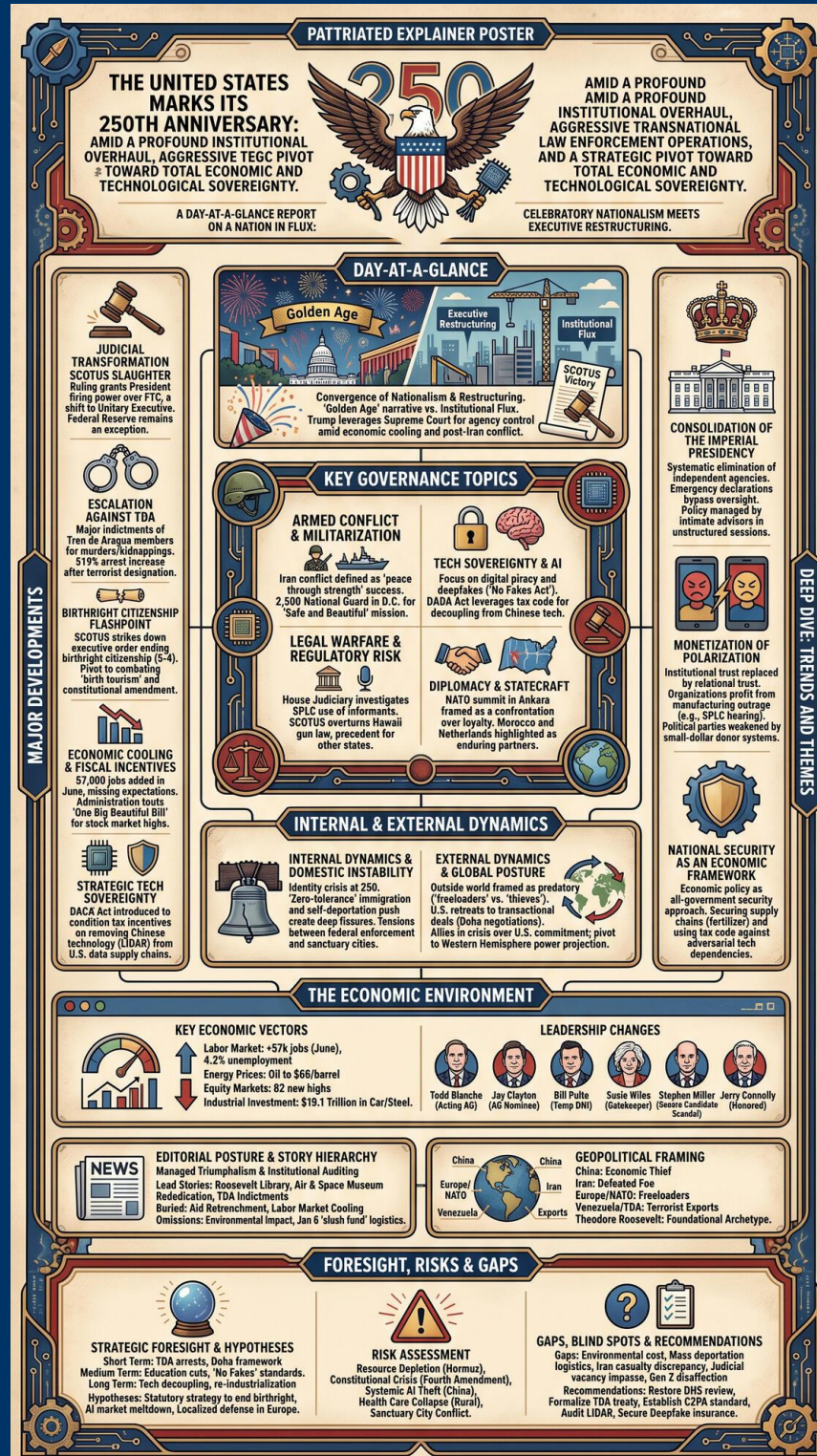


TODAYS TRENDS ON CAPITOL HILL

JULY 2, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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THE UNITED STATES MARKS ITS
250TH ANNIVERSARY AMID A
PROFOUND INSTITUTIONAL
OVERHAUL, AGGRESSIVE
TRANSNATIONAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, AND
A STRATEGIC PIVOT TOWARD TOTAL
ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
SOVEREIGNTY.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The United States entered its semi-quincentennial weekend defined by a stark convergence of celebratory nationalism and aggressive executive restructuring. While commemorative events in Philadelphia and the Badlands projected a narrative of a "Golden Age," the underlying reality is one of significant institutional and geopolitical flux. The Trump administration is leveraging a [landmark Supreme Court victory](#) regarding executive removal power to consolidate control over independent agencies, even as it navigates the cooling of the domestic labor market and the complex aftermath of a military campaign in Iran.

