

NationalJournal LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Washington Briefing

Week in Review

Friday, August 24

- Allen Weisselberg, the longtime CFO of the Trump Organization, [was reportedly granted immunity](#) by federal prosecutors in exchange for providing information about Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer.
- President Trump [announced](#) that he's canceled Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's upcoming visit to North Korea.
- Arizona Senator John McCain, who's been battling brain cancer, [chose](#) to stop receiving medical treatment, his family said in a statement.
- Thomas Frieden, the former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [was arrested](#) and charged with sexual abuse and harassment.
- Georgia's Randolph County [voted to keep](#) its polling places open, after the board of elections threatened to close the majority of them.

Monday, August 27

- In a posthumous letter, Senator John McCain [urged Americans](#) to unite and asked Americans to tear down walls: "We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe," he wrote. The Arizona Republican died on Saturday of brain cancer.
- Trump [announced](#) that the United States and Mexico reached a trade agreement that is a first step towards replacing NAFTA.

- Two men—Taylor Robertson, 27, and Eli Clayton, 22—[were identified](#) as the victims in a shooting at a gaming tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, on Sunday.
- Trump [welcomed](#) Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to the White House, where the two leaders talked trade and regional security.

Tuesday, August 28

- White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said the Trump administration [is “taking a look”](#) at imposing regulations on Google after the president accused the company of rigging its results. Google said in a statement its search engine is “not used to set a political agenda.”
- Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello [raised the official death toll](#) from Hurricane Maria from 64 to 2,975, following a [new study](#) by researchers at George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health.
- During a speech on the Senate floor, South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham paid tribute to late Arizona Senator John McCain and [encouraged](#) Americans to “be more like” him.
- Officials from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. [met in Washington, D.C.](#), for NAFTA talks.
- Roy Oliver, a white former Texas police officer, [was found guilty](#) in the death of Jordan Edwards, an unarmed black teenager.

Wednesday, August 29

- President Trump said White House Counsel Don McGahn [will leave](#) the White House this fall after the presumed confirmation of Trump’s Supreme Court pick, Brett Kavanaugh.
- Representative Ron DeSantis, the Republican gubernatorial candidate in Florida, said voters would “[monkey this up](#)” if they elected his Democratic opponent, Andrew Gillum, who is African American.
- Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is [reportedly planning new policies](#) that would bolster the rights of students accused of sexual assault, protect colleges from liability, and encourage more support for victims.
- A day after researchers estimated that nearly 3,000 people died in Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria, Trump [said his administration](#) “did a fantastic job” responding to the storm.

- The body of Senator John McCain [laid in state](#) at the Arizona state capitol. He'll also lie in state at the U.S. Capitol on Friday, followed by a funeral service at the National Cathedral Saturday.

Thursday, August 30

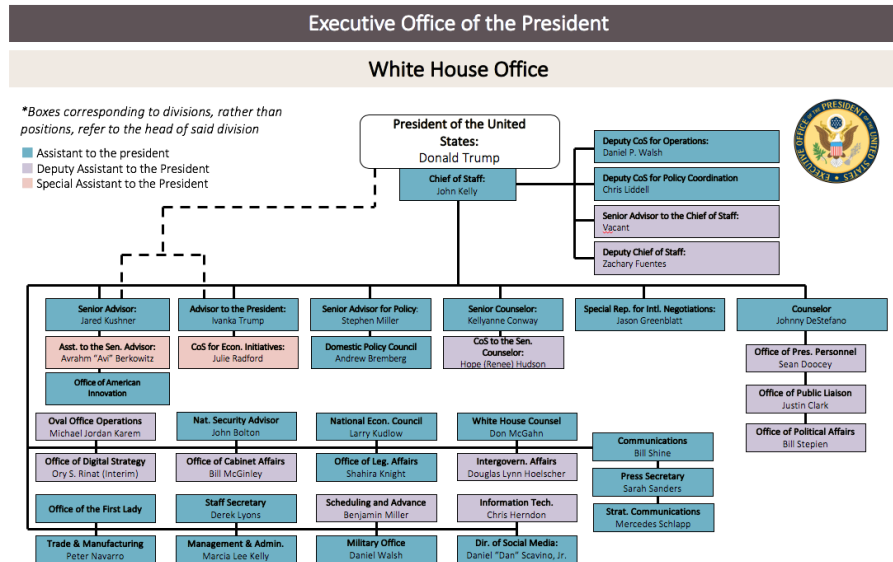
- In a letter to House and Senate leaders, President Trump [said he wants to cancel](#) pay raises for civilian federal workers that were set to take effect in January.
- In early morning tweets, Trump [denied](#) that the Russia investigation influenced the departure of White House Counsel Don McGahn.
- The FBI [charged](#) a California man who threatened to kill employees of The Boston Globe after calling them the “enemy of the people” in a series of phone calls.
- The New York Times reports that Trump and his lawyer at the time, Michael Cohen, [devised a plan to buy all the dirt](#) on Trump that had been gathered by the National Enquirer and its parent company American Media Inc.
- Former Vice President Joe Biden [spoke](#) at a church service honoring the late Senator John McCain at North Phoenix Baptist Church in Arizona.

