



AMERICA'S NEWS DIGEST

THE PATRIOT POST®

PRO DEO ET LIBERTATE ~ 1776

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Mid-Day Digest

THE FOUNDATION

"I trust that the proposed Constitution afford a genuine specimen of representative government and republican government; and that it will answer, in an eminent degree, all the beneficial purposes of society." —Alexander Hamilton (1788)

IN TODAY'S DIGEST

EXECUTIVE NEWS SUMMARY

Thomas Gallatin, Sterling Henry, & Jordan Candler

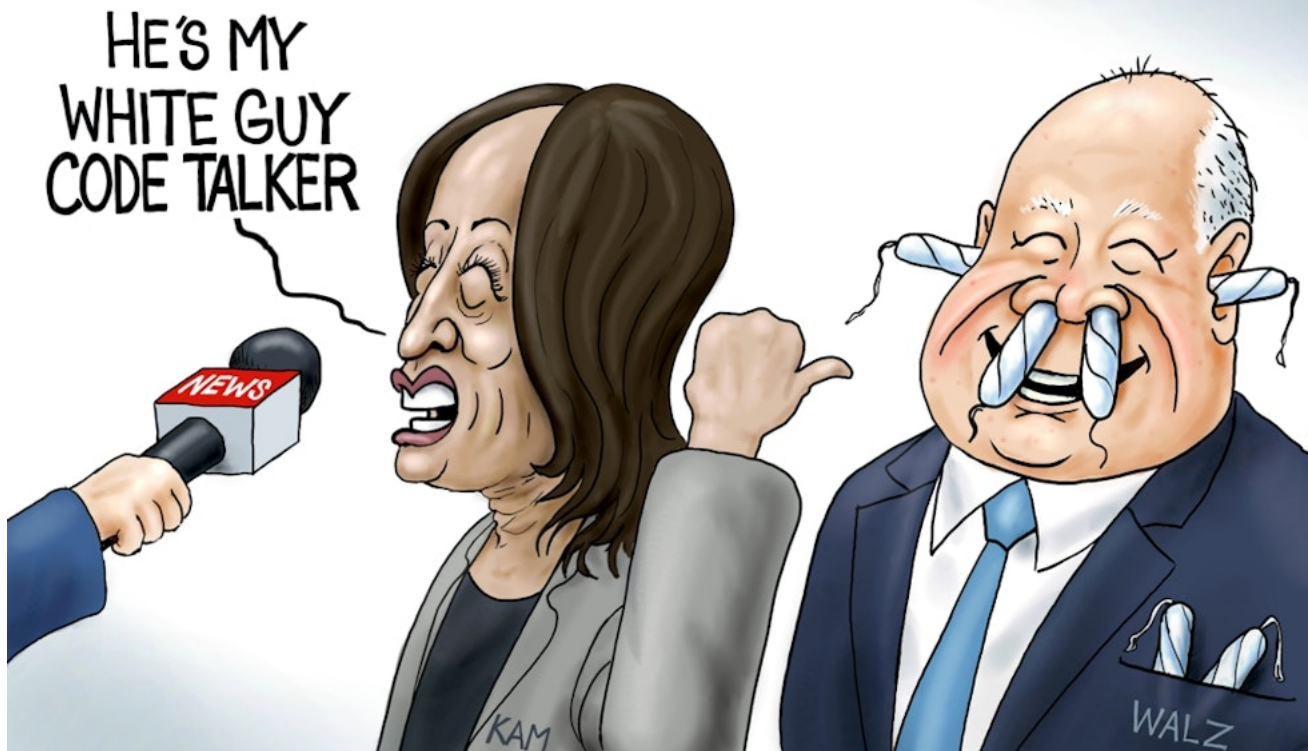
- **2026 budget plan:** On Friday, the White House released Donald Trump's 2026 budget blueprint. No presidential proposal is ever fully adopted by Congress. Trump's also comes later than usual because Republicans are currently wrangling over spending legislation. Trump's blueprint includes steep cuts to numerous federal agencies as well as a record \$1 trillion for defense. However, a number of Republican lawmakers have been quick to object, contending that much of the proposed Department of Defense spending increase wouldn't actually go to the DOD, like funding the Energy Department's development of nuclear weapons or DHS's border enforcement. Sen. Mitch McConnell accused the White House of doubling down "on the Biden administration's material neglect for the glaring national security threats." Trump's budget blueprint would cut non-defense discretionary spending by 22%. The federal budget has risen to \$7 trillion annually, with deficit spending nearing \$2 trillion.

