

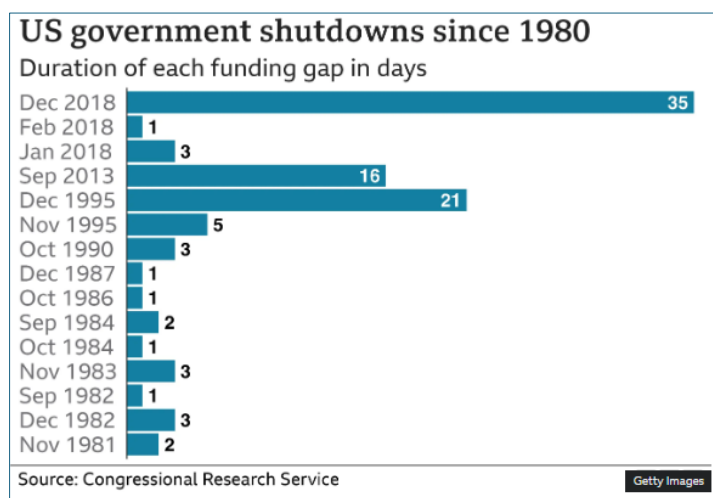
October 2025 Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to October and the federal government shutdown. The status of the shutdown, the negotiations or the lack thereof, and votes to try to end the shutdown are reported nonstop. We hope you find a variety of news outlets to get your news.

The [Ad Fontes Media Chart](#) is one way to see the many different news outlets and a general idea of how politically biased your news source could be. This chart shows the outlets along a continuum of the divide we all live in: left and right. It also measures value and reliability. Every news source is at least a little biased one way or another. There is also an interactive chart where Ad Fontes rates individual stories and opinion pieces from the source. You get one free search on their website unless you have a subscription. You can also download a free static chart of the largest media outlets. [Check it out](#) if you're interested. They include websites, articles, TV, video, podcasts, and audio.

Federal Government Shutdown

Immanuel leadership expressed this week that while a shutdown can disrupt many government areas, Immanuel will continue to provide stability for you and those we serve. We do not anticipate direct impacts to our work regardless of potential delays of federal payments. No recent shutdown has lasted more than 35 days, and no matter the length of this shutdown, Immanuel's mission continues. **We will not allow a funding lapse in Washington to interrupt the care and stability we provide daily.**



Most news sources report that crucial health programs will continue to operate during the federal government shutdown. Still, many services will halt or be significantly less efficient as staffers are furloughed, based on contingency plans for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Many protected activities during a shutdown are ensured through the federal Antideficiency Act, which allows for voluntary service of federal employees in emergencies dealing with the "safety of human

life or the protection of property.” Staffers across various agencies dealing with mandatory activities like Medicare and Medicaid will be retained.

The Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD) is somewhat different. Housing programs can face disruption during a shutdown. However, HUD has been proactively front-filling accounts to ensure payments continue. This precaution provides additional protection for our affordable communities.

Nebraska – Medicaid Updates

On Sept. 15, our advocacy and PACE® teams met with Drew Gonshorowski, the new Nebraska Medicaid and Long-Term Care director. We strategized options to increase Medicaid eligibility and/or reimbursement rates through the regulatory process. Mr. Gonshorowski was friendly and stayed for as long as we needed. He also said he’d volunteer to play some music with his wife for any of our communities. Mary Parker is already on it to sign him up. The negotiations for an increase in eligibility will continue, and most likely a bill will be introduced in the 2026 Legislative session.

Nebraska – Legislative Interim Studies

For any of these hearings below, you can [watch live](#) or once the video posts to the Unicameral website via the Legislative Resolution (LR) number. Links to those resolutions are provided below:

Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. - The Health and Human Services Committee will study two legislative resolutions:

1. [LR232](#) examines regulatory restrictions and opportunities in medical education to strengthen the **medical workforce** in rural and other underserved areas, and
2. [LR224](#) examines the effectiveness of programs addressing **health-related social needs, which are unmet adverse social conditions** that contribute to poor health, including food insecurity, unemployment, and housing instability.

Oct. 24, 10 a.m. - The Urban Affairs Committee will hear two studies:

1. [LR86](#) identifies and examines the state of **affordable and accessible housing** in Nebraska, and
2. [LR146](#) examines the intersection of tax increment financing and **affordable housing** in the State of Nebraska. You can [watch it live](#) or later once the video is posted to the Unicameral website.

Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m. - The Health and Human Services Committee will study **Medicaid**. [LR188](#) will examine the significance of the state financial partnership with the federal government in delivering health services through the Medicaid program. This appears to focus on those under age 64, but we will tune in.

Elections

Before we know it, another national general election will held in November 2026 and state primaries in the spring. Local elections are happening now in Iowa. The Nebraska and Iowa State legislatures will meet between now and the 2026 elections. Changes to voting laws may be proposed and may occur. As always, we’ll keep you posted.

Next Iowa Elections

Election	Election Date	Current Voter Pre-Registration Deadline Iowans can register at the polls, too.
City Primary - Council Bluffs, Carter Lake, Des Moines, Iowa City	Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025	Monday, Sept. 22, 2025
Regular City/School	Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025	Monday, Oct. 20, 2025
City Runoff if needed	Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025	Monday, Nov. 17, 2025
Statewide Primary	Tuesday, June 2, 2026	Monday, May 18, 2026
Statewide General	Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026	Monday, Oct. 19, 2026

Next Nebraska Elections

Election	Election Date	Current Voter Registration Deadline
Statewide Primary	Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Online and by mail: Friday, April 24, 2026 In person: Friday, May 1, 2026
Statewide General	Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026	Online or by mail: Friday, Oct. 16, 2026 In-person: Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, at 6 p.m.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments.

Tara Muir, JD, Advocacy & Government Relations Coordinator | Immanuel
402.829.2931 office | 402.871.4979 cell | tmuir@immanuel.com

Immanuel Advocacy Philosophy

We aim to highlight and advocate for seniors across Nebraska and Iowa, and when necessary, in the U.S. Congress. As a faith-based, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, we do not and cannot subscribe to the beliefs of one political party over another. When issues are critical to Immanuel, the people we serve, and our staff, we will advocate for what will benefit, not detriment.

Our goal with this monthly newsletter is to present the information objectively and unbiasedly. Some issues we focus on may fall further down one side of the traditional political spectrum than the other. In these times, many issues seem to become political that they never were before, such as access to food and housing.

The Advocacy and Government Relations Coordinator is a member of the Legal & Compliance Team: John Sigmon is Vice President of Legal and Compliance and General Counsel, Tracy Durbin is the Corporate Compliance Officer, and Ryan Lang is the Contract Administrator.