



Week in Review

Friday, July 13

- A grand jury [indicted 12 Russian intelligence officials](#) for allegedly attempting to interfere with the 2016 presidential election by hacking into computers and email systems of the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Hillary Clinton's campaign.
- The indictment, filed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, showed that the Russian attempt to breach the Clinton campaign's emails [happened around the same time](#) that then-candidate Donald Trump had addressed Russia in a press conference, saying, "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing."
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer [called on](#) President Trump to cancel his upcoming meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin "until Russia takes demonstrable and transparent steps to prove that they won't interfere in future elections."
- During a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Theresa May, Trump [accused several news organizations](#) of spreading "fake news." He also had tea with Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle outside of London.
- The state of Indiana [has spent at least \\$21 million](#) cleaning up sites contaminated by gas stations owned by Vice President Mike Pence's family, according an analysis of records by the AP.

Monday, July 16

- During a joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Trump [rejected the consensus](#) among the U.S. intelligence community that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election.
- Members of Congress, [including some Republicans](#), condemned Trump's remarks and his refusal to confront Russia. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats also issued a response, saying his agency "will continue to provide unvarnished and objective intelligence in support of our national security."
- The Justice Department [charged](#) a Russian national with conspiracy to act as an agent of Russia in the United States.
- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai [said he has "serious concerns"](#) about the proposed merger between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media.
- Broward Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer [heard arguments](#) about whether Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz's statement to police should be made public.

Tuesday, July 17

- President Trump [said he accepts](#) the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, contradicting his remarks a day earlier. "In a key sentence in my remarks, I said the word would instead of wouldn't," Trump said. "The sentence should have been, 'I don't see any reason why I wouldn't or why it wouldn't be Russia.'"
- In a speech in South Africa, former President Obama [warned](#) about the rise of "strongman politics."
- During a House Judiciary Committee hearing, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube executives [addressed Republican claims](#) that their platforms censored conservative content.
- The company that owns Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, the site of the October Las Vegas shooting, [has filed legal complaints](#) against more than 1,000 of the victims in federal court. Rather than seeking compensation, the company is hoping to dismiss claims against it.
- Special Counsel Robert Mueller [is requesting](#) that a federal judge grant immunity to five witnesses who might be called to testify at the trial of former Trump campaign chair, Paul Manafort.

Wednesday, July 18

- When asked by a reporter on Wednesday whether Russia was still targeting the U.S., President Trump [answered, “no.”](#) White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders later clarified Trump’s response, saying the “no” was in reference to answering reporters’ questions.
- A federal judge ordered Maria Butina, an alleged Russian spy, [to be held in jail](#) until her trial. Federal prosecutors argued that Butina is a flight risk because of her connection to the Russian government.
- During remarks at a Cabinet meeting, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said a denuclearization deal with North Korea [“may take some time,”](#) but that sanctions would continue being enforced.
- House Republicans [approved a symbolic measure](#) praising Immigration and Customs Enforcement, after several progressive Democrats introduced legislation to abolish the agency.
- The House [voted to go to conference with the Senate](#) on the 2018 farm bill.

Thursday, June 19

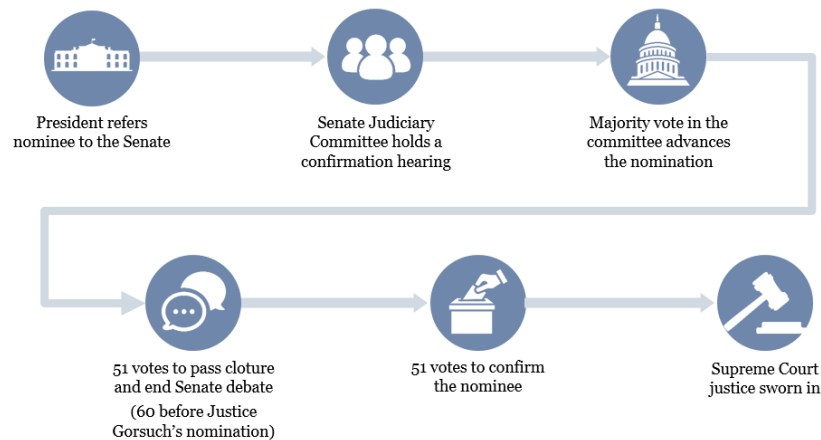
- President Trump [says](#) he’s “not thrilled” the U.S. central bank under Fed Chairman Jerome Powell is continuing to raise interest rates.
- Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen says that Russia undoubtedly interfered in the 2016 US presidential election, but [refrained from stating](#) whether those efforts aided in Trump's victory.
- Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross [states that it is “too early”](#) to say whether the Trump administration will move ahead with proposed tariffs of up to 25% on imported vehicles and auto parts; the EU said it would retaliate against tariffs on car exports to the US.
- President Trump [vowed to meet for a second time](#) with Russian president Vladimir Putin, after receiving bipartisan criticism for his performance at the summit in Helsinki, Finland.
- The Trump administration [proposed plans that would roll back protections](#) in the Endangered Species Act.

