

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

MSNOW

JULY 16, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION STRATEGIC MOBILIZATION: ELECTION INTERFERENCE & REGIONAL CONFLICT AMID SYSTEMIC INSTITUTIONAL DECAY (JULY 16, 2026)

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: JULY 16, 2026

CONSOLIDATION OF EXECUTIVE POWER & ELECTION INTERFERENCE



President Trump plans address to revive 2020 conspiracy theories (China, voting machines) as predicate for federal intervention in 2026 Midterms. Experts warn of 'strategic move' to undermine confidence.

Senate Confirmation Hearings: DNI Nominee Jay Clayton & Acting AG Todd Blanche face intense scrutiny for prioritizing loyalty over constitutional obligations. Both refuse to state 2020 election winner.

ESCALATING REGIONAL CONFLICT (IRAN)



Costly, escalating conflict with Iran; projected costs >\$100 Billion. 42 aircraft lost. VP Vance signals war skepticism on podcast amid reports of personal asset misuse.

ECONOMIC & DOMESTIC SHOCKS



Inflation rises as Strait of Hormuz closes. Domestic instability: Immigration enforcement crisis (Trump overrules DHS pause on ICE traffic stops after fatal shootings). Institutional corruption surfaces (teleprompter betting, Truth Social data sales).

SYSTEMIC INSTITUTIONAL DECAY & AUTHORITARIAN SHIFT



Replacement of experts with 'hyper-loyalists'. DOJ (16,000 departures), Pentagon (Dozens of generals purged). Weaponization of federal resources for personal gain. Preemptive delegitimization of 2026 Midterms.

CONVERGING THREATS: A REGIME ISOLATED FROM NORMS

INFORMATION WARFARE & DISINFORMATION



Creation of task force to selectively declassify intelligence supporting fraud claims. Media intimidation and counter-messaging.

LEGAL WARFARE & REGULATORY RISK



Acting AG Blanche referred to Bar for collusive settlement. DOJ subpoenas press, condemned as intimidation.

ARMED CONFLICT & MILITARIZATION



US military engages in strikes; considers expanding options. Pentagon purges senior officers and implements controversial policies.

GLOBAL HEALTH & BIOSECURITY



Parasite outbreak infects 5,100+ across 34 states, linked to CDC budget cuts. Health policy shifts toward vaccine skepticism.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS, THEMES & INTERNAL DYNAMICS

UNITARY EXECUTIVE & PURGES



Systematic replacement of apolitical experts with loyalists. DOJ & Pentagon transformations into tools for political agenda.

WEAPONIZATION OF RESOURCES



Extraordinary personal use of federal assets by VP Vance (e.g., Marine Two for golf). Teleprompter operator insider trading.

PREEMPTIVE DELEGITIMIZATION



Setting stage to challenge midterm results by 'flooding the zone' with election falsehoods. Democrats game 100+ scenarios.

FUTURE OUTLOOK & RISK ASSESSMENT

SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS)

Increased threats to election workers. Legal flashpoint over Blanche. Market reaction to tariffs.

MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS)

November 2026 Midterms: Primary theatre of conflict. Potential unilateral implementation of Save America Act. Global heating fuel spike.

LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS)

Potential US withdrawal from Gulf. Domestic 'fascistic state structure' where executive orders override judicial rebukes.

FEDERAL ELECTION
INTERFERENCE
(High Likelihood)

GLOBAL OIL SUPPLY
CHAIN COLLAPSE
(Moderate Likelihood)

DISINTEGRATION OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
INFRASTRUCTURE
(High Likelihood)

ARMED CONFLICT
FEDERAL vs. LOCAL
(Moderate Likelihood)

EXPOSURE OF
STRATEGIC ASSETS
(High Likelihood)

Together, these developments signal a regime increasingly relying on information warfare and coercive state apparatuses to maintain authority amidst declining approval ratings and systemic institutional decay.

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

MSNOW

JULY 16, 2026

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION STRATEGIC MOBILIZATION OF ELECTION INTERFERENCE AND REGIONAL CONFLICT AMID SYSTEMIC INSTITUTIONAL DECAY

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

On July 16, 2026, the Trump administration has engaged in a multi-pronged effort to consolidate executive power and delegitimize democratic processes ahead of the upcoming midterm elections. The administration is leveraging a planned prime-time address by President Trump to revive debunked 2020 election conspiracies, specifically targeting China and voting machine security, as a strategic predicate for potential federal intervention in the [2026 elections](#). This rhetoric converges with high-stakes Senate confirmation hearings for Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and Director of National Intelligence (DNI) nominee Jay Clayton, both of whom have faced intense scrutiny for prioritizing personal fealty to the President over constitutional obligations and the [independence of the Department of Justice](#).

