

IE 11 is not supported. For an optimal experience visit our site on another browser. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., called President Donald Trump a "tyrant" in a Senate floor speech about Los Angeles. Updated June 17, 2025, 9:24 PM EDTFBI Director Kash Patel said this week the bureau had shared "alarming" — but unsubstantiated — allegations about manipulation of the 2020 election with a Republican member of Congress."The FBI has located documents which detail alarming allegations related to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations of interference by the CCP," Patel wrote, referring to the CCP," Patel wrote, referring to the CCP, "Patel wrote, referring to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations related to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations related to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations of interference by the CCP," Patel wrote, referring to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations related to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations of interference by the CCP, "Patel wrote, referring to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegations related to the 2020 U.S. election, including allegati documents over to the Chairman Grassley for further review."Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The unsubstantiated claim promoted by Patel, which an unidentified confidential human source gave to the FBI in 2020, during Trump's first term, asserts that the Chinese mass-produced driver's licenses to be used in a mail-in ballot scheme. Patel linked to an article written by John Solomon, whom Trump appointed alongside Patel in 2022 to represent him before the National Archives and Records. Read the full story here. A federal judge found Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier in civil contempt today after he snubbed a court order in a high-profile immigration case and then boasted about it in interviews.U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams wrote that Uthmeier offered "a series of implausible interpretations of the language he used" to argue he was complying with the order and that those interpretations were not believable. "Litigants cannot change the plain meaning of words as it suits them, especially when conveying a court's clear and unambiguous order," Williams wrote, ordering Uthmeier to file biweekly reports showing he's complying with their strategy on cryptocurrency, a once-underground industry that has become a powerful player on Capitol Hill — and closely associated with Trump.Cryptocurrency groups scored a major win in Washington today, with the Senate passing a landmark bill to regulate some digital assets. It was a bipartisan vote, with 18 Democrats joining nearly every Republican to support the bill after an intense lobbying and advocacy effort. But the battle over the legislation has exposed deep Democratic divisions over how to handle the broader issue of crypto in a GOP-controlled Washington. While some Democratic divisions over how to handle the broader issue of crypto in a GOP-controlled Washington. industry, others have been wary of embracing a tool that they say has created conflicts of interest for Trump. Newly released financial disclosure forms show Trump made one of his largest fortunes last year, \$57.3 million, on his family's cryptocurrency company, World Liberty Financial.Read the full story here.Trump will extend a deadline for the owner of social media platform TikTok to find a U.S. buyer so it can continue to operate in the country, the White House said today. Trump plans to sign an executive order this week that will keep the platform, which has about 170 million U.S. users, running despite a bipartisan law banning it over national security concerns. The law requires the app's Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, to sell it to a non-Chinese buyer or face a nationwide prohibition. In April, Trump extended an earlier deadline by 75 days to avoid disruption for the app." As he has said many times, President Trump does not want TikTok to go dark," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement today.Read the full story here.Reporting from WashingtonAfter weeks of stops and starts, Senate Republicans teamed up with a bloc of Democrats today to pass a landmark cryptocurrency bill that would establish the first regulatory framework for issuers of stablecoins. The vote on the GENIUS Act was 68-30. It was the first time that the Senate has passed major legislation to regulate digital assets. "With this bill, the United States is one step closer to becoming the global leader in crypto," Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., the author of the GENIUS Act, said in a floor speech. "This bill will cement U.S. dollar dominance, it will protect customers, it will drive demand for U.S. treasuries." "Today will be remembered as an inflection point for innovation in the United States of America," Hagerty said.Read the full story here.Homeland Security Spokesperson said." Secretary Noem had an allergic reaction today. She was transported to the hospital out of an abundance of caution. She is alert and recovering," DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. Noem was at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington when she had the allergic reaction, a DHS official told NBC News. