRENT SENATE

**53** Republican | **47** Democratic-aligned

100 SEATS

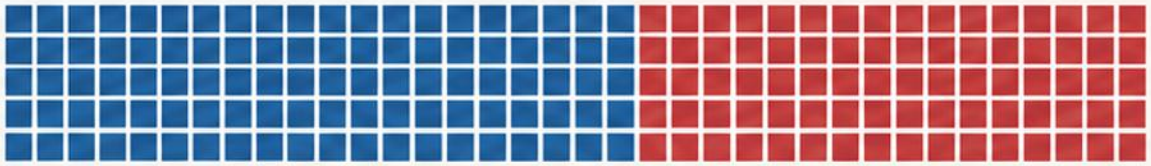


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Republicans | 53 | |
| Democrats | 45 | |
| Independents | 2 | (caucus with Democrats) |

## MAXIMUM DEMOCRATIC PICKUP SCENARIO

**53** Democratic-aligned | **47** Republican

100 SEATS



**Cook range:** +2 to +6 net Democratic seats

**Maximum-end scenario:** +6 net seats

Illustrative scenario, not a prediction

Source: U.S. Senate party division; The Cook Political Report, 2026 Senate Race Ratings and October 6, 2026 analysis.

Democrats need a net gain of 4 seats for a majority.

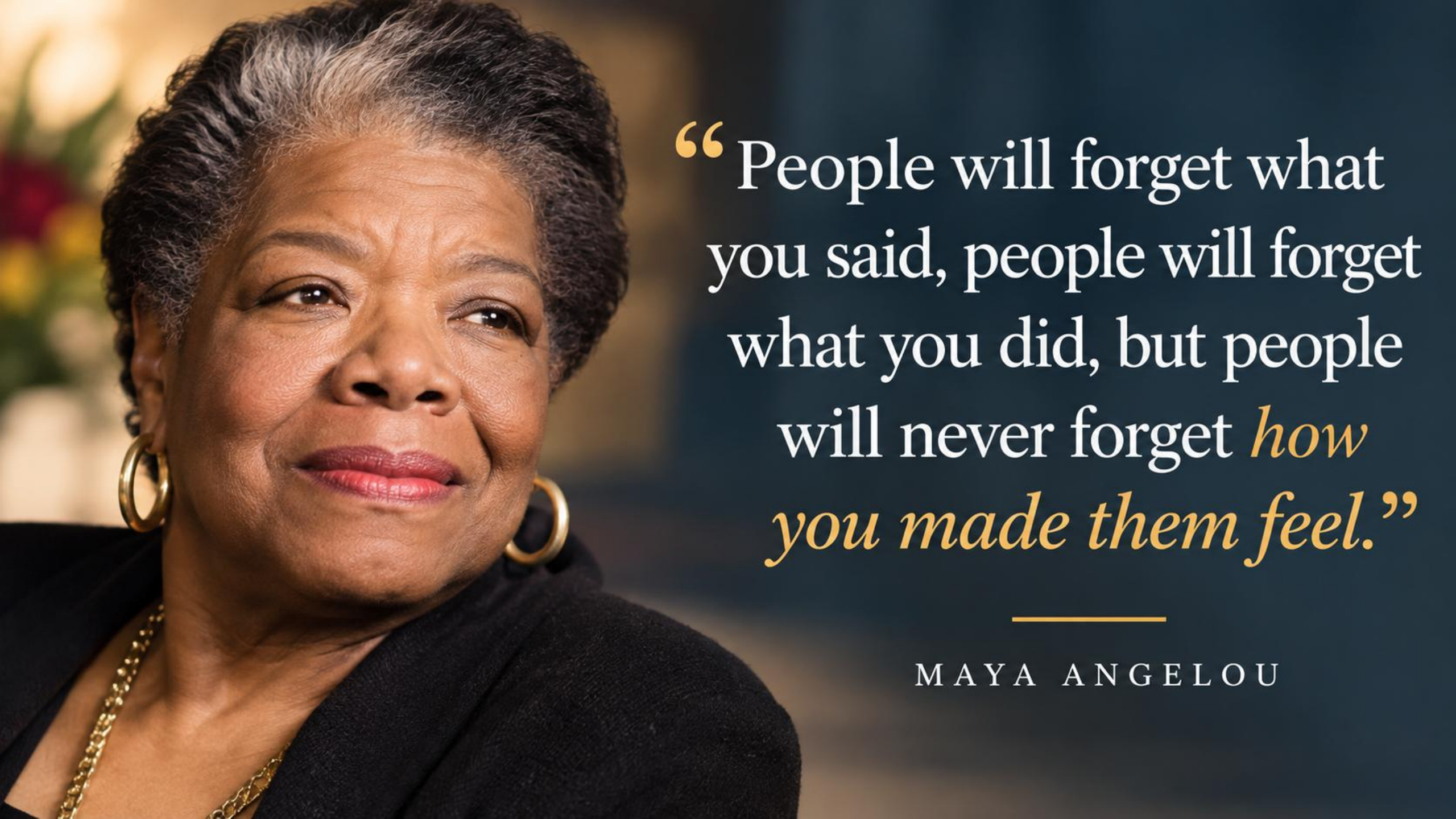
# Building Relationships as Coastal Advocates

