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The Palm Beach Post

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Unfazed Putin will keep fighting

Could seek to take more
of Ukraine, sources say

**Guy Faulconbridge
and Darya Korsunskaya**
REUTERS

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin intends to keep fighting in Ukraine until the West engages on his terms for peace, unfazed by Donald Trump’s threats of tougher sanctions, and his territorial demands may widen as Russian forces advance, three sources close to the Kremlin said.

Putin, who ordered Russian troops

into Ukraine in February 2022 after eight years of fighting in the country’s east between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian troops, believes Russia’s economy and its military are strong enough to weather any additional Western measures, the sources said.

Trump on July 14 expressed frustration with Putin’s refusal to agree to a ceasefire and announced a wave of weapons supplies to Ukraine, including Patriot surface-to-air missile systems. He also threatened further sanctions on Russia unless a peace deal was reached within 50 days.

The three Russian sources, familiar

with top-level Kremlin thinking, said Putin will not stop the war under pressure from the West and believes Russia – which has survived the toughest sanctions imposed by the West – can endure further economic hardship, including threatened U.S. tariffs targeting buyers of Russian oil.

“Putin thinks no one has seriously engaged with him on the details of peace in Ukraine – including the Americans – so he will continue until he gets what he wants,” one of the sources told Reuters on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation.

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Despite visits to Russia by U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff, left, President Vladimir Putin believes there have not been detailed discussions on a peace plan, a source said. GAVRIIL

GRIGOROV/SPUTNIK/POOL VIA REUTERS FILE

Controversy won’t go away



Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Florida, holds up a photo of President Donald Trump with Jeffrey Epstein. A memo referring to a Justice Department report, dated July 7, said there was no Epstein “client list.” KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS FILE

As anger mounts over Epstein’s ‘client list,’ where’s Ghislaine Maxwell?

Ana Goñi-Lessan
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

One of the few people, maybe even the only person, who could confirm if there is or ever was a list of Jeffrey Epstein’s clients is imprisoned in a federal women’s prison in Florida.

Ghislaine Maxwell, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for luring and grooming teenage girls to be sexually abused and exploited by Epstein, is currently serving time in Federal Correctional Institution-Tallahassee.

Since her sentence began three years ago, she has taken on leadership roles at the prison, teaching yoga and etiquette classes, and has moved up to the “honor dorm” for good behavior.

Epstein spent over a decade reportedly running a sex trafficking ring that spanned numerous states, including Florida. After he was charged and arrested for sex trafficking of minors and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors, he died by suicide while in custody in a Manhattan jail in 2019.

In 2022, Maxwell, his co-conspirator, was found guilty of five of six counts, including transporting a minor to participate in illegal sex acts, two conspiracy charges and

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Post wins top journalism award for its grand jury coverage in Epstein case

Holly Baltz
Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Palm Beach Post has won a Southeast regional journalism award for its coverage of the newspaper’s nearly five-year quest to uncover what really happened when a grand jury in 2006 charged Jeffrey Epstein with only one count of solicitation of prostitution – what a john might face – despite dozens of victims discovered by police.

The Green Eyeshade Award honors Holly Baltz, investigative editor at The Post; former Post courts reporter Jane Musgrave; current courts reporter Hannah Phillips; and Palm Beach Daily News reporter Kristina Webb for first place in the Crimes, Courts and Law reporting category.

Had Epstein been convicted of the crimes for which Palm Beach police had gathered evidence, he likely would have spent decades in prison instead of 13 short months in jail gleaned from a “deal of the century” in 2008. Epstein pleaded guilty to two prostitution-related felonies.

In the years that followed his stint in the Palm Beach County Jail, Epstein was free to abuse hundreds more girls all over the world until he was arrested by federal

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GOP chair predicts turning PBC red

Seeks to flip seat in
Congress in 2026

Antonio Fins
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

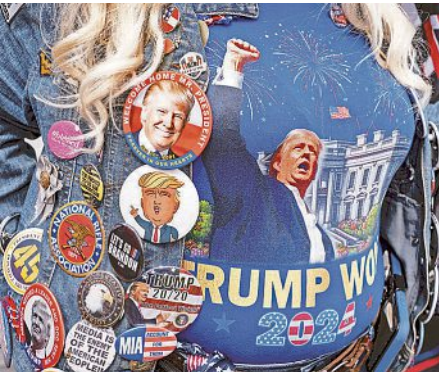
The chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County said he believes GOP voters will outnumber Democratic ones in next year’s mid-term election as control of Capitol Hill will hang in the balance.

“I’m looking for November 2026. That’s going to be the key date,” said Carl Cascio, who took over leadership of the county party in early 2025.

According to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections website, Democrats as of July 10 listed 329,122 voters to the Republicans’ 297,787, a difference of just 31,335. In October 2022, weeks ahead of the last midterm vote in Florida, Democrats outnumbered Republicans by 108,295, according to the Florida Division of Elections count at the time.

The gap in President Donald Trump’s adopted home county has narrowed for a variety of reasons, from purging inactive voters from the rolls to the migration of far more conservative voters to the county since the end of the COVID pandemic.

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Trump supporters gather across the street from Trump International Golf Club to celebrate Presidents Day in West Palm Beach on Feb. 17.

GREG LOVETT/PALM BEACH POST

