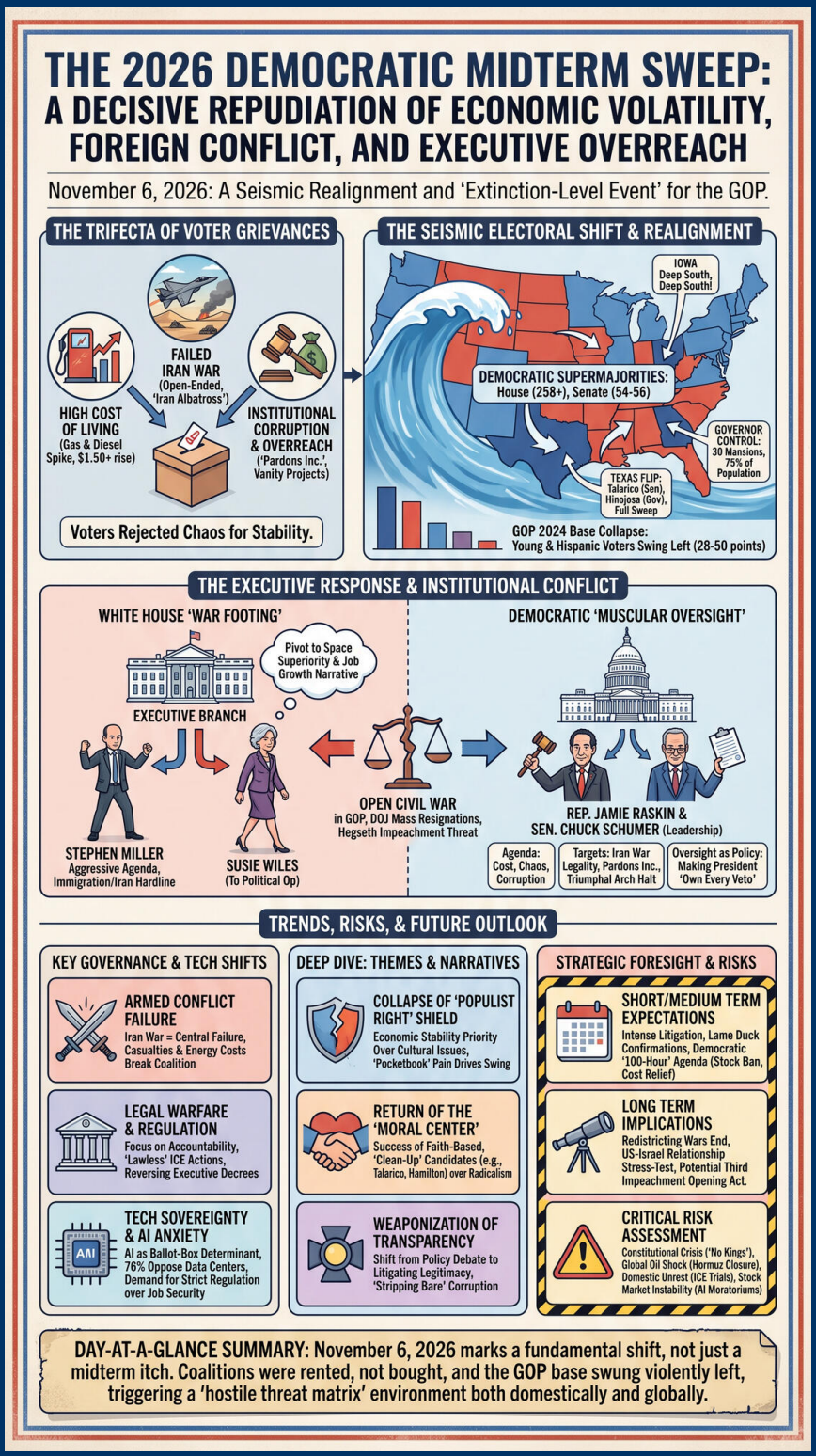
TODAYS TRENDS ON CAPITOL HILL

NOVEMBER 6, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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THE 2026 DEMOCRATIC MIDTERM SWEEP: A DECISIVE REPUDIATION OF ECONOMIC VOLATILITY, FOREIGN CONFLICT, AND EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

