



THE GOVERNMENT STANDARD

For current and retired government workers and their families since 1933 • American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

January/February 2019

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Shutdown Edition

How We Beat the Longest Shutdown in History

AFGE led members and allies in a protest and sit-in at the Hart Senate Office Building. Pictured is the silent protest which went on for 33 minutes, a minute for each day the government had been shutdown. The protest and sit-in were attended by hundreds of members and allies and over 50 members of the media.

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A Message from AFGE's National President *J. David Cox Sr.*

Brothers and Sisters,

After a 35-day stalemate leading to the longest shutdown in history I am proud to say we've come out on the other side as winners. But that doesn't minimize the pain and destruction to federal employees, the public, and the world economy that the shutdown has left in its wake.

As we fight to ensure full pay is restored for everyone affected, here's a look back at the most powerful actions we took to fight the shutdown and get federal employees back to work:

- Over 200 protests around the country by AFGE members with media attention.
- AFGE National filed a lawsuit on behalf of the 450,000 federal employees who were forced to work without pay during the shutdown, which is a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Our union leaders and rank-and-file members took to the airwaves to explain how this shutdown impacts real American workers and everyone who depends on public services.
- We coordinated with the AFL-CIO to mobilize all affiliates, state federations, and Central Labor Councils to join us in this fight and they all actively supported us!
- We rallied in front of the White House and in communities across the country, calling on Congress and the president to open the government immediately.
- We held a silent protest in the Hart Senate Office Building for 33 minutes – one minute for each day this shutdown had lasted. Afterwards, we chanted and visited Senate offices to tell their elected officials to immediately stop the shutdown.
- Our Political Director Tucker McDonald and I, as well as 10 other union leaders and allies, were arrested in front of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office for refusing to leave without talking to McConnell.

Here's how you can continue to help: share your story about how this shutdown is affecting you, your family, and your community. Whether it's a call or email to your Representative and Senators, a post on your Facebook or Instagram account, a letter to your local newspaper, or even an interview with your local TV or radio station – sharing your story is perhaps the most effective thing we can do to ensure another shutdown in 2019 is prevented.

This shutdown was the third that occurred in 2018 – and became the longest in our nation's history.

There is never any justification for shutting down the government and denying Americans public access to the government services they pay for and rely on.

Government shutdowns are disruptive not only to the government's employees, but to the entire country and even the world. They are also an obscene waste of money. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this shutdown cost the U.S. economy \$11 billion, including a permanent loss of \$3 billion.

Our message to the President and to Congress is simple: Stop using federal employees as pawns, and start working together in good faith to carry out the work that the American people elected you to do. All of us deserve nothing less. No more shutdowns!

In Solidarity,

AFGE—THE GOVERNMENT STANDARD

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The Shutdown is Over But We Must Keep Up the Pressure



AFGE member and allies rallied in the Hart Senate Building during the shutdown.

“While the agreement reached by the White House and Congress will put employees back to work temporarily and allow them to start getting paid, we will not stop fighting until we have full-year funding approved for all our agencies and until all employees are made whole for the income they have lost,” AFGE President J. David Cox Sr. said.

We must continue to put pressure on every senator to keep the government open and pass a 2.6% pay adjustment for federal employees, which aligns with the military pay adjustment. We have to do everything we can to ensure lawmakers remember another shutdown is out of the question.

Call your senators now at (202) 224-3121.

Tell them to keep the government open and pass the 2.6% pay adjustment for federal employees.

AFGE-backed Bill Guaranteeing Back Pay for Feds Signed into Law

On Jan. 16, AFGE-supported legislation was signed into law that will provide **back pay** for federal employees forced to work without pay or locked out of their jobs without pay during this shutdown and **all future shutdowns**.

Our union thanks all members of Congress who supported this bill. AFGE members deserve to be paid for the time they've been locked out of their jobs through no fault of their own.

The bill also applies to employees of the D.C.

government, D.C. Courts, and D.C. Public Defenders Service affected by the shutdown. In addition, it clarifies that excepted employees who had previously approved leave during the shutdown may take that leave without penalty.

