

# Shutdown Toplines Test

Online sample of 1868 respondents fielded over web panels on February 14 and weighted to education, income, age, gender, race, and 2024 election results. The margin of error is +/- 3.7.

**1) Do you approve or disapprove of the actions of the “Department of Government Efficiency” DOGE under Elon Musk?**

	All	D	I	R
Strongly Approve .....	22	2	16	47
Somewhat Approve.....	15	2	24	21
Somewhat Disapprove .....	10	10	10	9
Strongly Disapprove.....	40	79	32	8
Not sure .....	13	7	17	15

2) Democrats can block the passage of the budget until conditions are added that would limit DOGE and Musk’s ability to access the government payment system and make spending decisions. If the budget does not pass, many government services would shut down until a bill passes re-opening the government.

Democrats say these restrictions are necessary because Musk and DOGE have improperly blocked spending that Congress had authorized.

Republicans argue that adding new conditions risks a costly shutdown of essential government services.

What do you think?

	All	D	I	R
Congress should require new DOGE oversight in the budget, even if it leads to a shutdown.....	37	47	35	30
Congress should pass the budget without new requirements to keep government services running.....	28	20	25	38
Not sure / Need more information .....	35	33	40	32

**3) Should Democrats block the budget and risk a government shutdown to force conditions on Musk and DOGE?**

	All	D	I	R
Yes, conditions must be enforced even if it causes a shutdown	40	65	36	18
No, Congress should pass a budget to keep services running...	43	19	44	65
Not sure .....	18	15	21	17

**4) Which is the most effective way to check Elon Musk and DOGE?**

	All	D	I	R
The courts .....	44	48	39	43
A government shutdown.....	16	22	13	13
Not sure .....	41	31	48	45

**5) Has DOGE demonstrated enough harm that a government shutdown is warranted to check them?**

	All	D	I	R
Yes, enough harm has been demonstrated to warrant a shutdown .....	39	65	35	16
No, enough harm has not been demonstrated to warrant a shutdown .....	39	12	40	64
Not sure .....	22	23	24	20

**6) If some payments for Medicare or Social Security to people who legitimately need benefits are stopped by DOGE and Musk in the process of attempting to stop fraud, would a government shutdown be necessary to keep DOGE in check?**

	All	D	I	R
Yes, a shutdown would be necessary .....	40	61	37	22
No, a government shutdown would not be necessary.....	35	14	36	56
Not sure .....	25	25	28	22

7) Some policy makers say Democrats shouldn't agree to pass a budget unless restrictions are added so DOGE and Musk can't cut any funding for the NIH and research to help children with cancer.

Other policy makers say that a government shutdown would mean harm to middle class Americans, and that the NIH changes are only cuts to what universities can charge in overhead.

What do you think?

	All	D	I	R
Democrats shouldn't fund the government unless the NIH is protected from cuts and changing funding requirements .....	35	55	28	20
Democrats should fund the government even if their demands are not met .....	40	18	41	60
Not sure .....	25	27	30	20

8) Some policy makers say Democrats shouldn't agree to pass a budget unless restrictions are added so DOGE and Musk can't cut any payments for Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, and Food Stamps.

Other policy makers say that a government shutdown would mean harm to middle class Americans, and that DOGE and Musk need the freedom to tackle fraud.

What do you think?

	All	D	I	R
Democrats shouldn't fund the government unless Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, and Food Stamps are exempt from payment cuts .....	51	74	45	34
Democrats should fund the government even if their demands are not met .....	30	11	34	44
Not sure .....	19	15	21	22