November 6, 2026, marks a pivotal moment in American political history as both parties grapple with the aftermath of an "extinction-level event" for the Republican Party in the 2026 midterm elections. The narrative across all networks and transcripts is one of **seismic realignment**, driven by a trifecta of voter grievances: the high cost of living (specifically gas and diesel prices), the perceived failure and open-ended nature of the 2025 war against Iran, and a pervasive sense of institutional corruption. The Democratic Party has secured massive majorities in both the House and Senate, including historic gains in traditionally "deep red" territories like Texas and the Deep South. Analysts are characterizing this not merely as a typical midterm "sixth-year itch," but as a fundamental shift where coalitions were rented, not bought, and the GOP's 2024 base of young and Hispanic voters has swung back violently to the left.

The executive branch is responding to this "electoral thumping" with significant personnel shifts and a doubling-down on its core agenda. President Trump has announced the appointment of **Stephen Miller** as White House Chief of Staff, replacing Susie Wiles, signaling a move toward a more aggressive, "wartime" footing for the final two years of his term. Simultaneously, the Department of Justice is seeing a wave of resignations among senior officials. While the President attempts to pivot to a narrative of space superiority and job growth, the incoming Democratic leadership, led by figures like Rep. Jamie Raskin and Senator Chuck Schumer, is preparing a "muscular oversight" agenda focused on "Cost, Chaos, and Corruption." This includes immediate plans to challenge the legality of the Iran war, investigate the "Pardons Inc." industry, and halt vanity infrastructure projects like the proposed Triumphal Arch.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

1. Historic Democratic Power Shift

- Democrats are projected to hold at least 258 House seats and 54-56 Senate seats, the largest majority in over 30 years since Watergate.
- The "Jewel" of the GOP, Texas, has flipped, with James Talarico winning the Senate seat and Gina Hinojosa winning the governorship, alongside a Democratic sweep of all constitutional offices.
- Democrats now control 30 governor's mansions, representing roughly 75% of the American population.

2. White House and DOJ Shakeup

- Stephen Miller is appointed White House Chief of Staff; outgoing Chief Susie Wiles moves to the political operation.
- Mass resignations at the Department of Justice, including Assistant AG John Eisenberg and U.S. Attorney Jason Redding Quinonez following the election results.
- Renewed calls for the impeachment of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over his handling of the Iran conflict.

3. The "Iran Albatross"

- Vice President JD Vance publicly attributes the GOP losses to the war, distancing himself from the prolonged conflict.
- The war is cited as the primary driver for a $1.50 per gallon spike in gas prices and record diesel costs.
- President Trump defends the war as "victorious" and necessary to prevent a nuclear Iran.

4. Rejection of Tech and AI Overreach

- Ballot measures to restrict or place moratoriums on data center development passed in 33 jurisdictions.
- Voters expressed significant anxiety over AI's impact on job security and human agency.
- The incoming Democratic majority signals a shift toward strict regulation rather than industry self-regulation.

5. Institutional Conflict over the Triumphal Arch

- Judge Tanya Chutkan issued a 14-day temporary restraining order against the construction of Trump's Triumphal Arch.
- Vocal opposition from veterans and conservation groups who view the arch as a "disgrace" and a blight on Arlington National Cemetery.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization: The war with Iran, initiated in early 2025, has become the central geopolitical and domestic governance failure of the current administration. While the President claims military deterrence is "real" because "no one really wants to fight you," the reality of American casualties and cascading energy costs has broken the 2024 Trump coalition. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth faces imminent impeachment as Democrats seek a War Powers Resolution to reclaim congressional authority.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk: The incoming chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jamie Raskin, has framed the election as a mandate for accountability. Key targets include "Pardons Inc.," the Global Disinformation Index (GDI), and the "lawless" actions of ICE agents. The administration's focus on national monuments and executive decrees is being met with immediate judicial stays and legislative threats to "undo the damage" through the power of the purse.

Macroeconomics & Trade: Despite a "blockbuster" October jobs report adding 165,000 jobs, the broader economy remains under pressure from unconstitutional tariffs and a $2 trillion annual deficit. Republicans are being blamed for "failing to finish the job" of taming inflation, while Democrats are pivoting to a "Cost of Living" agenda focused on raising the minimum wage and overtime pay.

