

FACTS BEHIND THE SHUTDOWN

In October 2025, the U.S. Government experienced its first government shutdown since 2019 due to an impasse between Republicans and Democrats over funding priorities.

Did you know?...

- While Republicans do have majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Senate's filibuster [requires](#) 60 votes to pass legislation to fund the government, leading to the Democrats in the Senate holding the continuing resolution hostage.
- After previous votes to fund the government on short term continuing resolutions, Democrats are now refusing Republican legislation to re-open the government until the Affordable Care Act subsidies are extended.
- Polling conducted by Napolitan News Service immediately after the government shutdown began on 1,000 registered voters shows that 71% of respondents said they were sure a partial shutdown of the federal government was occurring and 61% of respondents felt the shutdown had hardly any or no impact on their lives.



History Repeats? Democrats' 2018 Shutdown Standoff Ended with Border Wall Funding

From December 2018 through January 2019, the government shut down for thirty-five days after Democrats [refused](#) to consider additional funding for a southern border wall. When a clean government re-opening was agreed to, funding was later allocated to address border wall construction.

Facts Behind The Shutdown

Executive Summary

In October 2025, the U.S. Government experienced its first government shutdown since 2019 due to an impasse between Republicans and Democrats over funding priorities. The primary point of contention is Democrat members of Congress refusing to vote in support of funding the government without securing a deal on extending Affordable Care Act subsidies and other policy additions.

After previous votes to fund the government on short term continuing resolutions, Democrats are now refusing a clean Republican continuing resolution to re-open the government until the Affordable Care Act subsidies are extended. Republican leadership has offered to debate ACA subsidies after the government is re-opened, but Democrat leadership has so far refused to agree to re-open the government until their demands are met.

A poll conducted by Napolitan News Service immediately after the government shutdown began shows revealed that 72% of respondents reported they were either somewhat or very closely following news about the shutdown, and 61% of respondents felt the shutdown had hardly any or no impact on their lives.

Since 1995, there have been at least five shutdowns caused by a divide between Republicans and Democrats on Democrat policy priorities before funding the government. In each of these instances, a deal was ultimately agreed to re-open the government and ensure the vital work of the United States comes before partisan politics.

Why The Shutdown Happened

In October 2025, the U.S. Government experienced its first government shutdown since 2019 due to an impasse between Republicans and Democrats over funding priorities.

- On October 1, 2025, the federal government of the United States [shut down](#) due to Congress failing to pass any federal appropriations bills and failing to agree to a stop-gap funding agreement.
- In the lead up to October 1, [several attempts](#) to pass a continuing resolution to fund government operations were proposed in Congress, including an attempt to have the Senate pass the clean continuing resolution approved in the House of Representatives. All of these attempts [failed](#) to pass with the requisite number of votes.
- While Republicans do have majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Senate's filibuster [requires](#) 60 votes to pass legislation to fund the government, leading to the Democrats in the Senate holding the continuing resolution hostage.
- When [discussing](#) the seven-week stopgap funding bill voted against by Senate Democrats after it was passed in the House, Schumer criticized the bill has having never received Democratic input.

What Democrats are holding it hostage for

After previous votes to fund the government on short term continuing resolutions, Democrats are now refusing Republican legislation to re-open the government until the Affordable Care Act subsidies are extended.

- In exchange for votes to re-open the government, Democrats are [demanding](#) extending enhanced Affordable Care Act premium subsidies.
- Republicans, [including](#) President Trump and Vice President Vance, have [expressed](#) openness to work on Affordable Care Act premiums, but only after the Democrats vote to reopen the government.
- Democratic leaders Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries have both [said](#) they are opposed to working on this issue “later” with Schumer saying that means “never” to the Trump Administration and Jeffries saying “To kick the can down the road and expect us to take a Hail Mary promise, that’s unreasonable.”

Polling On The Government Shutdown

Polling conducted by Napolitan News Service immediately after the government shutdown began on 1,000 registered voters shows that 71% of respondents said they were sure a partial shutdown of the federal government was occurring and 61% of respondents felt the shutdown had hardly any or no impact on their lives.

- 71% of respondents said they were sure a partial shutdown of the federal government was occurring.
- 61% of respondents found that the government shut down had none or hardly any impact on their daily lives.
- 74% of respondents said they did not know anyone laid off or temporarily out of work due to the shutdown.

Previous Shutdowns Due To Democrats Policy Demands

The United States Government has been subject to several government shutdowns where Democrats have placed their policy priorities before funding the government.

- In 1995-1996, Democrats led by President Bill Clinton [opposed](#) a seven-year balanced-budget plan proposed by the Republicans majority, leading to two shutdowns.
- In 2013, Democrats [refused](#) to negotiate on Affordable Care Act funding concerns, [leading](#) to a sixteen-day shutdown before a clean resolution passed.
- In January 2018, Democrats [refused](#) to vote for a continuing resolution which omitted protections for DACA recipients. Democrats agreed to a short gap funding bill which passed after Republican [agreed](#) to a debate on DACA after the government reopened.
- From December 2018 through January 2019, the government shut down for thirty-five days after Democrats [refused](#) to consider additional funding for a southern border wall. When a clean government re-opening was agreed to, funding was later allocated to address border wall construction.