



January 18, 2019



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## Longest Shutdown on Record

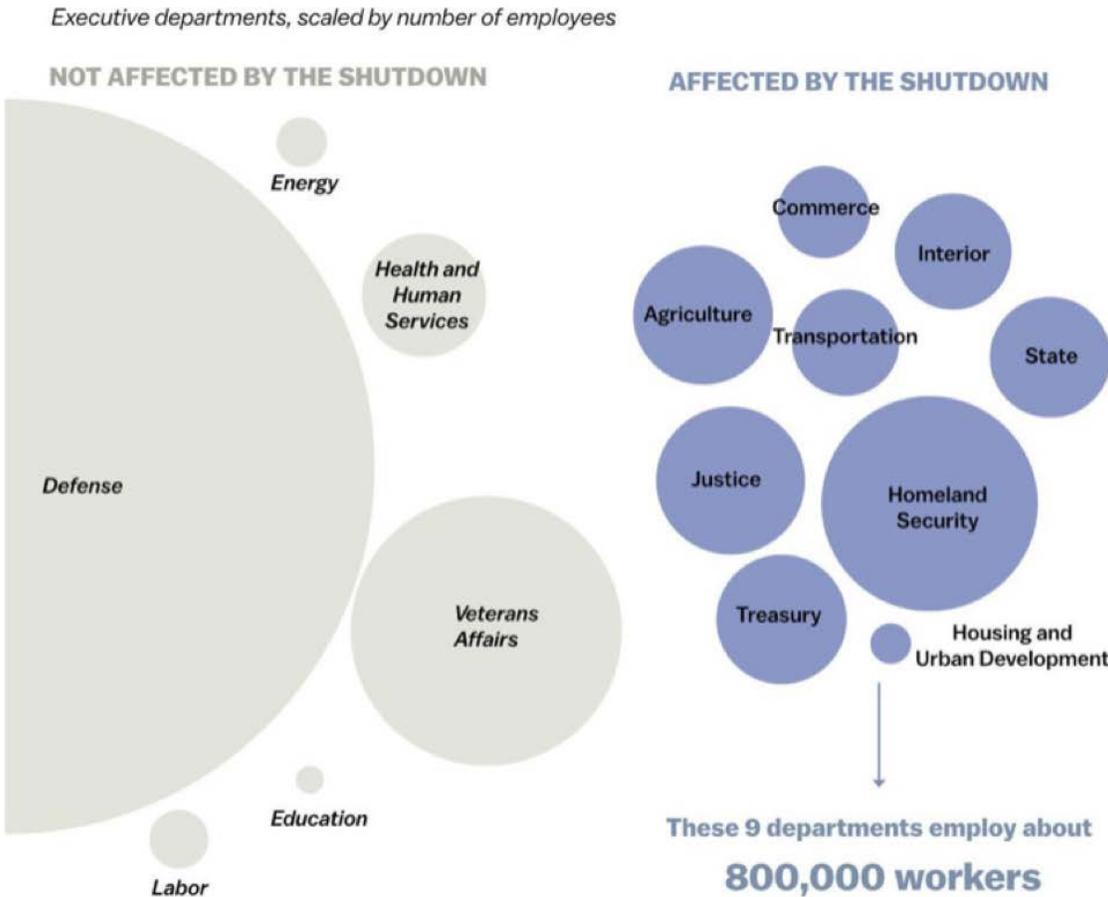
Now on its twenty-eighth day, this shutdown is the longest in U.S. history, eclipsing the 1995 shutdown during the Clinton administration, which lasted twenty-one days. There have been twenty government shutdowns since 1976, and they have occurred for diverse reasons and under different circumstances.

- The government has shut down over differences in funding priorities for healthcare, defense, public works, abortion, foreign aid, social safety net programs, deficit concerns, and immigration.
- The first modern government shutdown occurred in 1976 and lasted twelve days during the Ford administration, in which funding lapsed during an extended debate over funding for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and

Welfare (since divided into the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services).

