

Shutdown of State Government

Overnight Governor Christie issued an Executive Order shutting down all non-essential government services. We will keep you informed as we learn of any progress. Here's a breakdown of what we know so far.

Here's what PANJ knows;

Lawmakers did not pass a budget by the midnight deadline last night.

PANJ is in receipt of the AOC list of essential employees who may be called in for the next few days while the government is shutdown. That list may change depending on the life of the shutdown. We will keep in contact with the AOC.

The shutdown does not effect essential services. NJ State Police, NJ Transit and hospitals will be open.

There is a special legislative session scheduled today at 11am that has been called by Governor Christie. There is talk that this special session may or may not happen because the Speaker of the Assembly has left the budget vote open. Which means that technically the Assembly is still in session.

The speaker of the Assembly refused to hold a vote in the Assembly on a bill that would give the state the power to use as they see fit the reserves of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Assembly Speaker said that the budget is first priority and once that is voted on and signed by the governor he would address reforms for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, which is NJ's only not for profit insurer that handles Medicaid.

Here's what we don't know;

When we will return to work. It may well end this weekend or it may be days from now that we are allowed back to work.

Whether when the shutdown is over we will have to fight for our pay when we were locked out.

Over the weekend PANJ along with our lobbying firm, Capital Impact will monitor the progress of the budget. PANJ does hope to see a swift resolution, and hopes that the Legislature and the Administration recognize the importance of getting all NJ state employees back to work.

In Solidarity,
Dwight Covaleskie, President
Ellen Cribbin, VP Line Staff
Gavin Cummings, VP Supervisor's Unit