



TOP PICKS FOR PIZZA

STATEN ISLAND'S UNDER-THE-RADAR PIZZERIAS SERVE UP SOME OF THE BOROUGH'S BEST SLICES—NO SOCIAL MEDIA HYPE NEEDED, JUST GREAT PIZZA ON A WHITE PAPER PLATE. **ENJOY, C1**

WASHINGTON

Federal government shutdown begins, along with the blame game



Congress could not agree on a budget to fund the government, causing the first shutdown in six years. *Al Drago, Getty Images*

The Senate holds another vote, but Democrats hold their ground.

Washington Post

Most federal government functions came to a halt Wednesday after funding ran out and Congress deadlocked over how to extend spending laws — with blame cast on both sides.

The lapse in finances means that everything from small business loan services to national parks to job training for veterans will stop until lawmakers approve more money.

In Philadelphia, for example, tourists enjoying a crisp fall morning on Independence Mall were thwarted in their hopes of visiting the Liberty Bell.

But federal work vital to national security will continue, though employees, including many service members and law enforcement officers, will go unpaid.

The Senate voted early Wednesday afternoon on whether to reopen the government, but Democrats held firm against a Republican plan to extend funding until Nov. 21.

The measure, which needed 60 votes, failed by the same 55-45 margin as it had before the deadline.

Democrats say they won't go along with funding the government unless Republicans agree to extend health care subsidies set to expire at the end of the year.

WHAT WILL REMAIN OPEN?

Some fundamental government services should continue unchanged — mail will be



Tourists were being turned away at the entrance to the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and could only steal glances of it inside a glass pavilion. *Matt Rourke, AP*

delivered, Social Security checks sent out — because they're not funded through annual laws passed by Congress (the U.S. Postal Service is generally funded through the sale of postage products).

Many employees at the agencies handling those tasks will be working without pay.

That includes 88% of the staff at the Social Security Administration, for example, as well as 96% of the workforce at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Tax processing should also be unaffected, because the Internal Revenue Service has an alternate source of funding: the Inflation Reduction Act, enacted

under President Joe Biden in 2022, which gives the IRS money to keep operating through 2031.

National parks with accessible areas — including roads, trails and open-air memorials — will generally remain open to the public, while anything with a door or a gate that can be secured will close, including buildings and parking lots, according to an internal National Park Service message to staff. That meant crowds of people were still able to get onto boats to tour the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island on Wednesday morning.

The Associated Press contributed.

No easy endgame in sight: Democrats take a risky stand. A8, A9

NEW YORK CITY

Judge blocks Trump cuts to anti-terror transit funding

Michael R. Sisak and Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

Citing the 9/11 attacks and other threats, a U.S. judge on Wednesday blocked the federal government from diverting or withdrawing \$34 million in funding to protect New York's transportation system from terrorist attacks.

Judge Lewis A. Kaplan said the state of New York will "quite likely" be able to prove its claims that the money would be improperly diverted because the Trump administration wanted to punish New York for not cooperating with its massive deportation program.

The state sued the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday, noting that the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks let to the creation of the Rail and Transit Security Grant Program to protect transit systems from chemical, biological, radiological and explosives threats.

The city's transit system isn't the only agency facing cuts. The Trump administration slashed federal counterterrorism funding for the New York Police Department from \$90 million to nearly \$10 million, a move that Commissioner Jessica Tisch on Wednesday called "profoundly bad news."

The Justice Department declined to comment.

In granting a temporary restraining order, Kaplan noted that the grant program was created with instructions that it be allocated solely on the basis of terrorism risk.

"Obviously, New York is no stranger to risks of terrorist attacks and it's not just 9/11 that tells us that," the judge said before recounting numerous attacks in the city since the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1,000 others.

He also noted that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, described as the architect of the Sept. 11 attacks, was to be tried in New York until "enough pressure from Congress and the city's administration" got the decision overturned.

"And he's still in Guantanamo years

SEE NYC TRANSIT, A2

STAPLETON

Mayor's ex to tell all

Jasmine Ray, a former girlfriend of Mayor Eric Adams and current \$161K City Hall staffer, plans to release a self-published tell-all book. **A2**

STATEN ISLAND

Fall elected chairman

Assemblyman Charles Fall, elected head of the Staten Island Democratic Party, vows to unite and energize the base. **A11**

Trump freezes \$18B slated for infrastructure projects in NYC

Hold on new subway line, rail tunnel, sparks political clash.

Josh Boak *Associated Press*

President Donald Trump's administration, citing the government shutdown, said Wednesday it was putting a hold on roughly \$18 billion to fund a new rail tunnel beneath the Hudson River between New York City and New Jersey and an extension of the city's Second Avenue subway.

The White House budget director, Russ Vought, said on X that the step was taken due to the Republican administration's belief the spending was based on unconstitutional diversity, equity and inclusion principles.

In a statement, Trump's Transportation

Department said it had been reviewing whether any "unconstitutional practices" were occurring in the two massive infrastructure projects but that the shutdown, which began Wednesday, had forced it to furlough the staffers conducting the review.

The suspension of funds is likely meant to target Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, whom the White House is blaming for the impasse. He said the funding freeze would harm commuters.

"Obstructing these projects is stupid and counterproductive because they create tens of thousands of great jobs and are essential for a strong regional and national economy," he said on X.

The spending hold was a preview of how the messy the politics of the shutdown could get, with Vought later posting on X that \$8 billion in funding for green energy projects in Democratic-led states would be canceled. The administration has shown a willingness to use its control of federal dollars to apply pressure on Democrats to reopen the government, with commuters and thousands of jobs hanging in the balance.

The agency working on the subway line said it was blindsided by the announcement. "For now, it looks like they're just inventing excuses to delay one of the most

SEE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING, A3

