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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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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.

Gracious God, our rock of ages, give our lawmakers this day the abiding assurance of Your presence. May this companionship with You inspire them to find the wisdom to open our government. Enable them to experience Your contentment, mercy, and peace, facing life's challenges with quiet hearts and vibrant faith.

Lord, refuse to forsake them, quicken their thinking, and empower them to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. May they not become weary in doing what is right, knowing that You will reward their faithfulness with a sure harvest.

We pray in Your awesome 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 previous order, the Senate will be in morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

### VETERANS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I come to the floor ahead of next Tuesday, which is Veterans Day, to recognize and share my gratitude to those who have all answered the call to serve the United States of America.

November 11 is the Federal holiday that we observe today as Veterans Day. It has not always been referred to as Veterans Day. Its origins come from the term Armistice Day, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, which marked the end of World War I.

The holiday is often marked by tributes and other ceremonies to show our gratitude to our family, friends, and neighbors who have served.

In honor of Veterans Day, my office typically hosts a Veterans History Project event to collect stories from Iowa veterans and submit those stories to the Library of Congress to honor those individuals and their service for generations to come, also, so that researchers can hear the exact words spoken from the mouths of those veterans of what war is all about.

To date, I have submitted 95 stories from Iowa veterans to the Library of Congress. There are more Iowa veterans who wish to share their story,

and I look forward to continuing my efforts to preserve those stories.

Normally, it would be this weekend at some major city in Iowa. I would ask veterans to gather so we can record their memories. Obviously, with the government shutdown, that is impossible for my staff to do, but we will continue that as long as I serve in the U.S. Senate.

I would also like to recognize that, this year, the day before Veterans Day marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marines. On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the Marine Corps. I have been fortunate enough to have a brother who served in the Marines in World War II. I have had a grandson in the Marines in the last 10 years.

For the last 250 years, the Marine Corps has faithfully defended our Nation with a distinct fighting spirit, and I am confident that the Marines will continue to do that.

Thank you to our dedicated marines and thank you to all veterans.

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.

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



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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2025 ELECTIONS

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.

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, we are 37 days into an entirely avoidable government shutdown. I say “avoidable” because it was.

Democrats instigated this shutdown by rejecting a clean, nonpartisan funding resolution. Republicans weren’t asking them to swallow a bunch of new conservative policies. There isn’t a single partisan policy in the bill. Yet Democrats couldn’t bring themselves to take yes for an answer. Democrats, of course, have claimed their decision to shut down the government is about healthcare. They want Republicans to bail out their ObamaCare mess. And as I have said probably 1,000 times now, Republicans are 100 percent willing to sit down and talk about the mess that Democrats have created. We are just not going to have that conversation while Democrats are holding the Federal Government hostage. That was our position in September; that was our position in October; and, yes, it is still our position in November. We are just waiting for Democrats to take yes for an answer.

I do know that Democrats have been under a lot of pressure from the far left. The far left pushed them to shut down the government, and the far left has pushed them to keep it shut down.

As one House Democrat told Axios yesterday, “There would be hell to pay if Senate Democrats don’t let events play out.”

“There would be hell to pay if Senate Democrats don’t let events play out”—that quote from a House Democrat just yesterday.

Well, what events need to play out? What more needs to happen for the far left to be satisfied?

The pain this shutdown has caused is only getting worse as 40 million Americans who rely on food assistance programs are now at risk of going hungry without a resolution of the shutdown. I am sure these Americans are doing everything in their power to feed their families, but they can’t do that forever. Federal workers have now gone without pay for more than a month, including the people in this building.

Will the far left not be satisfied until Federal workers and military families are getting their Thanksgiving dinners from a food bank? Because that is where we are headed.

Then there is air travel.

Yesterday, the Transportation Secretary announced that, as a matter of safety, the Department of Transportation is requiring a mandatory reduction in air traffic, starting tomorrow because of shutdown staffing issues. That means widespread flight cancellations, supply chain issues, and hundreds of thousands of passengers dealing with disruptions to travel every day. The impact this will have will be immense—all of it because Democrats cannot bring themselves to accept a clean, nonpartisan funding resolution, which is something that happened 13 times when they had the majority and President Biden was in the White House.

So I ask the question again: What more do Democrats need? They got their cheers at the leftwing No Kings rally. They kept their base satisfied through the fall campaigns and election day. And as of Tuesday, they have the extremely dubious honor of instigating the longest and most severe government shutdown in history. How much more do Americans have to endure before Democrats are satisfied?

The Democrat leader said yesterday that every day gets better for Democrats. The No. 2 Democrat in the House has said that the American people’s suffering takes a backseat to Democrats’ precious leverage. The senior Senator from Vermont—a leading voice on the left—wrote an op-ed over the weekend, calling for Democrats to keep the government shut down forever, as far as I can tell.

I hope that is not where most Democrats are. I hope at least a few Democrats can see that this can’t go on any longer.

People are suffering, and it is getting worse every day. A furloughed Federal employee—a mother of five in Maryland—told the New York Times last week:

I don’t know how to get the mortgage paid.

Federal workers are taking on second jobs to make ends meet; food banks across the country are overwhelmed; and American families are looking to the holiday season with apprehension.

Democrats have a choice to make: Are they going to continue to bow to pressure from the voices on the far left telling them to keep up their opposition or are they going to stop the American people’s suffering and end this shutdown?

I hope enough of them are willing to do the right thing, and I hope they do it soon. The American people can’t wait for events to play out.

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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Americans, plagued by high costs, fired a political torpedo this week at Donald Trump and Republicans. They spoke loudly and clearly: We are fed up with the high cost of living. We are fed up with the tax on healthcare. We are fed up with your broken promises.

The question now is, Will Donald Trump and Republicans listen to the American people? Will Republicans finally work with Democrats to reopen the Federal Government and negotiate a fix to the ACA premium crisis? Will Donald Trump finally take a break from his lavish ballrooms to help families who can’t afford the rent and can’t afford healthcare?

The American people are waiting. Democrats are ready. We want to have negotiations. It has been long enough.

Look, if Republicans were smart, they would get the message after Tuesday that their do-nothing strategy isn’t working. Even Donald Trump knows Americans hold Republicans responsible for this mess. Here is what he said—he was talking about why they lost the elections. He said:

[T]he shutdown was a big factor, negative for the Republicans.

Again, Donald Trump’s words:

[T]he shutdown was a big factor, negative for the Republicans.

That is what he said about the elections Tuesday.

This is probably the smartest thing President Trump has said in a while. Donald Trump clearly is feeling pressure to bring the shutdown to an end. Well, I have good news for the President: Meet with Democrats, reopen the government, and fix the ACA crisis. That is the best way to put this crisis behind us.

I will say something else about what happened on Tuesday. The single biggest worry Americans feel right now is the cost of living. If you boiled down the theme of Tuesday’s elections, down to one word, it was “affordability.”

Republicans absolutely whiffed on that by focusing on everything but affordability. In fact, Republicans have governed all year like drunken sailors. Instead of lowering costs, they plundered healthcare into oblivion. They have cut taxes for billionaires while kicking millions off healthcare. They have approved luxury jets for Cabinet officials and acted as if there were zero consequences for their actions.

After spending all year intoxicated on rightwing policies that do nothing to lower costs, Republicans shouldn’t be surprised that Tuesday hit them like a bad hangover.

Now that Tuesday is over, we are suddenly reading all these stories about how Donald Trump is finally going to start getting serious about messaging on affordability.

One story says it is going to be the big focus for him next year. Wow. Where has this guy been? What fantasy