Tech Sovereignty & AI: AI and hyperscale data centers have moved from technical concerns to **ballot-box determinants**. 76% of voters in surveyed areas opposed new data center construction, citing concerns over utility rate hikes and environmental impact. Democrats are preparing to treat AI not as a separate issue but as one that permeates every legislative priority, from healthcare to education.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Collapse of the "Populist Right" Economic Shield

- The 2024 GOP victory was largely built on a "rental" of Hispanic and non-college-educated male voters who prioritized economic stability. The transcripts show these groups have swung back 28-50 points toward Democrats, signaling that cultural alignment is secondary to "pocketbook" pain driven by tariffs and gas prices.

The Return of the "Moral Center" and Faith-Based Politics

- A significant trend is the success of Democratic candidates like **James Talarico** and **Adam Hamilton** (a pastor) who center their politics on a "Moral Center" and traditional values of decency rather than radicalism. This "Jimmy Carter-style" clean-up message proved effective in "red" states like Kansas and Mississippi.

The Weaponization of Transparency

- Both parties are moving toward "Oversight as Policy." Democrats intend to make the President "own every veto" on popular legislation while using committee gavels to "strip bare" corruption. This represents a shift from debating policy to litigating the legitimacy of the actors involved.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The United States is experiencing a profound internal crisis of confidence in its institutions. Transcripts reveal a Republican party in **open civil war**, with factions led by Pence and Vance blaming the President for an "extinction-level event" for the party. The Democratic Party, while currently unified by its victory, faces potential "intraparty debate" between its technocratic leadership (Schumer) and its emboldened progressive/populist wing (Raskin, Mamdani). The "loneliness epidemic" and a sense of "spiritual unravelling" are cited as underlying drivers of political radicalization and the rejection of the status quo.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The administration continues to frame the world through a lens of **"Peace Through Strength,"** focusing on military superiority in space and a hard line against Iran. However, the transcripts suggest a growing **global isolation**. Melania Trump's hosting of "Russia-Ukraine Peace Talks" and a ceasefire in Oleshky suggest an attempt to bypass formal diplomatic channels. Allies are reportedly fearing Trump will target NATO following his domestic defeat, while

adversaries like Russia and Iran are seen as benefiting from the administration's "chaotic" tariff and war policies.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The domestic economic state is one of "paradoxical strength and pervasive pain." While job numbers are up, the fundamental costs of living have rendered typical indicators like GDP irrelevant to the electorate.

- **Jobs:** 165,000 jobs added in October; 19,000 new manufacturing roles.
- **Unemployment:** 4.1% national rate.
- **Market Sentiment:** NASDAQ suffered a $2.5 trillion tech rout, the **"worst one-day value destruction in history"** following the election.
- **Energy:** Gas prices are up $1.50/gallon since the start of the war; diesel is at $6.70.
- **National Debt:** Reached $40 trillion, with interest payments now exceeding national defense spending.
- **Inflation:** Obamacare premiums projected to spike by 13% next year.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The post-election landscape has triggered immediate shifts in the executive power structure.

- **Stephen Miller:** Elevated to White House Chief of Staff, signaling a harder line on immigration and Iran.
- **Susie Wiles:** Removed as Chief of Staff; reassigned to political operations.
- **Department of Justice:** Senior officials including Assistant AG John Eisenberg have resigned; the U.S. Attorney for Southern Florida has also stepped down.
- **Republican National Committee:** Trump endorses Joe Gruters for another term despite losses.
- **GOP Legislative Leadership:** Speaker Mike Johnson stepping down; Steve Scalise and Jim Jordan are vying for control.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's primary focus for the day is the **Midterm Postmortem**, giving nearly equal weight to Republican internal recriminations and Democratic strategic planning. The "Lead Story" is the **Democratic sweep** and its implications for governance. A major "Buried Story" is the ongoing **humanitarian crisis in the Kherson region**, which is framed through the First Lady's ceasefire initiative rather than military reporting. The tone is analytically **skeptical** of the administration's claims, often pitting caller frustration directly against official White House statements. Conspicuous Omissions include any deep discussion of the **actual ground situation in Iran** beyond its economic impact, and the absence of a detailed Republican plan for a "rebound" strategy beyond "letting the rats eat each other."

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The global operating environment is presented as a "hostile threat matrix" where

American influence is waning due to internal instability.

- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as **addled and weak**, but still **chaotically powerful** through the veto. His own party leaders characterize him as the "albatross" around the GOP neck.
- **Iran:** Framed as the **ultimate foe** and state sponsor of terror, yet the war against it is described as a "war of choice" that has backfired.
- **Russia & Ukraine:** Portrayed as **pragmatic actors** in a limited humanitarian context, willing to bypass the President to work with the First Lady's intermediary efforts.
- **China:** Characterized as a **technological rival** in a "super intelligence" race, with Trump claiming the U.S. is leading by one year.
- **Israel:** Framed as a **burdened ally**, with some GOP members calling for a reconsideration of the relationship given its tie to the Iran conflict.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Disinformation Narrative:** Republicans claim the "Blue Wave" is the result of "maniacal coverage" and media bias. Conversely, Democrats argue the GOP relied on "shoveling buckets of fear" regarding Muslim takeovers and communism.
- **GDI and Censorship:** GOP figures like Kevin Roberts allege the Global Disinformation Index (GDI) was weaponized to defund conservative news sources.
- **Narrative Seeding:** Trump's use of AI-generated images (e.g., Greenland as a carrier) is identified as a tactic to "flood the zone" and distract from electoral failures.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Legislative Gridlock by Veto:** Hypothesized that Trump will use the "Veto Pen" as his primary tool, forcing Democrats to "own" a paralyzed government until 2028.
- **The Rise of the "Governors' Party":** Future presidential jockeying will shift away from DC to successful Democratic governors who have proven cross-over appeal (Beshear, Shapiro, Hinojosa).
- **A Third Impeachment:** Rep. Raskin's rhetoric strongly suggests that a third impeachment is an "opening act" for the 120th Congress, likely centering on foreign emoluments or war conduct.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect intense litigation over provincial results in Mississippi and Alaska. The appointment of Stephen Miller will likely trigger immediate policy shifts at the border and in the Pentagon.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The "Lame Duck" period will see a rush to confirm judicial appointments before the GOP loses the Senate majority. Democrats will introduce a "100-hour" agenda focused on stock trading bans and cost relief.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The maps drawn in states like Texas and North Carolina will be litigated, potentially ending "redistricting

wars." The US-Israel relationship will undergo its most significant stress-test in decades.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Constitutional Crisis via "No Kings" Movement:** Triggers: Aggressive use of the **Emoluments Clause** to seize personal assets (e.g., the Qatari jet). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High (institutional collapse). Mitigations: Bipartisan ethics reform in the House Rulebook.
- **Global Oil Shock/Supply Chain Collapse:** Triggers: Prolonged closure of the **Strait of Hormuz** in the Iran war. Likelihood: High. Impact: Critical (global recession). Mitigations: Declaration of victory and immediate ceasefire.
- **Domestic Unrest from "ICE Trials":** Triggers: Pursuit of criminal charges against **federal agents** by Democratic state AGs. Likelihood: High. Impact: Civil unrest/federal-state conflict. Mitigations: Federal oversight hearings rather than state prosecutions.
- **Stock Market Instability:** Triggers: Implementation of **AI moratoriums** and tech taxes. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High ($3T+ value loss). Mitigations: Phased regulatory frameworks.
- **Sovereign Debt Crisis:** Triggers: $40T debt ceiling breach with a **hostile Congress**. Likelihood: Low (short term). Impact: Catastrophic. Mitigations: Bipartisan budget reconciliation.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Iran Ground Truth:** Transcripts focus on "denuding" Iranian power but provide zero details on the **current humanitarian or tactical reality** of the ground invasion.
- **The 27% "Silent Majority":** While GOP consultants are blamed, there is little analysis of the **base voters** who stayed homeâ€”are they permanently detached or merely waiting for a non-Trump leader?
- **Cyber-Sovereignty:** Discussion of AI is focused on data centers, but the **threat of state-actor retaliation** for "Zelensky's bombing of bot farms" is ignored.
- **Energy Specifics:** The President claims the US is "taking out more oil now than before the war," but analysts claim **only 10%** is moving. This data mismatch is unverified.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Dealmaker" Trap: Mainstream narrative: Total gridlock. Contrarian view: Trump, motivated by ego and the need for a legacy, cuts a massive "Grand Bargain" with Schumer on infrastructure and healthcare to **spite the GOP leaders** who blamed him for the loss.

The "Blue Tsunami" as a False Positive: Mainstream narrative: Fundamental realignment. Contrarian view: This was a "one-shot deal" where voters punished the incumbent for a specific war. If gas prices drop, the "Trump base" will **snap back** like a "rubber band" in 2028.

Black Swan Event: An Iranian cyber-strike on the US power grid in retaliation for the nuclear site bombings, leading to a **suspension of the 2028 election cycle.**

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Prepare for a "Strategic Retreat" in Iran to stabilize fuel pricesbefore winter.
- **Economic:** Establish a Bipartisan Commission on Stock Tradingto preempt the Democratic "Accountability" barrage.
- **Diplomatic:** Formalize the Oleshky Ceasefireas a template for broader peace, leveraging the First Lady's channels.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Diversify away from diesel-dependent logistics immediately.
- **Regulatory:** Assume high regulatory risk for AI and data center projects; shift focus to energy-efficient "Green Tech."
- **Capital Allocation:** Reallocate toward "Red State" defense contractors who may face impeachment-related funding cuts.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The current legislative session is a "Lame Duck" period marked by desperate GOP attempts to cement appointments and Democratic moves to prepare the 120th Congress. Major focus on War Powers, Tech Moratoriums, and Ethics rules.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **SAVE Act:** GOP bill aimed at voter file verification; rejected by current Democratic minority.
- **Epstein Files Transparency Act:** Proposal to force disclosure of DOJ files.
- **AI Bill of Rights:** Passed the Senate 38-1; stalled in the GOP House.
- **War Powers Resolution:** Democratic plan to reclaim war-making capacity.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Mississippi GOP Chair News Conference:** Challenging the validity of results.
- **Stephen Miller Briefing:** Announcing new White House leadership strategy.
- **Melania Trump Russia-Ukraine Peace Presser:** Detailing the Oleshky ceasefire.
- **Center for American Progress (CAP) Panel:** Democratic leaders mapping the 120th Congress.
- **Department of Justice Briefing:** "Model Cities" initiative spending in Jacksonville.

KEY STORIES

- **The 2026 Midterm Results:** A Democratic landslide sweep of the House and Senate flipping seats in Texas, Iowa, and Ohio.
- **Stephen Miller Appointment:** Miller named White House Chief of Staff replacing Susie Wiles.

- **Oleshky Ceasefire:** First Lady Melania Trump secures a localized ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.
- **Iran War Backlash:** VP JD Vance and former VP Mike Pence publicly blame the war for GOP losses.
- **Texas Realignment:** Ted Cruz remains the last statewide Republican in Texas after a total Democratic sweep.
- **Triumphal Arch Restraining Order:** Federal court halts construction of Trump's arch.
- **DOJ Resignations:** assistant AGs and U.S. attorneys resign en masse post-election.
- **Mississippi Senate Recount Battle:** Scott Colom (D) leads Cindy Hyde-Smith (R) by 1,724 votes.
- **Alaska Ranked Choice Turmoil:** Mary Peltola (D) leads Dan Sullivan (R) by 600 votes.
- **AI Data Center Defeat:** 76% of voters oppose new data center construction.
- **October Jobs Report:** US economy added 165,000 jobs; unemployment at 4.1%.
- **Nasdaq Destruction:** Market lost $2.5 trillion in one day.
- **Gavin Newsom Clemncy:** Governor Newsome commends all 548 death sentences.
- **PCCC Economic Populism:** Progressive candidates winning in red districts on "unbought" platforms.
- **Hegseth Impeachment Threat:** Rep. Thomas Massie (R) and Democrats coordinate on Hegseth removal.
- **American Veterans Conference:** World War II veterans honored in Washington.
- **Global Disinformation Index (GDI) Controversy:** Roberts alleges federal targeting of conservative media.
- **Oleshky Ceasefire Humanitarian Success:** Reunified 34 children with families in the war zone.
- **Hinojoas Transition Team:** Texas Governor-elect names Ernest Bailes (R) to team.
- **Murkowski Port Focus:** Sen. Murkowski visits Nome, Alaska to discuss port expansion.
- **Georgia Democratic Governors Surge:** 75% of Americans now governed by Democrats.

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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