- **Ashli Babbitt settlement:** Despite what the Leftmedia has tried to tell us for years about January 6 being the darkest day in American history, the only person killed that day was Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran participating in the mob that entered the Capitol and broke windows. A settlement with the Trump administration in the lawsuit brought by Judicial Watch on behalf of the Babbitt estate has been reached, but not yet signed. Details of the settlement have not been made public, although the suit sought \$30 million. The civil suit alleged negligence by Capitol Police Lt. Michael Byrd, though an internal investigation cleared him of wrongdoing. Mark Alexander has argued for his prosecution.
- **Leftmedia picks a new illegal alien hero:** Stop us if you've heard this one before: A person illegally enters the U.S. and Democrats mobilize everything to protect this new illegal at the expense of citizens everywhere. It's a story that has played out repeatedly in the first 100 days of the second Trump administration, and that's unlikely to end soon. An unnamed woman illegally crossed the southern border into Governor Katie Hobbs's Arizona while eight months pregnant. Less than a week ago, she gave birth, and under Jus Soli "right of the soil" citizenship, that child is now a U.S. citizen. The mother's deportation, already in progress, has become much more complicated. The Trump administration is rightly working to overturn Jus Soli and turn toward the Jus Sanguinis "right of blood" citizenship that was well established in the Old World.



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- **Alcatraz reincarnated:** Alcatraz may soon go from a tourist destination back to a notorious federal prison. Early Sunday morning, Donald Trump issued the following announcement on social media: “REBUILD, AND OPEN ALCATRAZ! For too long, America has been plagued by vicious, violent, and repeat Criminal Offenders, the dregs of society, who will never contribute anything other than Misery and Suffering.” Trump explained that he was directing the Bureau of Prisons, along with the DOJ, FBI, and DHS, to “reopen a substantially enlarged and rebuilt ALCATRAZ, to house America’s most ruthless and violent Offenders.” He then noted his rationale for this decision: “We will no longer be held hostage to criminals, thugs, and Judges that are afraid to do their job and allow us to remove criminals, who came into our Country illegally.” If Trump can’t deport the worst of the worst, then he’ll confine them to “The Rock.”
- **Tariffs on films:** Donald Trump wants to save Hollywood, or at least the American movie-making industry. Thus, over the weekend, Trump announced that he was authorizing a 100% tariff against movies made in foreign countries. Claiming that the U.S. movie industry is dying and expressing concern over national security — citing foreign messaging and propaganda — Trump posted on Truth Social, “I am authorizing the Department of Commerce, and the United States Trade Representative, to immediately begin the process of instituting a 100% Tariff on any and all Movies coming into our Country that are produced in Foreign Lands. WE WANT MOVIES MADE IN AMERICA, AGAIN!” It’s unclear how or if this tariff would apply to American-owned studios filming movies overseas, which is a common practice.
- **CBS’s Harris interview nominated for Outstanding Edited Interview:** When Kamala Harris appeared on “60 Minutes” in the late days of the 2024 presidential election, she didn’t wow anyone. In fact, the network’s editing was so deceptive that the Trump administration filed a \$20 *billion* lawsuit against CBS, alleging that she would’ve sounded even more incoherent without their beneficial editing. Apparently, the Emmys wanted to give the Trump case some extra weight by giving that interview a nomination for “Outstanding Edited Interview” on Thursday. White House communications director Steven Cheung pointed out that the Emmy nod is well deserved since “it takes some serious talent” to make Kamala sound coherent.