Friday, August 31

- The late Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) [lay in state](#) at the U.S. Capitol, an honor bestowed on only 30 other American since 1852.
 - The Justice Department confirmed that [two prosecutors](#) — one specialized in cyber crimes — no longer work for Special Counsel Mueller. A spokesman said their departure did not have to do with any allegation of wrongdoing or political bias.
 - Thousands attended a public [funeral for Aretha Franklin](#) in Detroit, including former President Bill Clinton and Rev. Jesse Jackson.
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Top Stories: Visualized

1. [Agency Staff Tracker: Executive Office of the President](#) — The Agency Staff Tracker is a tool to help navigate the transition period in the new administration. Each deck corresponds to a federal department and tracks presidential appointments and nominations through the entire confirmation process. Use this Agency Staff Tracker as a resource to quickly identify the key decision-makers in the Executive Office of the President.



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

House Republicans are defending 90 competitive seats to only 13 competitive Democratic seats

Cook Political Report ratings

COMPETITIVE 2018 HOUSE RACES

Democrat held seat
Republican held seat

**Asterisks denote incumbents not seeking reelection, seeking other office, or lost their primary election*

(8 Dem, 3 GOP)

AZ-1 O'Halleran
CA-7 Bera
FL-7 Murphy
MN-7 Peterson
NH-2 Kuster
NJ-5 Gottheimer
NV-4 Kihuen*
PA-8 Cartwright
NJ-2 LoBiondo*
PA-5 VACANT-Meehan
PA-6 Costello*

Likely Democrat

(2 Dem, 7 GOP)

NH-1 Shea-Porter*
NV-3 Rosen*
AZ-2 MeSally*
CA-49 Issa*
FL-27 Ros-Lehtinen*
NJ-11 Frelinghuysen*
PA-7 VACANT-Dent
PA-17 Rothfus/Lamb
VA-10 Comstock

Lean Democrat

(2 Dem, 28 GOP)

MN-1 Walz*
MN-8 Nolan*
CA-10 Denham
CA-25 Knight
CA-39 Royce*
CA-45 Walters
CA-48 Rohrabacher
CO-6 Coffman
IA-1 Blum
IA-3 Young
IL-6 Roskam
IL-12 Bost
KS-2 Jenkins*
KS-3 Yoder
KY-6 Barr
ME-2 Poliquin
MI-8 Bishop
MI-11 Trott*
MN-2 Lewis
MN-3 Paulsen
NC-9 Pittenger*
NJ-3 MacArthur
NJ-7 Lance
NY-19 Faso
NY-22 Tenney
OH-1 Chabot
TX-7 Culberson
WA-5 Sessions
VA-7 Brat
WA-8 Reichert*

Toss Up

(27 GOP)

AR-2 Hill
CA-50 Hunter
FL-15 Ross*
FL-16 Buchanan
FL-18 Mast
FL-26 Carbelo
GA-6 Handel
IL-13 Davis
IL-14 Hultgren
MT-AL Gianforte
NC-2 Holding
NC-13 Budd
NE-2 Bacon
NM-2 Pearce*
OH-12 VACANT (Tiberi)
PA-1 Fitzpatrick
PA-10 Perry
PA-16 Kelly
NC-1 Sanford*
TX-23 Hurd
UT-4 Love
VA-2 Taylor
VA-5 Garrett*
WA-3 Beutler
WA-5 McMorris Rodgers
WI-1 Ryan*
WV-3 Jenkins*

