

## Wright, Michelle

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**From:** Bellamy, Mark  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Wright, Michelle  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief

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**From:** Rick Dwyer <rdwyer@hrmffa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2024 3:12 PM  
**To:** Rick Dwyer <rdwyer@hrmffa.org>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**  
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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September 20, 2024

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Economy - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -  
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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## Notable Headlines

- [Iranian hackers sent stolen Trump campaign information to people associated with Biden campaign](#)
- [Middle East pager attacks ignite fear of supply chain warfare](#)
- [‘Uncommitted’ group won’t endorse Harris as she swings through Michigan](#)
- [Proxy voting for new parents among changes pitched to House Rules panel](#)
- [North Carolina governor's race rocked by CNN report on Mark Robinson's alleged incendiary comments](#)

**Worth reading:** [The Actual Electoral Map Is Three States](#)

## View From The Hill



Congress made [scant](#) progress towards funding the federal government this week, as the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to avoid a shutdown draws closer. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) held a vote on a six-month Continuing Resolution (CR) that included legislation

requiring proof of citizenship to vote, which saw fourteen Republicans either voting “present” or “no,” along with all Democrats. Vulnerable lawmakers are anxious to leave Washington for the campaign trail, and virtually all honest brokers around town recognize that a clean, short-term CR is the inevitable outcome. How and when Congress gets there is the looming question, as the Senate considers its own bipartisan CR and Speaker Johnson weighs the internal and external political risks of cutting a deal with House Democrats. Some are speculating that the speaker may hold another vote on a clean, six-month CR without the citizenship requirement and dare Democrats to oppose it.

The bipartisan task force examining the, now, two assassination attempts of former President Donald Trump received a briefing from the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) this week on the most recent incident in Florida. Republican Chair of the task force Mike Kelly (R-PA) and the top democrat Jason Crow (D-CO) [confirmed](#) that the USSS has ramped up security around Trump to levels commensurate with that of a sitting president. The agency’s resource and staffing challenges have come under intense scrutiny since the first assassination attempt in July, with Members on both sides of the aisle calling for additional funding for the Secret Service, along with structural reforms to how the agency protects the nation’s top leaders.

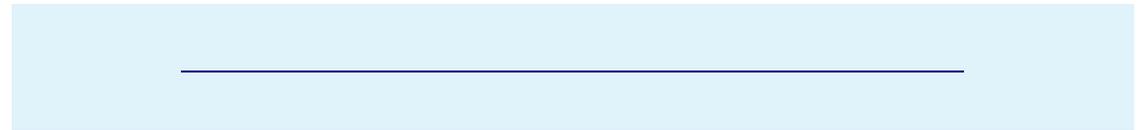
The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence [held](#) a hearing this week focused on threats to election security, featuring tech executives from Google, Microsoft, and Meta. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) and other Members of the panel pressed the witnesses on their companies’ efforts to crack down on misinformation and election interference efforts targeting Americans. Witnesses testified that, as has occurred in previous election cycles, they are seeing sophisticated influence campaigns coming from U.S. adversaries like Russia, Iran, and China.

In a moving ceremony at the Capitol on Wednesday, Speaker Mike Johnson and a bipartisan group of Hill leaders [bestowed](#) the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress’s highest civilian honor, upon Katherine Johnson, Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. This now-famous group of Black women worked as computing engineers at NASA during the Apollo space program, during a time in American history marked by discrimination towards minorities and the Civil Rights Movement. Their story was highlighted in the 2016 novel and subsequent blockbuster film, Hidden Figures.

## Aerospace & Defense

[US has accepted 36 upgraded F-35s since lifting delivery pause \(DefenseNews\)](#)

Since the US lifted a yearlong delivery halt in July they have accepted 36 new F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, 29 of which have been ferried to their new homes. In July 20023, the Pentagon “Refused to accept enhanced F-35s due to problems with the aircraft’s upgraded Technology Refresh 3 hardware and software.” The modifications are also needed for a more expensive upgrade package, known as Block 4, which will “allow the F-35 to carry more weapons, better identify targets and conduct electronic warfare.” The restrictions were lifted with the development of a ‘truncated’ version of the software which would allow the delivery of the jets and enable them “to fly combat training missions.” The program executive officer, Lt. Gen. Michael Schmidt, said on Thursday the aircraft are being rolled out of their storage facility in Fort Worth, Texas. The new aircraft are not yet able to fly in combat, with Schmidt saying he is hopeful they will be ‘combat-capable’ in 2025.