Domestic stability is challenged by a "war on gangs" targeting the Tren de Aragua syndicate, which the administration has designated as a [foreign terrorist organization](#).

This law enforcement surge coincides with a deepening "legal warfare" environment, exemplified by the House Judiciary Committee's scrutiny of the Southern Poverty Law Center's use of [undercover informants](#) and a broader partisan split over the validity of birthright citizenship following a slim 5-4 [judicial defeat](#) for the President's executive order.

On the global stage, the administration is transitioning from active combat to "negotiating from strength" in the Middle East, while demanding a fundamental rebalancing of the NATO alliance ahead of the [summit in Ankara](#). Economic policy is increasingly framed through a lens of national security, with new legislative efforts to condition tax incentives on [technological disengagement](#) from China and a renewed focus on domestic "working lands" to secure food and fertilizer supply chains.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Judicial Transformation of Executive Power:** The Supreme Court issued a [transformative ruling](#) in the SLAUGHTER case, granting the President the authority to fire members of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and signaling a shift toward the "Unitary Executive Theory." However, the court maintained an [exception for the Federal Reserve](#), ruling that Governor Lisa Cook could not be fired without cause.

- **Escalation Against Transnational Criminal Organizations:** Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and FBI Director Kash Patel announced [major indictments](#) against eight members of the Tren de Aragua (TDA) gang for murders and kidnappings in Texas and Illinois, highlighting a 519% increase in arrests of TDA members since the group was designated a terrorist entity.
- **Birthright Citizenship Constitutional Flashpoint:** The Supreme Court struck down the President's executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship in a [narrow 5-4 decision](#), prompting the administration to pivot toward combating "birth tourism" while congressional leaders consider [constitutional amendments](#).
- **Economic Cooling and Fiscal Incentives:** The U.S. economy added only [57,000 jobs in June](#), significantly missing expectations, while the administration continues to tout the "One Big Beautiful Bill" (Working Families Tax Cut Act) as the engine behind [record stock market highs](#) and domestic industrial investment.
- **Strategic Resource and Tech Sovereignty:** Representative Nathaniel Moran introduced the [DADA Act](#) to condition business tax incentives on the removal of adversarial technology (specifically from China) from U.S. data supply chains, citing the dominance of [Chinese LIDAR systems](#) as a critical surveillance threat.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The administration continues to define the Iranian conflict as a success of [peace through strength](#), claiming the nuclear program and conventional navy of the Islamic Republic have been effectively neutralized.
- National Guard units, [2,500 strong](#), remain deployed in Washington, D.C. for a "Safe and Beautiful" mission credited with a significant reduction in urban crime.

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- Legislative focus has shifted to [digital piracy and deepfakes](#), with the "No Fakes Act" proposed to create a federal property right in an individual's voice and likeness to combat AI-enabled fraud.
- The "DADA Act" seeks to leverage the tax code to force a [decoupling from Chinese technology](#) in the private sector.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The House Judiciary Committee is [investigating the SPLC](#) for allegedly paying \$4.1 million to informants within extremist groups, with some members characterizing the organization as a "highly profitable scam."
- The Supreme Court overturned a [Hawaii gun law](#) prohibiting firearms on private property open to the public, setting a precedent that may invalidate similar laws in Maryland, California, New York, and New Jersey.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- The upcoming [NATO summit in Ankara](#) is framed as a confrontation between a "divisive" U.S. scorecard on loyalty during the Iran conflict and traditional alliance-building.
- Morocco and the Netherlands were highlighted as [enduring strategic partners](#), with Morocco holding the longest unbroken treaty in U.S. history.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Consolidation of the Imperial Presidency

The current administration has systematically identified and eliminated "pockets of independence" within the executive branch. By utilizing [emergency declarations](#) and executive orders, the President has bypassed traditional congressional oversight to launch trade wars and military incursions. The recent SCOTUS ruling on [removal power](#) further solidifies this trend, transforming independent commissions into purely executive agencies that answer directly to the White House. This "Regime Change" is characterized by a small circle of [intimate advisors](#) managing policy in unstructured "bull sessions" while largely ignoring the traditional interagency process.

