



# REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN: NINE MONTHS IN THE MAKING



*In January, after gaining control of every branch of government, Republicans began their plan to create a health care crisis, shut down the government, and drive up the cost of living.*

**Since the day he took office, President Trump, along with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russ Vought and congressional Republicans, have been shutting down the government, created a health care crisis, and have done nothing to lower costs for American families.**

**January 20**

On his first day back in office, Trump signs executive orders illegally freezing funds, stealing from communities. [Here](#) is an example of devastating cuts that increase the cost of living in rural America.

**January 24**

Trump illegally fires 17 Inspectors General, making it easier to break the law by removing the independent watchdogs.

**January 27**

The White House illegally freezes vast swaths of financial assistance, turning off payments to Head Start centers, landlords and housing authorities, and law enforcement. Courts intervene and order Trump to resume aid, but in many instances, he fails to do so.

**February-  
Present**

Unchecked billionaire Elon Musk and Trump greatly expand their campaign to dismantle government by illegally closing agencies. In the weeks that follow, they call Social Security a “ponzi scheme” and make it harder for seniors to access Social Security benefits; decimate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has saved American families \$21 billion; shut down medical research labs; and attempt to eliminate the Department of Education, threatening to remove teachers from classrooms across the country that serve 25 million elementary and secondary school students.

**March 24**

OMB takes down a transparency website that it is legally required to use to post how it directs agencies to spend taxpayer dollars, concealing the White House’s actions to illegally freeze funds. In July, a federal court rules that OMB is breaking the law, and the website is restored. The same day, the White House violates key provisions of the full-year continuing resolution (CR) enacted less than 10 days prior, permanently refusing to spend \$2.9 billion in funds enacted by Congress and signed into law by the President and illegally spending \$9.4 billion from the Treasury.

**April 29**

Vought misses the deadline to submit agency spend plans to Congress, with OMB continuing to intentionally mislead and obfuscate how it is spending taxpayer dollars.

**May 22**

GAO finds that Trump is illegally freezing funds for electric vehicle charging. It is the first in a series of impoundment decisions that conclude that Trump and Vought are illegally freezing funds for museums and libraries, Head Start, making schools more energy efficient, biomedical research, and FEMA assistance.

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**May 30**

Trump makes history by submitting the latest-ever budget request sent to Congress, and even with the late submission date, the White House does not provide many documents typically included in a budget request.

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**June 3**

Trump sends a special message to Congress proposing to rubberstamp Elon Musk's destruction into law by rescinding \$9.4 billion in previously-appropriated funds. It eventually passes both the House and Senate without any Democratic support, despite warnings that Republicans unilaterally undoing prior funding agreements will jeopardize trust in future funding negotiations.

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**June 10**

House Republicans hold their first markup of 2026 spending bills, which increase costs on American families by slashing investments in health, decimating education, increasing home energy prices, and reducing housing and economic development. The House Republican bills fail to make us safe by defunding the police, cutting cybersecurity measures, and eliminating assistance for allies. And they facilitate corruption by decimating corporate watchdogs and tax enforcement, cut GAO nearly in half after it found that Trump is breaking the law by stealing from communities, and attempt to prevent GAO from bringing civil actions against the executive branch.

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**July 4**

Trump signs the Big Ugly Law, which will kick 15 million Americans off their health care and decimate Medicaid, all to pay for tax breaks to billionaires and large corporations.

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**July 17**

Vought says, "the appropriations process has to be less bipartisan."

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**August 4**

Democratic Leaders Hakeem Jeffries and Chuck Schumer send a letter to Speaker Mike Johnson and Majority Leader John Thune requesting a meeting to discuss the September 30 funding deadline. Republicans ignore the request.

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**August 29**

President Trump attempts to use the special message process in the Impoundment Control Act for the second time this year to transmit an illegal "pocket rescission" proposal, and fails, blatantly violating the law. The President sends his request to the House of Representatives, but not the Senate, violating the terms of the ICA. OMB Director Vought freezes an additional \$5 billion in foreign assistance, pledging to keep it frozen until it can no longer be spent. The President only sends his rescission to the Senate 10 days later.

**September 8**

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member DeLauro and Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Murray release an updated tally of \$410 billion that Trump has unlawfully canceled or frozen, hurting families across the country.

**September 12**

When asked about the September 30 funding deadline, Trump says about meeting with Democrats, “don’t even bother dealing with them” – cutting out the democratically elected representatives for half of the country.

**September 16**

Following Trump’s comments, House Republicans renege on a prior commitment to negotiate a bipartisan CR. They introduce a partisan bill that does not include Democratic proposals to lower costs, address the health care crisis, or prevent Trump from stealing from communities.

**September 19**

House Republicans pass their partisan CR, without support from the Democratic minority, and leave town for two weeks. Senate Republicans vote down the Democratic option to protect health care and keep the government open, but the bill receives more votes than Republicans’ partisan CR.

**September 20**

Democratic Leaders Jeffries and Schumer demand a meeting with Trump on his decision to shut down the federal government because of the Republican desire to gut the health care of the American people.

**September 22**

Trump formally agrees to meet with Democratic Leaders Jeffries and Schumer on Thursday, September 25.

**September 23**

One day after agreeing to meet, Trump chickens out and cancels the meeting in an inaccurate, hate-filled social media post that says nothing about how to keep the government open, lower costs, or address the health care crisis Republicans created.

**September 29**

Two days before the funding deadline, President Trump finally meets with Leaders Jeffries and Schumer, but refuses to take action to prevent health care costs skyrocketing for more than 20 million Americans, setting us on course for a government shutdown

**October 1** Republican shutdown begins.

**BOTTOM LINE: TRUMP PRESIDED OVER THE LONGEST-EVER PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN 2018 AND 2019, AND HE WOULD RATHER FOLLOW IT WITH A COMPLETE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN 2025 THAN ADDRESS THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS REPUBLICANS CREATED.**