

# US Government Shutdown Averted Biden Signs 45 Day Funding Bill

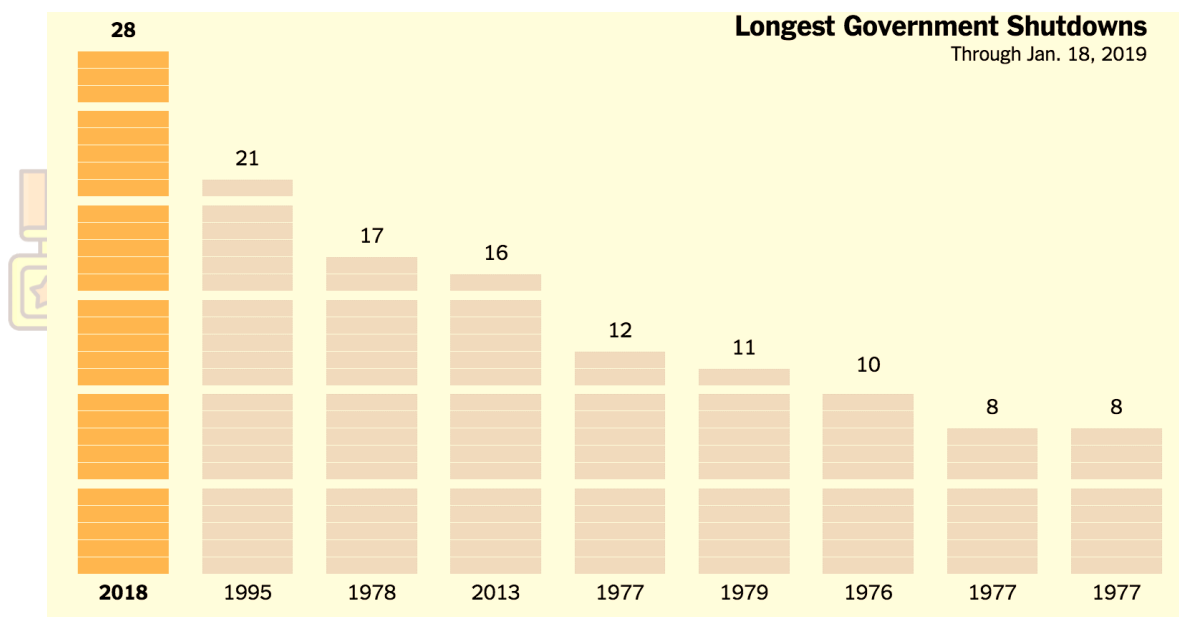
## Why In News

- The threat of a **federal government shutdown** suddenly lifted as President Joe Biden signed a temporary funding bill to keep agencies open with little time to spare after Congress rushed to approve the bipartisan deal.
- The package drops aid to Ukraine, a White House priority opposed by a growing number of GOP lawmakers, but increases federal disaster assistance by \$16 billion, meeting Biden's full request. The **bill funds government until Nov 17**.
- In the meantime, the country is staring down a possible government shutdown – the fourth in a decade – that would see hundreds of thousands of federal workers furloughed, among other wide-reaching effects.



## What Is A Government Shutdown

- A government shutdown happens when Congress **does not approve discretionary spending** for the upcoming fiscal year.
- A government shutdown occurs when the **legislative branch does not pass key bills** which fund or authorize the operations of the executive branch, resulting in the cessation of some or all operations of a government



## What Was The Issue

- Congress must **pass 12 appropriation bills** that set levels of funding for various federal agencies and programs.
- Such funding generally covers the operations of agencies, including salaries and benefits for federal employees, grants to state and local governments, and purchases from the private sector.



- Appropriations are made for almost all spending on U.S. defense as well as for programs to support education, improve America's highways, preserve national parks, and much more.
- All 12 appropriation bills should be enacted before the start of a **new fiscal year, which occurs on October 1.**
- If the deadline is missed and a temporary provision to continue operations is not in place, the federal government will go into a full or partial shutdown.
- **Congress is not anticipated to enact the 12 appropriations bills** that finance government operations before the start of the next fiscal year, it looks like a government shutdown will occur on October 1, 2023.



## Who Will Be Affected

- A shutdown affects nearly **every corner of the US government**, from the delivery of welfare cheques and publishing of national economic data to the operation of federal courts, museums and national parks.



- A shutdown would mean that most of the government's **4 million employees** would not get paid - whether they were working or not - and also would shutter a range of federal services, from National Parks to financial regulators.
- This time around, the ripple effect may extend even further, resulting in an even larger number of furloughed workers,”.
- This includes **workers across federal government agencies**, including the Department of Defense, as well as members of the US military. “All of this would prove disruptive to our national security,”
- A handful of **federal programmes** that millions of people across the US rely on every day could also be disrupted — from dwindling funds for food assistance to potential delays in customer service for recipients of Medicare and Social Security.



## Stopgap Funding Bill

- The US Congress on Saturday approved a '**stopgap funding bill**' in a rare show of cross-party unity to keep federal agencies running for another **45 days** and avert a damaging government shutdown.
- Democrats overwhelmingly backed an eleventh-hour Republican measure to keep federal funding going for 45 days, albeit with a **freeze on aid to Ukraine**.



## How Ukraine Got Affected

- Barely a week after **President Volodymyr Zelensky** was in Washington appealing for more funds, the compromise struck in Congress late Sunday **dropped new funding** for Ukraine amid opposition from hardline Republicans.
- The eleventh-hour bill that averted a federal government shutdown included no new funding for Ukraine, but President **Joe Biden** was **quick to assure** the Kyiv government that U.S. support remains steadfast.
- A Senate version of the measure would have provided more than **\$6 billion for Ukraine**, but House Speaker Kevin McCarthy dropped the funding to placate some hard-line Republicans.



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