Simultaneously, the administration is overseeing an escalating and costly military conflict with Iran, with strikes entering their sixth day and projected costs [exceeding \\$100 billion](#). This foreign policy aggression appears in tension with internal administration divisions, as Vice President JD Vance signaled skepticism of the war during a lengthy podcast appearance while facing exclusive reports of personal [misuse of Secret Service](#) and military assets. The domestic landscape is further destabilized by a crisis in immigration enforcement, where President Trump personally overruled a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pause on ICE traffic stops following two [fatal shootings of unarmed men](#), one of whom was a Colombian national in Maine.

The economic environment reflects these geopolitical shocks, with inflation trending upward toward **\$4.56 per gallon** for gasoline as the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed. Institutional corruption has surfaced as a pervasive theme, ranging from allegations of a White House teleprompter operator betting on presidential speeches to the **Trump Media** organization attempting to sell high-speed data access to presidential tweets for [hedge fund front-running](#). Together, these developments signal a regime increasingly isolated from traditional norms, relying on information warfare and coercive state apparatuses to maintain authority amidst declining [approval ratings](#).

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Impending Prime-Time Address on Election "Integrity":** President Trump is set to deliver a speech focused on 2020 election grievances and alleged foreign interference by [China and Venezuela](#). Experts warn the speech is a "strategic move" to undermine confidence in the 2026 midterms and justify the use of federal assets, such as ICE or the [National Guard](#), at polling places.
- **Institutional Gridlock in Confirmation Hearings:** DNI nominee Jay Clayton and Acting AG Todd Blanche faced "excruciating" hearings where they refused to state that Joe Biden won the 2020 election, signaling a [prerequisite of loyalty](#) for high-level appointments. Blanche specifically faces potential derailment by Republican Senator Thom Tillis, who demanded the nominee [meet with Epstein survivors](#) before a committee vote.
- **Lethal ICE Tactics and Presidential Overrule:** Following fatal shootings in Texas and Maine, DHS officials temporarily halted ICE traffic stops for safety reviews. President Trump [overturned the suspension](#) via social media, praising the tactic as an essential "crime fighting tool" despite statistics showing **95%** of those arrested in recent raids had [no violent criminal history](#).
- **Escalating Conflict with Iran:** The U.S. and Iran are trading strikes for a [fifth consecutive day](#). Reports indicate the Pentagon's bill for the conflict may exceed **\$100 billion** due to the loss of at least [42 aircraft](#) and the need to reconstruct bases in Bahrain and Kuwait.

- **Systemic Corruption and Ethics Breaches:** Investigations have been launched into a White House technical assistant for [insider trading](#) on presidential speeches, while Truth Social announced plans to sell [millisecond advantages](#) on presidential posts to high-frequency traders.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The U.S. military engaged in six hours of [airstrikes over Iran](#) overnight. President Trump is reportedly considering expanding military options, including [seizing islands](#) near the Strait of Hormuz.
- Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is under fire for purging over **two dozen** generals and admirals and removing **40 senior officers** from [promotion lists](#).

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- Acting AG Todd Blanche has been referred to the **New York State Bar** by a federal judge for his role in a [collusive settlement](#) with the President regarding IRS audits.
- The Trump DOJ has issued subpoenas to **New York Times** reporters regarding coverage of a [Qatari-gifted jet](#), a move condemned by the Committee to Protect Journalists as an attempt to [intimidate the independent press](#).

Global Health & Biosecurity

- A **Cyclospora** parasite outbreak has infected over **5,100 people** across **34 states**. Experts link the severity to [CDC budget cuts](#) and the reduction of the foodborne disease surveillance team.

- Health Secretary RFK Jr. is reportedly [shaping policy](#) to reflect vaccine skepticism, despite public polling showing the stance is unpopular with [bipartisan voters](#).

