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OCTOBER 2025

SHUTDOWN

A Close Look at the Online Conversation
Inside the Beltway



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The government shutdown is dominating Beltway social media engagement.

- ① Sen. Schumer and Rep. Crockett drive the online conversation on the Democratic side. Rep. Mace and Sen. Kennedy lead social engagement on the right.
- ② In the blame game, Republicans focus on paychecks, vets, and undocumented immigrants to add pressure.
- ③ Democrats rally around health care, health care, and more health care to push for compromise.



Fresh Voices Rise in Shutdown Talks, even as Old Guard Remains Front and Center

On the Democratic side of the aisle, Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** (D-NY) leads the pack in social engagement. Younger figures like Rep. **Jasmine Crockett** (D-TX) and Rep. **Delia Ramirez** (D-IL) are also in the top 10, signaling shifting Democratic voices in the debate. On the Republican side, Rep. **Nancy Mace** (R-SC) and Sen. **John Kennedy** (R-LA) — who sits on the Appropriations and Budget committees — lead in engagement.



Social Engagement Leaders Inside the Beltway

REPUBLICANS	RANK	DEMOCRATS
Rep. Nancy Mace	1	Sen. Chuck Shumer
Sen. John Kennedy	2	Rep. Jasmine Crocket
Rep. Tim Burchett	3	Rep. Delia Ramirez
Rep. Byron Donalds	4	Rep. Melanie Stansbury
Rep. Virginia Foxx	5	Sen. Elizabeth Warren
Sen. Marsha Blackburn	6	Rep. Hakeem Jeffries
Rep. Lauren Boebert	7	Rep. Georgio Casar
Rep. Eli Crane	8	Sen. Chris Murphy
Sen. Rand Paul	9	Sen. Alex Padilla
Rep. Dan Crenshaw	10	Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Veteran lawmakers with committee influence continue to anchor the conversation as new voices gain traction.