The Monetization of Polarization

Institutional trust is being replaced by [relational trust](#), where citizens only believe information from their immediate community or trusted "creators." This environment has allowed organizations on both ends of the political spectrum to thrive by manufacturing outrage. The SPLC hearing revealed how a [non-profit business model](#) can profit from

identifying "hate," even while allegedly funding the very actors it claims to fight. Simultaneously, political parties have been weakened by [small-dollar donor systems](#) that incentivize extreme rhetoric over legislation, leading to a Congress that is "on the couch" while the executive and judiciary dominate policy.

National Security as an Economic Framework

Economic policy is no longer purely about growth; it is now an [all-government approach](#) to security. This includes securing the [fertilizer supply chain](#) to ensure food independence and using the tax code to penalize companies that maintain [adversarial tech dependencies](#). The "One Big Beautiful Bill" is presented as a populist victory for workers (exempting overtime and tips), but also as a means to fund a [massive \\$25 billion investment](#) in the Coast Guard to intercept "narco-boats" and secure the maritime borders during the World Cup and 250th celebrations.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The United States is grappling with a severe identity crisis as it turns 250. The administration's "zero-tolerance" policy on immigration and the push for [self-deportation](#) (offering \$2,600 and a plane ticket) have created deep fissures in major cities. Democratic candidates are increasingly embracing [radical "freedom" definitions](#) focused on material needs like universal healthcare and housing, while framing the current system as a "kleptocracy."

Tensions between federal law enforcement and sanctuary cities have reached a breaking point. DHS Secretary Mullin described

current Democratic policies as [moving from socialist to communist](#), while critics argue the administration's "secret police force" is [terrorizing communities](#) and violating the Fourth Amendment through warrantless home entries. The [July jobs report](#)—showing a sharp cooling in creation—adds economic anxiety to this volatile social mix.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The "outside world" is increasingly framed by the administration as a predatory environment where allies are "freeloaders" and adversaries are "thieves." The U.S. is retreating from the role of [global anchor](#) in favor of transactional, bilateral deals. This is evident in the pivot toward [negotiations in DOHA](#) to end the Iran conflict and the use of [unilateral trade wars](#) that defy international standards.

Allies, particularly in Europe, are in a [state of crisis](#) regarding American commitment. While some view the current U.S. posture as an "aberration," others are preparing for a [transition to a NATO 3.0](#) where Europe must defend itself. The U.S. is simultaneously projecting power in the Western Hemisphere through [Operation Epic Fury](#) and interventions in Venezuela, signaling a return to the Monroe Doctrine. The global aid system is in [structural retreat](#), with the IRC reporting a \$400 million budget shortfall and two million fewer clients served due to U.S. funding shifts.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment is bifurcated: a booming equity market driven by AI speculation and the "One Big Beautiful Bill," contrasted against a sharply slowing labor

market and an affordability crisis in housing and groceries.

• Key Economic Vectors

- **Labor Market:** Non-farm payrolls added only [57,000 jobs in June](#); unemployment stands at 4.2%.
- **Energy Prices:** Oil fell to [\\$68 per barrel](#) following the resumption of commercial transit in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Equity Markets:** The stock market has hit [82 new highs](#) in the current term; 401(k)s are reportedly up as much as 85%.
- **Industrial Investment:** [\\$19.1 trillion](#) currently being invested in Car and Steel plants nationwide.
- **Digital Piracy Loss:** Estimated [\\$29 billion annual cost](#) to the U.S. economy; 560,000 jobs at risk.
- **Medicaid Debt:** Over [\\$1 billion in medical debt](#) eliminated in some states like Illinois through local intervention.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Strategic appointments and shifts indicate a total commitment to personal loyalty over institutional expertise.

- **Todd Blanche:** Serving as [Acting Attorney General](#); leads the TDA gang crackdown and the defense of executive removal powers.
- **Jay Clayton:** Presidential [nominee for Attorney General](#); hearing scheduled in two weeks.
- **Bill Pulte:** Temporary [Director of National Intelligence](#); tasked with "declassifying almost everything."

