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ANALYSIS



U.S. Senate candidate Mike Rogers shakes hands with President Donald Trump during an Oct. 25 rally in Port Huron. Republicans and Democrats alike are making the midterms a referendum on the president. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

All roads lead to Trump in midterms

Parties make president their closing argument

Susan Page
USA TODAY

With a week to go until a fiercely contested Election Day, Republicans and Democrats are making the same closing argument to voters: These midterms are all about President Donald Trump.

“So I’m asking you to pretend that I’m on the ballot,” Trump urged an enthusiastic crowd at an Oct. 25 rally in Port Huron, Michigan. He was just five minutes into a speech that would stretch for nearly an hour and a half. “When I’m not on the ballot, people don’t show up.”

“Please show up and vote,” he added, warning that otherwise the opposition would “take everything away” that he has done in office.

A day earlier and 60 miles away in Detroit, former President Barack Obama characterized the stakes of the election – that is, Trump’s legacy – in a similar way.

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People wait in line to vote early for the midterm elections on Oct. 25 in Cary, North Carolina. Both parties have made President Donald Trump the focus of their closing argument as Election Day nears. ALLISON JOYCE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

U.S., Canada working to ease tariffs by midterms

Promit Mukherjee
and David Shepardson
REUTERS

OTTAWA – The United States and Canada are working on a deal to ease U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel and autos, two U.S. and four Canadian sources said, as the two governments try to repair relations that soured after trade talks broke down in August.

The talks focus on tariffs imposed under Section 232 of U.S. trade law, including up to 50% tariff on Canadian steel and a 25% tariff on autos, with negotiators discussing potential relief from those duties.

Just 32% of Americans approve of President Donald Trump and his Republican Party risks losing control of Congress in the Nov. 3 midterm elections. Tariffs on Canadian imports have become a political liability for Trump, with Republican candidates in border states calling for an end to the trade war with Canada.

One Canadian source briefed on the negotiations said a deal on steel and auto tariffs was possible before the elections, while U.S. sources said the Trump administration wanted Canada to make further concessions. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are private.

The Section 232 tariffs are administered by the Commerce Department, putting Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick rather than the U.S. Trade Representative’s office at the center of the negotiations, sources on both sides of the border said.

The White House and the Commerce Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

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The United States and Canada are working on a deal to ease tariffs on Canadian steel and autos, with negotiators discussing potential relief from those duties. COLE BURSTON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Sources: Hezbollah preps for resumption of fighting

Group getting funds from Iran, Lebanon says

Laila Bassam and Maya Gebeily
REUTERS

BEIRUT – Lebanese armed group Hezbollah has spent three months preparing for a possible resumption of hostilities with Israel, after receiving an infusion of cash from Iran, according to Lebanese security personnel briefed on its activities.

The group, founded by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards in 1982, has been dealt severe blows in two wars with Israel since 2024, with thousands of fighters and many of its leaders killed, and much of its arsenal destroyed.

Invading Israeli forces now occupy its heartland of villages in southern Lebanon, and political pressure has built up in Beirut for its disarmament.

It nevertheless remains committed to fighting Israel and has used a lull in hostilities since June to rearm, with a focus on procuring explosives and producing

drones that can be flown into Israeli positions, two Lebanese security sources told Reuters.

One of the sources, and another close to Hezbollah, said the group had received tens of millions of dollars from Iran to help boost its military capabilities.

That is in addition to around \$200 million that the group received from Tehran to aid displaced families in its Shiite heartlands, which Reuters reported earlier this month.

The group has been restoring com-

mand-and-control structures that broke down in key battles, according to one of those sources and three other security officials familiar with the group’s operations.

In response to questions from Reuters, Hezbollah’s media office said Israel’s occupation of Lebanese land made any resistance to it a legitimate right. It rejected the suggestion that its command-and-control systems had broken down.

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