

IAMAW Rocky Mountain Lodge 47
5621 Bowen Court #101
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IAMAW ROCKY MOUNTAIN LODGE 47

Tool Chest

Keeping our Members Informed and Motivated

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Special Edition

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8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SHUTDOWN



This post originally appeared at Working America.

In case you haven't heard, the government shut down [Tuesday morning, October 1st] as Congress failed to pass a "continuing resolution" to keep it operating. You'll hear a lot of people saying this is a "standoff" or a simple case of two sides being unable to compromise. But it's not politics as usual—it's an unusual, and dangerous, hijacking of politics by a determined minority. Here are eight things to keep in mind as you watch this play out.

1. Its totally optional: First and foremost, there's no reason for a shutdown, except that House Republicans refuse to pass a continuing resolution (CR) without attaching unrelated provisions to undermine the Affordable Care Act. This is not an inevitable crisis. It's a manufactured one.
2. About 800,000 People Aren't Working, Many Working without Pay: That's according to this good, comprehensive overview by Brad Plumer of The Washington Post. "Non-essential employees" like medical researchers, pesticide regulators, wage-law enforcement officials and veterans' benefits processors are staying home today, and it's unclear whether they'll get back pay. That hit households hard.
3. A Lot of People Could Go Without Benefits: Per Plumer's report, some services provided by the government—like disability claims and pensions for veterans and food aid for low-income parents—will fall short if the shutdown goes on too long.

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4. That's Awful for the Economy: When people don't get the money they're expecting to get, they can't do things like buy food or pay rent. When families and businesses don't know when government will re-open, that makes matters worse. One economic research firm estimates the cost of a shutdown to our economy at \$300 million a day.
5. Senate Democrats Have Already Compromised: The CR that Senate Democrats have passed, multiple times, isn't based on their ideal budget. It's based on the House Republicans' lower spending levels, which lock in place sequestration cuts.
6. Keeping the Government Open Isn't a Concession: House Republicans are trying to say that they're just trying to "negotiate" with the Senate. But "do what we say or the economy gets it" isn't a "negotiation." It does not constitute a compromise on their part to "offer" to fund government operations. It's called "governing."
7. Many Republicans Understand What They're Doing Is Crazy, Are Doing It Anyway: It's simply not the case that most, or even all, Republicans are enthusiastic about forcing a standoff. Even conservative writers admit that this is about a small, committed ideological caucus within the Republican Party. As Kate Nocera reports, Wisconsin Republican Reid Ribble called the shutdown strategy "irrational" and admitted that it would cause "risk to our economy." And yet—out of loyalty to leadership, fear of a primary opponent or some other mysterious reason—he voted with the rest of his party for the "irrational" and economy-damaging strategy at every opportunity. You get zero credit for knowing the right thing if you keep doing the wrong thing anyway.
8. Its Undemocratic: Government by manufactured crisis and hostage-taking violates the basic norms of democracy—and the polls show that shutting down government to block or undermine the new health care law is a deeply unpopular position. Republicans are engaging in this behavior because they couldn't win enough power in elections to get what they want any other way. It's absurd to accept that as normal.

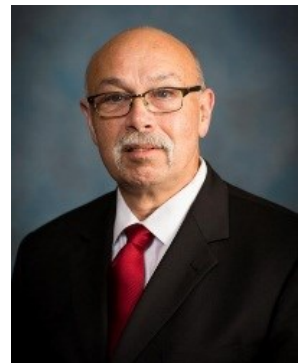


NFFE/IAM Federal District 1

National President: William R. Dugan

To Congress:

“DO THE RIGHT THING!”



As hundreds of thousands of federal employees awoke to a government shutdown this morning, William R. Dugan, National President of the National Federation of Federal Employees, a national union affiliated with the IAM that represents 110,000 federal workers throughout the U.S., issued the following statement: “Today Congress willfully forced 800,000 dedicated federal workers off the job of serving the American people. These workers have families to feed, bills to pay, and rent to make. They are taxpaying, hardworking citizens of this country just like everyone else, but extremists in Congress are punishing them Save to score political points.

