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— News From The States —

EVENING WRAP



By [Kate Queram](#)

It seems like just yesterday the government was on the verge of a shutdown about nothing — but that was actually three days ago, and in the post-2016 world, that may as well be a lifetime. I barely remember who I was on Friday! But I know I was not a member of Congress, so at least I have that going for me.



The Big Takeaway

The federal government remains open (for now), thanks mostly to congressional Democrats, who stepped in Saturday to pass a temporary funding plan after it became clear that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) would not be able to wrangle his unruly caucus in time to avert a shutdown. The plan will fund the government at its current levels through Nov. 17 but does not allocate funding for military and humanitarian efforts in Ukraine in concession to far-right Republicans, most of whom voted against it anyway, [our D.C. bureau reported](#).



There was an attempt.

(Photo by Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

Lawmakers agreed to convene a separate vote on aid for Ukraine, though McCarthy remained vague on specifics. If it happens, it'll happen, [he told reporters on Saturday](#). C'est la vie. Come what may. What is time, really, anyway?

“If there is a moment in time we need to have a discussion about that, we will have a discussion completely about that. But, I think, the administration has to make the case for what is victory,” McCarthy said. “And I’ve asked the administration to come down and talk to our members about that.”

And thus concluded a supremely stupid day at the U.S. Capitol that began when Republicans huddled together in the basement fine-tuning a stopgap funding measure before bringing the House into session and giving Democrats a grand total of 15 minutes to read the 71-page proposal. As Democrats stalled for time, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) pulled a fire alarm in the House office building, prompting an investigation by U.S. Capitol Police. Eventually the

chamber voted unanimously to remain in session, giving lawmakers enough time to eventually approve the plan.

U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) vowed Sunday to deliver on his promise to oust McCarthy for relying on Democrats to fund the government, [telling CNN](#) it was time to “move on with new leadership that can be trustworthy.” A day earlier, McCarthy welcomed the challenge, dismissed the MAGA caucus as whiny children and reiterated that bipartisanship is not, actually, a dirty word.

“There has to be an adult in the room,” he said. “It’s all right that Republicans and Democrats joined to do what is right. If someone wants to make a motion [to remove me as speaker], bring it.”



U.S. Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) is not afraid of your primary challenges.

(Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

This is only the latest example of the far right’s willingness to cannibalize its own ranks as retribution for what most people would describe as reasonable, rational behavior. McCarthy’s death knell was doing the bare minimum to keep the government open. For U.S. Rep. Ken Buck,

a member of the far-right Freedom Caucus, it was daring to question the sanity of launching a pointless impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden, [Colorado Newsline reported](#).

[In a Sept. 15 op-ed](#), Buck urged the GOP to focus on avoiding a government shutdown rather than impeaching the president over his son Hunter's business dealings, particularly when there's no "smoking gun" that connects Biden to any of "his ne'er-do-well son's corruption." Three days later, Buck expanded on his objections, telling Fox News that [the timing of the inquiry](#) was also less than ideal, coming as it does amid a host of other issues that fit more easily into talking points for right-wing campaigns, like "urban crime" and "our open border."

That's it, really — but that's enough to get the far right grumbling, though honestly most of that grumbling is coming from one guy: Colorado state Rep. Richard Holtorf, a Republican who launched an exploratory committee to consider the feasibility of replacing Buck. The final straw? [Seeing Buck on CNN](#), a known liberal outlet. That just left him disappointed — not as a politician, but as a *constituent*.

"That leaves constituents of CD 4 and Colorado Republicans with a very bad taste in their mouth," Holtorf said. "He's obviously having a mid-life political crisis, and if he's looking for his next job maybe he ought to finish this job before he goes."

Buck's team did not respond to a request for comment, but Buck himself already dismissed the danger of a potential primary challenge.

"They brought a primary two years ago. I won 75-25," Buck said during a different constituent-betraying appearance [on super-liberal CNN](#). "I am comfortable that the people in my district know that I'm a conservative, and know that I want to make sure we don't ruin this institution over a tit-for-tat impeachment."



