

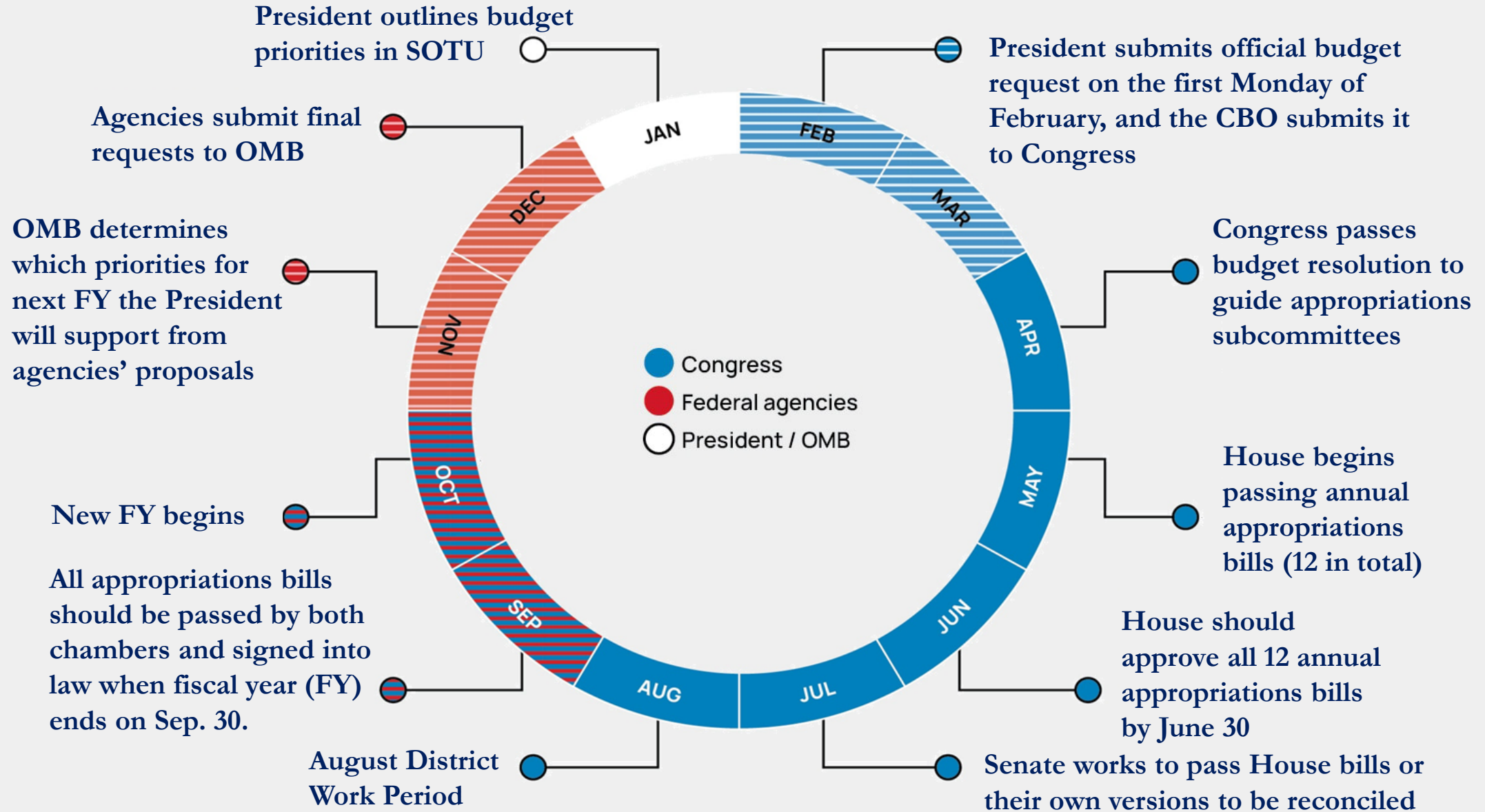
The background of the image is a photograph of the California State Capitol building. The building is a large, ornate structure with a prominent dome and classical architectural features like columns and arched windows. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the title and speaker information. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Shutdown Town Hall

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10)

October 16, 2025

How It's Supposed to Work



The Broken Budget Process

- As designed, the process for funding the government involves the passage of 12 appropriations bills, with each covering one section of the federal budget.
- Due to persistent partisan gridlock, the last time all regular appropriations bills were passed by the October 1 deadline was 1996.
- Since then, Congress has passed continuing resolutions (CRs) to provide short-term funding before the passage of regular appropriations bills and/or large “minibus” or “omnibus” bills, which combine multiple sections of the federal budget to expedite consideration.



