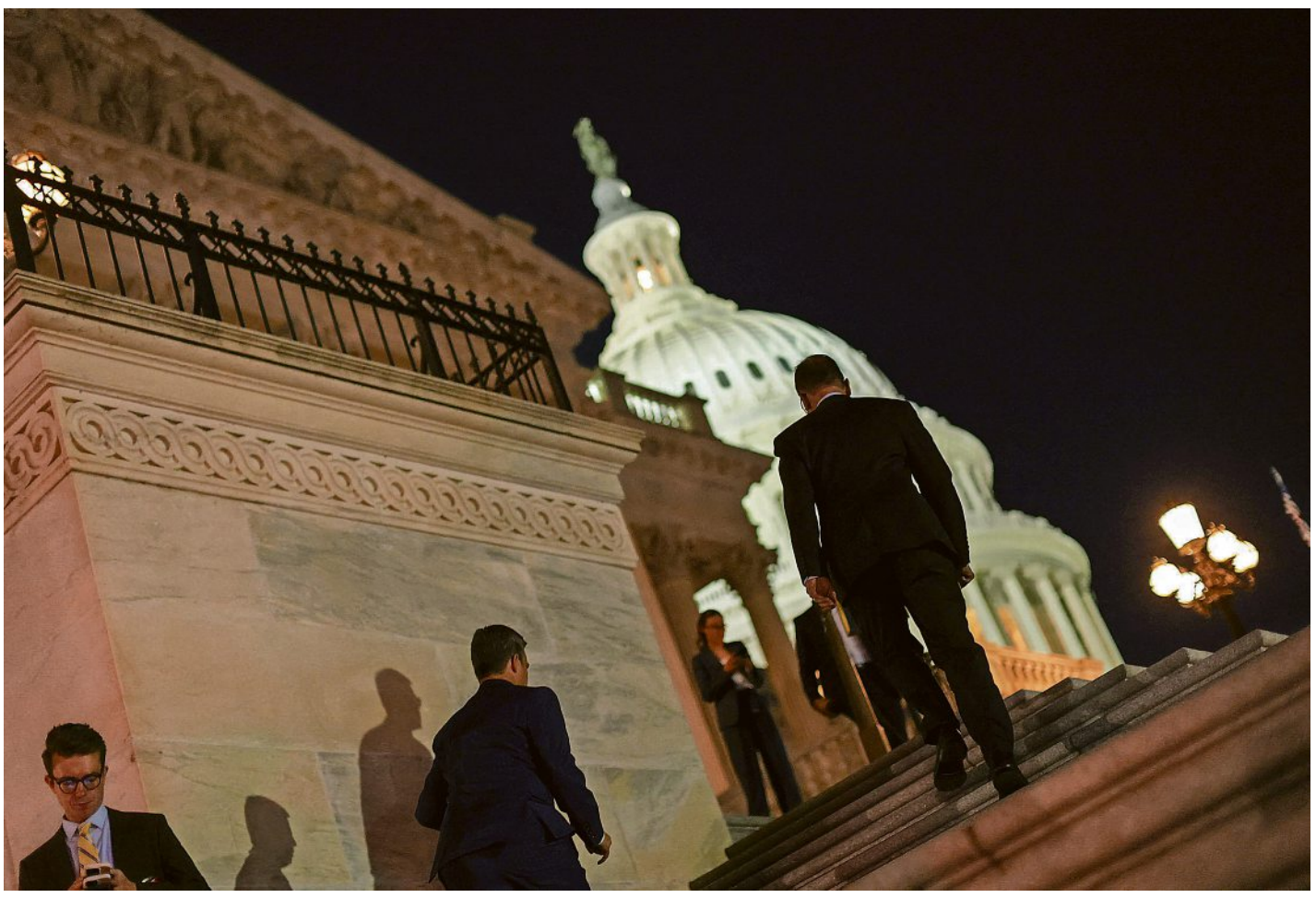
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After the impeachment push against Secretary of War Pete Hegseth failed, several House Republicans said they feared the victory wouldn't stop Democrats from trying again once they regain the majority in January. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

House bid to impeach Hegseth stalls

Democratic absences help sink resolution

Miles J. Herszenhorn, Zachary Schermele and Michael Loria USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The House dismissed an effort to impeach Pete Hegseth, handing the embattled Pentagon chief a significant victory even as he faces serious questions about his political future.

The House voted 211-204 to send the measure to the Judiciary Committee, likely killing it.

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, who introduced the articles of impeachment against Hegseth, was the sole Republican to vote in favor of proceeding with the effort. The narrow vote came down, in part, to absences: 11 Democrats and seven Republicans didn't vote.



