

July 31-August 4: White House comms shake-up, Mueller's grand jury and Russia sanctions signed into law

Week in review

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| Jul
31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Monday, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster announced that the White House imposed sanctions against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro President Trump removed Anthony Scaramucci from his role as White House communications director, just 10 days after Scaramucci was brought on staff |
| Aug
1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Trump “weighed in” on his son Donald Trump Jr.’s statement about his 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer, after it was reported that Trump “personally dictated” the statement Majority Leader Mitch McConnell confirmed that Senate Republicans intend to pass tax reform through reconciliation The head of the Drug Enforcement Administration issued a memo over the weekend saying that Trump had “condoned police misconduct” during his speech to law enforcement officers in Long Island |
| Aug
2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Wednesday, President Trump signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, despite calling it “seriously flawed” Trump, along with two Republican senators, unveiled a plan to dramatically reduce legal immigration to the United States At a White House press briefing, senior policy adviser Stephen Miller got into a heated exchange with a CNN reporter over the proposal National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster removed Ezra Cohen-Watnick, the senior director for intelligence programs for the National Security Council |
| Aug
3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker Paul Ryan, knowing they'll need Democratic votes anyway, said they are begrudgingly on board with the White House's request for a clean debt ceiling increase in September Mike Pompeo, the director of the C.I.A., recommended to Trump that he shut down a four-year effort to arm and train Syrian rebels – the president swiftly ended the program A sweeping set of changes to the G.I. Bill for post-Sept. 11 veterans, including a patchwork of fixes and coverage expansions, passed the Senate by unanimous consent West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced a party switch from Republican to Democrat Thursday evening in a surprise appearance with President Donald Trump in Huntington, West Virginia |
| Aug
4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Friday, news spread that Special Counsel Robert Mueller ordered a grand jury in the Russia probe, which issued subpoenas in connection with the Trump Jr., Russian lawyer meeting |

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