The Broken Budget Process (cont.)

- Congress has enacted one or more CRs in all but three fiscal years since 1977.
- CRs generally do not address the changing needs of government agencies and programs, they generally do not account for rising costs, and they often cede power to the executive branch.
- Congressman DeSaulnier supports legislation that would permanently remove the threat of government shutdowns by allowing agencies to continue operations in the event of a lapse of appropriations.

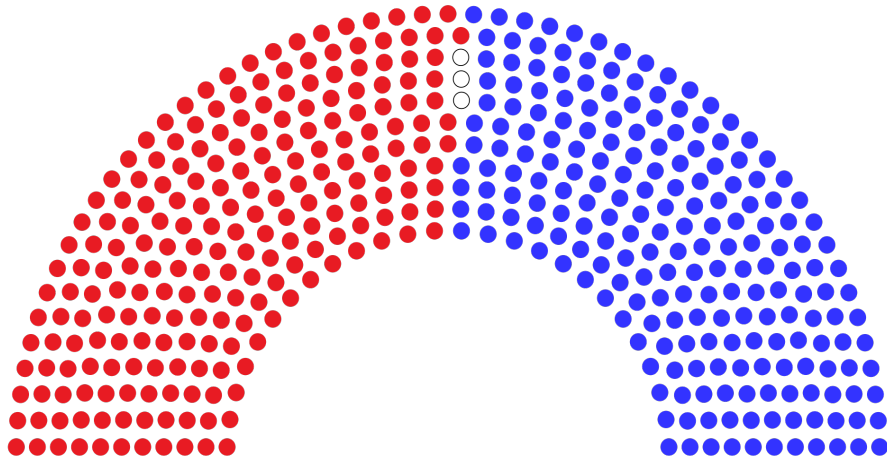


Republicans Hold Majorities in Both Chambers of Congress

U.S. House

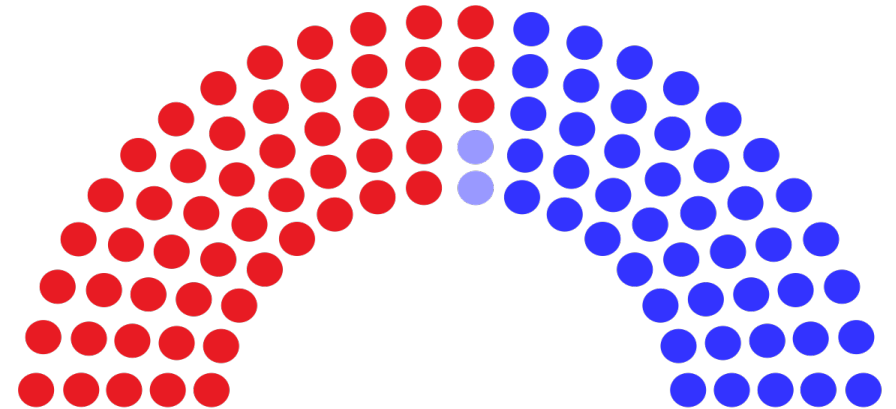
219 **Republicans**, 214 **Democrats**

2 vacancies (TX-18 and TN-07)