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- **Maine governor has financial ties to “gender-affirming care”:** Maine Governor Janet Mills has been in a months-long feud with the Trump administration over her anti-woman, pro-trans stance. Her position isn’t the reasoned, principled stance she pretends it is; it’s about money. Mills’s sister, Dora Mills, is the chief health improvement officer at MaineHealth. MaineHealth, a subsidiary of Maine Medical Center, is the largest provider of transgender treatments in the state of Maine, and its revenue has increased substantially from 2018 (\$1.54 billion), the year before Mills became governor, to 2023 (\$3.69 billion). Dora joined MaineHealth in 2018, and in 2022 it was a top donor to Janet’s reelection campaign. A MaineHealth representative with pronouns in his bio said assertions of a conflict of interest do not merit a response.

- **Pence receives Profile in Courage Award:** On Sunday evening at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, former Vice President [Mike Pence](#) was honored with the Profile in Courage Award. It centered on Pence's [courageous decision](#) on January 6, 2020, to uphold the Constitution and oversee the certification of the presidential election rather than acquiesce to Donald Trump's dubious demands and claims that Pence had the authority to halt the ratification proceedings. For his principled fidelity to the Constitution, Pence has sadly been smeared with ignorant and vitriolic criticism. Yet, gracious as always, Pence noted, "I've been deeply humbled by how many Americans have come up to me and just taken a point to encourage us and support us, and it convinces me that the American people know that whatever differences we may have, the Constitution is the common ground on which we stand."

Headlines

- Stephen Miller emerges as top contender for Trump's next national security advisor ([Axios](#))
- Trump vows to extend TikTok ban deadline until a deal is struck ([Fox Business](#))
- Youngkin signs law that would set daily time limit for kids on social media ([Daily Wire](#))
- Trump looking for "total" disarmament of Iran nuclear program, open to "civilian energy" ([Jerusalem Post](#))
- Houthi missile hits grounds of Ben Gurion Airport after interception fails ([Times of Israel](#))
- German intelligence officially designates AfD an "extremist organization" ([Hot Air](#))
- Humor: Nine deadly consequences of defunding NPR ([Babylon Bee](#))

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FEATURED ANALYSIS

Trump's Deportations and NBC's Phony Constitutional Crisis

Nate Jackson



"I don't know," Donald Trump replied when NBC's Kristen Welker asked him if, when it comes to immigration enforcement, he'd "uphold the Constitution of the United States as president."

The Leftmedia, as they love to say about Republicans, pounced.

"Trump, asked if he has to 'uphold the Constitution,' says, 'I don't know,'" read NBC's headline. The New York Times said, "Trump Says 'I Don't Know' When Asked About Due Process and Upholding Constitution." Politico got the memo: "When asked if he needs to uphold the Constitution, Trump says: 'I don't know.'" The same went for many other Leftmedia outlets. Even The Wall Street Journal used the same formulation.

As Mark Alexander responded, "You can't blame the media when Trump misses an opportunity to predicate a rambling answer to a question with a clear and concise answer to the question asked."

But hold on a minute. Back up that truck.

The setup for this was that Trump, unlike Joe Biden, has made the media rounds lately, interviewing with hostile reporters at The Atlantic, Time Magazine, ABC News, and now NBC News. Biden didn't do many interviews, period, much less with Fox News or *any* more conservative outlets. Antagonistic reporters tend to ask oppositional questions, and that can snare even the best interviewee. Biden was cognitively disabled, while Trump thrives in the contest.

Kristen Welker is the left-wing activist NBC trotted out for this latest interview. She challenged the president on numerous issues, which, to be clear, is the job of the press. It's *not* the press's role to be the propaganda arm of one political party, though it clearly is.

Welker eventually got to the immigration exchange I began by highlighting. Her first question was this: “Border crossings are at their lowest level ever recorded. Is the border now secure?” It was a gotcha, however, because she wasn’t interested in Trump’s answer reflecting well on him. She wanted to pin him down on why the emergency order is still in effect: “When will you know that the emergency is over? Are you planning to lift it at some point? Is it necessary?”

Trump pivoted to exactly the right place — activist judges blocking his deportations. “The biggest emergency is the courts,” he said. “The big emergency right now is that we have thousands of people that we want to take out, and we have some judges that want everybody to go to court.”

After some back-and-forth, he added, “If the courts don’t allow us to take people out, if we had to have a court case every single — think of it. Every single person — we have millions of people. If you have millions of court cases, figure two weeks a court case, it would be 300 years.”

