

Trump pressures GOP senators to end the government shutdown

BY LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump lashed out Wednesday at Senate Republicans to end the government shutdown, now the longest ever at 36 days, blaming the impasse for the party's defeat in closely-watched elections while Democrats, emboldened by their off-year victories, dug in for a fight.

Trump, whose first term at the White House set the previous government shutdown record, said this one was a “big factor, negative” in Tuesday’s races. He revived his demands for Republicans to end the Senate filibuster as a way to reopen government — something senators have refused to do.

At the same time, Democrats hardened their resolve after sweeping governor’s races in Virginia and New Jersey and the mayor’s race in New York. The Democratic leaders said Trump needs to get serious about negotiating an end to the stalemate and resolve the problem of expiring health care subsidies that are central to the debate.

“The election results ought to send a much needed bolt of lightning to Donald Trump that he should meet with us to end this crisis,” said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.



John McDonnell | Associated Press
The Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Tuesday.

Now into a sixth week, the shutdown and its impacts have deepened nationwide. The federal closures are disrupting the lives of millions of Americans with program cuts, flight delays and workers scrambling to make do without paychecks. Officials have warned of a worsening climate to come, including chaos in the skies. The Federal Aviation Administration said it will reduce air traffic starting Friday in major markets.

ELECTIONS BRING AN INFLECTION POINT, AND TRUMP’S FILIBUSTER DEMANDS

Expectations were high that the logjam would break once results were tallied in elections that were widely watched as a gauge of voter sentiment over Trump’s second term.

But Trump’s demands on Wednesday that Republican senators get rid of the filibuster as a way to end the shutdown complicated an already

difficult situation. And Democrats facing divisions within their progressive and moderate ranks said the results showed that voters will reward them for the fight.

“It’s time for Republicans to do what they have to do, and that’s terminate the filibuster,” Trump said during a breakfast meeting Wednesday with GOP senators at the White House.

Trump told the GOP senators they could bring the shutdown to a close by ending the Senate rule, which requires a 60-vote threshold for advancing most legislation, and steamroll the Democratic minority. Republicans now hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and Democrats have been able to block legislation that would fund the government, having voted more than a dozen times against.

That push from Trump is likely to go unheeded by Republican senators — Senate Majority Lead-

er John Thune said later changing the filibuster does not have support and is “not happening” — but it could spur them to deal with the Democrats.

TRUMP SETS ANOTHER SHUTDOWN RECORD

Trump’s approach to the shutdown stands in marked contrast to his first term, when the government was partially closed for 35 days over his demands for money to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall. At that time, he met publicly and negotiated with congressional leaders. Unable to secure the money, he relented in 2019.

This time, Trump stayed out of the shutdown debate, instead keeping a robust schedule of global travel and events, including at his private Mar-a-Lago club in Florida. And it’s not just Trump declining to engage in talks. The congressional leaders are at a standoff, and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., sent lawmakers home in September after they approved their own funding bill, refusing further negotiations.

A “sad landmark,” Johnson said at a news conference Wednesday about the record shutdown.

The speaker dismissed his party’s election losses and said Democrats need to drop their demands on health care until after the government reopens.

SENATORS SEARCH FOR DEAL AS SHUTDOWN FALLOUT WORSENS

While talks have intensified among a loose coalition of centrist senators trying to negotiate an end to the shutdown, Democrats are also doubtful that any deal struck with the Republicans will be upheld unless Trump also agrees.

The Democrats said Trump’s postelection unease with the shutdown should spark talks. But they also question whether the Republican president will keep his word, particularly after the administration restricted SNAP food aid despite court orders to ensure funds are available to prevent hunger.

And while moderate Democrats are quietly working toward an off-ramp, progressive Democrats are holding out for the best deal possible.

“It would be very strange for the American people to have weighed in, in support of Democrats standing up and fighting for them, and within days for us to surrender without having achieved any of the things that we’ve been fighting for,” said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn.

In the meantime, food aid, child care money and countless other government services are being seriously interrupted. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers have been furloughed or expected to come to work

without pay. “Can this be over now?” Thune, R-S.D., said as he returned from the White House breakfast. “Have the American people suffered enough?”

SKYROCKETING HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS AT ISSUE

Central to any resolution will be a series of agreements that would need to be upheld not only by the Senate, but also by the House, and the White House, which is not at all certain.

Senators from both parties are pushing to ensure the normal government funding process in Congress can be put back on track, eyeing a smaller package of bills that has widespread support to fund various aspects of government such as agricultural programs and military construction projects at bases.

More difficult, a substantial number of senators also want some resolution to the standoff over the funding for the Affordable Care Act subsidies that are set to expire at year’s end.

With insurance premium notices being sent, millions of people are experiencing sticker shock on skyrocketing prices. The loss of enhanced federal subsidies, which were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and come in the form of tax credits, are expected to leave many people unable to buy health insurance.

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COUNTY TAXPAYERS' NOTICE

McCracken County's 2025 property tax bills will begin arriving in mail boxes November 1, 2025. Taxes will become due and payable to the McCracken County Sheriff's Office beginning on that day and will be payable based upon the following schedule:

November 1 – November 30, 2025	2% Discount
December 1 – December 31, 2025	Face Value
January 2 – January 31, 2026	5% Penalty
February 1 – April 15, 2026	10% Penalty + 10% Fee

All tax bills not paid to our office by the close of business on April 15, 2026 will be transferred as delinquent to the McCracken County Clerk for further collection proceedings. Additional penalties and interest will be assessed to all delinquent tax bills paid to the County Clerk's office.

Payment Instruction: If you do not receive your tax bill within the first few days of November, you can find your bill on our office's website or contact us to request a duplicate. Office hours for receiving payments in person are from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday. It is important to bring your tax bills with you when paying in our office. If mailing payment, please include the remit portion (bottom-half) of your tax bill and record your tax bill number on your check, made payable to the McCracken County Sheriff.

Additional Information Regarding Tax Information and Payment

Tax Bill Changes or Disputes: The Sheriff's office only has the statutory responsibility of collecting the amounts charged on your tax bill. Property assessment concerns should be directed to the McCracken County Property Valuation Administrator's office, and any address changes can be made on their website at mccrackenpva.com. Concerns regarding the assessment of your 911 fee would need to be discussed with the McCracken County Judge/Executive's office.

Electronic Payments: In addition to cash and check payments, your tax bill may be paid with credit or debit card. Please note, however, a consumer convenience fee will be charged to your banking or credit card account when using electronic payment methods and will show as a separate transaction on your monthly statement. This fee is calculated as a percentage of your tax bill amount and is charged by Intellipay Payment Processing. The sheriff's office does not receive any portion of these convenience fees.

Online Payments and Bill Search: We offer the ability to view and pay your tax bill(s) online by visiting our website at mccrackencountysheriff.com and clicking on the "Property Taxes" link. The same convenience fees noted for electronic payments also apply to online payments. E-check payments are also available online and have a flat \$2.50 fee regardless of the tax amount being paid.

For further assistance with other inquiries or concerns, please feel free to contact our office during normal business hours at (270) 444-4719.

Ryan Norman, McCracken County Sheriff