U.S. Senate

53 **Republicans**, 47 **Democrats** and
Independents

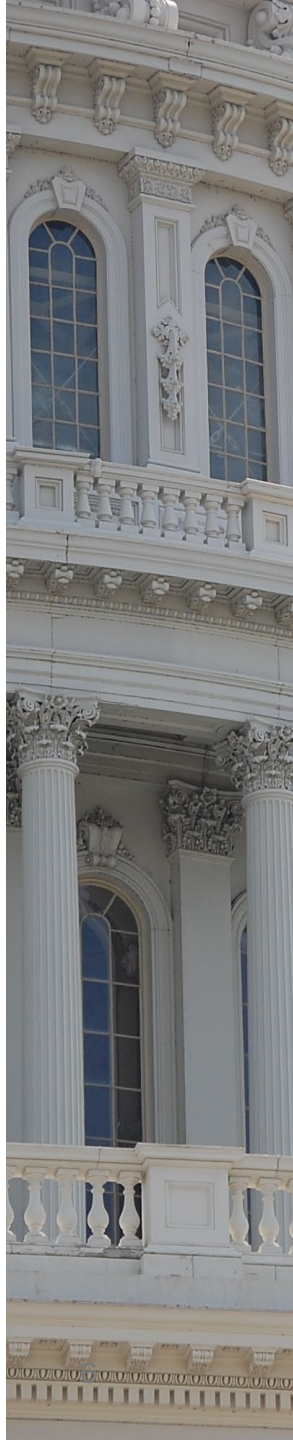


Being in the minority means Democrats do not have the power to decide which bills are voted on or debated, or to call hearings.

But that doesn't mean we aren't taking action.

Where We Are Now

- Ahead of October 1st, Republicans in the House passed just 3 of the 12 necessary spending bills through the House, and none have passed in the Senate.
- On September 19th, without bipartisan consultation or negotiation, Republicans in the House passed a partisan and inadequate CR and immediately fled Washington.
 - The House has not voted now for 27 days.
- The CR has been voted on and failed in the Senate 9 times since September 19th.
- On October 1st, the government entered a shutdown and has been shuttered for 16 days.



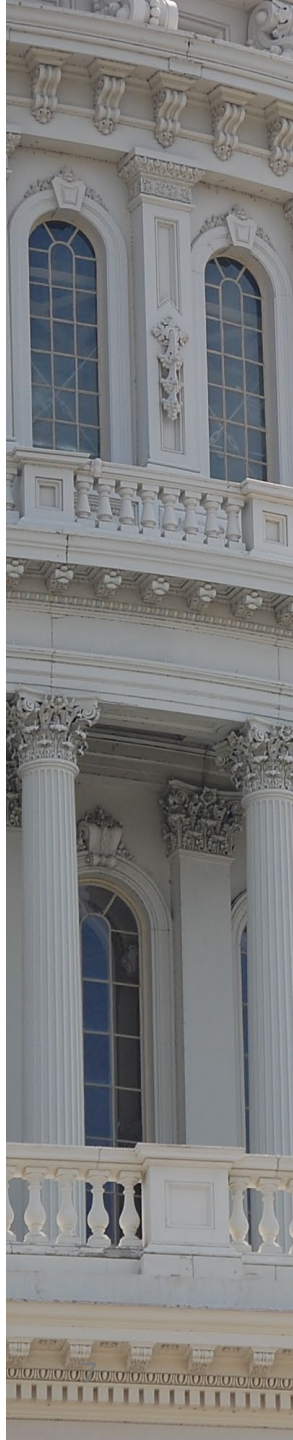
Where We Are Now (cont.)

With Republicans in charge in the House, Senate, and White House, they hold all responsibility for this shutdown.

Republicans have also chosen not to negotiate with Democrats to craft bipartisan spending bills that could pass in the House and Senate.

Abandoning bipartisan negotiations, Republicans are attempting to ram through a partisan short-term funding bill that would:

- Fail to avoid steep hikes in health insurance premiums for all Americans;
- Result in the loss of health care coverage for millions; and
- Hand even more tax cuts to billionaires.



What House Democrats Support

House and Senate Democrats aren't just saying NO to Republicans—we are saying YES to the fair CR we wrote that would:

- Keep the government open through October 31, allowing vital services to continue while leaders negotiate full-year funding;
- Permanently extend expiring tax credits that make health insurance more affordable for over 20 million Americans;
- Reverse cuts in the One Big Ugly Law, which are set to kick 15 million Americans off their health care and decimate Medicaid;
- Protect federal funding from the Trump Administration's illegal recissions and restore some funding that has been cut.

Democrats stand ready to work with Republicans to pass a funding bill that includes necessary protections for Americans' health care and Congressional authority over the budget.



