



NationalJournal LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Washington Briefing

Week in Review

Monday, November 26

- President Donald Trump renewed his demands that Congress “fund the WALL” after 500 migrants attempted to rush the border at a major crossing between Tijuana and San Diego on Sunday.
- General Motors announced it will lay off up to 14,000 workers and [halt production](#) at five of its plants across Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, and Ontario, Canada. The company’s CEO, Mary Barra, [met with](#) White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow following the announcement.
- Jerome Corsi, an associate of Trump ally Roger Stone, said he will reject a plea deal offer from Special Counsel Robert Mueller on one count of perjury related to his conversations with Stone.
- Trump [campaigned](#) for Republican Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith in Tupelo and Biloxi, Mississippi.
- Ukrainian lawmakers [voted to introduce](#) martial law along areas of the border with Russia, after the country seized three Ukrainian Navy ships and detained two dozen sailors. UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, often the Trump administration’s lone critic of Russia, condemned the seizure of the vessels. Haley [is leaving the administration](#) at the end of the year.

Tuesday, November 27

- National Security Adviser John Bolton told reporters that [he had not listened](#) to the recordings taken during the killing of the Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi: “Unless you speak Arabic, what are you going to get from it?” Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that “[some kind of response](#)” from the U.S. would be necessary to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for Khashoggi’s murder.
- General Motors’ [stock fell](#) after President Donald Trump said on Twitter that he is considering cutting all subsidies for the automaker. GM announced Monday that it will close five plants across North America and lay off thousands of workers.
- Mississippi voters headed to the polls in the Senate runoff between the Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith and her Democratic challenger, Mike Espy. Hyde-Smith was expected to win, but [certain signs indicated that](#) Espy could outperform past Democratic candidates in the state.
- Three American service members [were killed](#) by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.
- A new UN report [found](#) that many major polluters still part of the Paris Agreement on climate change are not on track to reach their goals for cutting carbon pollution, which were set in 2016.

Wednesday, November 28

- By a vote of 203–32, House Democrats officially [nominated](#) Representative Nancy Pelosi, who ran unopposed despite facing early vocal opponents, to be speaker. Pelosi will need to secure several more votes to win the vote of the full House in January.
- A Senate committee [delayed a vote](#) on Ronald Vitiello, President Donald Trump’s nominee to head Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, after ICE unions sent the committee a letter expressing concern over, among other things, a tweet from Vitiello comparing Trump to Dennis the Menace.
- The Senate [voted to move forward](#) with a bill that would end United States support for the Saudi-backed war in Yemen in retaliation to Saudi involvement in the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi. In a [closed-door briefing](#) earlier in the day, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary James Mattis had asked senators not to pass the bill.
- A Miami Herald investigation revealed that current Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta was part of a prosecutorial team that [gave an unusually lenient plea deal to Jeff Epstein](#), a financier who allegedly sexually abused more than 100 underage girls.

- In the last Senate race of the midterms, the Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith [defeated](#) the Democrat Mike Espy in Mississippi. Espy was [the third high-profile black candidate this year](#) to lose a race for statewide office in the Deep South, following gubernatorial candidates like Andrew Gillum in Florida and Stacey Abrams in Georgia.

Thursday, November 29

- President Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen [pleaded guilty](#) to making false statements to Congress about the Russia investigation in a charge brought by special counsel Robert Mueller. Cohen also waived his right to an indictment when he appeared in a New York federal court.
- The main Farm Bill negotiators — Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS), Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), House Agriculture Chairman K. Michael Conway (R-TX), and Ranking Member Collin C. Peterson (D-MN) — said they reached an ["agreement in principle."](#)
- President Trump announced that he has [canceled plans](#) to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G-20 summit over tensions with Ukraine.

Top Stories: Visualized

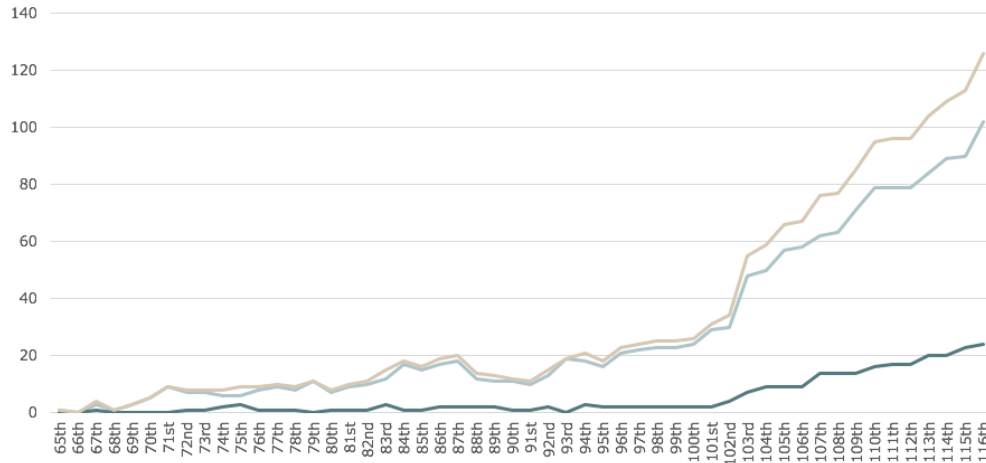
1. [Women in the 2018 elections](#) — Tracking female candidates in local and national races

The number of total women in Congress has grown steadily since the first woman was elected in 1916

