



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN CONCERNS AND UT'S RESPONSE

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What you are seeing:

SHUTDOWN



11 OCT 2013
For U.S. Ecologists, Shutdown Could Have Long-Term Effects
Closure is creating gaps in decades-long data sets that can't be filled



10 OCT 2013
U.S. Shutdown Tightens Its Grip on Research
The second week of the U.S. government shutdown found scientists more worried than ever about its long-term impact on research.



10 OCT 2013
Tales From the Shutdown: Grad Student Is Frozen Out of Research in Antarctica
Icebreaker delivers scientists to Palmer Station as it prepares to shut down



8 OCT 2013
U.S. Will Suspend Antarctic Program, Major Construction Projects if Shutdown Lingers
NSF says it will run out of money for polar program on 14 October



8 OCT 2013
Tales of the Shutdown: Fruit Fly Shipments on Hold
Cell biologists lament shutdown's effects on shipping reagents, grant reviews



4 OCT 2013
Astronomer: Shutdown Could Waste a Year's Worth of Work
Closure of U.S. radio telescopes may make data costing \$500,000 useless



4 OCT 2013
Shutdown Static Blinds U.S. Radio Telescopes
National Radio Astronomy Observatory closing three instruments, fourth on life support



4 OCT 2013
Tales From the Shutdown: ClinicalTrials.gov Gets Exemption
Following *Boston Globe* report, NIH calls back workers to update clinical trials registry



DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE AGENCY HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN.

Consequently, this website is not being maintained and the information it displays may not be up to date. The Endowment will not be able to update information, process any transactions submitted via the website, or respond to any inquiries until funding for NEH is restored and the agency resumes its operations.



EVENTS HUMANITIES MAGAZINE STAFF DIRECTORY



HOME ABOUT NEH GRANTS DIVISIONS AND OFFICES NEWS EXPLORE



How Shakespeare Learned to be Shakespeare

Collecting early English plays and performance records helps us understand Shakespeare's professional background.



NEH FEDERAL SHUTDOWN PLAN

To learn more about the NEH's comprehensive shutdown plan:

[VIEW PDF](#)

EXPLORE THE HUMANITIES

Websites, apps, and digital projects supported by NEH grants



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Travel

Constitution

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Day 15:

- The U.S. federal government officially closed for the first time in 17 years on Tuesday, October 1st after Congress failed to pass a continuing resolution (CR) of the federal budget to fund the government for fiscal year 2014.
- “*Essential*” government employees are still at work. Many federal agencies are operating with a skeleton crew of essential staff.
- Programs that have already been funded, either through mandatory funding or prepaid contracts will continue as will those that are fee for service-- like passports and visa applications.
 - **NSF announced that it will be sending notices to research grant awardees, informing them that payments won't be made during the disruption*
 - *This doesn't mean all government-funded R&D will cease; researchers who do not require immediate intervention or oversight from government employees, or are not waiting on disbursement of actual funding, may continue their work.*

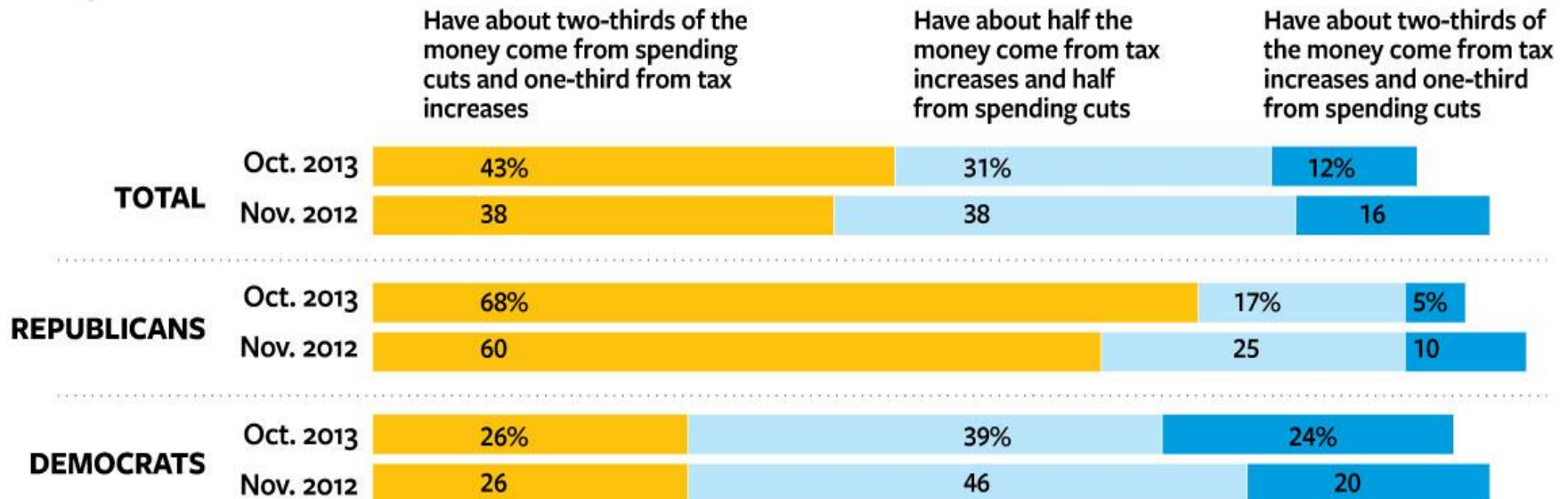


Why?

