

Sanders calls war in Gaza a 'genocide' for the first time

'The truth is, whether you call it genocide or ethnic cleansing or mass atrocities or war crimes, the path forward is clear,' the senator wrote.

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'No risk-free paths'

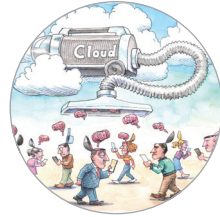
Fed cuts rates as Miran presses central bank to go bigger.

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GOP microchip move draws WH opposition to defense measure

The Trump administration's David Sacks is vying to squeeze out provisions they fear could hinder the ability for US chip companies to sell freely.

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Matt Wuerker

The cartoonist's daily take on the world of politics.

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Fired CDC head defends her reputation and vaccine science at Senate hearing

Susan Monarez's testimony came on the eve of a pivotal meeting of Kennedy's handpicked vaccine panel

BY ALICE MIRANDA OLLSEIN

The nation's first Senate-confirmed CDC director hit back Wednesday at Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who fired her less than a month into the job, saying he mischaracterized the circumstances of her ouster and that he is preparing an assault on vaccine access that puts the country in danger.

In testimony before a Senate health committee, Susan Monarez and her former chief medical officer, Debra Houry, painted a picture of chaos inside the agency. They said Kennedy announced major decisions on social media without consulting experts, pressured them to sign off on policies they felt were unethical and not scientifically supported, and barred them from speaking to lawmakers and career scientists.

"CDC leaders were reduced to rubber stamps, supporting policies not based in science, and putting American lives at risk," said Houry. "Secretary Kennedy's tenure at CDC has seen science politicized, its processes and leaders stripped of their independence, and I could not in good conscience remain under those conditions."

While some GOP senators, including committee Chair Bill

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FRANCIS CHUNG/POLITICO

Ousted CDC Director Susan Monarez (above) and her former chief medical officer, Debra Houry, said Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced major decisions on social media without consulting experts.

California's redistricting fight is a preview of the midterms (and beyond)

BY BEN FOX AND MELANIE MASON

LOS ANGELES — A marquee ballot measure battle usually takes months of meticulous planning. Not so with California's brawl over redistricting. The Democrats' bid for voters to approve a blatantly

partisan gerrymander — in retaliation for a rare mid-decade redistricting by Texas Republicans at the urging of President Donald Trump — has set the stage for a high-stakes national showdown on a compressed timeline.

To plunge ahead, both Demo-

crats and Republicans have made a number of risky assumptions and strategic bets that are undergirding their approach to the campaign — and what they expect to happen if voters approve the new maps Nov. 4.

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House eyes Friday vote on funding bill

Republican leaders believe they will need to heed the chamber's 72-hour-review rule

BY MEREDITH LEE HILL AND JORDAIN CARNEY

Republican leaders vowed Wednesday to barrel forward with a stopgap funding bill in the coming days as Democrats threatened to oppose it in favor of their own alternative — raising the chances for an Oct. 1 government shutdown.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise told reporters Wednesday morning that a vote on the GOP-written bill unveiled Tuesday is expected "likely Friday" amid Democratic objections about a lack of bipartisan negotiations.

"We're going to do our job, and that's all we can do, is do our job," he said. "If Democrats want to shut the government down and continue to hold America hostage because they don't like the results of the election, the American people are

fed up with that kind of childish politics."

While House GOP leaders have pushed their members for earlier action, they believe Friday morning is the likeliest option for the vote. Hard-liners and others are pushing leaders to stick to the chamber's 72-hour review rule.

GOP leaders are also still working to win the votes of several undecided Republicans, including Rep. Warren Davidson of Ohio, but are confident they are on track to pass the measure by the end of the week. "Like any big vote, they're always tight," Scalise said Wednesday.

Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md.), chair of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, said in a brief interview he was expecting a "Friday morning" vote, saying that was "close

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Patel doubles down on his handling of the Epstein files in testimony

BY HAILEY FUCHS AND KYLE CHENEY

Kash Patel's Epstein files problem is not going away.

Over two days of hearings, Democrats relentlessly hammered the FBI director — who once advocated for the wholesale release of the files connected to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein — over the bureau's reluctance to release the full trove.

They also accused Patel of seeking to protect President Donald Trump from potentially embarrassing references in the files, of giving Epstein's victims short shrift and of refusing to follow all investigative leads.

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FRANCIS CHUNG/POLITICO

"I'm not going to break the law to satisfy your curiosity," FBI Director Kash Patel told Democrats.