*Money, pleeeeeeease.
(Photo by Getty Images)*

Outside the hallowed halls of Congress, registered Republicans are finding plenty of other reasons to regret their party affiliation. For B.J. Adams, the lament isn't about Donald Trump (loves him) or the GOP's platform (no issues there) — it's about the fundraising pleas. All the time, these requests for money, including 66 emails in *a single day* this year. And they didn't start until Adams, 87, flipped his registration from Democrat to Republican, [the Missouri Independent reported](#).

“Definitely my advice would be don't do it,” he said. “All you'll do is get a bunch of dumb-ass requests for donations.”

In many cases, it's not clear where, or to whom, those donations are going. Adams, a North Carolina resident, donated this year to Bill Eigel and Will Scharf, Republicans running for statewide office in Missouri. He did so unknowingly, by responding to vague requests to complete a survey or support a petition over a national issue.

“If you gave them a donation, then it would come back and say, it was given to somebody, you

know, [House Majority Leader Steve] Scalise or somebody else,” Adams said. “And you don’t know where it went. And so I assume that that’s exactly what’s happened in these two cases.”



Don't worry about who will wear the hat, just put your money inside it.

(Photo by Getty Images)

Adams is one of 185 people across the country who donated to both campaigns via solicitations sent by Targeted Victory, a Virginia consulting firm retained by Eigel and Scharf. The firm has previously been criticized for its tactics, most notably [by the Trump campaign](#), which demanded that it stop using the candidate’s name, image and likeness in vague and misleading fundraising efforts. But their methods work. More than 90% of the listed individual donations for Eigel’s and Scharf’s campaigns came from people who do not live in Missouri.

Eigel did not return requests for comment — maybe he’d have been more responsive if the request came in a vague fundraising email? — while Scharf sought to distance himself from the effort entirely, insisting that *his* solicitations weren’t deceptive because they always included his name and his desire to be Missouri’s next attorney general.

“I’ve tried to reach out to conservatives here in Missouri and around the country through a lot of

different means,” Scharf said, “including using social media, emails and text messages to get people involved and engaged with our campaign.”

On June 21, for example, Scharf took his outreach campaign to Mark Levin’s far-right radio talk show, where he complained about [the timing of Trump’s most recent federal indictment](#). A solicitation sent later that day introduced him as a Levin-endorsed MAGA candidate who had just penned an opinion piece on the “sham indictment.” Clicking the link took recipients to a page where they were “offered” the “opportunity” to read the piece “before contributing,” Scharf said. But they didn’t have to donate to understand who wrote it, he added.

“We tried to be very, very careful about that sort of thing,” Scharf said.

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Also Trending

Washington state will need an aggressive outreach campaign, bolder cash incentives and thousands of additional charging outlets to meet its own goals on electric vehicle usage, according to a draft report published Monday. The so-called Transportation Electrification Strategy aims to provide a blueprint to help the state increase the number of EVs on its roads — a crucial part of a broader environmental plan to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 1990 levels, [the Washington State Standard reported](#).



Charge it up.

(Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

Under [a transportation package](#) approved last year by lawmakers, any passenger cars or light duty vehicles “sold, purchased or registered in Washington” must be electric beginning with the model year 2030. The draft strategy recommends a host of adjustments to help meet that goal, including better tax breaks and incentives for electric vehicles, comprehensive and “meaningful” education and awareness campaigns, and developing charging infrastructure in a way that’s equitable, reliable and accessible.

Even with the blueprint, it’s unlikely that the state will meet its goals. As of Aug. 31, electric vehicles comprised [just 1.9%](#) of Washington’s registered vehicles. Accommodating a statewide fleet would require an additional 3 million charging ports, about half of which would need to be operational by 2030, according to a separate analysis. It’s not impossible, according to analysts, but getting it done would require a massive — and speedy — influx of cash.

“Washington has made tremendous strides in recent years” to establish itself in the fight to

protect the planet, consultants wrote in an early draft of the report. “Yet, as the [Transportation Electrification Modeling] has made clear, Washington must do even more.”

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One Last Thing

An AI version of Tom Hanks is making the rounds promoting “some dental plan,” and real Tom Hanks [wants you to know](#) that he did *not approve this message*.

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