Manufactured, Deliberate Chaos

Since the start of the shutdown, President Trump and his Administration have taken several illegal actions:

- ✗ Mass firings: Since last Friday, the Trump Administration has illegally sent firing notices to 4,200 federal employees from at least 7 agencies.
 - *Analysis*: Illegal and lawsuit filed
- ✗ Shifting funds: The Administration is planning to divert \$8 billion in other funds at DoD to pay troops.
 - *Analysis*: Illegal



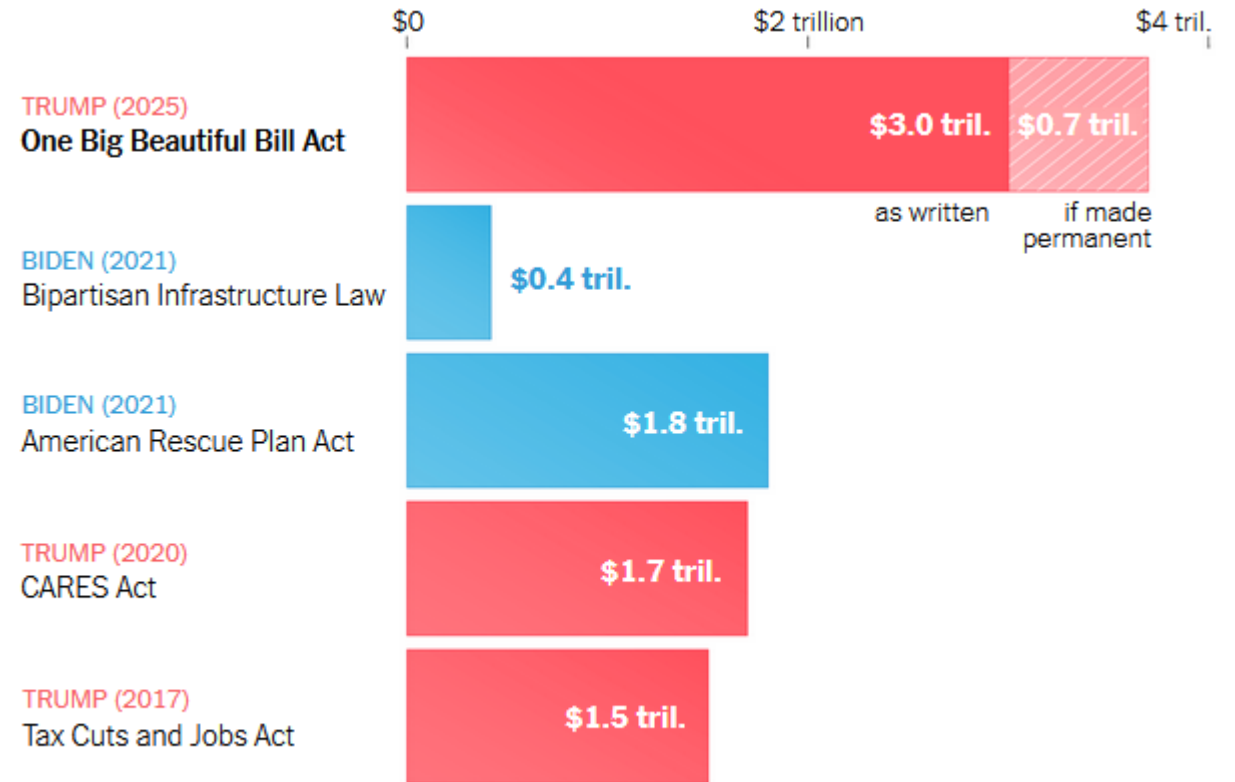
Manufactured, Deliberate Chaos (cont.)

- ✗ Threats to withhold furloughed worker pay: An estimated 750,000 workers are furloughed and hundreds of thousands more are working without pay. Last week, the President suggested that furloughed employees may not receive back pay.
 - *Analysis*: Illegal and lawsuits ready if threat is pursued
- ✗ Partisan posturing: Partisan messages blaming Democrats for the shutdown were published on agency websites and put in furloughed workers' out of office messages.
 - *Analysis*: Illegal and several lawsuits filed



Don't Forget Who They're Working For

- The so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” is the largest upward transfer of wealth in history.
 - People making over \$1 million a year will see their taxes go down by \$97,000 in 2027.
- Meanwhile, the Administration has cancelled funding for public broadcasting, international development, energy innovation, disaster preparedness, and more under the guise of “responsible spending.”



Sources: Center for a Responsible Federal Budget; the Budget Lab

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