



## Rep. Tom Emmer on FOX NEWS 9 – 2025

**FOX 9 LOCAL**

Broadcast: September 23, 2025 • Location: MINNESOTA • Duration: 17:46

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**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* Congressman Tom Emmer joins me now, really one of the most, you're one of the most influential members of Congress as Majority Whip in the House, if people don't know that. So we welcome you to Fox 9. Thanks for being here. Thanks for being willing to take our questions live here.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Thanks, Amy. I'm glad to be with you. And as I told you when I came in, it's much nicer to do this in person than on Zoom.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* Yeah, we've talked via Zoom a couple of times, and I was worried as you guys walked in here because this is a conference room that's nothing special. So I hope we didn't underwhelm you with our hosting here. We have so much to talk about, and I appreciate the opportunity to do it in real time here. So we heard from Governor Walz, and there are a lot of concerns right now, obviously, as this deadline to pass a spending bill is October 1st. You're here right now. And when I heard that you were coming here in person, I first went, well, that's interesting because there's a lot going on in DC right now. You're back home because the House passed this resolution, a continuing resolution. It's in the hands of the Senate right now. So tell me where we're at with this, I guess, stalemate as we approach the deadline for a deal.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, it shouldn't be a stalemate. I'm home because the House did its job. We passed a clean continuing resolution, which has been referred to as many different things. This is what, we're just keeping the status quo through November 21st, because while the goal is to get back to a regular order appropriations process, we're not quite there yet. I don't know that people understand that earlier this month, I think the first week of September after Labor Day, might've been the second, the House actually passed a motion, so did the Senate, to go to a formal conference on three of the 12 appropriations bills. We passed all the appropriations bills out of the Appropriations Committee in the House. The conference, the formal conference, Amy, I've been told, I haven't done my own research. This is the first formal conference that Congress has had since 2014. The clean CR for seven weeks is to allow the Republicans and Senate conferees that are working on these bills to close them up. They say they're very close to closing these three, and they're ready to move on to the next three. We want to see the process work. We want to see the 26th budget done. What you're hearing from leaders is totally different what's happening inside the building. Republicans and Democrats are literally trying to close these out, because unlike reconciliation, you're well aware, reconciliation only requires a simple majority in the Senate. The actual spending bills will require seven Democrats to support them in the Senate.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**



\*\* So if I'm hearing you right, it feels like it's a much bigger stalemate than it actually is. You feel pretty confident that this will work itself out here before the deadline?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I think the noise you're hearing is coming from the Senate minority leader primarily, and why people are amplifying Chuck Schumer's voice makes no sense to me. Just last year, Chuck Schumer said a clean CR is the absolute best thing that we could do. Apparently, for his own political reasons, he's now objecting to this one. But no, I believe that next week he will stop it, and he will do what we should all be doing, which is keeping the government open and making sure that these appropriations bills can all get done. It's going to take Republicans and Democrats alike, plus for Chuck Schumer to shut the government down. Amy, you got to understand, it's a much bigger issue. It'd be felony dumb for him to do that. It will cost him seats in the Senate. It will cost him seats. It'll cost a Democrat seat in the House in the midterm. Guess what? It'll also, I will predict for you, cost them a governor's race in the state of Virginia, which is in November.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* We are heading into open enrollment season here for a lot of folks, and one of the biggest pain points here is obviously the enhanced tax credits. It's made health insurance affordable for millions of Americans under the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare. Those expire at the end of the year. And this seems to be the thing, whether or not this is what is actually the pain point or what is being put out there into the media. So Democrats say they insist or admit that these tax credits need to be extended beyond this year. Is that a non-starter for you and other Republicans?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, as the whip, I'm not going to tell you what we should be doing on this. I've got members who are all in favor of extending them. I've got members who are not. This is not a funding issue. This is an end-of-the-year policy issue. That's the statement our speaker has made. Once we get through this appropriations process and we get down to crunch time at the end of the year, that will be part of the discussion, I fully expect.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* All right. Let's take it closer to home here. The DFL gun reform advocacy groups are renewing calls for tighter gun laws, of course, horrific mass shooting at Annunciation, which we've all been thinking about. And it's just really, it's created so much emotion, these renewed calls. And they're essentially wanting lawmakers to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Is there room here, I know you're at the federal level, here at the state level, do you think, to find some common ground there?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* I'll leave the state legislators to make their own decisions. I'm not going to weigh in on theirs. But I would tell you, first off, our hearts are broken. Everybody talks about the Annunciation shooting. That was devastating. But you don't comment about the one that happened the day before, right behind Crystal Ray High School, just a few miles away, where six people were involved and one was killed. These are unacceptable. And we need to do more investigation as to what happened and why someone suddenly was radicalized to the point that they wanted to commit violence on these Catholic institutions. I know that the FBI is treating this, investigating it, as a potential hate crime. When it comes to the issue that people are talking about, Minnesota's already got the 14th most stringent gun laws in the country. We maybe want to start looking at completely incompetent, or I would argue intentionally incompetent, prosecutors like Mary Moriarty in Hennepin County. This woman shouldn't have a law license after she withheld exculpatory evidence in the Laundergan State Trooper case.