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander spoke to reporters after he was released hours after he was arrested at a federal courthouse. The Department of Homeland Security said Lander, a mayoral candidate, had been arrested and accused of "assaulting law enforcement and impeding a federal officer." State lawmakers across the country say they are deeply concerned about the lack of security they receive in the wake of the targeted shooting of two Minnesota legislators, even as local officials attempt to ramp up some safety measures. Outside of their state capitol complexes, state legislators have little to no security protection. No state offers proactive security to members of its legislators have little to no security to members of its legislators have little to no security protection. despite the renewed attention to the issue, lawmakers fear little will ultimately be done that can make a meaningful difference, given that in many states, such positions are effectively part-time jobs with small budgets. Democratic Minnesota state Rep. Emma Greenman, who was a close colleague of this weekend's shooting victims, said the attack in her state would almost certainly have to serve as a "wake-up call" around the lack of safety measures for state lawmakers, but that solutions remained sparse. Read the full story here. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander was released today hours after he was arrested in connection with an episode at a federal courthouse in the city, where he and his wife said they were serving as advocates for defendants in immigration court. The Department of Homeland Security said Lander, a mayoral candidate, had been arrested and accused of "assaulting law enforcement and impeding a federal officer." In a brief statement on social media, DHS said: "It is wrong that politicians seeking higher office undermine law enforcement safety to get a viral moment. No one is above the law, and if you lay a hand on a law enforcement officer, you will face consequences."Lander is running in next week's Democratic primary for mayor of New York.Read the full story here. A panel of three federal appeals court judges seemed highly skeptical of California's stance that Trump did not have the authority to federalize thousands of members of the state's National Guard against Gov. Gavin Newsom's wishes. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges — two Trump appointees and one Biden appointee — grilled an attorney for the state who was arguing that Trump should have explored "more measures? Where "is the president, with significant deference at least, required to have judicial review of whether he considered lesser measures? Where does that spring from?" asked one of the Trump appointees, Judge Mark Bennett. The state lawyer, Samuel Harbourt, sidestepped the question. California is asking the appeals court to allow a lower court's order returning control of the troops to the governor to take effect while the appeal proceeds. The two Trump-appointed judges also repeatedly questioned the Justice Department's position that the courts have no authority to even review Trump's order. The Justice Department attorney, Brett Shumate, maintained that they should "defer to the president's judgment" and that "there's no role for the court to play." The top Republican and Democrat on the House Administration Committee sent a letter today to Attorney General Pam Bondi asking the Justice Department to provide more resources to help U.S. Capitol Police investigate and prosecute threats against members of Congress. Committee Chair Bryan Steil, R-Wis., and Rep. Joe Morelle, D-N.Y., asked Bondi to assign an assistant U.S. attorney in all 94 to the second assistant U.S. attorney is attorney in all 94 to the second assistant U.S. attorney is attorney in all 94 to the second assistant U.S. attorney is attorney in a second assistant U.S. attorney is attorney is attorney is attorney in a second assistant U.S. attorney is attorney federal districts to investigate and prosecute such threats. A spoke sperson for the Justice Department confirmed receipt of the letter but declined to comment further. "We are concerned that the current lack of prosecutorial capacity will allow threat behavior to persist unabated because the risk of consequential action is small, in part due to the perceived anonymity of modern communications. We believe that additional resources and increased attention to this issue will help deter future threats," Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats, "Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats," Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats, "Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats," Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats, "Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats," Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats, "Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats," Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats, "Steil and Morelle wrote. Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats," Steil and Morelle wrote. The steil and the ste shootings. The pace of political violence has so quickly accelerated in the United States that the country is poised to field a widening group of 2028 contenders who have either personally faced political violence, lost friends in such plots or had to manage political unrest in their states. Foisted onto the national stage by such incidents, those politicians have given the public a glimpse of how they conduct themselves in crises, including their ability to combat false messaging that often proliferates over social media and whether they have the capability to lead without being dragged into petty political skirmishes. The assassination over the weekend of Melissa Hortman, the Democratic state legislator and his wife were also shot multiple times and are recovering. Read the full story here. The Trump administration rolled back a brief reprieve in arresting immigrants working in hotels, restaurants and agricultural businesses after initially having said there would be some allowances for "good, longtime workers." NBC News' Zinhle Essamuah spoke with business owners who say the wave of arrests has taken an emotional toll. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, removed posts on his personal X account about Saturday's fatal attack on a Minnesota lawmaker and her husband after he faced fierce backlash from Democrats about the posts. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., who was friends with the slain lawmaker, told reporters yesterday that she confronted Lee about his post. "I needed him to hear from me directly what impact I think his cruel statement had on me, his colleague," she said.Lee had written in one post about the assassination of Democratic state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, on Saturday that "this is what happens When Marxists don't get their way." In another, he posted a photo of the suspect and captioned it "Nightmare on Waltz Street," an apparent reference to Democratic Gov. Tim Walz.Several Democrats had called on Lee to take down the posts, which he'd posted on Saturday and Sunday. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said at a news conference today that he asked Lee to remove them and that "he wouldn't listen to me." Read the full story here.Reporting from WashingtonSupreme Court justices today issued their financial disclosure reports for 2024, with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who received the book advance from Penguin Random House, is one of several justices with side gigs as authors.Justice Neil Gorsuch reported a \$250,000 advance from HarperCollins, which published a book he co-wrote called "Over Ruled," and Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who has written several books, received a new \$60,000 advance from Her books, according to the ethics watchdog Fix the Court. Jackson received a total of almost \$3 million from her publisher for "Lovely One," including a \$900,000 payment in 2023.Read the full story here. In remarks on the Senate floor this afternoon, Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., recounted his forcible removal from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's news conference last week in Los Angeles about immigration raids.Padilla called Trump a "tyrant" over his efforts to deploy the National Guard and federal law enforcement personnel to Los Angeles to conduct congressional oversight of the administration's immigration operations and that he was in the same building as Noem to receive a briefing. He said that after Noem said federal law enforcement and military personnel were in Los Angeles to liberate it from the governor and the mayor, he had to respond to such an "un-American mission of federal law enforcement and the U.S. military." In emotional remarks, Padilla described being aggressively escorted out of the news conference. "I was forced to the ground, first on my knees and then flat on my chest, and I was handcuffed and marched down a hallway, repeatedly asking, 'Why am I being detained?'" he said. "Not once did they tell me why."Padilla said he wondered what would happen if there were no cameras around in such situations. He accused Trump of wanting such a "spectacle" to justify his "power grabs."When reached for comment, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement: "Alex 'Pay Attention to the next. If storming a press conference, lunging toward Secretary Noem, and ignoring police guidance wasn't enough, now he's spewing the same tired Democrat talking points on the Senate floor.""Whether or not Democrats like it, the American people support President Trump's agenda to deport illegal aliens. And that won't change, no matter how many temper tantrums Padilla throws," Jackson added. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Padilla's remarks. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander has been arrested on charges of "assaulting law enforcement and impeding a federal officer," the Department of Homeland Security said today — the latest in a series of high-profile clashes between immigration officials and Democratic politicians. The charges stem from an episode at a federal courthouse in the city, where Lander and his wife were serving as advocates for defendants in immigration court, they said. Read the full story here. Two educational toy companies, Learning Resources and hand2mind, filed a joint appeal today arguing that Trump had no power to impose the tariffs on goods from China under a law called the full story here. The Trump administration has reopened arrests of immigrant workers at hotels, restaurants and agricultural businesses, backtracking on the brief reprieve they got after Trump had said they were necessary, good, longtime workers whose jobs were almost "impossible" to replace. Assistant Homeland Security Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that "there will be no safe spaces for industries who harbor violent criminals or purposely try to undermine ICE's efforts."Read the full story here.ICE officers detained New York City Comptroller Brad Lander an immigration court in the city, according to his campaign. Kat Capossela, Lander's press secretary, said in an email that "Brad was taken by masked agents and detained by ICE" after "escorting a defendant out of immigration court." It was unclear whether Lander was still in custody. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., said that he would speak on the Senate floor shortly about the militarization of Los Angeles — my hometown — and my experience of being thrown to the ground and handcuffed when attempting to get answers from the administration," he posted on X.Democrats expressed outrage last week when Padilla was forcibly removed from a room where Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was speaking to reporters. After emerging today from a closed-door briefing about the Minnesota shootings, several senators highlighted threats to public officials in general, calling for increased security and the tamping down of political rhetoric. "Some of the rhetoric we see from the White House is adding fuel to the fire," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., told reporters on Capitol Hill. "We need to look beyond our own personal security to the need for greater protection against extremist political violence in this country, it is a scourge and a virus that is metastasizing." Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said, "The degree to which colleagues are getting targeted in all kinds of ways is very disturbing." Colleagues mentioned this happens to me, this is happening me, here's something to happen the last couple of days," Kaine said about other lawmakers sharing similar experiences. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., said she didn't want to comment on the briefing because it's "important for members' safety that we don't talk a lot about what is being done to keep us safe." Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called today for an increase in funding for U.S. Capitol Police in the wake of the shootings of two Minnesota state lawmakers and their spouses Saturday. "The Capitol Police in the wake of the shootings of two Minnesota state lawmakers and their spouses Saturday." there has been a "dramatic increase in threats" to public officials, saying that they are attacks not just on individuals, but also on democracy that are meant to "intimidate people not to do their jobs, not to run for office.""We must take immediate steps to ensure the safety of members," he said. Schumer also called on Trump to call on Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, to take down several posts he shared on X mocking the shootings in Minnesota. "He should demand that Mike Lee take down his disgusting tweet on X," Schumer said. "I asked him to do it yesterday. Well, he wouldn't listen to me, but he'll l today calling on the national Democratic Party to reject super PAC spending in the party's primaries. "Before our party can claim to be in favor of campaign finance reform, we need to take action to stop billionaire-funded super PACs from controlling Democratic primaries." Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin. The letter was first reported by The Washington Post and obtained by NBC News. The senators noted that outside groups "have defeated a number of excellent members in the House and Senate." While they did not name names, two House Democrats, New York's Jamaal Bowman and Missouri's Cori Bush, lost primaries last year after facing millions of dollars of attacks from groups tied to the pro-Israel American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The signers included Sanders and Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Chris Murphy of Connecticut, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Peter Welch of Vermont Tina Smith of Minnesota, Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland. In the hours after the weekend shooting spree targeting Democratic lawmakers in Minnesota, information was still just trickling out. Most Americans were beginning to learn about the assassination of one lawmaker and the attempted assassination of another Saturday morning.Boards cover the doors and windows of the home of Minnesota state Rep. Melissa Hortman in Brooklyn Park on Sunday.Stephen Maturen / Getty ImagesWith the information vacuum online, conspiracy theories were already beginning to flood in.Read the full story here.Former Sen. Bob Menendez turned himself in today at a federal prison in Pennsylvania to begin serving an 11-year sentence on bribery charges. An attorney for Menendez, 71, has called the punishment a "life and death sentence" given his age, and the senator has tried unsuccessfully to get a pardon or commutation from then-President Joe Biden and Trump. Read the full story here. While the November matchup for the Virginia governor's race appears secure, there are numerous downballot races today. The contest for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor has a wide array of candidates, including state Sens. Ghazala Hashmi and Aaron Rouse. Hashmi is a former professor who became the first Muslim woman elected to the Virginia state Senate in 2019, while Rouse is a onetime NFL player who served several years on the Virginia Beach City Council before flipping a Republican-held state Senate seat in a 2023 special election. Former Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney, Prince William County School Board Chair Babur Lateef, former federal prosecutor Victor Salgado and union official Alex Bastani are also hoping to clinch the Democratic nomination. Meanwhile, GOP incumbent Jason Miyares, who in 2021 became the first Latino person elected as the state's top prosecutor, is running unopposed in the fall. Jones is a former member of the House of Delegates and Taylor has served in the state attorney general's office for Henrico County for more than a decade after first being elected in 2011. Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders is backing state Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani in his bid to become New York City's next mayor, a move that further consolidates progressives behind Mamdani's candidacy. Like Sanders, Mamdani identifies as a Democratic socialist and has moved to mobilize the left around his candidacy. (Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez spoke at a recent Mamdani rally and announced she'd rank him first on her ballot.) His top opponent, former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has pushed for a similar consolidation among more moderate candidates, recently winning the nod of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who pitched in \$5 million to a pro-Cuomo super PAC. Primary day is a week from today. Days after a Minnesota state lawmaker was killed and another injured in a "politically motivated assassination," Trump said today that he would not call the state's governor, eschewing a traditional presidential response to tragedies. "Why would I call him? I could call and say, 'Hi, how you doing?' The guy doesn't have a clue," Trump said, referring to Gov. Tim Walz, D-Minn., who was the vice presidential contender facing off against Trump's ticket in 2024. "He's a mess. So I could be nice and call, but why waste time?"Read the full story here.Today is primary day in Virginia — but the general election matchup for the commonwealth's highest office is already set.Democrat