

Q: What is the latest status regarding the dismantling of USAID and the stop payments for contracts? What are you doing personally to address this situation?

At the time of this writing, the Trump administration has cut more than 90% of USAID's foreign aid contracts, eliminating 5,800 out of 6,200 multi-year awards. This is one of my main concerns in the ongoing appropriations negotiations. These grants are collectively worth \$54 billion for projects funding critical work to prevent the spread of disease, eliminate poverty, and provide education and health care to hundreds of countries around the world. Trump has also moved forward with firing 2,000 USAID employees and placing thousands more on administrative leave. Employees have been instructed to vacate their headquarters, with the building being repurposed for U.S. Customs and Border Protection use.

Despite a federal court order directing the release of withheld foreign aid funds, the administration has proceeded with the contract terminations. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues holding the majority in Congress have shown little interest in reversing USAID's closure, despite previous bipartisan support for foreign aid programs.

A snapshot of my response includes a protest I started outside of USAID's Washington DC headquarters against early attacks on the agency. I also signed onto a [letter](#) to Secretary of State Marco Rubio reiterating my support for USAID's work as vital to our national security and alleviating crises around the world before leading to further mass migration.

I am closely tracking the multiple lawsuits being brought on by labor unions and USAID contractors against the Trump Administration's cruel efforts to dismantle USAID.

Q: What is the status of the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act grant funding at this point? What actions is Congress taking to ensure these funds are used as intended?

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order titled "Unleashing American Energy," pausing and reviewing funding for specific energy and environmental agencies. This freeze was followed by a memo reinforcing restrictions on federal funding, causing a lapse in funding across agencies, despite ongoing legal challenges. The move targeted IJA and IRA funding, including tax credits. A federal judge temporarily blocked the order until February 3, 2025, and on February 25, the freeze was extended indefinitely, prolonging uncertainty.

At the time of writing, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released \$20 million in IRA funding to honor existing contracts with farmers for environmental and agricultural programs, but much of the IRA funding remains unallocated and at risk for potential cuts. Federal funding for EV charging infrastructure under the IJA has been paused, halting \$5 billion in state grants, however, the \$12 billion for airport infrastructure remains unaffected.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) had previously allocated approximately \$74 billion for climate initiatives, including renewable energy projects and EV incentives. However, an estimated \$20 billion remains unallocated and is at risk of rollback. The EPA has also canceled

over \$50 million in Environmental Justice Grants intended for local environmental projects in heavily polluted communities, including those serving communities of color and tribal areas.

Q: What are the repercussions of this Greenland/Panama/Gaza grab on the potential for future world conflict over Ukraine/Estonia/Lithuania, Taiwan, Iceland, the conflicting international claims over Antarctica, etc.?

Trump's approach to foreign affairs is often described as 'transactional.' But what we're seeing in this second term is closer to piratical- with the exception of the relative deference shown to our adversaries in China and Russia. The idea that bullying and imperialist blather makes us safer is absurd. Trust in the United States is crumbling around the globe, and with good reason. The meetings I have had with our European and Canadian friends since the inauguration make that very clear. They are, by force, reassessing their security postures, and not to our benefit. This is also tied to the President's trade war strategy which will quite simply raise prices and make us poorer.

Q: Are there any plans to subpoena Musk for hearings on what is going on?

My Democratic colleagues on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee attempted to subpoena Elon Musk to answer questions regarding DOGE's purge of the civil service and improper access to Americans' private information via the treasury payment system. Republican leadership in the committee blocked the motion to bring Musk forward. I am certain they will renew these efforts under Ranking Member Congressman Connolly's leadership.

Q: As a federal employee I understand the only power the Dems have right now is to fight the budget on March 14. How can the Dems do this without getting the heat from the Republicans and media and thus compromise the elections in 2 years and 4 years from now?

Democrats are in a tricky position—leveraging the potential government shutdown on March 14 is one of the few legislative tools we currently have to counter the Trump administration and Elon Musk's aggressive dismantling of USAID and federal agencies. As you can imagine, there is some apprehension, particularly when considering the impacts in Northern Virginia, where federal funding is deeply intertwined with our local economy.

Under normal circumstances, a shutdown would be off the table, but this is an unprecedented situation that might require an unprecedented response. My colleagues and I will consider every option to protect the civil service and prevent Musk and Trump from causing further harm. I will certainly keep this in mind as the deadline to fund the government approaches on March 14, 2025.

Q: But don't Republicans want the government shutdown to happen?

There is typically a handful of hardline Republicans who will vote to withhold government funding to reinforce their position that the government spends too much money. However, it's important to note that not all Republicans support shutdowns. Many establishment Republicans,

especially those in leadership positions like Mike Johnson, recognize the economic and political consequences and prefer to avoid them.

Q: Can budget reconciliation be used to avert a shutdown?

A: No, budget reconciliation cannot be used to avert a government shutdown. Reconciliation is a legislative process that allows for expedited passage of certain budget-related measures, such as changes to revenue, spending, or the debt limit, with a simple majority vote in the Senate. It cannot be used to pass annual government funding, which must go through the standard appropriations process.

To keep the government open, Congress must pass either a full-year appropriations bill to fund the government for the entire fiscal year or a continuing resolution (CR) to temporarily extend current funding levels, which tends to be more likely.

If neither is passed by March 14, the government will shut down—even if a budget resolution and reconciliation bill are passed in the Senate, which might take several months.

Q: Would it be possible to have a Town Hall in which we focus on a single topic and explore it in depth—one in which there is a true exchange and interaction?

