

NFFE Shutdown Talking Points September 2023

Politics Behind the Government Shutdown

- **Caused by Far Right House Republicans:** Far-right wing of Republican party refuses to work with Republican caucus and Speaker McCarthy. This group of far-right lawmakers is playing politics instead of working for the American people.
- **Small group of Republican House members are actively blocking short-term funding bills (i.e., continuing resolution) and annual appropriations bills**
- **Members of Congress will still get paid during the shutdown but federal workers will not:** Angie Craig D-Minn. Has introduced legislation to withhold pay for lawmakers during the shutdown.
- **Shutdown likely to start at midnight between Saturday, September 30th and Sunday October 1, 2023.** There is no clear date for when the shutdown will end.

Permanent Financial Impact on Federal Workers

- **800,000 federal workers and their families will not receive paychecks:** Workers trying to support America will struggle to make rent and put food on the table.
- **Half of federal workers will be forced to continue working without pay:** No one should work without pay. The rest of federal workers will be furloughed.
- **One-third of federal workers are veterans:** Approximately 250,000 veterans and their families will not receive paychecks. Veterans deserve better from the government and the American people that they continue to serve.
- **Majority of federal workers live paycheck to paycheck:** Contrary to popular belief, the majority of federal workers live paycheck to paycheck. Loss of pay will result in federal workers defaulting on loans, mortgages, credit cards, utilities and other payments. This will affect interest rates, credit scores and the ability to receive security clearance.
- **Workers all around the United States:** 85% of the federal workforce is outside DC.
- **Lasting economic impact on federal workers:** The loss of pay will impact federal workers and their families long after the shutdown has ended.

Economic Impact of the Federal Government Shutdown

- **Impact of Last Shutdown:** S&P estimated that the 2013 shutdown cost the American taxpayer \$1.5 billion daily on average. This shutdown may be smaller but it may result in greater economic uncertainty.

- **Interference with Economic Growth:** A government shutdown may reduce GDP growth. Some economic data collection will be suspended including employment reports, inflation readings like CPI and GDP measurement could be impacted.
- **Delayed Infrastructure Projects:** Environmental reviews and government permitting will be disrupted. This will affect federal agency projects and slow the economy of rural America where federal projects are depended upon.
- **Disruption to Small Businesses:** The Small business Administration will not be able to accept, review or approve new business loans. 30 million small businesses will be affected.
- **Impact on Government Contractors:** Thousands of contractors will have their pay delayed or pay will never come at all.
- **Services Already Paid For:** American taxpayers have already paid for government services and a shutdown will prevent Americans from receiving the services that they are owed.

Impact on the United States - All Americans get screwed by shutdown

- **Delays in Disaster Response:** The shutdown will increase the risk of depleting FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund which would complicate emergency response efforts and recovery.
- **Preparation for Fire Season:** The US Forest Service will not be able to prepare the national forests for fire seasons which will make large scale fires more likely. This will also impact communities near national forests.
- **Undermine Cancer and Disease Research:** The shutdown will stall critical research on cancer and other diseases. New patients waiting for treatments in clinical trials will be turned away.
- **Housing Delays:** New home mortgages, refinances and new building loans will be delayed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).
- **Travel Delays:** Air traffic controllers and TSA officers will work without pay which will potentially lead to significant delays in air travel. State and local subsidies for public transportation will be delayed as well.
- **Endanger All Workers:** OSHA will be forced to limit workplace inspections which protect Americans from danger in the workplace. Workers owed back pay will face delays in their investigations.
- **Undermine Food Safety and Food Security:** The FDA will need to delay food safety inspections for a variety of products across the country. Government loans are also needed for planting of crops.
- **Impact on Children:** Programs such as Head Start which provides family support services will be delayed.
- **Impact Our National Landmarks:** National Parks will have to close and the people and industry who rely on the parks will experience a financial impact.

- **Impact on National Security:** Military pay for active-duty service members will be disrupted. Service-members and their families will unfairly have their lives disrupted.
- **Delays in Tax Returns:** The IRS will struggle to process tax returns quickly.
- **Delays in Courts:** Federal courts will run out of money and have to close in January. There could be delays in criminal and civil proceedings which will create a backlog.

NFFE Message

- **Stop the political games**
- **Stop using federal workers and their families as political pawns**
- **Shutdown will cause hardship for all Americans**
- **85% of federal workforce is outside DC area.**
- **Bargaining Unit Members:** Do your part to help those fighting for you and join NFFE.