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The speakers take to the stage Sept. 29 during an event featuring the Sister Senators at Wofford College in Spartanburg. PHOTOS BY ALEX MARTIN/GREENVILLE NEWS

What could be affected in case of government shutdown

Iris Seaton and Joyce Orlando
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

A government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to reach a compromise and pass a budget by the funding deadline. Once the deadline passes, non-essential government employees stop working, and funding for some programs come to a screeching halt.

Here's everything to know about what would happen in a federal government shutdown and what is affected by it in South Carolina.

What happens if the government shuts down?

Federal government agencies and programs rely on annual funding appropriations passed by Congress. A government shutdown occurs when non-essential discretionary federal programs close due to a lack of funding following Congress's failure to agree on a budget or temporary funding measures.

During a government shutdown, federal workers considered nonessential stop coming to work and getting paid. Essential workers in fields such as law enforcement and the military stay on the job without pay, and both groups are eventually reimbursed when the government reopens.

Who is affected by a federal government shutdown?

Generally, those who feel the deepest losses during shutdowns are members of the military who serve without pay, numerous non-essential federal workers who would be furloughed or who are deemed essential and have to continue work without pay, people who rely on WIC benefits to keep their babies fed and many more.

This time, the White House has also threatened more permanent changes if a shutdown takes place. In a memo, the Office of Management and Budget outlined this harsher approach, stating that "programs that did not benefit from an infusion of mandatory appropriations will bear the brunt of a shutdown."

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Taking a stand

Sister Senators: Abortion bill fight was a matter of 'right and wrong'

Bella Carpentier
Greenville News | USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Three of South Carolina's "Sister Senators" gathered in Wofford College on Sept. 29 for a discussion on women's leadership, representation and state politics.

Former Spartanburg City Councilwoman Susu Johnson introduced three of the five women who played an integral role in blocking a restrictive abortion bill in 2023 — most of which lost their bids for reelection after taking a stand on the hard line policy.

Johnson started her address with how South Carolina lagged the nation in ratifying a woman's right to vote. Now, the Palmetto State ranks 49th when it comes to women's representation in state legislatures — only West Virginia ranks lower.

South Carolina's House of Representatives has 124 members, 21 of which are women. There are two women in the state senate's 46-member chamber.

"These numbers, let's be honest, are not pretty," Johnson said, before introducing the "Sister Senators."

Former state senators Penry Gustafson, (R-Kershaw) and Katrina Shealy (R-Lexington), and current state Sen. Margie Bright Matthews (D-Colleton), appeared at Leonard Auditorium for "A Candid Conversation."

The three women are part of a five women group called the "Sister Senators," who were catapulted into national spotlight after they filibustered to stop a restrictive abortion ban — S.474. The other two



Katrina Shealy speaks during the event featuring the Sister Senators.

Sister Senators are former state senators Mia McLeod (I-Richland) and Sandy Senn (R-Charleston).

Shealy said that the five women all held different political beliefs, even on the topic of abortion. However, they came together when they felt it was a matter of "right" and "wrong."

"I didn't get elected to get reelected," Shealy said. "I got elected to do what was right."

Gustafson explained how each member of the alliance brought different perspectives and used their backgrounds as part of a strategy to filibuster against the abortion bill. Gustafson chose to talk about the biology of a pregnancy, McLeod spoke from personal experience with sexual assault, while Shealy spoke from experience leading the Family and Veterans' Services Committee.

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Rich nations accused of broken climate promises

U.N. assembly puts conflict over growing crisis in spotlight

Doyinsola Oladipo
REUTERS

NEW YORK — Leaders of developing countries threatened by climate change told rich nations at the United Nations General Assembly that they are falling far short of promises to fund measures to address rising sea levels, droughts and deforestation.

"It is past time for the rich world to meet its obligations and get money to where it's needed most," Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine told the assembly last week. "We've heard the promises — but promises don't reclaim land in atoll nations like mine."

Wealthy countries' funding reached \$100 billion a year, an amount agreed upon in 2009, two years late in 2022. At a U.N. climate summit last year, leaders agreed to provide developing countries \$300 billion a year by 2035. Experts

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Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said "those who shoulder the blame must foot the bill" for climate change. ALEXI J. ROSENFELD/GETTY IMAGES

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