- Most shutdowns occurred when Congress is either split or under opposite party control than the White House. However, all five of the shutdowns during President Jimmy Carter's administration happened while Democrats controlled the legislative branch.
- Ten months after the 2013 shutdown several D.C. area hospitals set new records for number of births in a month.

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Javier Zarracina/Vox

Note: The above graphic only depicts executive branch agencies. However, the legislative branch, including all of Congress, is funded and would appear on the left.

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## Beyond the Headlines

We are now in uncharted waters.

During previous shutdowns, pressure builds as impacts of the shutdown grow, eventually forcing constructive negotiations that bring resolution. The virtue of the shutdown (if there is such a thing) is the pressure it brings to force a negotiation and a compromise.

This shutdown, though, has seen the Trump administration stretch the boundaries of precedent to lessen the impacts and thus the pressure on negotiators. One of the major expected impacts was federal tax refunds. As you might imagine if millions of families and businesses had to wait an unknown length of time for their refunds, broad-based pressure would have built quickly. However, the Administration announced last week that the IRS would accommodate tax filing season and issue refunds during the government shutdown if necessary. With each passing week the Administration is calling back more workers in different agencies to work (without pay) to provide services like food and drug inspection or income verification.

Unfortunately for those hoping this will end quickly, both President Trump and Congressional Democrats believe they hold a winning hand. While support for a wall and President Trump's polling overall remain under 50% and have fallen since the shutdown began, his support among the Republican primary electorate remains high at over 80%. Democrats will find hope in that, but they could start to see more of the blame if no progress is made soon.

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**Thank You 2018 Ambassadors**

With the new year upon us, the Political Affairs team wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our 2018 Ambassadors. Over the course of the last year, we accomplished some pretty big things together, with you leading the charge.

Our advocacy model is unique in D.C. – because we know that AALU members are the strongest possible advocates on behalf of the clients and communities you serve. So, **thank you for everything you do**, we couldn't be the advocacy organization we are without your continued engagement. Click below to read more about what Ambassadors accomplished in 2018.

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## Shutdown Updates

### **IRS shutdown plan fails to quell worries (The Hill)**

Despite vowing to provide tax returns, shutdown or no, tax professionals and Democratic lawmakers are still concerned about the upcoming tax-filing season. With millions of Americans interacting with the IRS in the next few months, policymakers like Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) are worrying about whether the IRS will be able to carry out its mission at the level it needs to. Thomas Cooke, a professor at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business, added that those who fall at the lower end of the income spectrum will be the ones hardest hit by a delay in refunds.

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## **What Republican senators are saying about the government shutdown (Washington Post)**

While most Republicans in Congress support the President's goals in the shutdown, there are some who are suggesting alternative solutions to the impasse. Those who have supported different options generally fall into three categories: Susan Collins (R-ME), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) want the government to reopen without wall funding; Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) want to temporarily reopen the government while continuing the debate; and Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Rob Portman (R-OH), Tim Scott (R-SC), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Patrick Toomey (R-PA) would like to see a deal over DACA with the Democrats that would include funding for the border wall.

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## **Trump's Chief Shutdown Negotiator Is Unknown to Most Americans (The Atlantic)**

As one of a handful of staffers in the White House with a reputation for being an "adult in the room," Shahira Knight has maintained credibility by focusing on the policy rather than the White House drama. She has maintained the respect of the President and Congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle and she could be key in resolving the ongoing government shutdown.

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## Mnuchin Refuses to Testify at Hearing on Shutdown Impacts (The Hill)

In a letter Thursday to Ways and Means Committee Chairman [Richard Neal](#) (D-Mass.), Treasury deputy assistant secretary Jennifer Bang said that instead of Mnuchin, the department is offering testimony from senior Treasury and IRS officials "who are most knowledgeable concerning the lapse plans now in place for the Department and its bureaus."

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