

# government SHUTDOWN

The standoff over border wall funding that shut down the government recently lasted 34 days. If lawmakers cannot come to an agreement by February 15th, the government will shut down again. Over 10,000 Coloradan federal workers were affected (CNN), some here in the Arapahoe community, as Arapahoe students report.

“The parents [of a student’s friends] didn’t eat and their kids barely did. They had to take advantage of deals and people’s help, as well as work out deals with the bank and companies on things like mortgages and bills being due.”

“My uncle works at the post office, and he already has insane hours and low pay, but he had to work for over a month without pay, which was very difficult for him and their family with two college students.”

“They worry about how they’re going to make it through the week from paying bills, paying for kids’ sports, etc.”

# ONE YEAR POST PARKLAND

February 14th marks the one-year anniversary of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School which sparked a nationwide wave of activism. Many Arapahoe students participated in the April 14th walkout which advocated for stricter background checks control. Since then, there have been significant changes in firearm laws nationwide.

Notably, the Trump administration announced a new federal regulation banning bump stocks. Bump stocks gained attention after the Las Vegas Massacre and enable semi-automatic weapons to fire faster. Owners of the devices will have 90 days to turn in or destroy them. Gun rights groups, including Gun Owners of America have filed lawsuits opposing the decision.

Colorado lawmakers may also consider a “Red Flag” or “Extreme Risk Protection” law which would allow family members and law enforcement to request that guns be taken from someone who poses risk to themselves or others.

## is it time for a COLORADO PRESIDENT?

Two potential candidates include:  
**John Hickenlooper**  
Hickenlooper is a former Colorado governor and democrat. While he hasn’t officially announced running in 2020, he has mentioned the possibility. “There is an appetite for a leader who not only talks about progressive policies, but who has a proven track record of enacting them,” said Hickenlooper in an interview with Fox News

**Michael Bennet**  
Bennet is Colorado’s current Democratic senator. He told Colorado Public Radio in December that he was seriously considering about running in 2020, but his office has been cautious about announcing whether or not he actually plans to.

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“It’s scary to me that students think that their voices don’t matter. [Students,] your voice really matters. There are million little things that you can do that make a difference in democracy: testifying, writing letters, making phone calls, rallying your friends. Your voice can matter most locally. Local governance can protect you from things that are going on that we might not like nationally. What matters to you and your world and your immediate future is what’s going on locally: education, healthcare, road, schools, fire protection... all those things.”

- Lisa Cutter, State Representative

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## WHO CARES ABOUT COLORADO POLITICS

# Politica

**60% of Arapahoe students always pay attention to politics. Here’s why students (and faculty) say it’s important:**

“If you don’t take an interest in politics, politics will take an interest in you,” -Anonymous, 12

“The state of global politics is something that’s important for people, especially young people, to pay attention to so to prepare for the world we’re inheriting.” -Madylin Medley,12

“To laugh at what is happening and how funny some ideas that politicians have these days.” -Anonymous, 11

“I believe it’s extremely important to know what the people who make our laws are up to. They work for us and we need to keep them responsible.” -Amanda Sitarz, 10

“Politics are everywhere. Even if you choose to not pay attention to them, it’s unavoidable. Politics define our future and the future of our next generations. I care about the way our country is heading.” -Anonymous, 12

“For the sheer joy of arguing with people” -Anonymous, 9

“Times are changing, and you guys [students] are the front line of a lot of that change” -Jim Dollaghan, Government and Politics Teacher

**...And 40% of students don’t. Here’s why:**

“I’m not old.” - Anonymous, 9

“It makes me sad and depressed and it doesn’t make sense and I don’t like it and the confrontation is really annoying.” -Everett Sutton, 11

“I have to play Fortnite.” - Anonymous, 11

“Too much drama and fighting between different opinions.” - Anonymous, 11

“Orange man bad.” - Anonymous, 11

“I don’t really care. It’s screwed up.” - Quinn Rowilson, 10