My message to Congress is this: Don't play games with federal employees' livelihoods.

This shutdown is shameful, it is unacceptable, and this union will not rest until these workers are back on the job and their paychecks are made whole. Federal employees have already endured three years of frozen pay, cuts to retirement benefits, and over a week of unpaid furlough days. They have given more than their fair share. Even more furloughs under this shutdown will be the straw that broke the camel's back.

Federal employees deserve better. They provide critical services to our nation every day by caring for our veterans, protecting our borders, and preserving our national treasures, among so many other vital duties. They want to come to work and serve their country. We must all stand up and demand Congress do the right thing and put our public servants back on the job where they belong.”

Call Congress at 202-224-3121 to tell your Senators and Representative that federal employees shouldn't be punished to score political points.



Colorado Springs tops one survey as the most affected US city by government shutdown

(Story from Gazette.com)

By the numbers, Colorado Springs is the most federally-dependent big city in the United States, a Washington Post study found.

The study estimated that nearly 19 percent of the workforce in Colorado Springs gets a federal paycheck, making the city especially vulnerable to latest round of federal budget gridlock.

"We're getting hit really hard," said Richard Skorman, a former City Council member and restaurateur.

He began offering free meals to furloughed federal workers at his Poor Richard's restaurant on North Tejon Street Wednesday.

"The federal employees are critical to so much of what we do," he said.

Colorado Springs is far from king of federal furloughs in the government shutdown. Most federal workers here are in uniform and are guaranteed a paycheck through the shutdown, thanks to a last-minute congressional deal.

The area has about 36,000 troops on active duty and 13,500 federal civilian workers, with about half of those civilians off the job without pay during the shutdown, which began Tuesday.

That compares with nearly 450,000 federal workers in the nation's capital, most of them civilians subject to furlough.

"While this is in large part a story for Washington, Colorado Springs is another place where a very important swath of the economy is affected," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow for the Brookings Institution in Washington, which came up with the numbers used by The Post.

Tom Binnings with Summit Economics in Colorado Springs said the Brookings numbers seemed fairly on target, showing the huge federal footprint here.

It's something local leaders have seen as a blessing and a curse for years. A frequent topic of political talk is diversifying the region's economy.

"We as a city have always maintained a careful balance to seek out and have diversity in our economy while respecting and wanting to keep the military community we have here," said Republican state Rep. Amy Stephens of Monument. "They're what make this community one of the best ones to live in.

The Post analysis looked at nation's top 100 metropolitan area based on the percentage of the labor force dependent on federal paychecks, including troops.

It's no surprise that the nation's biggest military communities topped the post's list, with Colorado Springs, where the military is responsible for more than a third of the economy, leading the pack.

Colorado Springs was followed on the list by the Virginia Beach-Norfolk area of Virginia, home to the nation's top Navy bases, which had 17.2 percent of its workforce reliant on the federal government. Honolulu came in third at 17 percent with its mix of Army, Navy and Air Force bases.

The Post study didn't examine smaller communities that have an even larger federal footprint as a percentage of their economies. In Killeen, Texas, for instance, members of the military from neighboring Fort Hood make up about a third of the town's population.

Because troops were sheltered from the shutdown, the immediate impacts of government gridlock haven't hit Colorado Springs with full force. But that could change.

As they argue over the budget, members of Congress also face a looming deadline for setting the "debt ceiling." Without an increase in borrowing authority, the Treasury Department could run out of cash, putting all federal paychecks, entitlements and contracts at risk.

"That will clearly begin to ripple more widely through the national economy and your economy," Muro said.

It could effectively disrupt up to 40 percent of the region's economy.

