

## As Shutdown And Default Loom, Crisis Mode Becomes Washington's New Normal

Monday, September 23, 2013 | Karen Tumulty and Paul Kane, *The Washington Post*

With little more than a week to go before a potential government shutdown, Washington feels like a car without a driver on a road without a guardrail. As it hurtles toward the edge, no one — conservatives, GOP leadership, congressional Democrats, the White House — seems to have a way to stop it.



Lurching from near-calamity to near-calamity has become a way of life in the capital, which has stood at the edge of a financial precipice at least four times since the end of 2010. What makes these crises all the more exasperating is that none of them seem to resolve the political and ideological disputes that cause them. All they do is put both sides on a course toward the next disaster zone. The one immediately ahead arises from the fact that the fiscal year will end on Sept. 30 without Congress having passed any of the spending bills needed to keep the government in operation going into 2014.

Without at least a stopgap funding bill, most nonessential federal operations will come to a halt. Benefits payments, such as Social Security checks, would still go out, and critical functions such as national security would continue. But military pay would probably be delayed, hundreds of thousands of federal employees would be furloughed and attractions such as national parks would close.

The most immediate issue is a demand by conservative groups and tea party lawmakers that any spending measure include a provision that would strip funding for the health-care overhaul, which is set to kick into gear on Oct. 1. The Republican-led House has passed a bill that would accomplish that, but it stands no chance in the Senate, which is virtually certain to send it back “clean,” meaning with full funding for the law that is known as Obamacare. Even if they figure a way around this stalemate and keep the government open, a graver crisis is coming up quickly on its heels as the government hits the limit of its borrowing authority some time in mid- to late October. If Congress does not raise the debt ceiling, it could force the nation into default and the global financial markets into chaos. Conservatives and tea party activists insist that Republicans will be rewarded for going to the barricades to stop the health-care law.

Democrats are convinced they have the upper hand. The president has maintained that he will not negotiate with Republicans on the funding bill or the debt ceiling. Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) plans to ensure that no bill defunding the health-care law reaches Obama's desk.

From time to time for decades, the fiscal year has brought partial, temporary shutdowns — nine of them, for instance, between fiscal 1981 and fiscal 1995. That year actually produced two shutdowns — one in November lasting five days and a second from mid-December to early January that went on for 21 days. In the current telling of some conservative groups, the Republicans won that showdown.

An analysis this past week by the University of Virginia's Center for Politics found that 94 of the House's 233 Republicans come from districts in which GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney got 60 percent or more of the vote. Practically speaking, that means they come from areas so conservative that they have more to fear from a primary challenger on the right than they do from a Democrat in a general election. The Senate, on the other hand, is a vastly different political landscape.

Under the Senate rules, Reid needs only 51 votes to defeat the Cruz-backed amendment that would eliminate spending for the health-care law. With 54 members in his caucus, it is a cinch he can get them. So the only option left for Cruz to obstruct passage of a stopgap spending measure sets up a truly perverse situation — he can filibuster the House-passed bill when it comes to the Senate, even though that means blocking the very Obamacare-defunding measure that he and his allies worked so hard to get the House to approve.

On Saturday, the conservative organization Heritage Action for America sent out a bulletin urging senators to do just that. But the whole thing has left flummoxed Senate Republicans wondering what kind of double-somersault it would take to explain all of this to their constituents back home.

Meanwhile, back in the House, Boehner and his forces are struggling to figure out an endgame. They will have to scramble, because Reid is expected to wait until the last minute to return a Senate-passed bill to their chamber. In other words, the week ahead promises yet another installment of cliffhanger legislating, Washington's new normal. And then, it's on to the next crisis.

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

Copyright 2013. *The Daughtry Times*® Education through Integration™ All rights reserved. [www.daughtrytimes.com](http://www.daughtrytimes.com)  
Contents of this document excluding the article itself, may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or part without the express written permission through a licensed agreement and is restricted to teacher-student use only.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with a government shutdown; thereby, suspending all federal operations deemed nonessential. Provided the preliminary ramifications articulated in the article above (coupled with further independent research) do you personally believe a shutdown is a necessary course of action? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. The Washington Monument, standing 555 feet tall, is 267 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol. Because the base of the Washington Monument is 30 feet above sea level, and that of the Capitol is 88 feet above sea level, the top of the Washington Monument is 209 feet higher than the top of the Capitol Building. The United States Capitol is the meeting place of the U.S. Congress, the legislature of the U.S. federal government. Located in Washington, D.C., it sits atop Capitol Hill at the eastern end of the National Mall. The bronze Statue of Freedom by Thomas Crawford is the crowning feature of the Dome of the United States Capitol as it stands 288 feet above the ground and casts a massive shadow of approximately 128 ft. Overwhelmingly frustrated with elected officials' blatant inability to work collaboratively, 52-year-old 73-inch tall United States President, Barack Obama, briefly exits the facility to regain his composure. Illustrate the diagram and use proportions to determine the dimensions of Obama's shadow. ([www.aoc.gov/facts/capitol-hill](http://www.aoc.gov/facts/capitol-hill)) **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.5.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.5.1)**
3. In 1995, the government experienced two shutdowns. The U.S. Census suggests the median household income was approximately \$34,076 and a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$1.12. Currently, the median household income is approximately \$50,502 and according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report gasoline is \$3.48. Solve a proportion to convert the \$1.12 into today's value and the \$3.48 into 1995 dollars. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.5.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.5.1)**
4. In light of a recent series of unforeseeable events not limited to but to include an imminent government shutdown, Joe Lunchmeat has desperately resorted to an infamous payday loan in the principal amount of \$350 simply to retain water and power services in his personal domain. Multiple legitimate agencies are available; however, two somewhat legal financial organizations have presented somewhat appealing offers one simply cannot refuse. Guido Financial Services charges fees equivalent to 515% whereas their major competitor, Tony Soprano & Associates charges \$475% coupled with \$50 in processing fees. Define a variable. Write and solve an equation for each situation. Create a table and determine specifically from which organization would you recommend contracting financial services? Graph the results. Explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.3)**
5. Write a conditional or a logical statement, which contains a hypothesis and conclusion in if-then form, the converse, the inverse, and the contrapositive. Decide whether each statement is true or false. Use the Law of Detachment to make a valid conclusion in the true situation. If applicable, employ the Law of Syllogism to write a new conditional statement that follows from the pair of true statements. **(MA.912.D.6.2; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.4)**
6. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the likelihood of a government shutdown: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against the shutdown. What is the central idea and what conclusion might one obtain? Provide an inference anyone employed via the federal government may derive from this material. The point of view employed is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. In what regard might the information in this article be referenced for an independent student research project analyzing the collaborative working relationships of politicians with opposing opinions. **RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
7. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *flummoxed*, *constituents*, *caucus*, *filibuster*, *stalemate*, *lurching*, *precipice*, *exasperating*, *perverse*, *calamity*, and *compensate* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
8. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Lament* n. to express sorrow or regret; to mourn **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

*Longue vie à la fois Daughtry*  
*Due Monday, September 30, 2013*

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

Copyright 2013. *The Daughtry Times*® Education through Integration™ All rights reserved. [www.daughtrytimes.com](http://www.daughtrytimes.com)  
Contents of this document excluding the article itself, may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or part without the express written permission through a licensed agreement and is restricted to teacher-student use only.