While the guarantee of back pay is certainly good news, it does little to help members who are struggling to make ends meet after more than a month without income.

It's absolutely critical that we keep the pressure on Senate Republicans to fully fund the government before February 15 and prevent another disastrous shutdown in 2019.

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#OccupyHart Rally On Capitol Hill Grabs National Attention



Federal employees and allies stand in silence protest.

On January 23rd, our union led and organized a silent protest and sit-in to make sure Senate leaders knew we were not going to back down in demanding the immediate opening of the government. Attendees stood silent for 33 minutes— one minute for each day the government had been shut down— and used empty plates instead of posters for rally signs, to symbolize 800,000 federal employees going hungry without a paycheck. After the protest, members and allies waited outside of Senate offices to demand their support for reopening the government face to face. When protestors led by National President J. David Cox Sr. refused to leave Mitch McConnell’s office, they sat in the hall and chanted in protest, leading to the arrest of President Cox and 11 other dedicated protestors.

Shutdown Impact by the Numbers

\$11 Billion

How much the shutdown cost the American economy

400%

Increase in December 2018 unemployment claims by federal employees (Dept. of Labor)

523,583

The number of views on the AFGE website during the month of the shutdown

\$3 Billion

Including a permanent loss that will not be recovered

200

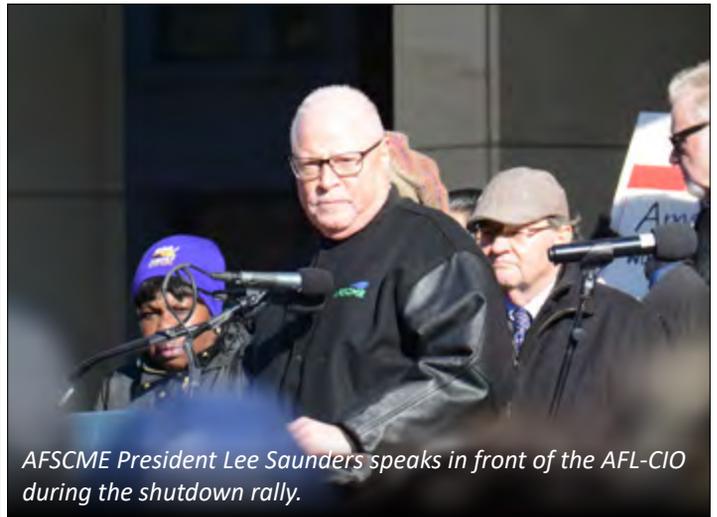
Over 200 shutdown protests and events held around the country

2,000

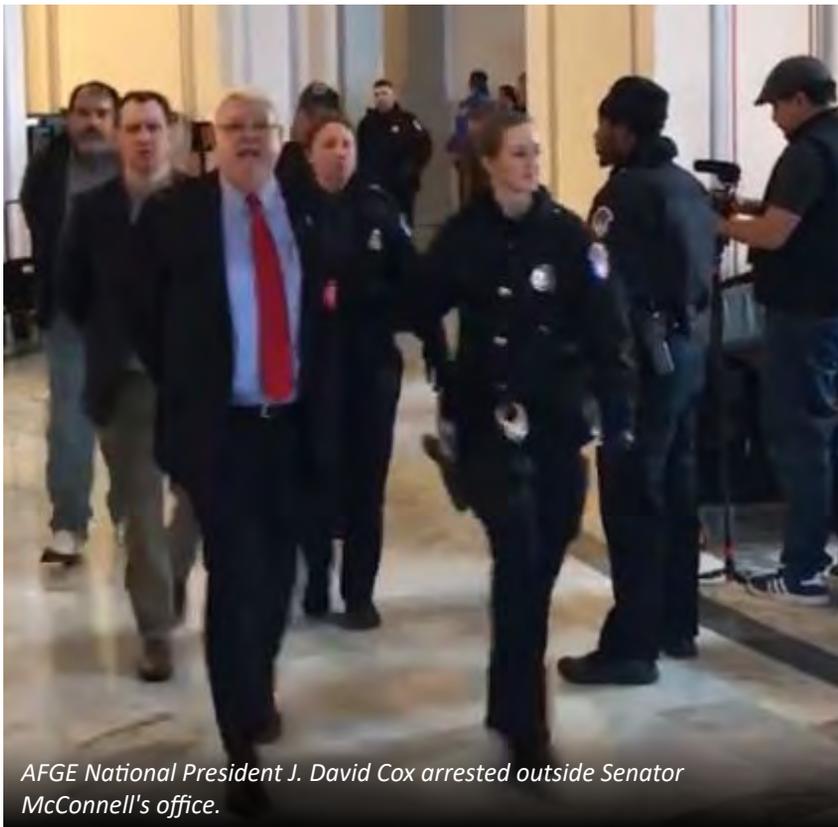
AFGE members and allied marched on the White House