[Europe must prepare to meet Russia militarily in 6-8 years, says its new defense chief \(Reuters\)](#)

The nominee to be the EU’s first defense commissioner said the European Union must be “quick to increase its defense as Russia may be ready for a confrontation in six to eight years.” Andrius Kubilius, a former prime minister of Lithuania, has been tapped for the role and has experience from being Russia’s neighbor. He wants to get EU countries to spend more on European weapons and procure jointly, as well as getting companies to “cooperate more across borders.” The new position shows how security has risen on the list of priorities since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Kubilius said his first job along with EU top diplomat nominee Kaja Kallas, is to explore what resources the EU needs to be ready for a military challenge. The goal is to complete the study within the first 100 days. Kubilius pointed to the underinvestment of more than a trillion euros in the decade since the financial crisis meant the European defense industry was in an “unsatisfactory condition.”

**Budget & Economy**

[Boeing furloughs thousands as no progress made to resolve strike \(Reuters\)](#)

Boeing announced earlier this week they will temporarily furlough tens of thousands of employees after about 30,000 machinists went on strike last Friday. The impact of the machinists strike is halting production of its 737 MAX and other airplanes. Boeing CEO, Kelly Ortberg, said in an email, "We are initiating temporary furloughs over the coming days that will impact a large number of US-based executives, managers, and employees. We are planning for selected employees to take one week of furlough every four weeks on a rolling basis for the duration of the strike." This is Boeing's first strike since 2008 and adds to an already tough year for the planemaker. In the email Ortberg announced he and other executives would be taking a commensurate pay reduction for the duration of the strike. After two days of discussions in the presence of federal mediators, Boeing and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers were not able to make any meaningful progress. The furloughs show Ortberg is preparing the company to "weather a prolonged strike that is not likely to be easily resolved given the anger among rank-and-file workers."

[Senate passes \\$3B VA supplemental funding bill, averting delay in veterans' benefits](#)

[Mortgage rates drop to lowest since early February 2023 after Fed's jumbo interest rate cut \(CNN\)](#)

The standard, 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.09% in the week ended September 19, which was down from last week's 6.20% and substantially below a two-decade peak of 7.79% seen last fall. The fixed-rate mortgage rate is at its lowest level since February 2023. The news is promising for prospective homebuyers who have been sidelined waiting for affordability to improve. With mortgage rates coming down, an increased demand in housing is likely to occur, especially after the "Federal Reserve cut interest rates this week for the first time in four years and signaled more rate cuts by year's end. While the Fed does not control mortgage rates, their actions do influence them through movements in bond yields. While it could take three or four months for the lower rates to boost demand, it is expected.

## Advanced Technologies

### [SpaceX 'forcefully rejects' FAA allegation it violated launch requirements \(Reuters\)](#)

The FAA proposed \$633,000 in fines for alleged violations that SpaceX failed to follow US regulations during two rocket launches. This allegation SpaceX “forcefully rejects.” The FAA faulted SpaceX’s actions prior to launches in June and July of 2023 in Florida. Elon Musk called the fines “politically motivated and threatened to sue to contest them.” David Harris, SpaceX’s vice president for legal, sent a letter to the Congressional leaders who oversee the FAA expanding on the objections of the company and asserting its commitment to safety. Harris wrote the FAA was failing “to keep pace with the commercial spaceflight industry” and suggested the fine was the agency’s response to increased congressional scrutiny of the FAA’s oversight of the commercial space industry. SpaceX has been clear for some time that the FAA’s commercial space office “lacks the resources to timely review licensing materials” and “mistakenly focuses its limited resources on areas unrelated to its public safety regulatory scope.” The FAA accuses SpaceX of failing to obtain approval to revise the communications plan related to its license for the June 2023 launch.

### [Air Force’s information warfare hub seeks high-tech sensors, AI tools](#)

### [New missile allows Marine pilots to strike far, avoid air defenses \(DefenseNews\)](#)

Marine fighter pilots will now have a missile that can strike targets up to 230 miles away, keeping aviators out of the range of many enemy air defense systems. Late last month, the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 out of California, became the first to run ordnance operations with the AGM-158A missile using the F/A-18 Hornet. The Air Force first used the air-to-ground missile in “combat in 2018, firing it from B-1B Lancer bombers to strike a Syrian chemical weapons manufacturer.” The missile surpasses the capabilities of any other weapon currently in the Hornet’s profile, as well as the Marine Corps at large. The missile is also slated for use on the F-35B and F-35C aircraft, and “comes in two variants: the AGM-158B extended range version and the AGM-158C long-range, anti-ship version.” The extended range variant can strike targets out to 620 miles.