Lean Republican

(1 Dem, 25 GOP)

PA-14 OPEN (Lamb)
AK-AL Young
AZ-6 Schweikert
CA-4 McClintock
CA-21 Valadao
CO-3 Tipton
FL-6 DeSantis*
FL-25 Diaz-Balart
GA-7 Woodall
IA-04 King
IN-2 Walorski
MI-1 Bergman
MI-6 Upton
MI-7 Walberg
MO-2 Wagner
NC-8 Hudson
NY-1 Zeldin
NY-11 Donovan
NY-24 Katko
NY-27 Collins
OH-10 Turner
OH-14 Joyce
TX-2 Poe*
TX-21 Smith*
TX-31 Carter
WI-6 Grothman

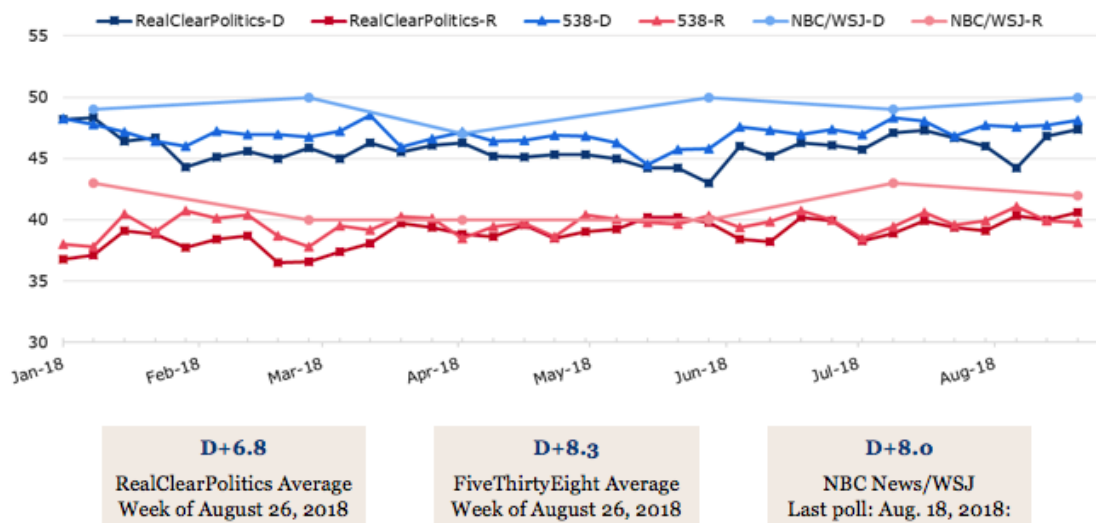
Likely Republican

3. [Charlie Cook's Tour of American Politics](#) — A curated deck of the key indices Charlie Cook uses for insight on the American political landscape.

Democrats hold about a 8-point lead in generic ballot polling

Do you prefer a Congress controlled by Republicans or Democrats?

AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RESPONSES



Hotline's Overlooked and Quotes of Day

The Hotline was on vacation between Friday, August 24th and Friday, August 31st. Hotline's stories and email newsletters will resume on Tuesday, September 4th.

Look Ahead

Tuesday, September 4

Kavanaugh hearing: The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to be an associate justice on the Supreme Court (9:30 a.m.)

Wednesday, September 5

NATO Alliance evaluation: Senate Foreign Relation Committee hearing on "Assessing the Value of the NATO Alliance" (10:00 a.m.)

Tariff Impact: Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing on "The Impact of Zero Tariffs on U.S. Autoworkers" (10:00 a.m.)

Twitter content monitoring: House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing on "Twitter: Transparency and Accountability" with testimony by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey (1:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 6

Environmental contamination: House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing on "Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Environment: An Update on the Response to Contamination and Challenges Presented" (10:00 a.m.)

Cybersecurity: House Homeland Security Committee hearing on "Understanding Cybersecurity Threats to America's Aviation Sector" (10:00 a.m.)

Cuba policy: House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on "U.S. Policy Toward Cuba" (2:00 p.m.)

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