APWU President Mark Dimondstein, stands with federal employees locked out of their jobs.



AFSCME President Lee Saunders speaks in front of the AFL-CIO during the shutdown rally.



AFGE National President J. David Cox arrested outside Senator McConnell's office.



AFGE member Francis Nichols leads chants at the National Park protest.



Protesters march from the AFL-CIO headquarters to the White House.



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumpka addresses the crowd during the #StopTheShutdown rally.

Shutdown Media Coverage from Around the Nation

Television Coverage



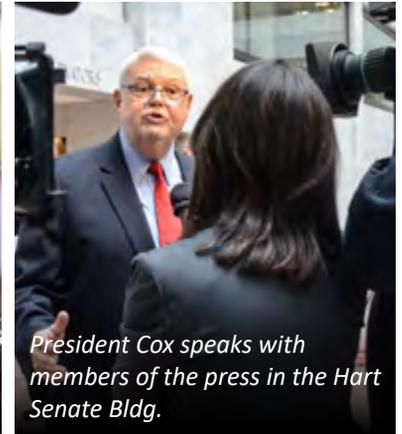
Union activists meet with lawmaker in Orlando.



Diana DeForest, Department of Housing and Urban Development, speaks with NBC's King 5 News.

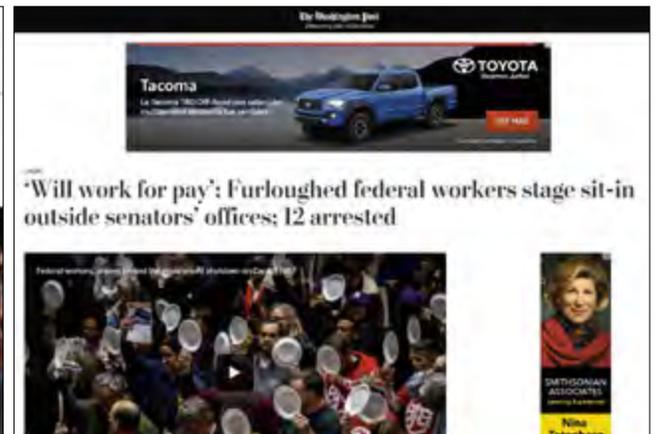


Boston 25 News captures TSA employees working without pay during shutdown.



President Cox speaks with members of the press in the Hart Senate Bldg.

National Press



Local Press



Social Media



Media Stats

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **1,183,108**
Facebook Impressions

 **960,400**
Twitter impressions

 **16,332**
Instagram Impressions

TELEVISION & PRINT

97.8 million
Total reach across all media

59,800
mentions

\$16.7 million
In publicity value

Shutdown Resources

Have you checked out the AFGE government shutdown hub? We're updating it regularly with the latest information, talking points, guidance, and resources for those impacted by this shutdown. We've updated it with new resources and newly issued pay and benefits information for employees affected by the shutdown. Visit www.afge.org/shutdown



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— Stand. Unite. Fight. —

February 10 - 13, 2019 • Washington, D.C.

Register at www.afge.org/legcon2019.

Shutdown Actions from Around the Country



Sens. Cardin and Van Hollen host roundtable discussion with workers about government shutdown.



AFGE District 7 shutdown rally in Detroit.



Shutdown rally in Philadelphia.

