



Shutdown now longest, fallout spreads

LISA MASARCO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government shutdown has entered its 36th day, breaking the record as the longest ever and disrupting the lives of millions of Americans with federal program cuts, flight delays and federal workers nationwide left without paychecks.

President Donald Trump has refused to negotiate with Democrats over their demands to salvage expiring health insurance subsidies until they agree to reopen the government. But skeptical Democrats 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.

Trump, whose first term at the White House set the previous government shutdown record, was set to meet early Wednesday for breakfast with GOP senators. But no talks have been scheduled with the Democrats.

“Why is this happening? We’re in a shutdown because our colleagues are unwilling to come to the table to talk about one simple thing: health care premiums,” said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., in a late evening speech.

“Stop this mess, come to the table, negotiate it,” she said.

With Trump largely on the sidelines, talks have intensified among a loose coalition of centrist senators trying to negotiate an end to the stalemate. Expecta-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., center, joined by Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer, left, returns to his office after meeting with reporters Tuesday at the Capitol.

tions are high that the logjam would break once election results were fully tallied in Tuesday’s off-year races that were widely watched as a gauge of voter sentiment over Trump’s second term in the White House. Democrats swept key contests for governor in Virginia and New Jersey, and New York City mayor, certain to shake up the political assessments.

But earlier in the afternoon, Senate Dem-

ocrats left an hours-long private meeting stone-faced, with no certain path forward. “We’re exploring all the options,” Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said afterward.

Trump sets another shutdown record

Trump’s approach to this shutdown

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

This time, 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.

In the meantime, food aid, child care funds and countless other government services are being seriously interrupted and hundreds of thousands of federal workers have been furloughed or expected to come to work without pay.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy predicted there could be chaos in the skies next week if air traffic controllers miss another paycheck. Labor unions put pressure on lawmakers to reopen the government.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said this has been not only the longest shutdown but also “the most severe shutdown on record.”

The Republican leader has urged the Democrats to accept his overtures to vote on the health care issue and keep negotiating a solution once the government reopens, arguing that no one wins politically from the standoff.

“Shutdowns are stupid,” Thune said.

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In Tucson, Dems stay in charge



KELLY PRESNELL, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A crowd chants for U.S. Representative-elect Adelita Grijalva to be sworn into office during an Election Night party for Democrats in downtown Tucson.

CHARLES BORLA
Arizona Daily Star

Tucson’s city council stayed Democrats-only after easy wins in Tuesday night’s election.

Kevin Dahl easily won a second term after eking out a win in a contested Democratic primary.

And Democrats Miranda Schubert will join Selina Barajas as the new faces on the council.

Not only did Tucson voters hand the three Democratic council candidates a sweep, they also approved budget measures for three area school districts to pay for things like teacher raises, new

buildings and safety improvements.

City voters also approved Proposition 417, which ratified Plan Tucson 2025, an update to the city’s general plan.

Find the Star’s election coverage in today’s Tucson & Region section and online at [tucson.com](https://www.tucson.com).

Economy helps Democrats dominate

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats dominated the first major Election Day since President Donald Trump returned to the White House.

And while a debate about the future of the Democratic Party may have only just begun, there are signs that the economy — specifically, Trump’s inability to deliver the economic turnaround he promised last fall — may be a real problem for Trump’s GOP heading into next year’s higher-stakes midterm elections.

Democrats on Tuesday won governor’s races in Virginia and New Jersey, the only states electing new chief executives this year. They also swept a trio of state Supreme Court contests in swing-state Pennsylvania and ballots measures from Colorado to Maine.

Trump was largely absent from the campaign trail, but GOP candidates closely aligned themselves with the president, betting that his big win last year could provide a path to victory this time. They were wrong.

Democrats are hoping the off-year romp offers a new winning playbook, but some caution may be warranted. Tuesday’s elections were limited to a handful of states, most of which lean blue, and the party that holds the White House typically struggles in off-year elections.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Washington may be more excited than Democrats that a self-described democratic socialist will become New York City’s next mayor.

Here’s some top takeaways:

A new Democratic playbook emerges

Former Rep. Abigail Spanberger will become Virginia’s next governor — and its first female chief executive — while

Please see **ECONOMY**, Page A2

Judge scolds prosecutors in James Comey case

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal judge on Wednesday ordered prosecutors in the criminal case of former FBI Director James Comey to produce a trove of materials from the investigation, saying he was concerned that the Justice Department’s position had been to “indict first and investigate later.”

Magistrate Judge William Fitzpatrick instructed prosecutors to produce by the end of the day on Thursday grand jury materials, as well as other evidence that investigators seized during the investigation.



Comey

President Donald Trump appeared to urge his attorney general to prosecute the former FBI director and other perceived political enemies. He has pleaded not guilty, and his

lawyers have argued that it’s a vindictive prosecution brought at the direction of the president and must be dismissed.

At issue at Wednesday’s hearing were communications seized by investigators who in 2019 and 2020 executed search warrants of devices belonging to Daniel Richman, a Columbia University law professor and close friend of Comey who had also served as a special government employee at the FBI.

Richman factors into the case because prosecutors say Comey had encouraged him to engage with reporters about matters

related to the FBI and that Comey therefore lied to Congress when he denied having authorized anyone at the FBI to serve as an anonymous source. But Comey’s lawyers say he was explicitly responding to a question about whether he had authorized former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe to serve as an anonymous source.

Comey’s lawyers told the judge they had not reviewed the materials taken from Richman and thus could not know what information was privileged.

“We’re going to fix that, and we’re going to fix that today,” the judge said.

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