- Logical/Rational
  - Provide facts and figures
  - Goal: Data driven results and processes

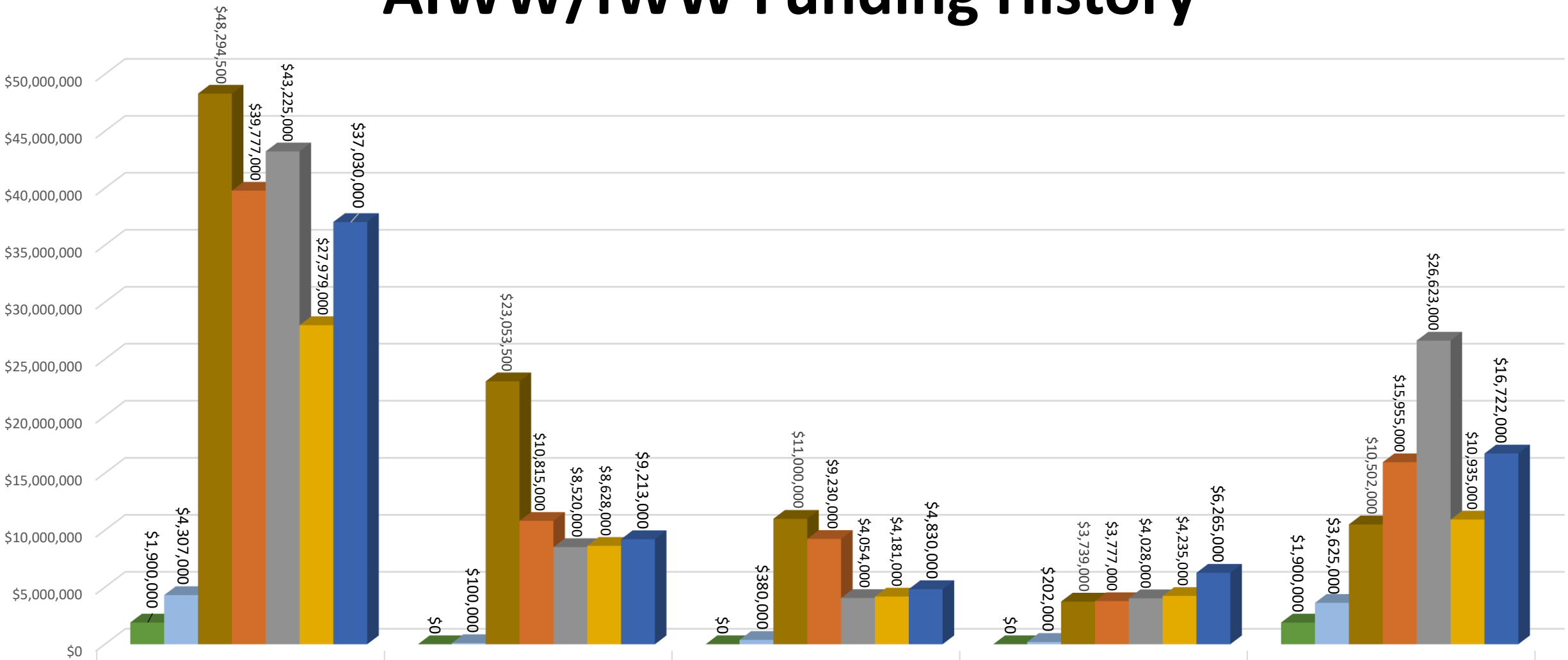
- Emotional Reactivity
  - Explain why something is dangerous or unsafe
  - Explain why something isn't working, needs to change
  - Goal: Plant seeds for new possibilities or ways of seeing things. Invite creativity as opposed to cynicism