- **Susie Wiles:** The ["Ice Maiden"](#); continues to exert unrivaled influence as the primary gatekeeper to the President.
- **Stephen Miller:** Emerges as the [most powerful domestic advisor](#); architect of mass deportation and national security "beautification" missions.
- **Graham Platner:** Democratic Senate candidate in Maine; facing scrutiny over a [Nazi SS death's head tattoo](#) on his chest.
- **Jerry Connolly:** The late Congressman; honored for his [bipartisan work](#) on the Adams Memorial Commission.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial posture for the day was one of **managed triumphalism** and **high-stakes institutional auditing**. The lead stories were the opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and the rededication of the National Air & Space Museum, serving as nationalistic distractions from complex domestic issues. These were followed closely by the TDA gang indictments, used to justify aggressive border policies. **Buried stories** included the 500,000-person [aid retrenchment](#) by the IRC and the [sharp cooling](#) of the labor market. **Conspicuous Omissions** include any detailed discussion of the ongoing environmental impact of the "One Big Beautiful Bill's" deregulatory components or the long-term logistical reality of the proposed \$1.8 billion [January 6 "slush fund."](#)

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The subtext of the day's reports frames the international system as an arena of "Wrecking Ball Politics" where the U.S. must exert

dominance to prevent "Regime Change" at home.

- **China:** Portrayed as an expert economic thief using [LIDAR and AI distillation](#) to undercut U.S. industry; an "adversary at the door."
- **Iran:** Framed as a **defeated foe** whose military and nuclear assets are "decimated," leaving the regime in [Doha negotiations](#) from a position of total weakness.
- **Europe/NATO:** Portrayed as a collection of "freeloaders" whose [free-riding era](#) has ended, though countries like Poland are seen as "model allies."
- **Venezuela/TDA:** Framed as a source of "terrorist" exports, with the TDA gang functioning as an extension of [transnational crime](#) enabled by previous U.S. border policies.
- **Theodore Roosevelt:** Framed as the **foundational archetype** for the current "Rough Rider" administration; a man of "push and intelligence" who [remade his body](#) to remake the nation.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

Public perception is being actively shaped through the [weaponization of ambient doubt](#). The "Liar's Dividend"—claiming real evidence is fake—is becoming a standard tactical tool for both state and gang actors. The administration is using "managed transparency," such as televised cabinet meetings, to project order while [controlling leaks](#) through a tiny circle of intimates. The delta between the media "spin" and ground truth is widest in the [TDA briefing](#), which focused on high-profile murders to

overshadow a 90% drop in overall border encounters, and the [SPLC hearing](#), which framed civil rights monitoring as a "manufactured crisis."

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **The "Statutory Strategy" to End Birthright:** Following the SCOTUS ruling, Kavanaugh's concurrence suggests the administration will move to [amend federal statutes](#) to restrict citizenship rather than seeking a constitutional amendment, likely leading to a second legal showdown within 12 months.
- **AI-Enabled Market Meltdown:** The rapid infusion of AI into financial markets, coupled with [speculative "hallucinations"](#) and the lack of a "human in the loop," may lead to a 2008-style crash centered on high-tech valuations.
- **The Rise of Localized Defense:** As NATO transitions, expect [Poland and Germany](#) to emerge as the primary conventional military powers in Europe, potentially leading to a "European Nuclear UMBRELLA" separate from the U.S.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Immediate [arrests of TDA associates](#) in other "sanctuary" cities; finalization of the DOHA peace framework with Iran; Senate confirmation hearings for [Jay Clayton](#) as AG.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Deep regulatory cuts at the [Department of Education](#) as Linda McMahon "works herself out of a job"; formalization of "No Fakes" standards for AI developers; rollout of the "Save America Act" voting restrictions.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural decoupling of the [U.S. and Chinese tech stacks](#); re-industrialization of the "Badlands" and other rural hubs as energy independence peaks; a potential permanent [U.S. base in Poland](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

Overview: The convergence of cooling labor data and high-stakes foreign policy shifts creates a narrow window for systemic shock.

- **Resource Depletion Flashpoint:** The [closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#) remains a "tail risk" despite recent military success; Triggers: renewed Iranian maritime aggression; Likelihood: Low; Impact: Catastrophic global energy price spike; Mitigations: Immediate deployment of [Coast Guard narco-boat interception units](#) to the GULF.
- **Constitutional Legitimacy Crisis:** Continued defiance of SCOTUS on [Fourth Amendment issues](#) by masked DHS agents; Triggers: A high-profile civilian casualty during a warrantless home raid; Likelihood: Moderate; Impact: Mass civil unrest and state-level refusal to cooperate with federal ICE; Mitigations: Implementation of the [federal No Fakes accountability standards](#).
- **Systemic AI Intelligence Theft:** Chinese extraction of [U.S. frontier models](#) via "model distillation"; Triggers: Public release of a superior Chinese model based on stolen Anthropic/Google data; Likelihood: High; Impact: Loss of U.S. competitive advantage in high-tech; Mitigations: Rapid passage of the [DADA Act](#).