"It's not limited to us if that happens," said Don Addy with the pro-military Colorado 30 Group. "We'll be one community of many affected by a debt ceiling collapse if that happened."

Read more at <http://gazette.com/colorado-springs-tops-one-survey-as-the-most-affected-us-city-by-government-shutdown/article/1507111#eXR5vrUvej3wZ9Ot.99>

Top 10 Cities Affected by Shutdown



- 1) Colorado Springs, 55,000 federal workers, or 18.8% of the workforce
- 2) Virginia Beach-N.C., 144,000 federal workers, 17.2%
- 3) Honolulu 86,000 workers, 17.2%
- 4) D.C. region, 446,000 workers, 14.3%
- 5) El Paso, 43,000 workers, 13.6%
- 6) Ogden-Clearfield, Utah, 24,000 workers, 11.5%
- 7) San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, 151,000 workers, 10.9%
- 8) Augusta, Ga.-S.C., 20,000 workers, 9.1%
- 9) San Antonio, 72,000 workers, 7.8%
- 10) Charleston S.C., 24,000 workers, 7.6%

How the ripple effects of the government shut-down might spread, day by day

By Erin McClam, Staff Writer, NBC News

President Barack Obama says of the government shutdown: “The longer this goes on, the worse it will be.”

How much worse is still an open question? Nobody has been through this in 17 years, and federal agencies are scrambling to make adjustments. But more examples are emerging each day of the damage that a prolonged shutdown would wreak.

From paychecks to childcare, money and services have been brought to a grinding halt. And fewer FDA inspectors means higher prices -- which could make an impact in the grocery store. NBC's Miguel Almaguer reports.

Here are some examples of what would happen if the shutdown stretched days, weeks or even months.

Monday, Oct. 7: Sikorsky Aircraft of Connecticut, which sells helicopters to the Defense Department, says it will be forced to furlough 2,000 workers in Connecticut, Florida and Alabama.

Friday, Oct. 11: United Technologies, a major defense contractor, says it will be forced to furlough 4,000 workers at two of its companies, Pratt & Whitney and UTC Aerospace Systems. Sikorsky says it will furlough 1,000 more.

Saturday, Oct. 12: Football Saturday for the service academies: Army hosts Eastern Michigan, and Navy is at Duke. Those games are up in the air — but college football is such a moneymaker that private donors would probably step in. Private donations are covering the Oct. 5 games, and military officials say the NCAA, CBS Sports and United Airlines all offered to help.

Tuesday, Oct. 15: The final deadline to file your 2012 tax return, provided you got an exemption for the regular April 15 deadline. If you owe the government money, it's still due — but if you're having math trouble, you probably won't get anyone at the IRS on the phone to help.

Wednesday, Oct. 16: Federal courts could shut down. Administrators say the courts will stay open for roughly the first 10 business days of the shutdown, but they say they would have to reassess matters on Oct. 15.

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Thursday, Oct. 17: The Big One. The date at which the federal government exhausts its ability to borrow money, unless Congress raises the limit it can borrow — negotiations increasingly likely to be tied up with talks on the shutdown. After Oct. 17, the Treasury would have about \$30 billion on hand, enough to cover only a few days. Predictions for the fallout in the financial markets are catastrophic.

Late October: Claims processing for the Veterans Administration's pension, education and job-training programs can continue through late October. After that, claims processing and payments will be suspended at an unspecified date when the money runs out, spokesman Randal Noller says.

Friday, Nov. 1: Already, as many as 19,000 children in 11 states have been left out of Head Start programs because grant money ran out Sept. 30. Sally Aman, a spokeswoman for the National Head Start Association, says she is unsure how many more children would be left out if the shutdown reaches Nov. 1, but local Head Start programs renew annual grants throughout the year, so thousands more would almost certainly be affected.

The impact of the first government shutdown in 17 years was felt across America as offices were shuttered and workers were sent home after lawmakers failed to come to a deal.

