WHAT’S HAPPENING?

→ Because Congress failed to pass legislation appropriating funds for the federal government, the government has been in a state of partial shutdown since Dec. 22, 2018.
→ The Senate passed the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act but President Trump decided he wouldn’t sign a bill which did not include funding for a border wall.
→ Today (Jan. 3), a new Congress will be sworn in with a Democratic majority in the House. House Democrats have said their first order of business will be to pass a resolution to end the shutdown, but the Senate will also have to approve such a bill which may be tricky.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A SHUTDOWN?

→ Over 800,000 federal workers are currently being affected by the shutdown. About 380,000 are currently furloughed (not working, not being paid) and 420,000 are working without immediate pay (but may receive backpay).
→ Most federal agencies are shut down but some--like airports, prisons, schools, and libraries--are still operating.
→ An FAQ from the White House about what happens during a shutdown.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

→ President Trump has blamed Democrats for being obstinate about border security, but has said he is still willing to work with them to end the shutdown and fund the wall.
→ Alternately, Democrats have criticized the President for harming federal workers over the wall, reminding the public that the president said he would be “proud to shut down the government for border security.”

RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

→ The Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 695) would have funded the government until Feb. 8, 2019.
→ Transcript of President Trump’s cabinet meeting discussing border security and the shutdown.
→ Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)’s statements before the Senate on the evening before the shutdown.
→ Contingency plans for agencies across the Federal Government.

GET INVOLVED & CONTINUE YOUR RESEARCH

→ Contact your elected officials to let them know how you feel about the shutdown.
→ Follow new members of Congress on Twitter to learn more about what the 116th Congress is doing.
→ Read about the 2013 government shutdown.

for more information about this issue and others, please check out the other issue guides from the Loyola Libraries, or contact Katherine Paterson, civic engagement librarian at kpaterson@luc.edu

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