

June 19-23: Republicans sweep special elections and unveil the Senate healthcare bill; Sean Spicer faces criticism

Week in Review

Jun

19

- **On Monday**, the Supreme Court decided to consider whether partisan gerrymandering violates the Constitution.
- The Metropolitan Police arrested a man in connection with the attack on a crowd of worshipers near a mosque in London early Monday morning.
- The State Department issued a statement condemning the attack.
- Otto Warmbier, the University of Virginia student released last week after being detained in North Korea for over a year, died.

Jun

20

- **On Tuesday**, voters elected Republicans in both the Georgia and South Carolina special elections, meaning the party did not lose House seats.
- White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said he has not talked with President Trump about whether he believes Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

Jun

21

- **On Wednesday**, during his testimony before the House Intelligence Committee, former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said Russia organized cyberattacks against the United States to influence the presidential election.
- Trump announced he will hold his first major reelection fundraiser at the Trump International Hotel in Washington D.C. in June.
- The FBI confirmed that James Hodgkinson, who attacked a congressional baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, last week, acted alone and had no ties to terrorism.

Jun

22

- **On Thursday**, Republicans released the Senate version of their health care bill.
- The Supreme Court decided *Maslenjak v. U.S.*, limiting the federal government's power to revoke citizenship following naturalization.
- Two watchdog groups filed a lawsuit against President Trump, alleging that the White House is skirting federal records laws.
- Several House Democrats blamed Nancy Pelosi for Jon Ossoff's loss in Georgia's 6th district special election.

Jun

23

- **On Friday**, the White House Correspondents Association criticized the White House for putting a halt to daily on-camera briefings.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell reportedly wants a vote on the healthcare bill by next week, no matter what.
- Former President Barack Obama took to Facebook to blast the Republican bill, describing a "fundamental meanness at the core of this legislation."

Sources: National Journal Research, The Atlantic Politics and Policy Newsletter, 2017.