Information Warfare & Disinformation

- The administration has created a **task force**, including acting DNI Bill Pulte and John Solomon, to [cherry-pick and declassify](#) intelligence documents to support election fraud claims.
- Press Secretary Caroline Leavitt suggested the media is at fault for not acknowledging [concerns of tens of millions](#) regarding the "sanctity" of elections.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Unitary Executive and Institutional Purges

A central theme of the day's transcripts is the systemic replacement of career apolitical experts with "hyper-loyalists." Reports indicate that **16,000 employees** have departed the Department of Justice under Todd Blanche's leadership ([1200 former employees signed a protest letter](#)). This trend is mirrored in the Pentagon, where Secretary Hegseth has used "routine medical screenings" as a pretext to implement mandatory testosterone testing for [service members over 30](#), while simultaneously banning transgender members and removing women from [promotion lists](#). This shift suggests a broader strategy to remodel the federal workforce into a tool for the [President's political agenda](#).

Weaponization of Federal Resources for Personal Gain

Transcripts detail an "extraordinary number of personal acts" requested by Vice President JD Vance, including the use of military helicopters (Marine Two) to transport his son to [golf lessons](#) and to [scout real estate](#) in Virginia. These flights are estimated to cost taxpayers between **\$16,000 and \$24,000 per hour**. This theme of entitlement is compounded by the [teleprompter operator's insider knowledge](#) and the use of the Oval Office for "personal vindication" speeches, painting a picture of an administration that views government assets as [private property](#).

Preemptive Delegitimization of the Midterm Cycle

With President Trump's approval ratings currently at **37%**, the administration appears to be setting the stage to challenge unfavorable midterm results. By "flooding the zone with garbage" regarding [2020 election interference](#), the administration is creating a "blood and soil" version of [American democracy](#) that prioritizes specific groups of voters over the general public. House Democrats have responded by conducting secret strategy sessions to prepare for over **100 scenarios** of potential [interference by the executive branch](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Domestic stability is increasingly threatened by partisan polarization and institutional decay. The **Georgia State Election Board**, formerly a bulwark of nonpartisanship, is now reportedly controlled by [election deniers](#). This institutional capture extends to the federal level, where nominees like Jay Clayton are portrayed as "weak leaders" unable to speak [truth to power](#). Public sentiment is shifting, with a new poll finding that **one-fifth of**

Americans now view **political corruption** as the nation's [biggest issue](#). This loss of mandate is being managed through aggressive foreign policy and divisive [culture war rhetoric](#), such as the focus on "low testosterone" as a [political attack](#) in the Texas Senate race.

Civil unrest remains a latent risk, particularly following the [fatal ICE shootings](#) in Houston and Maine. Local officials, including the Houston Mayor, are launching [independent investigations](#) despite federal pressure. The administration's focus on "the enemy within" and the formal recognition of "left-wing violence" as [political terrorism](#) suggests a hardening of the domestic operating environment that could lead to further [bloodshed](#).

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The U.S. global posture is characterized by a "quagmire" in the Middle East. The U.S. military has depleted the **Strategic Petroleum Reserve** and CUSHING reserves to "tank bottoms" while [waiving the Jones Act](#) to maintain energy flows. The international system is responding with protectionism; Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and other nations have [banned diesel exports](#) as global supply chains seize up. The administration's framing of China as a primary antagonist for 2020 election results further fractures the global operating environment, potentially exposing [U.S. intelligence sources and methods](#) to Chinese reverse-engineering.

Regional allies are under strain; Israel's relationship with the U.S. is increasingly [polarized](#), with Vice President Vance alleging elements of the Israeli government are [manipulating American public opinion](#) to

prolong the war. This "isolated operation" by Vance highlights a fracturing global strategy where the President and Vice President appear to be delivering [conflicting messages](#).

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is increasingly grim, as energy costs and trade disputes impact consumer behavior. Despite record [quarterly profits](#) at JPMorgan and other major banks driven by market volatility and AI investment, consumer sentiment is "underwater." The new **25% tariff** on [Brazilian goods](#) is expected to further disrupt supply chains for beef, coffee, and aircraft parts.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Inflation:** Gasoline is projected to hit **\$4.56/gallon** if regional escalation continues [within three weeks](#).
- **Labor Market:** Long-term unemployment (27+ weeks) reached **27.3%** in June, a [four percentage point increase](#) from 2025.
- **Energy Costs:** Data centers are driving up electricity bills, leading to [temporary bans](#) in states like New York.
- **Currency:** The Treasury is minting **\$1 coins** featuring President Trump's face and **\$100 bills** with his signature, [historically unprecedented](#) for a sitting president.
- **Housing:** High interest rates and the President's [refusal to sign](#) a bipartisan housing bill are worsening the [affordability crisis](#).

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The administration continues to churn personnel to ensure absolute loyalty, with the current phase focusing on permanent

appointments to lead the intelligence and justice apparatuses.