A: Following the administration's early attacks against federal employees, I hosted a tele-town hall with outgoing acting OPM director, Rob Shriver, focused on federal employees and the civil service under the Trump Administration. I will be regularly holding town halls that cover a wide array of issues and welcome the idea of more single-topic town halls honing on a specific issue or agency impacted by the administration. I will be having another, more general, tele-town Hall on Monday evening, but have had issue specific town halls in the past and will look at opportunities to do so in the future.

If you want to learn about a future town hall, or other events I am hosting, please sign up for my [newsletter](#).

Q: How do we make Republicans' constituents mad enough to instill some fear of current republican Senators and Reps getting voted out? We just need a few to think their re-election is at risk and possibly get them to cooperate to stop Trump/Musk/MAGA

While my colleagues and I have consistently been speaking out in the media and on the House floor against the dangers of the Trump-Musk agenda, I am certain that over time, constituents will begin to feel the real-life impacts of these funding cuts. As critical programs like Medicare, Social Security, and SNAP are stripped away from millions of Americans across the political spectrum, Republicans will have to answer to their constituents. In the meantime, I am diligently working to highlight the stories of those already suffering under this administration and apply the necessary pressure to stop this administration.

Q: Is there anything federal workers can do without violating the Hatch Act or risking being fired?

A: I've heard from so many of my constituents who want to help push back against the Trump administration, including federal employees. While federal workers' roles do not allow for overt political participation, there are still meaningful ways to get involved in your community through volunteer work.

The [Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia](#) is a great resource for those interested in helping seniors by providing transportation to medical appointments or assisting with errands. [Volunteer Alexandria](#) also offers opportunities to support immigrants and other vulnerable populations in your neighborhood.

Additionally, if you have information that could help Congress in its oversight duties, you can submit a private disclosure that may help raise concerns about the administration's fraudulent or abusive actions. Please visit the [whistleblower](#) page on my website for more information.

I am also collecting [stories from federal employees](#) and those affected by the Trump administration. Your experiences are crucial in highlighting the challenges we face, and I encourage you to share them with me so I can better advocate for those most impacted.

More [resources for federal workers](#) can also be found on my website.

Q: What methods are you and other representatives using to amplify the services provided by federal workers? A good example is Obamacare - it was impossible to repeal, because so many Americans felt the tangible improvements to their healthcare. We need similar amplification of the services provided across all of government - big and small - and the real impacts the absence of federal workers will have on the delivery of those services to the American people.

My team and I are collecting and sharing stories from those in the 8th district who've been impacted. Recently, I [took](#) to the House floor to share the story of a federal scientist in Northern Virginia who watched 168 of her colleagues lose their jobs at the National Science Foundation in a single day.

I also [spoke](#) out against House Republican's Budget Resolution on the House floor, urging my Republican colleagues to save the critical investments in cancer research at NIH, aviation security at the FAA, and wildlife preservation at the NPS. I emphasized that this budget threatens essential programs that support the people we represent.

Q: Will Federal employees eventually get repaid their salaries if the gov is shut down?

A: Yes. I'm proud that I was able to work with my colleagues to pass the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019 which guarantees that federal employees who are furloughed get paid retroactively once a shutdown ends. Unfortunately, however, this does not extend to contractors.

Q: What are some real-world things to know or do to support those that have been laid off? ... if these massive layoffs (around 200k so far?) hit any other industry, such as auto or banks, the country would be up in arms. Is there anything we can do to prepare for the CR ending in mid-March?

A: On March 8th I will be hosting a federal worker's resource fair at Wakefield High School to support those in the district who have already lost or are at risk of losing their jobs. We will have information booths with federal employment lawyers, resume workshops, my constituent services team, and more to address the needs of federal employees at this tumultuous time.

You can visit my website at [Beyer.house.gov](https://www.beyer.house.gov) for more information about this event as well as explore the [resources for federal employees](#) page.

Q: What happens if Trump doesn't listen to the Supreme Court if they don't uphold his orders? Can Congress do anything, or is it just "oh well"?

I share your profound concern about the increase in Trump's executive overreach. I remain hopeful that the courts will continue to uphold the law, despite Trump's willingness to bypass certain legal decisions and act unilaterally at times. To date, he has not directly defied the Supreme Court and remains entangled in various lower court battles that have successfully overturned some of his policies and limited DOGE's activity.

Here in the legislative branch, Congress has the power to enact and amend laws. If a president oversteps, Congress can revise the law to limit executive power. While this is unlikely under Republican control of the House for the next two years, Democrats are fighting to win back the majority and reverse the course of this administration. However, we are not completely powerless. Remember, Republicans hold a mere three-seat margin overall, and on any given day, that margin is likely to shrink to just one or two votes – this is something us Democrats will continue to leverage.

Q: Given limited congressional power, what out-of-box ideas/plans are Democrats/activists developing to remove Musk & neuter Trump?

A: Numerous lawsuits have emerged against the Trump administration's policies, DOGE, and Elon Musk personally and we have had some important legal wins, such as the reinstatement of fired probationary employees and the halting of federal funding freezes. While Democrats continue to find ways to leverage our power in the minority, I welcome new and atypical ideas from both my colleagues and constituents to fight against Trump and DOGE. I remain engaged with various organizations, union groups and constituents and I will consider various strategies that can help move us forward.

My ears are open, and I implore you to write or call and share your stories, comments, and concerns with my office.

Q: Why are gop congresspeople more worried about being “primaried” than about doing real harm to people around the globe? How do you account for this empathy gap?

The unsatisfying but true answer is "you'll have to ask them." I have often been disappointed by my Republican colleagues, some of whom do know how damaging these policies can be. All politicians need to be responsive to their voters, but as individuals and leaders we do need to know where to draw the line.