Sunday, Nov. 17: The National Retail Federation said Thursday that the next 45 days will make or break the holiday shopping season, which is critical for stores and the overall economy. For now, the federation forecasts Americans will spend \$602 billion this year, about 4 percent more than last year, but it warns that consumer confidence could wither if the shutdown wears on.

Monday, Nov. 18: A 20-day launch window opens for Maven, an unmanned NASA spacecraft intended to explore the atmosphere of Mars. Jared Espley, a NASA space scientist, said on Twitter this week that the spacecraft was being put into "hurricane-proof storage" instead of loaded onto a rocket. The Maven launch was later declared exempt from the shutdown.

'Each day that goes by': That's often how the danger increases for intelligence services, Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper told Congress this week. About 70 percent of the intelligence services' civilian workforce has been furloughed. "The danger here," Clapper said, "will accumulate over time." He cited information lost because he has fewer people to track targets.

[The Associated Press and Reuters contributed to this report](#)

I you know where you're headed you can make decisions to change your direction or keep going!

Well here we are again in the middle of another crisis, one side against the other, the Republicans against the Democrats and the President, all are holding America and its citizens hostage, bound in a seemingly endless battle over policy and laws, between the haves and the have-nots. Speaker of the house, John Boehner has said **"This is about fairness to the American people!"** this is good to know, so now that it is about fairness to us then lets talk fairness. First; since this battle is over the "Affordable Car Act" more commonly known "Obama Care" we should strongly consider this question: Why cant our elected officials be affected and placed under this medical program just as American citizens are? They are our hired officials and are not better than us. They are American citizens are they not? Second; Since the government is shut down they should not receive pay either if the federal government employees don't get pay, but beyond there should be no such thing as a government shutdown anyway. This is ridiculous and I really don't understand how something can be shut-down and still run, it makes no sense.

We as citizens should demand better from our officials and our support for this demand are protected under the 14th amendment to the Constitutions, its as follows:

14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America:

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

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Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

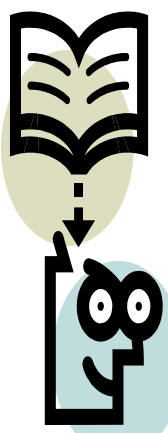
Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Comment by John Keisler, Communicator LL47: As American citizens we are expected by the constitution and its amendments, to become proactive and keep a watchful eye on or elected officials, so they don't become overbearing and corrupt, by doing so we control the outcome of our nation.

But what do we do? First alert your Congressmen and Senators that we have had enough of this drama and learn the issues. Second talk with your friends and neighbors about these problems and let them know how they can be affected by this crisis and the upcoming debt crisis. Third show your determination and solidarity in public if necessary.

Simply stated we have been politically separated on purpose, by those in our government, that has enabled them to manipulate laws and public opinion in order to achieve results that are favorable to "large corporations" and "Big Oil." If there is any question what this fight is about just follow the money and see who stands to lose the most during this crisis.

The debt ceiling is a moot point when it comes to over 17 trillion dollars in debt, since we in no way can ever pay this off. In a few years we will not be able to pay the interest on this debt and default is inevitable. Additionally, it seems now we are willing to get into another War that could raise the debt larger still. Nature seems to be going wild so we can expect more natural disasters that will require even more money. This is a never ending cycle and the sad part is we can spend billions on wars to profit the ultra wealthy, but cannot spend money on the health and welfare of our own people.



MONTHLY LODGE MEETINGS

October 12, 2013

November 9, 2013

December 14, 2013

10 AM TO NOON

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The Tool Chest is an IAMAW Rocky Mountain Lodge 47 Bi-monthly publication created to enhance communication with members. Members are encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter they feel is important or informative. Articles will be edited. This newsletter is intended for the use of the individual to whom addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of IAMAW Local 47.

You may submit articles to: Communicator IAMAW Rocky Mountain Lodge 47, Commerce City, Co 80022

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