She essentially kept evidence that would have proved his innocence away from the court. And she was discovered, and ultimately, she should be disbarred. But now last week, she announces, not going to prosecute low-level traffic offenses. What no one is talking about, what nobody is reporting, that those low-level traffic offenses many times produce felony arrests based on illegal guns that are held by people that shouldn't have them. These are the things that we really need to start focusing on. Let's get back to making sure that our law enforcement and prosecutors, like our Hennepin County prosecutor, start working on behalf of the citizens as opposed to criminals.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* Yeah, I do remember the next day, there was a press conference with law enforcement and others who were very upset about this. And they did point out some of those statistics of being able to get hundreds of weapons off the streets. So I do remember us talking about that. Along those lines, though, if I could just pull you back a little bit to the gun control issue. One thing, I had Mayor Melvin Carter in here yesterday from St. Paul, and asked him about the fact that a group of mayors now is going to the legislature and saying, hey, if you can't do it at the state level, if we can't do it at the federal level, give us, the mayors, the opportunity to call our own shots in our own cities. Because St. Paul has different needs than Winona would have. Would you encourage or be open to something like that?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* With a leader like Melvin Carter? I mean, Melvin Carter, Jacob Frye, if they want more authority, they've already got the authority to make sure that there is law and order in their cities. And they have completely vacated that responsibility. So now they want to blame somebody else? I would tell Mayor Carter that maybe you should take a peek at what President Trump has done in the District of Columbia. He literally has made it a priority. And I think in just a few weeks, they've had well over, almost 300 guns, illegal guns have been seized. They've made over, I think it's 2,000 arrests. It is visibly and noticeably safer within the District of Columbia. Just talk to many of the young people who live there. Maybe the mayor should concentrate on why is it that some people don't want to work past a certain time in St. Paul? Because they might be afraid that if they take public transportation and they're trying to get home with the tips that they earn during the day, that someone might assault them and steal those tips. I think he should probably concentrate, maybe look in the mirror like some of these Minnesota politicians that have failed at their job. Look in the mirror, Mayor Carter, and do the things that you're already empowered to do rather than trying to blame something else for your failures.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* Yeah, he did bring some data, their data that does show that crime is substantially down in some areas.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Yeah, but wait. District of Columbia police did the same thing. You can play with figures, you can play with numbers, you can't play with reality. Talk to St. Paul residents, talk to Minneapolis residents, talk to people who live out in the suburbs that used to like to go down to St. Paul and Minneapolis to enjoy the great cultural stuff that happens down there. A lot of them are very wary about going into either city because they're afraid. There were 12 shootings in Minneapolis last Monday alone. This is a failure of leadership from the local level right up to the state level.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* Yeah, there's one area, a corridor that we've been heavily focused on, that MPD has been focused on. Chief O'Hara is a regular guest and we talk about these areas, the issue of fentanyl and opioids, which I know also