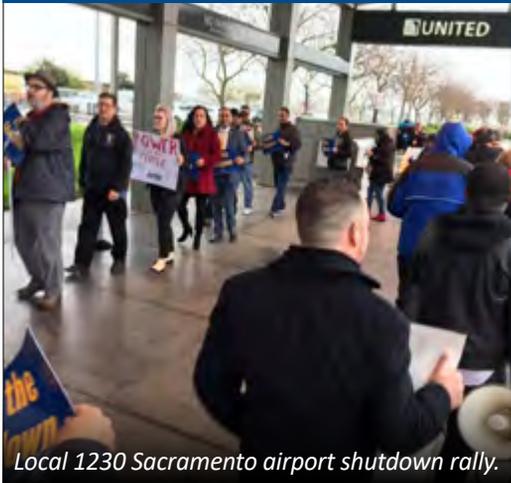


Shutdown rally in Dallas.



Union activists rally in McAllen, Texas, to end the shutdown.

Shutdown Actions from Around the Country



Local 1230 Sacramento airport shutdown rally.



Sen. Rosen hosts roundtable discussion with workers about government shutdown.



Union members in Hawaii gather to make shutdown signs.



Oakland airport shutdown rally.

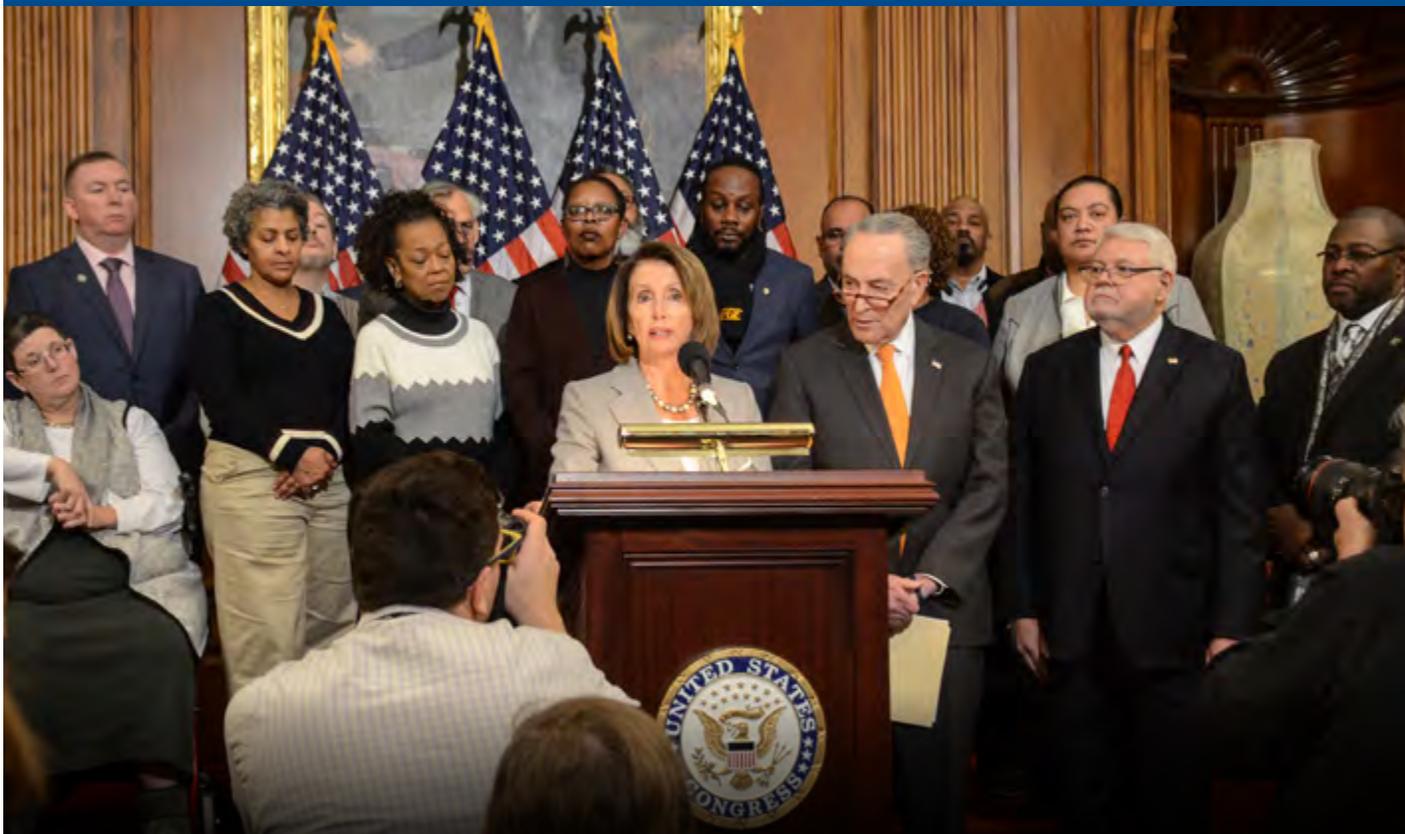


Billboard in Johnson, Tenn.



Sens. Warner and Kaine host roundtable discussion with workers about government shutdown.

AFGE Joins End the Shutdown Press Conference with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Schumer



Speaker Pelosi kicks off event with remarks supporting federal employees, flanked by more than 15 AFGE members.

A FGE National President J. David Cox Sr. and AFGE members join Speaker Pelosi and Senator Schumer at the Capitol to call for immediate end to the partial government shutdown and discuss the impact the shutdown and lockout has had on federal workers. More than 60 members of the media attended.

AFGE Council Leaders Also Spoke at the Press Conference



AFGE Council of Prison Locals President Eric Young

“This underfunding, the lack of staffing is so bad we have secretaries, cooks, and teachers filling in everyday behind mission correction officers. This shutdown only makes it worse. If something happens to any of our professionals behind this distraction, blood will be on your hands.”



AFGE Housing and Urban Development Council President Holly Salamido

“Many H.U.D. employees live paycheck to paycheck. Employees can’t make their car payments. They can’t pay their daycare providers. These financial impacts are serious and long lasting.”



AFGE Nationwide FEMA Local President Steve Reaves

“We’re just recovering from one of the most active hurricane seasons in recent memory. The American people ask where is FEMA? We’re furloughed.”

Did You Work Without Pay? Join Our Lawsuit



These employees perform a variety of dangerous roles: correctional officers, Border Patrol and ICE agents, transportation security officers, and other employees who are labeled as “excepted.”