- **Todd Blanche (Acting Attorney General):** Seeking permanent confirmation. Currently referred for disciplinary action to the [New York Bar](#). Status: **At risk** due to Tillis/Cornyn skepticism.
- **Jay Clayton (DNI Nominee):** Performance in Senate hearing widely [criticized as a disaster](#). Status: **Weakened**, likely to be "slow-walked."
- **Bill Pulte (Acting DNI):** Described as a "businessman with no experience" in national security, leading the [intelligence task force](#). Status: **Ascendant** in Trump's inner circle.
- **Mark Mullen (Director of Homeland Security):** Facing backlash for [DHS misinformation](#) regarding fatal shootings. Status: **Compromised**.
- **Gabriel Perez (White House Technical Assistant):** Placed on [paid administrative leave](#) for gambling on speech content.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network maintains a posture of urgent alarm, centering its coverage on the "impending constitutional crisis" posed by the President's election denialism. The "Lead Stories" are consistently the Todd Blanche/Jay Clayton hearings and the upcoming Trump speech, framed as a "psychological warfare campaign" against democracy. The tone is heavily skeptical and fear-inducing, frequently comparing administration actions to **North Korean state television** or [Area 51 conspiracy theories](#).

Notably "Buried Stories" include details on the military strikes themselves; while the **cost** of the Iran war is discussed at length, the tactical progression and specific civilian casualties in Iran are largely absent. Conspicuous omissions include any representative voice from the Trump administration itself; coverage is almost entirely comprised of Democratic lawmakers, former Trump officials turned critics, and legal analysts. There is also a lack of detail on the "Brazilian trade war" context beyond its impact on U.S. inflation.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The transcripts portray a world in which the U.S. presidency has become a source of global instability, driven by the leader's psychological grievances.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Portrayed as a "very powerful adversary" capable of surviving massive bombardment and [striking back](#) at U.S. bases. Characterized as resilient and **unbowed**.
- **China:** Framed by the administration as the [primary meddler](#) in U.S. elections, but portrayed by the media as a victim of "cherry-picked" intelligence designed to [validate Trump's claims](#).
- **Brazil:** Portrayed as a defiant trading partner under President Lula, who rejected Trump's tariffs as ["groundless."](#)

LEADERS

- **President Trump:** Consistently characterized as a ["malignant narcissist"](#) and a ["two-year-old who lost his toy."](#) Portman is of a leader more focused on [personal vindication](#) than national security.

- **JD Vance:** Portrayed as an "entitled" ["shapeshifter"](#) who is ["playing along"](#) with conspiracy theorists to secure his own [2028 aspirations](#).
- **Pete Hegseth:** Characterized as ["performative"](#) and ["the least qualified Secretary of Defense in history."](#) focused on ["macho aesthetics"](#) over [military readiness](#).

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Trump Media (Truth Social):** Portrayed as a ["corrupt" organization facilitating millisecond-level market manipulation](#).
- **The New York State Bar:** Framed as one of the "only bulwarks" left to hold [corrupt officials](#) accountable.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The administration is seeding a narrative of ["left-wing political terrorism"](#) and ["Chinese compromised infrastructure"](#) to justify future executive orders and potential martial law.
- **Weaponization of Raw Intelligence:** The use of "raw intel" to mislead is a core development. Experts explain that ["you can find something that says almost anything"](#) in raw holdings, which the President plans to release without the context of ["finished intelligence."](#)
- **Media Intimidation:** FCC Chair Brendan Carr is making ["veiled threats"](#) against networks that refuse to air the President's speech, invoking their **public interest responsibilities**.

- **Counter-Messaging:** Independent groups like **Defiance.org** are planning [live fact-checking](#) to "dissect" the President's speech in real-time, attempting to ["deflate the moment."](#)

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Midterm Contestation:** Given the gaming of **100+ scenarios** by Democrats, it is highly likely the administration will attempt to use [federal agents](#) (ICE) to challenge voter rolls in key swing states like **Georgia** and **Texas** [this fall](#).
- **Economic Stalemate:** Inflation will likely remain "sticky" as high-interest rates (Warsh Fed) collide with rising energy costs from the [Iran conflict](#), potentially leading to **double-digit bankruptcy increases**.
- **Institutional Collapse:** If Todd Blanche is confirmed despite [bar referrals](#), the DOJ will likely lose its remaining apolitical workforce, transitioning into what analysts describe as a ["private law firm"](#) for the President.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): The immediate aftermath of the July 16 address will likely see an increase in **threats against election workers on the ground**. The New York State Bar's investigation of Todd Blanche will become a [pivotal legal flashpoint](#). Markets will react to the UnitedHealth and Netflix [earnings reports](#) against the backdrop of Brazil tariffs.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The **November 2026 Midterms** will be the primary theatre of conflict. The [Save America Act](#) is unlikely to pass before the election,