Hegseth

The vote was a significant defeat for House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-New York, ahead of an upcoming leadership election next week, where he is hoping to cement his position as the incoming speaker of the House.

If all the absent Democrats, a group that included Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-California, had shown up to vote, the impeachment effort would likely have survived. Several said afterward they were delayed because of unexpected traffic coming from a Washington event.

In a statement, the office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury, D-New Mexico, said she and other House members were "blocked from entering the Capitol to vote due to a traffic incident and a police escort of a bus during the vote."

"When she reached the chamber, the vote had just gavelled out," the statement said.

Massie, an anti-war Republican and frequent thorn in the side of the Trump administration, argued that Hegseth violated the Constitution by waging war against Iran without congressional approval, launching deadly strikes against suspected drug boats in the Caribbean Sea and ignoring laws to minimize civilian casualties.

Massie is set to exit Congress at the end of the year after losing his primary to Ed Gallrein, a candidate backed by Hegseth and President Donald Trump, who won his election on Nov. 3.

Trump took to social media to gloat after the

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U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly speaks at the Arizona Democrats' election night party at the Hilton Resort at the Peak in Phoenix on Nov. 3. JOE RONDONE/THE REPUBLIC

Attacks on Sen. Kelly at heart of push to oust Pentagon chief

Stephanie Murray Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

A Republican lawmaker accused Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth of trampling on U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly's right to free speech, and he argued that move, among others, was grounds for impeachment.

The now-shelved impeachment effort was the latest twist in Kelly's battle with the Trump administration over a video he made reminding U.S. service members that they do not need to follow illegal orders.

"He needs to go," Kelly, D-Arizona, said in a CNN interview. "He should have never had the job to begin with."

Outgoing U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, led the charge to impeach Hegseth, who was nominated by President Donald Trump for the job of secretary for the

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Kari Lake illegally fired VOA director, court rules

3-judge panel: Case was 'not very hard' to decide

Ronald J. Hansen
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kari Lake illegally fired the former director of Voice of America, a federal appeals court has ruled in a decision that took longer than her stormy tenure overseeing taxpayer-funded media organizations.

Lake ousted Michael Abramowitz as the head of VOA in August 2025 and without the required approval of a mostly vacant, Senate-confirmed board that President Donald Trump fired shortly after returning to the White House, the judges held.

"Viewed from '30,000 feet,' this case is 'not very hard,'" the three-judge panel wrote in a 20-page ruling. It covers the dense contours of government employment law but settles on a simple point: Congress requires a board to approve the dismissal.

The Nov. 10 opinion from three judges named by Democratic presidents on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for Washington, D.C., upholds the August 2025 ruling from U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth in Washington. Lamberth blocked the termination.

It is part of a string of legal setbacks involving Lake's efforts to dismantle media in line with Trump and the "Project 2025" playbook.

Lake moved to fire Abramowitz after he refused to be reassigned to a transmitting station in Greenville, N.C.

Under changes adopted with bipartisan support after Trump's first efforts to yoke government-run media in 2020, terminating Abramowitz had to be approved by the International Broadcasting Advisory Board. By law, three of the six board members cannot be the same party as the president. Six seats remain vacant.

The seventh vote on that board belongs to the secretary of state. That's Marco Rubio, who supported the changes to rein in unilateral terminations when he was a senator for Florida. He said then that the "credibility and independence of these networks" was "required by law."

Abramowitz received unanimous support from the broadcasting board when he took over at VOA in April 2024. Lake, a former Phoenix broadcaster, became the acting CEO of the U.S. Agency for Global Media after her 2024 loss in Arizona's U.S. Senate race.

After initially saying she looked

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Senior Adviser for the U.S. Agency for Global Media Kari Lake speaks at a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing in 2025. Lake has recently faced a string of legal setbacks in her efforts to dismantle media in line with Trump and the "Project 2025" playbook. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

LEGACY OF ICONIC MR. LUCKY'S 1C



Mr. Lucky's bar was the king of Phoenix clubs. What happened to the storied honky-tonk? THE REPUBLIC

Goforth wins Mesa D5 runoff

Incumbent Mesa City Councilmember Alicia Goforth will get another four years in office after winning the District 5 runoff, defeating conservative challenger Aleks Vranicic. **3A**

Phoenix Symphony returns

The Phoenix Symphony resumes performances Nov. 12 after a concentrated fundraising effort secures sufficient commitments to lift the suspension of the 2026-27 season. **6A**

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