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SATURDAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 - 5, 2025 BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Trump moves to make cuts, fire workers



A sign saying that the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center is closed is seen Oct. 1 on the first day of a government shutdown in Washington. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS FILE

Joey Garrison, Bart Jansen and Sarah D. Wire
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The federal government shutdown rolled into its third day Oct. 3 as President Donald Trump appeared to be moving closer to cutting pro-

grams and firing workers across the federal government.
Trump, congressional Republicans and Democrats remained dug into their positions as the day began, with no end in sight to a shutdown that appeared likely to spill into the weekend and perhaps beyond.
The Senate was scheduled to take two

test votes in the afternoon related to the competing Democratic and Republican proposals to temporarily fund the government – votes that were procedural, not on the actual bills themselves. Both were expected to fail to get the 60 votes

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Shutdown could challenge president's popularity

Kinsey Crowley and Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

Though President Donald Trump's actions are often unconventional and unprecedented, they have had little impact on his approval ratings in the first eight months of his second term. While his approval rating is historically low compared to other presidents – only his first presidency was worse – it has also mostly plateaued since he passed his 100-day mark.
Now, he faces another popularity challenge: the government shutdown. Several recent polls offer information about public opinion on the president as the closure began.
A New York Times/Siena poll taken Sept. 22-27 among 1,313 registered voters found Trump's approval rating low but steady at 43%. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.
"Most voters' opinions on him have hardened," The New York Times said.
The poll found most U.S. voters surveyed said both parties would be at fault for a shutdown, at 33%. Between the two parties, a little more than one-quarter of respondents, 26%, said they would blame congressional Republicans and Trump, and 19% pointed their fingers at the Democrats. Another 21% said they had not heard enough to say

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Trump: Hamas must accept deal with Israel soon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump announced that he was giving Hamas a deadline of 6 p.m. Oct. 5 to respond to his proposal to end the Israel-Hamas war before its soldiers are "hunted down, and killed."
"If this LAST CHANCE agreement is not reached, all HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas. THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ONE WAY OR THE OTHER," Trump wrote on Truth Social on Oct. 3.
Trump asked all "innocent Palestinians" to immediately leave the area, saying, "Everyone will be well cared for by those that are waiting to help."
The war began when Hamas mili-

tants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 and taking 251 hostages. More than 66,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry.
On Sept. 29, Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the peace plan during a White House event, warning "it's going to be a very sad end" if Hamas rejects the deal.
At the time, Trump said he was giving Hamas "three to four days" to respond.
The two leaders pitched the announcement as a major breakthrough in a conflict that has seen previous cease-fires fall through and regional tensions skyrocket as Israel continues a

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Pro-Palestinian demonstrators in Rome protest Oct. 3 during a nationwide strike called by the USB union to condemn the Israeli forces' interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla vessels aiming to reach the Gaza Strip and break Israel's naval blockade. YARA NARDI/REUTERS

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Volume 129 | No. 158
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