Predictably, Welker brought up the Left’s favorite new martyr — the wife-beating MS-13 gang member illegal alien deported to his home country of El Salvador, a.k.a. “Maryland Man.” Yes, there are questions of due process surrounding Kilmar Abrego Garcia and all other illegals, but Trump has a point about the infeasibility of enforcement.

Still, Welker kept pressing Trump on due process, pointing to comments made by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the Fifth Amendment. She dropped what she thought was the hammer: “Don’t you need to uphold the Constitution of the United States as president?”

“I don’t know,” Trump responded. “I have to respond by saying, again, I have brilliant lawyers that work for me, and they are going to obviously follow what the Supreme Court said.”

The correct answer is, “Of course. I swore an oath to ‘support and defend’ the Constitution, and we’re working to do that.” Trump rarely says the expected thing, though I think he meant roughly just that. He knew it was a gotcha question, and he went straight to resetting the debate and challenging the media narrative.

I don’t recall anyone asking Joe Biden if his open border was a good example of upholding the Constitution. Biden and Kamala Harris allowed an invasion of at least 10 million illegals, and they abandoned law enforcement and effectively rewrote the law to do it. As a result, Trump has a very real crisis on his hands. Welker could have asked him how he was planning to address the constitutional crisis bequeathed to him by his predecessor.

Indeed, Trump offered an answer to this, saying, “We have thousands of people that are ... some of the worst people on Earth. ... I was elected to get them the hell out of here, and the courts are holding me from doing it.”

The media would rather portray this as a constitutional crisis that Trump created.

Trump has his work cut out for him. Biden left him a crisis on the border and one in the courtroom. Biden appointed 235 judges at various levels, including one justice of the Supreme Court. Barack Obama appointed 329, including two justices. Democrats don't pick judges based on their commitment to the Constitution but on the preferred policy outcomes that benefit the Democrat Party. Heck, one of their judges thwarted law enforcement in trying to hide an illegal alien, and Democrats feigned outrage that the judge was arrested.

I'd truly love it if the federal government returned to only constitutional functions. Frankly, neither party wants that.

Would I prefer that Trump were better at precisely following due process while dotting his i's and crossing his t's? Would I rather he not *always* fight fire with fire? Yes, in a perfect world.

But Democrats have ensured we don't live in that world. They not only destroyed the border but thoroughly corrupted our institutions — all three branches of the federal government, numerous state governments, and Hollywood and academia to boot. They refuse to enforce the law, and the laws they pass are unconstitutional abominations. They seemingly ruin everything they touch.

Yet the Leftmedia uniformly acts as if the Bad Orange Man deporting “Maryland Man” to his home country is what's going to cause our “democracy” to collapse in a heap of ruins. I'd laugh if it weren't so appalling.






Follow Nate Jackson on X/Twitter.

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MORE ANALYSIS

- Emmy Griffin: [HHS: Gender Mutilation Is Bad — Who Knew?](#) — “Gender-affirming care” is not the best practice when dealing with gender-confused minors.
- Thomas Gallatin: [Defunding the Corporation for Propaganda Broadcasting](#) — Donald Trump orders the end of taxpayer subsidies for NPR and PBS.
- Douglas Andrews: [Is Trump Breaking China's Will?](#) — The commies said they'd fight Trump's tariffs “to the bitter end,” but they seem awfully interested in talking.
- Roger Helle: [Remembering the Fall of Saigon](#) — We just observed the 50th anniversary of our retreat from Vietnam. Sadly, we have made the same mistake over and over again.

BEST OF RIGHT OPINION

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-  [Hans von Spakovsky Trump's 100 Days and the Legal War in Washington](#)
 -  [David Harsanyi How Do You Do, Fellow White People? Tim Walz Says Hello!](#)
 -  [Christine Flowers In Battleground Library, Controversial Books Are Reinstated](#)
 -  [Jeff Jacoby A 'Baby Bonus' Won't Solve the Nation's Birthrate Problem](#)
 -  [Rich Lowry We Need Cheap Stuff, and Lots of It](#)

For more of today's columns, visit [Right Opinion](#).