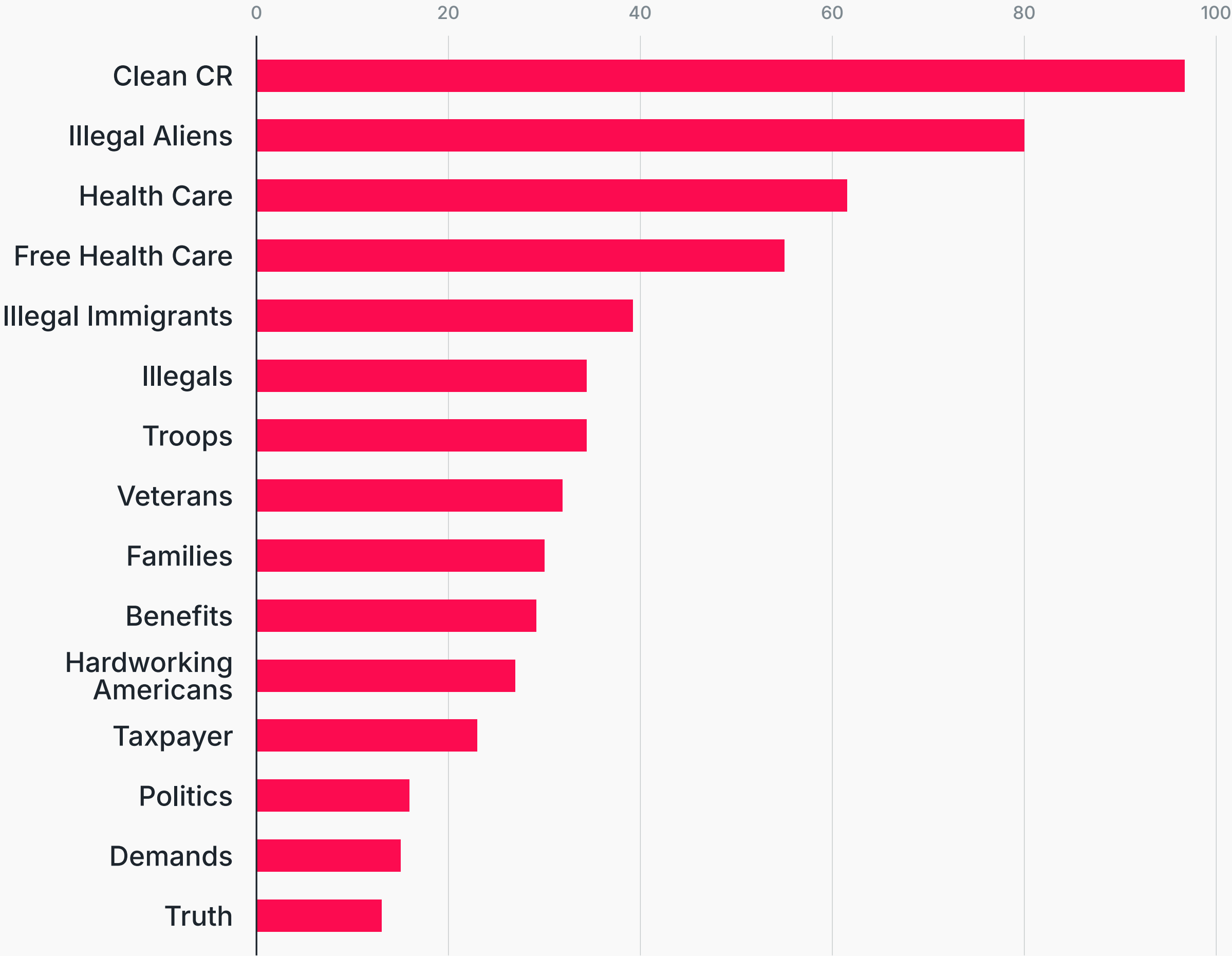


Republicans Sound the Alarm, Pin the Blame on Democrats

Talk among Republicans highlights the negative consequences of a shutdown, including missed pay for members of the Armed Services and border patrol, service disruptions for seniors, and health care for undocumented immigrants. They accuse Democrats of avoiding passing a continuing resolution, calling their demands “ridiculous.”



Top Republican Messaging



In the call for a clean continuing resolution, Republicans are focusing on health care access for illegal immigrants.



“The Democrats are willing to shut down the country to give illegal aliens healthcare. They want to shut down the government which will hurt our troops, seniors, and veterans for illegal aliens. They never cared about the American people.”



Rep. Lauren Boebert
@laurenboebert

September 29, 2025 on X
133.2k views; 8.1k likes; 2.1k reposts





Congressional Republicans and Democrats held dueling press conferences on Capitol Hill, underscoring for the cameras the narratives they've been pushing to their audiences on social media.