Top Stories: Visualized

1. [Unfinished business in Congress before the 2018 Midterms](#) — Before November, Congress must reauthorize multiple major government programs, finalize FY2019 spending and confirm presidential nominations, including a Supreme Court justice

Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has an easier road to confirmation than previous justices

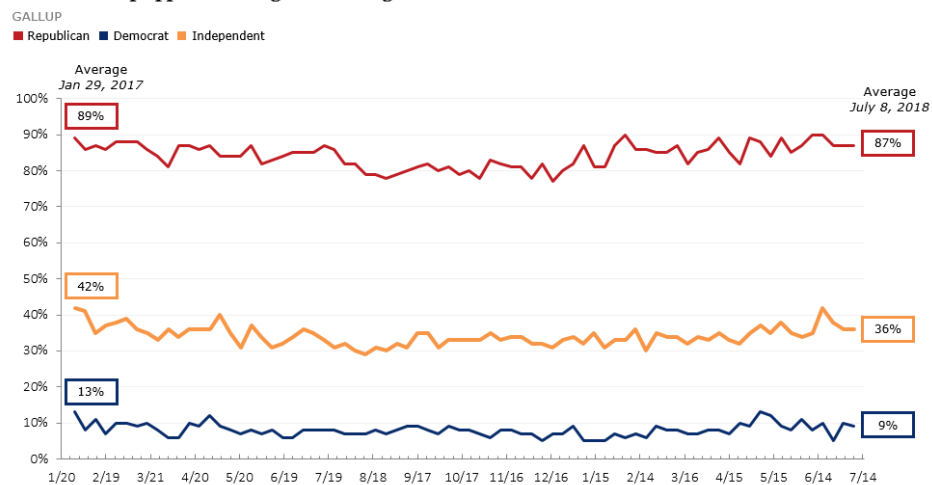
Senate confirmation process after the “nuclear option” invoked on Supreme Court nominations



2. [President Trump approval ratings](#) — Up-to-date tracking of President Trump's job approval since his inauguration: by party and state, and a comparison with previous presidents

Since his inauguration, Trump’s approval ratings have stayed very high among GOP and around 40% for independents

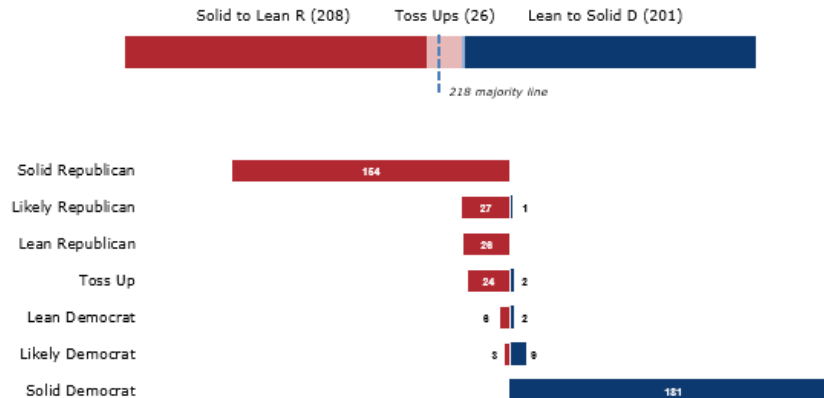
Donald Trump approval ratings since inauguration



3. [Charlie Cook's 2018 Look Ahead: House](#) — What are the prospects for Republicans maintaining their majority in the House of Representatives?

How big of a swing? Control of the House will depend on whether Democrats can win most “Toss Up” races

Cook Political Report ratings
ALL 2018 HOUSE RACES



Hotline: Overlooked

The Blockbuster District: With Alaska's two Blockbuster stores closing, the company's [only open location](#) in the country is in Bend, OR, in Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden's (R) 2nd District.

Not So Junior: There are currently nine Senate delegations in which the state's junior senator is older than the senior senator, the University of Minnesota's [Smart Politics](#) reported. Mitt Romney, 71, will add Utah to that list if he is elected in November.

36 Holes Filled: Democrats fielded a candidate in every Texas congressional district for the first time since 1996, the [Texas Tribune](#) reported. The [Cook Political Report](#) rates three Republican-held districts as competitive and two others with a chance to be.

A Slight Fundraising Edge: Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel (D) has raised \$10.1 million so far for his reelection next year, including \$1.7 million brought in on a single day, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported. His 10 opponents have combined to raise \$1.8 million.

Hotline: Quotes of the Week

"And by the way, I am a dentist, OK, so I read body language very, very well." —Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ 04), to FBI agent Peter Strzok, [CNN](#), 7/12.

"That's a hard no. It was not anything — no, that was not on the brain." —MO SEN candidate Josh Hawley (R), on if he considered his next office while running for AG, [New York Times](#), 5/13.

"Today's press conference in Helsinki was one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory." —Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), [release](#), 7/16.

"The sentence should have been: I don't see any reason why it wouldn't be Russia. Sort of a double negative." — President Trump, sort of walking back a Helsinki comment, [White House transcript](#), 7/17.

Look Ahead

Tuesday, July 24

Election security: The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform holds a hearing titled, "[Cyber-securing the Vote: Ensuring the Integrity of the US Election System](#)."

Rural development: The House Committee on Small Business holds a hearing titled, "[Investing in Rural America](#)."

Arming the border: The House Committee on Homeland Security holds a hearing titled, "[Boots at the Border: Examining the National Guard Deployment to the Southwest Border](#)."

Maritime economy: The Senate Commerce Science and Transportation Committee holds a hearing titled, "[NOAA's Blue Economy Initiative: Supporting Commerce in American Oceans and Great Lakes](#)."

Wednesday, July 25

Puerto Rico relief: The House Committee on Natural Resources holds a hearing titled, "[Management Crisis at the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority and Implications for Recovery](#)."

Tax law impact: The House Committee on Small Business holds a hearing titled, "[The Tax Law's Impact on Main Street](#)."

European affairs: The House Committee on Foreign Affairs holds a hearing titled, "[Political Developments in Central Europe](#)."

National security: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds a hearing titled, "[An Update on American Diplomacy to Advance Our National Security Strategy](#)."

Thursday, July 26

Space technology: The House Science, Space and Technology Committee holds a hearing titled, "[James Webb Space Telescope: Program Breach and its Implications](#)."

National Journal

600 New Hampshire Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20037