BEST OF VIDEOS

- [Spain's Green Energy Grid Failed. We Could Be Next.](#) — Spain's electrical grid hit 100% renewable energy on Earth Day — and just days later, the country plunged into one of the worst blackouts in European history.
- ['She's So Afraid of the Cartel'](#) — Speaking to reporters on Air Force One, President Trump responded to Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum rejecting U.S. troops from going into Mexico to take on cartels.
- [Will Letitia James Be Charged With Mortgage Fraud?](#) — Here is her defense.
- [CCP Bankrupt, Banks Failing, Protests Everywhere](#) — China's mortgage crisis is worse than the pandemic.
- [The Censorship Laundromat](#) — The Biden State Department kept "disinformation" dossiers on Americans.
- [NRA 2025 Project Appleseed and The Patriot Post](#) — We spoke with Tom from Project Appleseed at the 2025 NRA Annual Meeting.

SHORT CUTS

Who Wants to Tell Her?

"You randomly kidnapping folk and you throwing them out of the country against their civil rights, against their constitutional rights. And frankly, how would they feel if some other country decided that they were gonna just start throwing people randomly in our country?" — Rep. Jasmine Crockett

Victimitis

“The attacks [on the judiciary] are not random. They seem designed to intimidate those of us who serve in this critical capacity. The attacks are also not isolated incidents. That is, they impact more than just individual judges who are being targeted. Rather, the threats and harassment are attacks on our democracy, on our system of government, and they ultimately risk undermining our Constitution and the rule of law.” —Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson replying to Trump without naming him

Weird Flex

“I also was on the ticket, quite honestly, because I could code talk to white guys watching football, fixing their truck, doing that. That I could put them at ease. I was the permission structure to say, ‘Look, you can do this and vote for this.’” —Tim Walz

Shot/Chaser

“Trump has the lowest 100-day approval rating since they started polling.” —Senate Democrat Leader Chuck Schumer

“Polls come and go.” —Chuck Schumer regarding *his* far lower 17% approval rating

Non Sequitur

“You can’t use the threat of withholding money ... in order to impose your agenda on a private institution like a university. ... If the government could do that, then it could threaten ... to raise your income taxes unless you toe the line and say things that Trump and MAGA like.” —Harvard constitutional law professor Laurence Tribe

Dezinformatsiya

“I do think we’re in the middle of an attempted authoritarian overthrow of American democracy.” —MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow

For the Record

“The problem with immigration enforcement is not that federal law is too burdensome for the government. It is that the government went too long failing to enforce the law, and Congress has not provided sufficient resources to deal with the resulting backlog, which has reached crisis levels.” —Andrew McCarthy

Upright

“In just 100 days, the Trump administration has begun to tear down the barriers standing between our nation’s working class and the American Dream. Factories are reopening, jobs are returning, and the forgotten men and women of our country are leading its comeback.

This is more than a recovery from the Biden years; it's the revival of the spirit that led our ancestors to build the greatest nation on Earth. As President Trump is fond of saying, the best is yet to come." —JD Vance in a Washington Post op-ed

"Never let anyone tell you that something is impossible... In America, the impossible is what we all do best. There's nothing you cannot do if you're willing to fight for it. You've got to fight, fight, fight. Graduates of the Alabama class of 2025 ... it is clear to see: the next chapter of the American story will not be written by the Harvard Crimson. It will be written by you — the Crimson Tide." —Donald Trump to University of Alabama graduates

And Last...

"The only thing Americans want to hear from Kamala Harris is an apology for joining Joe Biden ... in aiding and abetting the invasion of our country." —White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller

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TODAY'S MEME

**Give up your pot
to stop drug
violence**



**But I don't
commit
violence**



**Welcome to the
gun debate.**



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ON THIS DAY in 1961, Alan Shepard took a 15-minute suborbital flight, making him the first American astronaut to travel into space.

Please join us in prayer for our nation — that righteous leaders would rise and prevail and we would be united as Americans. Pray also for the protection of our Military Patriots, Veterans, First Responders, and their families. Please lift up your Patriot team and our mission to support and defend our Republic's Founding Principle of Liberty, that the fires of freedom would be ignited in the hearts and minds of our countrymen.

Thank you for supporting our nation's premier online journal of Liberty.

Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis