



# ARTICLE ALERT

OCTOBER 2013

## U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

The U.S. Mission partners with Indonesia to strengthen the bonds between our people and our governments to promote and protect democracy, security, and sustainable prosperity for our people, the region, and the world.

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## HOW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WORKS

### U.S. Constitution Determines How Government Works, or Doesn't

By Bridget Hunter.  
IIP Digital, October 2, 2013

Washington — On October 1, the beginning of the U.S. fiscal year, lack of congressional funding shut down much of the federal government as Americans argued about who was to blame for the impasse.

The conversations tend to focus on names like Obama, Reid and Boehner, but probably should include Washington, Jefferson and Franklin. The document the latter three helped forge laid the foundation for U.S. democracy and deliberately created the condition that allows shutting down the federal government.

In 1789, the framers of the Constitution assigned Congress control over spending as a way to limit the power of the presidency. The U.S. government can spend money only "in consequence of appropriations made by law."

During the 19th century, the executive branch worked around this restriction by buying on credit and sending the bills to Congress for payment. Congress responded to this erosion of its authority in 1884 by passing the Antideficiency Act, which made it a crime to willfully spend money that had not been appropriated by Congress, except in situations of imminent harm to life or property.

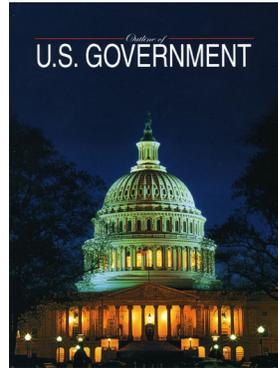
Despite the new law, Congress continued for nearly a century to routinely miss deadlines for government appropriations, frequently filling the gaps with short-term funding measures called continuing resolutions.

These lapses delayed travel, purchases and new contracts. They occasionally disrupted federal payrolls. However, neither the legislative nor the executive branch seriously contemplated ceasing government activities, and federal agencies continued to operate with faith that Congress would eventually provide funding.

#### SHUTDOWN 2013

On October 1, 2013, lack of funding for fiscal year 2014 mandated that parts of the U.S. federal government begin closing.

Republicans in the House of Representatives are



Outline of U.S. Government

seeking to cut funding for the Affordable Care Act, which President Obama considers one of his administration's most important achievements. The Senate, in which Democrats hold a majority, has rejected House bills that contain the funding cut.

During the shutdown, essential services like Social Security payments continue, as do activities needed to maintain national security. Services that are funded by user fees also continue, as do some programs that have operating funds left over from fiscal year 2013 appropriations.

The executive branch determines which employees can be sent home and which must remain on the job without pay, at least for now. In previous shutdowns, federal workers have been paid retroactively.

On October 2, tourists hoping to visit parks and monuments were disappointed. Federal workers, whom President Obama described as "the punching bags" in this impasse, are anxious, either waiting to be recalled to work or anticipating the moment when they will be sent home. Taxpayers are likely to lose millions, regardless of how the situation is resolved.

Ultimately, the federal government will reopen when the president and the two chambers of Congress find a way forward that is acceptable, or at least tolerable, to all. And that is exactly what the Founding Fathers intended. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6q0>

### RELATED LINKS

#### Outline of the U.S. Government

What makes U.S. government uniquely American...its Constitution, the separation of powers, the concept of "checks and balances," the decentralized roles of state and local governments, and a citizenry with wide opportunity to be part of it all.

Link: <http://snip.state.gov/6sy>

#### About America: How the U.S. is Governed

This publication presents a comprehensive yet easy-to-read overview of the various levels of and institutions related to government in the U.S.

Link: <http://snip.state.gov/6sz>

#### President Obama on Reopening of Federal Government: Remarks by President Obama

Link: <http://snip.state.gov/6pz>



Bali, Indonesia (October 8, 2013) U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry poses with APEC Leaders for a family photo. [State Department photo by William Ng]

## APEC 2013

Under the chairmanship of Indonesian President Yudhoyono, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and agreed on a comprehensive set of measures to increase economic growth and job creation by expanding trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. Leaders committed to establish a fund to improve supply chain performance in the region, address local content requirements by agreeing on alternative ways to promote job creation and domestic manufacturing, establish a public-private dialogue on environmental goods and services, and take steps to combat illegal trade in wildlife. The United States supports these and other initiatives through technical assistance to help APEC developing member economies make and implement APEC policy commitments.

Amongst these commitments are three new agreements worth nearly \$360 millions in business for the U.S. and Indonesia firms to develop environmentally-friendly technology

“President Obama has made it very clear that the United States is deeply committed to strengthening our commercial and economic ties in the Asia-Pacific. Part of increasing our engagement in the region will be achieved as U.S. and Asian businesses work together on projects that benefit both of our economies and create jobs,” said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker.

### Sources and Related Links:

21st Annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting  
English: <http://snip.state.gov/6t2>  
Bahasa: <http://snip.state.gov/6m7>

Remarks at the APEC CEO Summit;  
Secretary of State John Kerry  
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6m8>

Remarks at a Press Availability With U.S.  
Trade Representative Ambassador Froman  
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6m9>

United States and Indonesia Announce Nearly  
\$360 million of New Clean-Energy Contracts  
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6t3>

State Dept. on U.S.-Asia Pacific Comprehensive  
Energy Partnership—Fact Sheet  
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6t6>

Remarks at the APEC Pathfinder Dialogue on  
Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade  
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6t5>

Why APEC Matters  
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6t4>

## IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMY

### 1. The Boom Towns and Ghost Towns of the New Economy/ By Richard Florida. Atlantic Monthly, October 2013.

New York, Houston, Washington, D.C.—plus college towns and the energy belt—are all up, while much of the Sun Belt is (still) down. Mapping the winners and losers since the crash. America's economic map is ever changing. Great migrations—settlers westward; African Americans northward; urbanites outward to greener suburbs, then back again—have shaped the country's history. Cities have heaved skyward; boom towns have come and gone. Back in the spring of 2009, I wrote in these pages that the financial crisis would

“permanently and profoundly alter the country's economic landscape.” Some cities and regions “will eventually spring back stronger than before,” I predicted. “Others may never come back at all.” Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6gg>

### 2. Te Demise of the Public Hearing: Technology is Changing the Way Citizens Interact with Local Government./ BY Rob Gunwitt, Governing.com, October 1, 2013.

The unofficial motto of Austin, Texas, may be “Keep Austin Weird.” But surely “Oh, and One More Thing ...” deserves space on its T-shirts

too. The city is famously argumentative. It took residents almost three decades to come to terms on a new airport after the Federal Aviation Administration advanced the idea in 1971. A water treatment plant first proposed in the 1970s sparked such a drawn-out battle that, although construction finally began in 2009, it is still not finished. Mass transit, highway projects, a new city hall—all are grist for robust public consideration. “Local government is close to citizens generally, but in Austin it's really close,” says assistant director of planning Garner Stoll. “Austin folks have a long history of being blunt and outspoken.” Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6q1>

## GLOBAL ISSUES

### 3. Facts About 2014 U.S. Climate Action Report/ By U.S. Department of State. IIP Digital, September 26, 2013

Under President Obama, the United States has made significant progress in reducing carbon pollution. During 2009-2011, average U.S. greenhouse gas emissions fell to the lowest level for any three-year period since 1994-1996. The 2014 Climate Action Report outlines how existing and planned U.S. action on climate change puts the United States on a path to reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in the range of 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. The 2014 U.S. Climate Action Report fulfills a commitment under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to publish every four years a National Communication projecting domestic

greenhouse gas emissions assuming existing climate policies and measures. In addition, for the first time, the Climate Action Report is accompanied by a Biennial Report that outlines how additional planned climate actions will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions trends through 2020. The U.S. led efforts to establish biennial reporting requirements for all countries in order to increase transparency and promote accountability. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6kj>

### 4. U.S. Climate Negotiator Sees Path to New Global Agreement/ By Charlene Porter. IIP Digital, October 22, 2013

The chief U.S. climate negotiator is proposing the main pillars of a new world agreement to control greenhouse gases (GHGs) and limit

climate change, pillars which allow greater flexibility in how nations move toward creating clean-energy economies. Todd Stern, representing the U.S. State Department as the special envoy for climate change, spoke at the 17th annual Chatham House Conference on Climate Change in London. Chatham House, the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, focused the October 21-22 meeting on workable solutions that will help all nations move toward low-carbon economies. Stern outlined points for an "ambitious, durable, new international climate change agreement," which comes up for global consideration in November at the 19th Conference of the Parties meeting of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw. Read more <http://snip.state.gov/6q2>

## U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY & VALUES

### 5. 101 Object that Made America/ By Michael Caruso. Smithsonian.com., October 2013.

"We Americans have yet to really learn our own antecedents," Walt Whitman said, "and sort them, to unify them. They will be found ampler than has been supposed, and in widely different sources." That was in 1883, and the task has grown immeasurably more difficult as our antecedents have multiplied. But sorting is a Smithsonian specialty, so you hold in your hands a brave new attempt, a special issue that tells the story of America in 101 objects. Our sources were, per Whitman, widely different, drawn from the 137 million artifacts held by the 19 museums and research centers of the Smithsonian Institution. Currently available online at <http://snip.state.gov/6qe>

### 6. The Case Against High-School Sports/ By Amanda Ripley. Atlantic Monthly, October 2013.

Every year, thousands of teenagers move to the United States from all over the world, for all kinds of reasons. They observe everything in their new country with fresh eyes, including basic features of American life that most of us never stop to consider. One element of our education system consistently surprises them: "Sports are a big deal here," says Jenny, who moved to America from South Korea with her family in 2011. Shawnee High, her public school in southern New Jersey, fields teams in 18 sports over the course of the school year,

including golf and bowling. Its campus has lush grass fields, six tennis courts, and an athletic Hall of Fame. "They have days when teams dress up in Hawaiian clothes or pajamas just because—'We're the soccer team!,'" Jenny says. (To protect the privacy of Jenny and other students in this story, only their first names are used.) Read more : <http://snip.state.gov/6qf>

### 7. Fulbright Starts Efforts to Help Alumni Keep Global Ties/ By Ian Wilhelm. Chronicle of Higher Education, October 2013.

Colleen R. O'Neal had what many might call the quintessential Fulbright experience. For years, Ms. O'Neal, who earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, had studied the emotional health of minority students under duress in the United States. But in 2010 she traveled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Program. There she discovered a new passion: studying the stresses faced by the 40,000 or so refugee children from Burma and elsewhere—an underserved population she says she had never heard of before she arrived. When the fellowship ended, Ms. O'Neal was determined to continue working with the refugees, and even left her position at New York University's School of Medicine to take a new job at a program more open to international research and teaching. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6rz>

### eLibraryUSA Database for Free

eLibraryUSA is a virtual library with access to nearly 30 authoritative databases that cover a broad range of resources on English learning, current and global issues, business news as well as information about science, technology, art and culture.

More than 10,000 IRC contacts already got individual access to this valuable resource. Please contact us to get a training and an individual account to eLibraryUSA.

#### Educational Resources

**College Navigator** is run by the U.S. Department of Education. Visitors, whether students or educators, can search the website to find information about U.S. colleges and universities, including tuition, types of degrees offered, graduation rates, accreditation, and more.

**EducationUSA** sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and offers accurate information and advice to try to help international students apply to U.S. colleges and universities. Its intended audience is teachers and educators.

**Teacher Reference Center** is resource for teachers and librarians is a collection of journals and books on topics course development, continuing education, and grading.

## INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER'S PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ABOUT US

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about the United States. Our collections include the updated reference titles, a periodical section, DVDs movie and music, audio books, games and access to extensive online database which cover topics ranged from American policy, government, politics, economics, history, English language, education, culture, society as well as global topic of interests.

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use a wide array of resources to retrieve the information quickly, conveniently. With one day appointment in-advanced, walk-in visitors are welcomed to visit the IRC facility, to use its resources, get research assistances and attend various programs on English language, EducationUSA, information literacy classes and movies/ gaming activities at no cost. We open on weekdays (except for Indonesian and American Holidays) from 8.00 AM to 04.00 PM.

Check our collections via our online catalog at: <http://snip.state.gov/6qx>



### November 2013 Programs:

- ◆ November 1, 2013, 14.00-16.00  
IRC English Learning: Writing Class  
With Myra M. Brown
- ◆ November 4, 2013, 09.30-12.00  
IRC Movie Club and Discussion:  
Thanksgiving Day
- ◆ November 15, 2013, 10.00-16.00  
IRC Cultural Program: Everyone Plays @  
Library (Various Programs)
- ◆ 4th week of November 2013  
i-Literacy Session: eLibraryUSA Training

To join our programs, make appointment for the visit as well as to request for a particular program arrangement, please contact us at:

**The U.S. Embassy Annex**  
**Gedung Sarana Jaya, 8th Floor**  
**Jl. Budi Kemuliaan I /No. 1**  
**Jakarta 10110**  
**Tel.: 021-3508467 | Fax.: 021-350-8466**  
**Email: [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov)**

You can also do research and participate in various programs at:

- ◆ **IRC Surabaya**  
Public Affairs Section  
United States Consulate General  
in Surabaya  
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## ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM

Please write your complete name and address IN CAPITAL LETTERS, check (✓) the articles and send your request for October 2013 Article Alert items to the Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, before December 2013 via fax (021) 350-8466 or email ([ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov))

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Request for:

- 1. The Boom Towns and Ghost Towns of the New Economy
- 2. The Demise of the Public Hearing: Technology is Changing the Way Citizens Interact with Local Government
- 3. Facts About 2014 U.S. Climate Action Report
- 4. U.S. Climate Negotiator Sees Path to New Global Agreement
- 5. 101 Object that Made America
- 6. The Case Against High-School Sports
- 7. Fulbright Starts Efforts to Help Alumni Keep Global Ties

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