- **Health Care Infrastructure Collapse:** Failure of [rural hospital reimbursement rates](#); Triggers: Bankruptcy of a major healthcare provider in a swing state (e.g., Maine); Likelihood: High; Impact: Total loss of emergency services for 80,000+ veterans; Mitigations: Direct federal influx of cash to [reopen closed L&D units](#).
- **Sanctuary City Conflict:** Federalization of [National Guard units](#) against the will of Governors; Triggers: DHS Secretary Mullin authorizing "surges" in NYC without Mayor MAMDANI's consent; Likelihood: Moderate; Impact: Legal paralysis of urban law enforcement; Mitigations: Negotiating [shared royalty agreements](#) via the Great American Outdoors Act.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Environmental Cost of Industrialization:** Transcripts mention \$19.1 trillion in car/steel investment but omit the [environmental impact](#) of offshored fertilizer production returning to the U.S.
- **Logistical Reality of Mass Deportation:** While Mullin touts [self-deportation incentives](#), there is no detail on the cost or feasibility of removing 15 million people if they refuse the \$2,600 offer.
- **Iran War Casualty Discrepancy:** Vance claims [peace through strength](#) but fails to acknowledge the "American casualties" during the 17th day of the war mentioned by SWAN.
- **Judicial Vacancy Impasse:** The illegal firing of the [Registrar and Librarian of Congress](#) has left a critical gap in IP rulemaking that remains unaddressed.

- **Gen Z Disaffection:** Polls show 48% of Gen Z expect to be [better off](#), but ignore the massive disaffection regarding climate and "kleptocracy" raised in the Maine debate.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Paper Tiger" Defense:** The stated "destruction" of Iran's military is a cover for a stalemate that requires Doha negotiations; a **Black Swan** would be a successful Iranian asymmetric strike on the [Naval Air Station Oceana](#) while the VP is on site.
- **The Fed as the Final Fortress:** The court's protection of [Lisa Cook](#) is not about independence, but a stalling tactic by the billionaire class to prevent total presidential control of the dollar before a planned currency shift to crypto.
- **Black Swan Event:** The [EBOLA outbreak in DRC](#) reaches the U.S. during the World Cup, overwhelming the recently defunded DHS prevention centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize the restoration of [DHS internal review mechanisms](#) to prevent a state-level Fourth Amendment revolt.
- Formalize the [TDA terrorist designation](#) via bilateral treaties with Colombia to prevent safe havens for gang leadership.
- Establish a [C2PA digital watermark standard](#) as a national security requirement for all government-funded research.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Immediately audit [LIDAR and sensor supply chains](#) to comply with upcoming DADA Act tax incentive requirements.
- Re-allocate capital from urban tech hubs toward [rural agriculture and mining](#) as the administration prioritizes "Working Lands."
- Secure [Deepfake insurance](#) for all C-suite executives following the likely passage of the No Fakes Act.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The 119th Congress remains deeply divided, with the [largest bipartisan caucus in history](#) (America 250) providing a rare veneer of unity. The administration is focused on making permanent the tax shifts from the "One Big Beautiful Bill" while pressuring the Senate to pass the "Save America Act."

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Working Families Tax Cut Act (H.R. 1):** The "One Big Beautiful Bill" implemented to exempt tips, overtime, and social security from federal tax [interjected by Mullin](#).
- **DADA Act (H.R. 7509):** Conditioning tax incentives on the removal of adversarial technology from [U.S. data networks](#).
- **No Fakes Act:** Establishing a federal property right in an individual's [digital likeness](#).
- **Save America Act:** Proposed national [Voter ID and citizenship requirements](#) for federal elections.
- **Dream Act:** Long-stalled legislation to provide a [pathway for childhood arrivals](#), currently being debated in the Virginia 2nd primary.

• **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **SPLC Intelligence Project Investigation:** House Judiciary examining allegations of [informant fraud](#) and donor deception.
- **TDA Gang Briefing:** DOJ/FBI announcement of [felony indictments](#) for kidnapping and murder.
- **Oversight on Immigration Abuse:** Task force hearing on [warrantless entries](#) and the use of TPS as "backdoor amnesty."
- **Digital Piracy Subcommittee:** Testimony from [Sean Astin](#) and studio execs on judicial site blocking.

