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Redistricting Update: A National Power Grab

We are witnessing an unprecedented political arms race leading up to the 2026 elections. The Trump administration is pressuring state legislatures around the country to aggressively redraw congressional maps to consolidate power. The problem here is not that politicians are creating more favorable districts, it is that redistricting is being done outside the normal parameters in a blatant political power grab.

Missouri and Texas have already passed maps that could add to the number of Republican districts. [\[Reuters, Texas Tribune\]](#) And both states will see legal challenges to those maps. [\[The Guardian\]](#) California is countering with a ballot initiative (Prop 50) that would call for congressional maps to be redrawn. Additionally, a judge in Utah ordered state lawmakers to draw new congressional district maps and has until September 25th to submit them. [\[ABC4\]](#)

Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, and Ohio are also considering redrawing their congressional districts. [\[The Hill\]](#)

The Administration's pressure on red states to redraw their congressional maps to solidify their party's power for the upcoming mid-term elections is resulting in blue states countering with their own redrawn congressional maps. This unprecedented mid-decade redistricting is creating electoral uncertainty causing an arms race between states where politicians are picking voters.

Budget Showdown: What's at Risk if Congress Doesn't Act?

If Congress does not have a budget agreement in place by the end of September, the federal government will shut down. In the event that happens, funding for federal programs will lapse, agencies will stop issuing permits, contracts won't be paid, workers will be furloughed, and the entire U.S. economy will be in limbo until an agreement is reached.

Congress can avoid a harmful shutdown by passing a Continuing Resolution (CR). A CR kicks the can down the road by extending last year's budget limits just enough to keep the government open. However, it also freezes spending at current levels, blocks new project starts, and creates months of uncertainty, which is especially harmful to long-term infrastructure work.

The added threat: "claw-backs" of unspent funds

The Trump administration has used a little-known tactic called a "pocket rescission" to cancel billions in Congressionally approved funds—such as \$4.9 billion in foreign aid. When the President submits a request to Congress to not spend approved funds so close to the end of the fiscal year, Congress cannot act on the request in the 45-day timeframe, and the money goes unspent as a result. It's the



first time in nearly 50 years a President has done this. This fiscal year draws to a close at the end of September. [\[Reuters\]](#)

This has rekindled bipartisan alarm with lawmakers from both parties saying unilateral cuts to already approved funding is illegal. Courts are stepping in, with one judge already blocking the move. The case is now headed to a higher court. [\[AP News\]](#)

Why this matters for IUOE members:

- A shutdown means permits stop, contracts stall, and members can't work.
- A Continuing Resolution means no new starts and prolonged uncertainty.
- Pocket rescissions – “claw-backs” – risk pulling the rug out from unspent existing funding—even for projects already underway.

Revolution Wind Stop-Work Order

On the Friday before Labor Day, the Trump administration slapped a surprise stop-work order on Ørsted's nearly finished Revolution Wind project in Rhode Island — 80% built, billions invested, and thousands of union jobs hanging in the balance. [\[Reuters\]](#) The so-called “national security” reasoning doesn't add up. What it really means is IUOE members are sidelined, paychecks are at risk, and union hours are being wasted offshore.

Ørsted and the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut are fighting the shutdown in court, but until there's a ruling, workers are stuck in limbo. [\[Reuters\]](#) Worse yet, this move sends a chilling message to every other offshore wind project in the pipeline. If one project can be stopped at the stroke of a pen, none of our future work in this industry is safe. [\[New Bedford Light\]](#)

The government should not be picking winners and losers in any industry, but that is what is happening here. IUOE has always been a supporter of an “all the above” approach to the energy sector. Operating Engineers are ready to build America's energy infrastructure – from pipelines to wind farms – to achieve American energy independence. IUOE members and our allies need to stand united and fight to protect our work, our wages, and our future.