All federal employees who are classified as non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, have been deemed “excepted” by their agency,

and worked for any amount of time on or after Dec. 22, 2018 without being paid are eligible to join the AFGE lawsuit.

On December 31, 2018, AFGE and Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch (KCNF DC) sued the federal government on behalf of AFGE members and federal employees being forced to work without pay. The lawsuit alleges that the federal government is violating the law by requiring some federal employees to work without pay during a shutdown.

To join the lawsuit, employees should visit www.2018governmentshutdown.com and provide the required information.

“While the agreement reached by the White House and Congress will put employees back to work temporarily, we will not stop fighting until we have full-year funding.” said AFGE National President Cox.

Federal employees can email any questions they have about the lawsuit to 2018governmentshutdown@kcnlaw.com.



AFGE’s 2019 Diversity Week & Human Rights Training Conference

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



“Stay Ready”

Conference Dates: August 10-17, 2019
Hilton Riverside | New Orleans, Louisiana

AFGE’s 2019 Diversity Week will inspire the passion to move AFGE and the labor movement toward positive change and equal treatment for all. With the attacks on public sector workers, on women, on people of color, on low wage workers, on our communities, on our children’s futures, on the labor movement...AFGE has to “stay ready” for whatever attacks come our way!

The Human Rights Training will offer favorites such as all levels of EEO, Coordinator Bootcamp, Collective Bargaining, LGBT training, Diversity training, Conflict Resolution and Workplace Bullying. We will also be adding some exciting new classes to encourage community and union activism. We’re also looking forward to bringing back the very popular Y.O.U.N.G. AFGE Training Summit!

Hosted by AFGE’s Women’s and Fair Practice Departments





**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO**

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