- Positive Outlook
  - Let's build on what's working
  - Propose recommendations that lead to a positive outcome
  - Goal: Invite collaboration and team-building. Show them how they can make things better.




“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
MAYA ANGELOU

# AIWW/IWW Funding History




| | SAD | SAC | SAJ | SAS | SAW |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FY13 | $1,900,000 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $1,900,000 |
| FY21 | $4,307,000 | $100,000 | $380,000 | $202,000 | $3,625,000 |
| FY22 | $48,294,500 | $23,053,500 | $11,000,000 | $3,739,000 | $10,502,000 |
| FY23 | $39,777,000 | $10,815,000 | $9,230,000 | $3,777,000 | $15,955,000 |
| FY24 | $43,225,000 | $8,520,000 | $4,054,000 | $4,028,000 | $26,623,000 |
| FY25 | $27,979,000 | $8,628,000 | $4,181,000 | $4,235,000 | $10,935,000 |
| FY26* | $37,030,000 | $9,213,000 | $4,830,000 | $6,265,000 | $16,722,000 |

# AIWW FY25, FY26 and FY27 Federal Funding Update

| State | FY 2025 Final Appropriations | FY 2026 Final Appropriations | FY 2027 President's Budget Request | FY 2027 House Appropriations Committee |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VA | $5.292M | $5.413M | $1.638M | $1.638M |
| NC | $10.935M | $16.722M<br>$4.222M CPF addition | $8.446M | $15.946M<br>$7.5M CPF addition |
| SC | $8.628M | $9.213M | $9.691M | $9.691M |
| GA | $4.235M | $6.265M | $6.295M | $14.165M<br>$7.87M CPF addition |
| FL | $4.181M | $4.83M | $6.755M | $14.255M<br>$7.5M CPF addition |
| Total for AIWW/IWW | $33,271,000 | $42,433,000 | $32,825,000 | $55,695,000<br>$22.87M CPF addition |

# FY27/28 ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY




Note: AIWW locations included in this solicitation are as follows:
Core Creek, Browns Inlet Crossing, Lockwoods Folly Inlet Crossing, and Shallotte River Crossing.




**LOCATION:**
Carteret, Onslow, and Brunswick Counties, North Carolina

**DREDGE TYPE:** Pipeline

**PLACEMENT:** Beach / Upland / Habitat

**QUANTITY:** ~400,000 CY

**DEPTH:** 12 feet

**BUSINESS TYPE:** Small Business

**ADVERTISE:** August 2027

**BID OPENING:** September 2027

**START DREDGING:** November 16, 2027

**DREDGE COMPLETE:** April 30, 2028

**WORK WINDOW RESTRICTIONS:**
November 16 – April 30 (Beach)

# AIWA Annual Meeting
## November 17-19, 2026 in Atlantic Beach, FL





# Thank you and Questions?

For more information visit:
Atlanticintracoastal.org

**Brad Pickel**

**Executive Director**