Abigail Spanberger, a former U.S. representative, and Republican Winsome Earle-Sears, the state's lieutenant governor, have known for months that they would face off against each other in the race to succeed Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, since they were the only major-party candidates to qualify for the ballot. Read the full story here. Trump arrived back in Washington just before 5 a.m. ET after departing early from the Group of Seven summit in Canada to focus on the Israel-Iran conflict.Speaking to reporters during the flight from Calgary, Alberta, Trump again disputed the assertion by French President Emmanuel Macron that he had left the G7 summit to work on a truce between the warring nations."We're looking at better than a ceasefire," said Trump, who has asked that the National Security Council be ready in the Situation Room, a U.S. official told NBC News.Asked what would be better than a ceasefire, Trump said, "A real end. Not a ceasefire, an end." Trump speaks to reporters on Air Force One last night. Brendan Smialowski / AFP - Getty ImagesHe said there was no threat behind his earlier call for Tehran's 10 million people to evacuate the Iranian capital and that "I just want people to be safe." But Iran "just can't have a nuclear weapon," Trump said, repeating earlier comments that it might have avoided the Israeli attack if it had agreed on a deal to limit its nuclear ambitions. Shortly after landing, Trump made similar comments in a post on Truth Social, saying he had not reached out to Iran for peace talks "in any way, shape, or form.""If they want to talk, they know how to reach me," he said. "They should have taken the deal that was on the table — Would have taken the deal that was on the table — Would have taken the deal that was on the table — Would have saved a lot of lives!!!"Iowa Democrat Christina Bohannan announced today that she is running for the House again in 2026 after she lost a close race to GOP Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks last year. The 1st District race is expected to be very competitive. It was one of the closest in the country in 2024, when Bohannan lost to Miller-Meeks by less than half a percentage point, even as Trump carried the district in southeast Iowa by 8 points in the presidential race. The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter rates the race as a tossup. "From cutting Medicaid, to siding with DOGE's devastating cuts to Social Security, to enabling unelected, unaccountable billionaires like Elon Musk — Miller-Meeks has forgotten about us. It's time someone put Iowa first," Bohannan, a former state legislator, said in a statement announcing her campaign. Sullivan arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for two days of talks with Wang Yi, China's foreign minister and top diplomat. Starting last year, the two men held a series of backchannel talks in an attempt to stabilize relations that had reached their lowest point in decades after the appearance of a Chinese spy balloon over the continental United States in early 2023. They met in Vienna in May 2023, Malta in September and Bangkok in January, and Wang also visited Washington in October to meet with Biden. But this was Sullivan's first trip to China as national security adviser and the first by a national security adviser since Susan Rice near the end of the Obama administration in 2016. The White House said Sullivan and Wang held "candid substantive and constructive" talks in Beijing on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues. They also discussed next steps for implementing agreements that Biden and Xi reached at a summit they held in California last year, including on counternarcotics, military-to-military communications and artificial intelligence safety and risk. But both sides held firm on some of the most sensitive issues between them, which for China include Taiwan, its territorial claims in the South China's point of view, this meeting cannot solve China's concerns," said Wu Xinbo, director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai. On the U.S. side, he said, "it is impossible for them to force China to stop the development of bilateral economic and trade relations with Russia and change its basic position on the Russia-Ukraine conflicts." Biden and Xi have spoken only once by phone since their November meeting, in a call in April that lasted almost two hours. With direct contact so rare, the two leaders have few opportunities left to interact one-on-one before Biden leaves the White House early next vear. Part of the purpose of Sullivan's visit is to keep U.S.-China relations stable in the final months of the Biden administration, said Li Cheng, founding director of the Centre on Contemporary China and the World at the University of Hong Kong. "They're not interested in changing direction, but want to find a floor to prevent U.S.-China relations from continuing to fall apart," said Li, who previously spent 17 years at the Washington-based Brookings Institution. The best possible outcome of the trip, Li said, would be if it paves the way for another Biden-Xi summit. The two main opportunities would be at this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Peru or summit of Group of 20 nations in Brazil, both of which will take place after the U.S. election on Nov. 5. Both sides would have something to gain from a Biden-Xi summit, said Wen-Ti Sung, a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council who is based in Taipei. For Biden, it's an opportunity to "leave a positive-looking legacy for the most important bilateral relationship in the world," he said. China might be able to invoke that summit if Biden's successor tries to adopt a tougher line. "Beijing then will have ammunition to say, 'U.S. side is rocking the boat,'" Sung said Janis Mackey Frayer reported from Beijing, and Jennifer Jett and Larissa Gao reported from Hong Kong Janis Mackey FrayerJennifer JettLarissa GaoTara Prindiville and Rae Wang contributed.