KEY STORIES

- **Vance Addresses Troops at Oceana:** Vice President JD Vance expressed pride in the [Carrier Air Wing Eight](#) and touted the destruction of Iran's nuclear program while defending the administration's decision to negotiate from a position of "decimated" enemy strength.
- **Trump Dedicates Roosevelt Library:** In Medora, North Dakota, President Trump declared a ["Golden Age of America"](#) at the opening of the 26th President's library, using the occasion to award the Medal of Honor to Roosevelt's family and criticize "Godless Communism."
- **TDA Gang Indictments:** DOJ announced charges against eight members of the [Tren de Aragua](#) for a brutal execution-style murder in Dallas and a daytime kidnapping-murder in Chicago.
- **Judiciary Scrutiny of SPLC:** CEO Brian Fair testified before a [hostile House committee](#) regarding allegations that the SPLC paid \$4.1 million to white supremacist informants, while Alveda King denounced the group for labeling Christians as "domestic terrorists."

- **SCOTUS Reshapes FTC:** The Supreme Court's ruling in [SLAUGHTER](#) effectively ends 90 years of independent commission protection, allowing the President to fire agency heads at will to align them with White House policy.
- **Digital Piracy and Deepfakes:** Actor Sean Astin warned that [A.I. is breaking the connection](#) to reality, while studio execs demanded "Judicial Site Blocking" to stop a \$29 billion annual loss to offshore piracy sites.
- **Moran's DADA Act:** Texas Representative Moran outlined a plan to use the tax code to force a [private sector decoupling](#) from Chinese tech, specifically targeting LIDAR and software that hoovers American data.
- **Philadelphia's Living Liberty Bell:** 250 people formed a [living icon](#) in Philadelphia to celebrate the date the second Continental Congress voted for independence, kicking off a weekend of events including a Pope LEO XIV address.
- **DHS Mullin on TPS:** Secretary Mullin announced that [350,000 Haitians](#) and 4,000 Syrians whose TPS has expired must "self-deport" or face immediate arrest, offering \$2,600 and a plane ticket as an incentive.
- **Cooling Jobs Report:** June data showed a [sharp miss](#) in job creation (57,000), suggesting the high-interest rate environment may finally be impactng the "Golden Age" narrative.
- **NATO Ankara Summit Preview:** Former Senator Flake and Ian Brzezinski warned of a ["crisis of confidence"](#) in Europe ahead of next week's NATO summit, as Trump maintains a "divisive scorecard" on ally loyalty.
- **Platner Senate Campaign Scandal:** Maine Democratic candidate Graham Platner defended himself during a town hall against attacks regarding an [SS death's head tattoo](#), while promising to "take the country back" from the "Epstein Class."
- **ECB Forum Disagreement:** Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh clashed with Christine Lagarde over [forward guidance](#), with Lagarde opting for rate hikes while Warsh remains "humble" and data-driven regarding the A.I. productivity boom.
- **Air & Space Museum Rededication:** NASA Administrator JARED ISAACMAN and Lonnie Bunch rededicated the [National Air & Space Museum](#), displaying a swatch of the Wright Flyer that flew around the moon on Artemis II.
- **Virginia 2nd Debate:** Democratic primary candidates Nila Devonath and Bill Fleming debated [offshore wind and health care](#), with Devonath highlighting her hospital doctor background against the "millionaire" status of current Congress.
- **Reflecting Pool Vandalism:** Jeanine Pirro announced the [felony indictment](#) of an Olympian for ripping sealant from the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, facing ten years in prison as part of the President's "Beautiful" mission.
- **History Trivia with Jon Meacham:** A [public trivia showdown](#) at the National Constitution Center where a local Philadelphian beat the Pulitzer-winning historian on a question about Rosa Parks.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Trends On Capitol Hill is a public interest experiment in applying deep trend analysis to the daily business of the United States Congress to explore how responsibly

applied advanced AI can help journalists, scholars and Congressional staff better understand the overarching legislative trends, themes and patterns of Congress.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's Congressional activity to tease out its overarching themes and trends into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original source material, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the legislative themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

This inaugural report is based on deep analysis of CSPAN, CSPAN2 and CSPAN3 coverage in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive. It is currently limited to the Congressional business covered on those three CSPAN channels and thus may

not include all major Congressional business, may include activity from previous days that aired on a later date, and/or may include other major federal, state and local governmental business. We will continue to refine this report to incorporate a growing array of Congressional information sources. This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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