prompting the President to attempt [unilateral implementation](#) through "executive fiat." The price of **heating fuel** will spike globally as the [diesel export ban](#) takes full effect.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The U.S. may be forced to [abandon or reconstruct](#) its presence in the Gulf. Domestically, the "purging" of the military and civil service could lead to a [fascistic state structure](#) where executive orders carry the force of law regardless of [judicial rebukes](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current risk matrix is dominated by the erosion of the rule of law and the expansion of regional war.

- **Risk 1: Federal Interference in State Elections.** Triggers: Trump speech calling for the [decertification of voting machines](#). Likelihood: High. Impact: Catastrophic delegitimization of the 2026 cycle. Mitigations: Judicial [injunctions](#) and local [refusal to federalize](#).
- **Risk 2: Global Oil Supply Chain Collapse.** Triggers: Iranian strikes on oil export routes [outside the Strait](#). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Global recession; gas [above \\$5/gallon](#). Mitigations: U.S. ban on [energy exports](#) or new [Middle East deal](#).
- **Risk 3: Disintegration of Public Health Infrastructure.** Triggers: Further cuts to [CDC disease teams](#) during the Cyclospora outbreak. Likelihood: High. Impact: Undetected multi-state [pathogen spread](#). Mitigations: Emergency [state-level funding](#).

- **Risk 4: Armed Conflict between Federal and Local Law Enforcement.** Triggers: Deployment of ICE to [polling places](#) against governors' wishes. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Civil unrest and [family separations](#). Mitigations: Congressional [funding blocks](#).
- **Risk 5: Exposure of Strategic National Security Assets.** Triggers: Improper security on the [Qatari-gifted jet](#) during war zone flights. Likelihood: High (likely already compromised). Impact: Compromised [classified communications](#). Mitigations: Grounding the aircraft via [FAA](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts do not explain why **Republican Senator Lindsey Graham** [died suddenly](#), leaving a vacancy on the Judiciary Committee that is critical to [Blanche's confirmation](#).
- There is no detailed reporting on the **Iranian military's condition** or their willingness to negotiate, other than brief [diplomatic signals](#) from Tehran.
- The status of the **\$1.8 billion Anti-Weaponization Fund** remains "muddled"; while Blanche calls it "dead," judges have only termed the settlement "collusive" without [invalidating the funds](#).
- The nature of the **"Epstein Files"** still hidden from the public is vague; reports suggest **3 million documents** remain withheld, but their [content is unconfirmed](#).

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

Strategy of Controlled Chaos: A contrarian view suggests the administration is not "flailing" but intentionally creating a state of perpetual crisis (war, inflation, disease, and

election doubt) to exhaust the public. This "zone flooding" [exhaustion strategy](#) could be intended to clear the way for structural [authoritarian shifts](#) while the opposition is overwhelmed by disparate [legal and economic fires](#).

The "Hockey Goalie" Defense: Anthony Scaramucci proposed that nominees like Clayton are actually "better" alternatives than true believers like Bill Pulte, acting as a ["hockey goalie"](#) on some issues. However, critics argue this makes them **more dangerous** as they provide a ["patina of respectability"](#) to [corrupt acts](#).

Black Swan Event: The potential for the **U.S. to ground the presidential aircraft** due to foreign bugging [concerns](#) would represent an unprecedented breach of sovereignty and security, potentially [toppling the cabinet](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** URGENTLY conduct independent counter-intelligence sweeps of all non-traditional [executive aircraft](#) used in war zones.
- **Economic:** Prepare for **\$5.00/gallon** gasoline contingencies by diversifying [ethanol blends](#) and seeking a [diplomatic off-ramp](#) in the Gulf.
- **Diplomatic:** Clarify the U.S. position on [Israeli involvement](#) in domestic opinion manipulation to prevent a total [breakdown of trust](#) with **House Democrats**.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Diversify sourcing away from **Brazil** immediately before the **25% tariff** takes effect on [July 22nd](#).
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Audit all political contributions in light of the **Echelon Insights poll** showing **39%** of the public is focused on [administration corruption](#).
- **Capital Allocation:** Hedge against **Middle East volatility** as regional costs [pass the \\$100 billion](#) mark.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity is characterized by a "party-line" rush to fund military priorities and incentivize states to implement restrictive voting laws, while survivors of institutional abuse seek new legal avenues for justice.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **\$95 Billion Party-Line Funding Package:** Includes **\$73 billion** for defense/intel, **\$12 billion** for farm aid, and **\$10 billion** to [incentivize states](#) to impose [voting restrictions](#).
- **Save America Act (or SAVE Act):** Legislative priority to require [ID and proof of citizenship](#) for voting. Status: Stalled in Senate; **unlikely to pass this cycle**.
- **Epstein Files Transparency Act 2.0:** Bipartisan bill (Massie/Khanna) allowing survivors to [sue the Attorney General](#) for access to their own [F-302 testimony](#).

