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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for not leaving us alone in a challenging world. You remain our refuge in every storm. As our lawmakers commit this day to You, help them to navigate through the turbulence of this government shutdown.

May Your spirit control their minds, guiding them by the light of Your truth. Lord, inspire them to live worthy of the price You paid for their redemption, making them humble, patient, and kind. Be the resource they need to be faithful stewards of Your unfolding providence.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

BOSNIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I came to the floor of the Senate earlier this year warning my colleagues that the leader of one of the subdivisions within the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Dodik, was ignoring rulings by the national-level Bosnia court. He was threatening to have half the country secede, which, of course, drags up memories we should never forget about the war and the genocide in those countries in the 1990s in which many Bosnian Iowans lost family.

Well, I am glad that he has since complied with the court ruling by stepping down from his position as leader of the RS entity and walked back some of his destabilizing actions. In return, the United States has dropped sanctions against Mr. Dodik and his family.

I am all for rewarding this good behavior, but there are very good reasons to believe that Mr. Dodik has not seen the error of his ways. Mr. Dodik, since, falsely alleged that he was still the rightful President of RS, questioned whether Bosnia and Herzegovina should continue to exist—and can you believe this?—he was photographed embracing Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Belarus.

Mr. Dodik should be on notice then that the United States is watching to see that he stays on the straight and narrow that he wants us to believe that he is on.

I can assure you that this Senator will be on the lookout for any destabilizing actions that threaten the peace in Bosnia. And I will work with the Trump administration to make sure that all actors in the region respect the Dayton Peace Accords that ended the violence and genocide that took place in 1995.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, can this be over now? Have the American people suffered enough or do Democrats need more?

Democrats have snarled air traffic; they have damaged small businesses; they left Federal workers in line at food banks; they jeopardized food assistance—food assistance—for 40 million Americans. Are they satisfied now or does the far left want more?

Surely, Democrats have hit enough milestones. The election is over. Democrats now have the extremely dubious honor of being responsible for the longest government shutdown in American history. So the question is, Can the American people get a break now?

Democrats should be embarrassed—embarrassed—that Federal workers are lining up at food banks and missing bills and in danger of losing homes or cars because Democrats can't summon enough Members to support a clean, nonpartisan funding resolution. That is right—a clean, nonpartisan funding bill sitting right here at the Senate desk. We have not asked Democrats to support a single new Republican policy. We haven't asked them to support a single partisan policy rider. We simply ask them to extend current funding levels for a few weeks so that we could have time to do bipartisan work on appropriations bills. The Democrats couldn't take yes for an answer.

On the subject of appropriations, if any Democrats cherish the faintest hope of still funding the government through a full-year appropriations process—a process that they have delayed for 5 weeks and counting—they should vote for the clean, nonpartisan CR today.

I realize the Democrats have been under a lot of pressure from their far-left base to keep the shutdown going. I assume that it was pressure from Democrats' far-left base that saw the Democratic leader flip his positions on shutdowns 180 degrees in the space of just 6 months. I realize that there are a number of Democrats in the Senate who are not just yielding to pressure from the far left but are themselves members of the far left and are happy to continue this shutdown forever if it means somehow sticking it, they think, to President Trump.

I am hoping there are still Democrats out there who can see beyond the political extremism of their leftist base. And I hope there are some Democrats who can take an honest look at the widespread damage that their shutdown is doing and say: Enough is enough.

Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. Parents are starting to think about

what they are going to put under the tree. Do Democrats still want Federal employees lining up at food banks at Thanksgiving? at Christmas?

On the topic of the holidays, it is an open question whether people will be able to spend it with their families this year if the shutdown continues. Air traffic has been snarled for weeks as a result of Democrats' shutdown, and things are getting worse. The Transportation Secretary just announced yesterday that the government may be forced to close parts of our airspace if the shutdown continues into next week. Close airspace—think about that.

I could go on. I could talk about the unions asking Democrats to end this shutdown and support a clean continuing resolution. I could talk about the business organizations making the same request. I could read the headlines about Head Start preschools closing and SNAP recipients who are worried about their benefits and National Guard units that aren't training and on and on—every single thing as a result of the Democrats' decision to shut down the government more than 5 weeks ago. But surely—surely—there are at least some Democrat Senators who can see this for themselves, who can see this for themselves and realize it is past time to end this before the damage gets even worse. It is day 36 of Democrats' shutdown—day 36. How much longer are Democrats going to make the American people suffer?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

2025 ELECTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night was a great night for America and a five-alarm fire for Donald Trump and Republicans. The Republicans' high-cost house is on fire, and they have only got themselves to blame.

As loudly and clearly as they could have, the American people said last night: Enough is enough—enough with Donald Trump's tariffs, which are overwhelmingly being paid for by working people and small businesses; enough with Republicans' relentless attack on healthcare, where people are seeing their premiums go up by thousands of dollars, even each month, and they may have to be without healthcare altogether.

Last night was a sign that if Republicans continue with their failed policies, their majorities are at risk, including here in this Senate Chamber. The election showed that Democratic control of the Senate is much closer than people and prognosticators realize.

So let me say it again: Republicans' high-cost house is on fire, and they have only got themselves to blame.

By the way, that is not just my opinion; it is Donald Trump's opinion. Last night, he said that the shutdown is a negative factor for the Republicans. When addressing why he had lost, this is what Trump said:

The shutdown was a big factor, negative for Republicans.

And let me read what Trump said last night. This is Donald Trump speaking:

TRUMP WASN'T ON THE BALLOT, AND SHUTDOWN, WERE THE TWO REASONS THAT REPUBLICANS LOST ELECTIONS TONIGHT.

That is what Trump said. Trump admits that the Republican shutdown is hurting him and his party.

The President is right. Americans realize Republicans are responsible for this awful shutdown, now the longest, officially, in history—what a shameful milestone. Donald Trump has now presided over the longest and second longest shutdowns ever, and he only—only—has himself to blame.

When Leader JEFFRIES and I met with Donald Trump in the Oval Office, last month, we warned him that this would happen. We warned the President of the consequences of ignoring Democrats, ignoring the American people, ignoring the healthcare crisis. We warned the President that ignoring Democrats and insisting on zero negotiations was a recipe for disaster and would come back to haunt him.

Well, Republicans shouldn't ignore us anymore, for their own good and the country's good.

So, this morning, Leader JEFFRIES and I once again demanded a meeting with the President. It is time to sit down and negotiate with Democrats to bring this Republican shutdown to an end, we told the President. We have been asking for a meeting for weeks and even months, but now the election results ought to send a much needed bolt of lightning to Donald Trump that he should meet with us to end this crisis—his shutdown, which he admits hurt him badly in the elections.

It is time to hold a bipartisan meeting of legislative leaders to reopen the government. It is time to fix the ACA premium emergency that is now upon us. Democrats are ready to meet anytime, anywhere, anyplace.

Donald Trump ignores us at his own political peril because the takeaway from last night was simply unmistakable. Democrats swept in States last night across the country, red and blue alike. Democrats won overwhelmingly by more than anyone ever thought in New Jersey and Virginia. Democrats won in Mississippi and won in New York and Pennsylvania and in Georgia.

Democrats won in statewide races, but it went deeper than that. We won in lots of local races too: mayoral races, State supreme court races, ballot measures, and even historic swings