Hardening Stances

Republicans are even less amenable to reducing the deficit through tax increases than they were a year ago.

Q. Which ONE of the following three options to reduce the deficit would you most prefer?



Source: United Technologies/*National Journal* Congressional Connection Poll of 1,000 adults, Oct. 3-6. Margin of error is ± 3.7 percentage points.

What is happening at UT?

- So far there is not a lot of immediate direct effect on UT, since much research money is already committed.
 - Note: new projects to start on or after October 1st
 - Example: A group of UT professors and researchers were scheduled to attend a meeting at NASA this week; the meeting had to be canceled.
- Student loans and Pell grants will be minimally affected. Student loan servicers will continue to operate because they are paid through contracts that were funded last year and run until June.
 - The Department of Education has released a Federal Student Aid Processing and Customer Service Guidance for the shutdown.



Timing:

- **But, there is no indication of how long a government shutdown might last.**
- Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has announced that the U.S. will hit its borrowing limit October 17th, which means that Congress will also have to pass legislation raising the debt ceiling or else head toward default on the U.S. government's obligations.
- So something to note is that the Rockets are scheduled to play Navy Saturday October 19th. Mike O'Brien has been in communication with Navy and assures us that they have every intention to be here and play the game in the Glass Bowl.



UT's Response:

A week and a half ago, in President Jacobs Senior Leadership meeting, Dr. Jacobs asked the group to put together a Government Shutdown Working Group.

This group will communicate on issues or interest areas that UT has concerns about throughout the government shutdown.

If you have a specific concern that you think UT should be keeping an eye on, please let me know or reach out to anyone on this working group.



Government Shutdown Working Group

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Federal Agency Contingency Plans

- The Department of Education's [2013 contingency plan](#). Specifically for financial aid administrators, the Department has also released [Federal Student Aid Processing and Customer Service Guidance](#)
- The National Science Foundation posted the [NSF Plan for Operations During a Funding Hiatus](#).
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued [contingency staffing and shutdown guidance](#).
- The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has posted a [Lapse in Funding](#) website.
- The Department of Energy posted today an [updated website](#) of questions and answers related to a shutdown.
- The Department of Defense has also posted a [website](#) outlining their activities under a shutdown.
- NASA has posted on their [budget website](#) NASA's shutdown plan and related FAQs.
- The Grants.gov website has posted that they "will remain in an operational status, but with reduced federal support staff presence, should a lapse in appropriations occur. In addition, we anticipate that the Grants.gov Contact Center will remain available, and provide assistance to callers."
- The Office of Management and Budget has now almost fully updated their [compiled list](#) of federal agency contingency plans.



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Questions?



Some notes on areas of concern to UT, staff or students:

HHS: The agency is furloughing 52 percent of its staff - according to the shutdown plan. Activities that don't require annual appropriations and which involve the "safety of human life and protection of properties" are top priority. First in line for furloughs: the Administration for Children and Families, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Administration for Community Living, among others.

--The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** will continue caring for clinical center patients and retain enough staff to keep NIH facilities and infrastructure safe. However, it won't admit most new patients or process grant applications and awards.

--The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** will maintain its 24-hour operations center and continue activities supported by mandatory funding, including AIDS and vaccination programs. Activities to be suspended: the flu shot program, certain outbreak detection monitoring and support to states for infectious disease surveillance.

--The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** will continue user fee-funded activities and maintain enough workers to handle high-risk recalls and other critical public health issues. Gone: routine establishment inspections, monitoring imports and some enforcement activities.



TRAVEL: Federal air traffic controllers would remain on the job and airport screeners would keep funneling passengers through security checkpoints. Federal inspectors would continue enforcing safety rules.

- The State Department would continue processing foreign applications for visas and U.S. applications for passports, since fees are collected to finance those services. Embassies and consulates overseas would continue to provide services to American citizens.
- Keep the government closure and federal employee travel restrictions in mind for any upcoming conferences or meetings that were to include federal staff or federal sites.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS: **Social Security** and **Medicare** benefits would keep coming, but there could be delays in processing new disability applications. Unemployment benefits would still go out.



NASA/SCIENCE: NASA will continue to keep workers at Mission Control in Houston and elsewhere to support the International Space station, where two Americans and four others are deployed. (UT does have employees working at NASA that this affects.)

- The National Weather Service would keep forecasting weather and issuing warnings and the National Hurricane Center would continue to track storms. The scientific work of the U.S. Geological Survey would be halted.

VETERANS SERVICES: Most services offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs will continue because lawmakers approve money one year in advance for the VA's health programs. But those veterans appealing the denial of disability benefits to the Board of Veterans Appeals will have to wait longer for a decision because the board would not issue any decisions during a shutdown.

The shutdown has suspended education funding for students on active duty, the government has so far continued processing veterans' education benefits. But that could change if the shutdown persists through the end of this month.