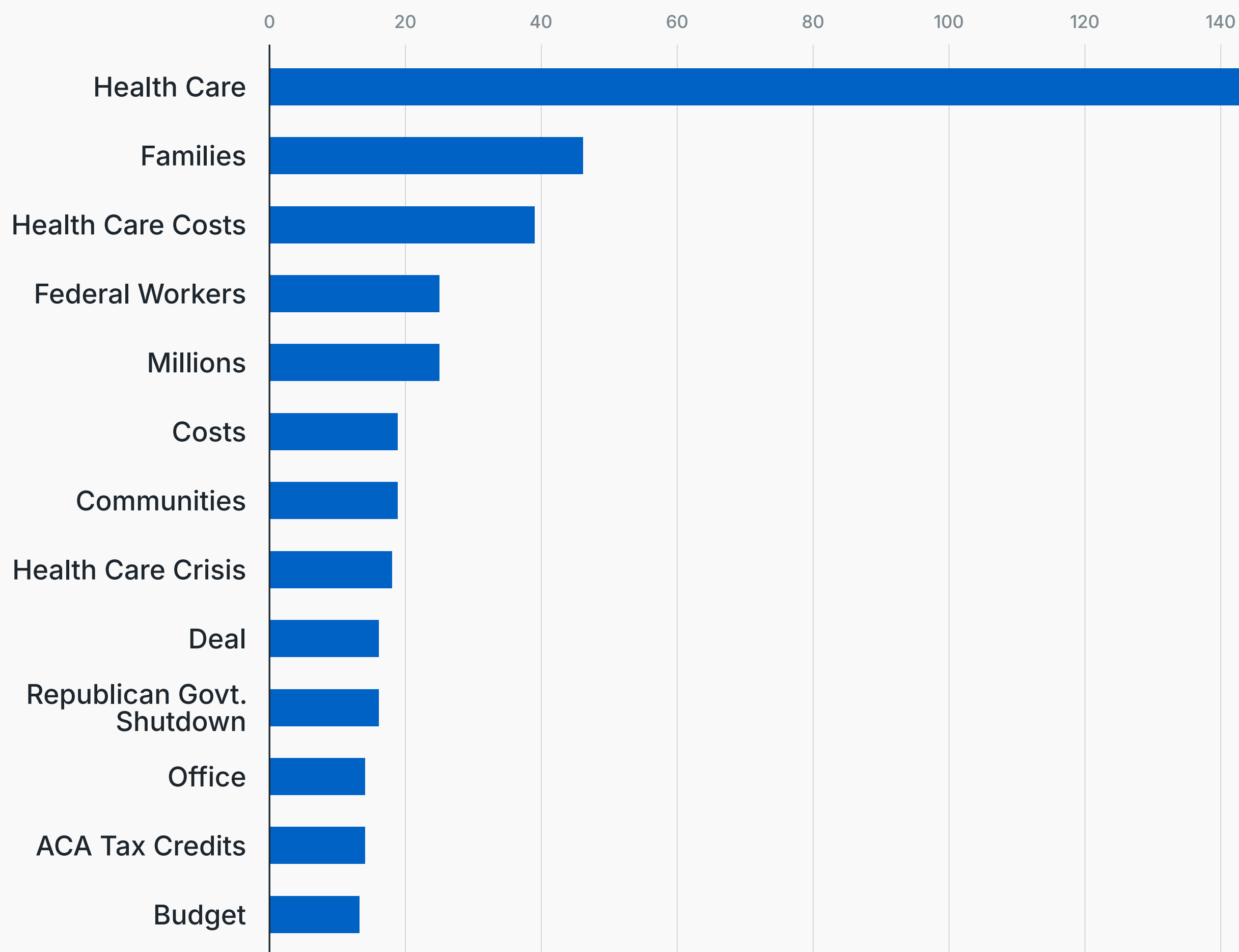


Democrats Tie Shutdown to Health Care Costs, Blame GOP for Stalled Negotiations

Health care costs are a central concern in the Democratic conversation about the shutdown, including the implications of proposed cuts to Medicaid and Affordable Care Act tax credits for Americans. Democrats critique their Republican counterparts for canceling votes and called out President Trump for delaying meeting with leaders on the left to discuss steps to prevent a shutdown.



Top Democratic Messaging



Democrats blame the shutdown on the perceived refusal to negotiate by Republicans, arguing that the GOP is “playing political games with American lives.”



“The government is officially shut down. Make no mistake: Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the White House. This is THEIR shutdown. They had every tool to govern and chose chaos instead. The American people are the ones paying the price.”



Rep. Jasmine Crockett
@repjasmine

October 1, 2025 on X
976.9k views; 46k likes; 11k reposts





Make Beltway Social Work for You

Beltway Social follows over 20,000 X accounts belonging to Members of Congress and their staff, key executive branch personnel, NGO leaders, and other influencers and boldface names from around the Beltway.

We analyze the people, topics, and trends that are dominating the conversation in Washington. This index is a summary of those conversations, plus a comparison with the broader national conversation.

You'll get a sense of where Washington is and where it's going — and when the conversation inside the Beltway is completely out of touch with the country as a whole.

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