nobody can get ahead of that it seems like in our communities.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* I'm impressed with Chief O'Hara and the Hennepin County Sheriff as well. They're doing the best job they possibly can, but they need some leadership from the Mayor's office, from their councils, to make sure that they're backing these people as they try to keep us all safe.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* Getting back to the National Guard, you brought that up. Your thoughts on the National Guard coming into Minneapolis?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I think Tim Walz could call them out yesterday, but Tim Walz hates Donald Trump more than he cares about the safety and security of our citizens. He should probably take a, he and J.B. Pritzker and others that just want to play politics with us. The number one responsibility of our state government, our county government, our local government is to keep the citizens safe and secure and to protect their property. That's what he should be concerned with, not his personality dispute, his dislike of the guy who's in the Oval Office right now. Do your job right here, Tim. If you believe that calling out the National Guard will improve the situation, he should think about doing that. By the way, we've seen this with Tim Walz before. He refused to call the National Guard out when George Floyd's, when that whole terrible tragedy took place, even though we've had experience from states like Missouri and Maryland and other places that he should have locked it down much sooner. But instead he waited until Minneapolis had already burned significantly to call out the National Guard. He should learn from his own experience. He should watch what's happening in Washington, D.C., and I think he should take the steps that are necessary to protect Minnesotans and their property.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* One more really quick follow up on Governor Walz, obviously running for a third, a third term here. No one has ever won that seat in Minnesota a third time. How is Governor Walz, the candidate for governor in 2022, different from Governor Walz, the candidate here going for 2026, do you think?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, he was already unpopular in 2022. He only won 13 of 74 counties. In the 74 he lost, he got 37% of the vote. He won with 52%. My question, Amy, is what does he have to run on? I mean, his administration, since he's been in office, he presided over Minneapolis burning down. Since he's been in office, they blew through an \$18 billion budget surplus. He's got us on course for a \$6 billion deficit. Since he's been in office, we've got under the Walz administration, according to Joe Thompson, the acting U.S. attorney, almost a billion dollars in fraud. He does not have a message to run on, and I would add, since he was exposed and he embarrassed himself and his state, us, on national TV by lying, he really shouldn't be running again.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* We just have a couple of minutes left, and I really want to get to something that I think is touching most, if not all, Americans right now, which is the political climate and the rhetoric. And now we've seen political violence, obviously the Hortman's that hit so close to home for you and many others here in Minnesota. And then we see what happened with Charlie Kirk and the assassination there. Is there a point you feel like that we've reached where we can start to do more soul searching, all of us, citizens, media, politicians, and start to say, okay, you



guys, we've crossed into just another world that we don't want to be in? Have we reached that point yet, or could we ever get there?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, first off, I'm Melissa and her husband, and I'm the Hoffman's, John and Yvette. Believe it or not, they're Democrats, I'm a Republican, they're friends. Melissa and I were elected together back in 2004. We took office together in the legislature in 2005. I have one daughter. When I had her down to visit and see what goes on at the Capitol, I wanted her to meet some powerful women, women that are strong leaders. One of the ones I went to was Melissa. She could not have been more gracious. No. Did we agree on policy? Absolutely not. But we knew how to debate that policy. This thing last week, it's more than just tragic. The whole fiber of this society is about you and I, us and our neighbors, our family, being able to debate things vigorously, things that we disagree with strongly, and yet understand that we all live here, and we want to be safe and secure, and we can live together doing that. But you guys got to start doing a better job, and I'm sorry I'm turning it on you. You've got Ilhan Omar out there. Nobody will hold her accountable. This is a problem on the left. I could not believe, I was a co-author of the resolution on Melissa Hortman. I totally support rejecting any political violence. Last week, we had a vote on the Charlie Kirk assassination that literally renounced any form of political violence, no matter who's involved. There were 118 Democrats in the House that refused to vote for it. 58 of them voted no, I think 28, 38 of them voted present, and 22 of them, and we know they were all there, just chose not to vote. When Ilhan Omar is literally dancing on Charlie Kirk's grave and suggesting, whether directly or by implication, that his murder is justified, Amy, that's where the problem is. And it's up to the Fourth Establishment, the great Fourth Establishment, to hold everyone accountable. And so far, there's nothing when it comes to that disgusting behavior.

**\*\*AMY HOCKERT:**

\*\* I know we have time and time again reached out and asked for Ilhan Omar to come and speak with us, and we have not received any sort of-

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* But there's plenty of material out there that she's put on social media. She was on CNN over the weekend. She was asked to apologize for reposting a disgusting video that says that Charlie Kirk was Frankenstein and that his monster shot him in the neck, and she refused to do it. Yeah, you want to get her in here and confront her, I'm sure, and she wants to avoid that. But there's plenty of material, and I know when I say stuff, boy, people in this town aren't afraid to throw it on whatever newsprint or on the air. I think it's time, if we want to get this under control, then great Minnesotans, they need to see all of it so that they can make the right decision at the end of the day. I think there

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This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: FOX 9 LOCAL (September 23, 2025)

Archived: February 04, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/Yn7-ihnt4eU>

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