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Todd Blanche AG Confirmation Hearing:** Focus on [refusal to meet with Epstein survivors](#), Jan 6 "slush fund" [legality](#), and [purges of career staff](#).
- **Jay Clayton DNI Confirmation Hearing:** Dominated by [refusal to state 2020 election results](#) and ignorance of [Tulsi Gabbard's FBI raid role](#).
- **White House Press Briefing (Leavitt):** Characterized by a [refusal to commit](#) to accepting [2026 midterm results](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Trump Election Speech Preview:** President planning 9 PM address to release "declassified" documents alleging [Chinese interference in 2020](#).
- **Jay Clayton DNI Hearing:** Nominee failed to answer ["who won 2020"](#) dozens of times; Senator Warner expresses "shock" at [disastrous performance](#).
- **Todd Blanche AG Hearing:** Acting AG calls himself ["the President's lawyer"](#) in a "Freudian slip"; faces [damning testimony](#) from fired Pardon Attorney Liz Oyer.
- **ICE Fatalities and Policy Reversal:** Unarmed men killed in **Texas and Maine**; Trump [overrules DHS pause](#) on traffic stops.
- **Iran War Costs:** \$100 billion estimated bill; 42 aircraft lost; ["creative accounting"](#) used at Pentagon to hide [reconstruction costs](#).
- **JD Vance Personal Demands:** Frustrated Secret Service agents create "Bobcat Otter Survivors Club" [challenge coins](#) to mock [misuse of assets](#).
- **Brazilian Trade War:** New **25% tariff** on most goods starting **July 22**; Lula [vows countermeasures](#).
- **Hegseth Testosterone Policy:** Mandatory testing for **troops 30+**; critics call it ["cringe"](#) and a [diversion from war failures](#).
- **Cyclospora Outbreak:** Parasite spreading through vegetables in **34 states**; [CDC capacity](#) described as ["bare."](#)
- **Epstein survivors/Todd Blanche Meeting:** Survivors describe meeting as ["demoralizing"](#) and a ["box-checking exercise"](#) to get votes.
- **Teleprompter Insider Trading:** Gabriel Perez placed bets on [more than a dozen](#) presidential speeches; [made \\$100k](#).
- **Truth Social Market Access:** Company to sell ["millisecond advantages"](#) on Trump posts to hedge funds [starting Aug 1](#).
- **Gordie Howe Bridge:** Windsor-Detroit bridge to open **July 27** after tolls dispute with [Trump administration](#).
- **United Airlines Upsell:** Introduction of **empty middle seat** premium on [new planes](#).
- **World Cup Results:** Argentina defeats England **2-1** in [dramatic finish](#); Erling Haaland returns to Oslo with [stuffed raccoon and gin](#).
- **Talarico vs. Paxton TX Senate Race:** Democrat Talarico [challenges Paxton](#) to debates; focuses on ["Love Thy Neighbor" platform](#).
- **Sherrod Brown OH Senate Race:** GOP spending **\$28 million** to defeat former [Democratic senator](#).
- **Nancy LaCore Campaign:** Former Admiral running for **SC-1** after [firing by Hegseth](#).

- **Maine Senate Turmoil:** Susan Collins approval [crashes to 58% disapproval](#); Democrat Graham [drops out](#) amid allegations.
- **The Whoopi Monologues:** Kerry Washington starring in [revival of 1984 play](#) at Lincoln Center.
- **The Odyssey / Spiderman:** Discussion of [Christopher Nolan's ODYSSEY](#) and [Spiderman: Brand New Day](#).

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a

richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. To learn more or subscribe to our free daily newsletters, visit <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/announcing-our-new-daily-todays-trends-on-capitol-hill-todays-media-trends-newsletter-briefings/>. You can also learn more about the GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.