Number of women in the House and Senate

AS OF NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Members of the House and Senate House only (including non-voting members) Senators only



2. [Midterms 2018: High-level trends](#) — Key takeaways from the 2018 midterm elections

Republicans have enlarged their Senate majority but lost the House for the first time since the 2010 midterms

Control of Congress and the White House by party

2009-2019; COMPOSITION ON JANUARY 20 OF EACH YEAR

Republican control Democratic control

*House & Senate margins as of 8 a.m., 11/29/18
 **Independents Sanders and King, who caucus with the Democrats, have been included in the Democratic tally

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
House	D+77	D+78	R+49	R+50	R+33	R+33	R+59	R+59	R+47	R+45	D+35*
Senate**	D+16	D+20	D+6	D+6	D+10	D+10	R+8	R+8	R+4	R+2	R+5*
White House	Obama	Obama	Obama	Obama	Obama	Obama	Obama	Obama	Trump	Trump	Trump

3. [Midterms 2018: Meet the Freshmen of the 116th Congress](#) — Biographical, electoral, and district data for all new members to the 116th Congress

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)



Background

Sinema has represented Arizona's 9th district since 2012. In 2018, she was elected US Senator for Arizona for the first time. Prior to her public-service career, she worked as a social worker, attorney, professor, and instructor at the Center for Progressive Leadership, a Washington-based institute that trains activists in progressive policies. In 2010, she was elected to the Arizona State Senate, where she sponsored several bills aimed at curbing Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's immigration policies, including targeted documentation checks. In Congress, Sinema was a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, comprising conservative Democrats, and the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. She has a center-left voting record. In 2015 and 2016, she did not vote for Nancy Pelosi for majority leader. She has voted with her party 73 percent of the time. In 2017, she voted with President Trump's position roughly half of the time. She is the first openly bisexual Congress member.

State Profile	Biography	Election Results
State: Arizona	First Elected: 2018	2018 General
Status: Junior Senator	Party: Democrat	Kyrsten Sinema (D) 50%
Serving with: John Kyl (R)	Birth Date: 07/12/1976	Martha McSally (R) 48%
Cook PVI: R+5	Education: PhD, Arizona State University, School of Justice and Social Inquiry, 2009-2012; JD, Arizona State University, 2002-2004; MSW, Social Work, Arizona State University, 1997-1999; Attended, Brigham Young University	
	Family: Divorced	

Hotline: Overlooked

Wavy Wisconsin: Wisconsin Democrats swept the state's constitutional office elections this month for the third time in the past 44 years, the University of Minnesota's [Smart Politics](#) reported. Each instance has come in a national Democratic wave, with the party picking up 48 House seats in 1974, 26 in 1982, and at least 39 this year.

Oh, Honey: President Trump on Monday became the first sitting president to visit Tupelo, MS, since Franklin Roosevelt in 1934, the [Tupelo Daily Journal](#) reported.

A Millennial Wave: At least 26 millennials (born 1981-1996) will serve on Capitol Hill when the 116th Congress convenes next month, according to the [Pew Research Center](#). Rep. Conor Lamb's (D-PA) special election win this year boosted the generation's numbers to six in the current Congress.

Hotline: Quotes of the Week

"Maybe we don't need Oprah." — New Hampshire Democratic strategist Judy Reardon, advocating for a less flashy nominee in 2020, [McClatchy](#), 11/26.

"If you don't study the issues, like a dog lapping up antifreeze, you'll lick it up; it tastes good." — Rep. Steve Russell (R-OK 05), on voters opposing him over a state policy, [Hotline reporting](#), 11/26.

"I know one thing: If she loses, I'll be blamed, and if she wins, I'll be given no credit. That's the only thing I know." — President Trump, on Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), who won, [Washington Post](#), 11/27.

Look Ahead

Friday, November 30

Workforce development: The Senate (Special Committee on) Aging holds a hearing titled, "Back to Work: Empowering Alabama's Aging Workforce."

Tuesday, December 4

Foreign affairs: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds a hearing titled, "Hearing The China Challenge, Part 3: Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law."

Judge nomination: The Senate Finance Committee holds a hearing on the nomination of Courtney Dunbar Jones to be a judge of the United States Tax Court.

Antitrust regulation: The House Judiciary Committee holds a hearing titled, "The Antitrust Enforcement Agencies (Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition and the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division)."

Wednesday, December 5

Finance oversight: The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Oversight of Pilot Programs at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac."

Veterans affairs: The House Veterans' Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Is VA Ready for Full Implementation of Appeals Reform?"

Armed services: The Senate Armed Services Committee holds a hearing titled, "United States Navy and Marine Corps Readiness."

International crime: The House Foreign Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Reviewing International Child Abduction."

Minimum wage reform: The House Education and the Workforce Committee holds a hearing titled, "Mandating a \$15 Minimum Wage: Consequences for Workers and Small Businesses."

Thursday, December 6

Veterans affairs legislation: The House Veterans' Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Tracking Transformation: VA MISSION (Maintaining Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks) Act Implementation."

Proxy rules: The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing titled, "Proxy Process and Rules: Examining Current Practices and Potential Changes."

Defense strategy: The House Armed Services Committee holds a hearing titled, "National Defense Strategy Commission: Assessment and Recommendations."

Naval forces: The House Armed Services Committee holds a hearing titled, "Naval Surface Forces: On the Road to Recovery?"

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