## Military Installations & Communities

[Navy boss lays out ambitious goals on ships and recruiting but dodges on accountability \(Military.com\)](#)

Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the Navy's chief of naval operations, rolled out a document this week laying out her vision for the fleet – a set of “several lofty goals in a wide swath of areas that the admiral says will be met in two years' time.” The [document itself](#) talks about goals, including filling all service jobs to 100%, clearing out years of maintenance backlogs, and providing a barracks room to any sailor who wants it. Each goal is assigned a “single accountable individual.” When the Navy was asked what ‘accountability’ would look like, officials on Thursday backed away from the stronger language in the document and instead described the goals as “aspirational” or “stretch goals.” This week Franchetti said the goals she laid out are not only “realistic” but that “all of these goals were 100% agreed to by our four stars, by the type-commanders, and by the single accountable individual who is going to be responsible to me to achieve this goal.”

## [The World War II Fighter Ace Behind the Navy's Blue Angels](#)

[Army reviewing training tools after botched briefing labeled anti-abortion groups as terrorists \(Military.com\)](#)

The Army is reviewing much of its training materials for ill-informed or partisan material after a terrorism briefing at Fort Liberty erroneously listed mainstream activist groups, including pro-life and animal rights advocates, as terror organizations. Images of the presentation went viral in July as “Republican lawmakers and far-right commentators seized on part of the briefing that highlighted two non-violent anti-abortion groups as terrorists – the National Right to Life and Operation Rescue, neither of which have a history of violence. Agnes Schaefer, the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs said, “The Army is undertaking an Army-wide review to ensure that these or similar materials are not being disseminated elsewhere. The slides do not represent the policy or official views of the Army.” The terrorism briefing, which has been in use since 2017, also “lumped in left-wing groups such as the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and conflated it with the Animal Liberation Front – an extremist group with a track record of violence, including firebombings.”

## Homeland Security

### [New Vanderbilt center aims to place national security students at unexpected government agencies \(NextGov\)](#)

Vanderbilt University students who want to land prestigious intelligence, defense or public safety internships in Washington, D.C. may soon find themselves working at a government agency where national security isn't the most obvious mission area. That's the hope from Gen. Paul Nakasone, who is leading the effort to make this vision a reality at Vanderbilt's newly launched Institute of National Security. Nakasone spent the final years of his decades-long career in an encryption and signals intelligence capacity, but he said that the threats facing society have taken on new forms. "A lot of the time, we think only of the military element of our national power, but there's a diplomatic and informational and economic element to it," he noted. The Commerce Department, for instance, has closely monitored semiconductor supply chains as officials work to onshore domestic chip manufacturing and strengthen U.S. military capabilities.

### [DHS Awards \\$18 Million to Law Enforcement, Public Health, and Nonprofits in Underserved Communities to Help Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism](#)

### [NATO considering Arctic combined air operations center to deal with Russian threats \(Defense One\)](#)

The recent addition of Sweden and Finland to the NATO alliance is opening up new opportunities for members to better work together in the Arctic, where Russian activity has been increasing. That could mean a new combined air operations center, or CAOC "fairly shortly," U.S. Air Forces Europe and NATO Allied Air Command Gen. James Hecker said Tuesday at the Air & Space Forces Association's Air Space & Cyber conference. Hecker said he has U.S. European Command head Gen. Chris Cavoli's approval to further explore the idea. "We've thrown out the idea. Gen. Cavoli in principle agrees with it. That doesn't mean it's a done deal," he told Defense One, noting that the proposal still has to make it through NATO leadership. The location of the potential CAOC is yet to be determined, he said. During a panel discussion with representatives from the Swedish and Norwegian air forces, Hecker told them: "We're going to exploit that close relationship between the Arctic

nations and the knowledge that you bring to make that happen. So we're going to use that, and we're going to exploit it, and I think we'll probably get a third CAOC up there fairly shortly.”

## Transportation & Infrastructure

### [ATA urges EPA to reject California's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule \(Transportation Today\)](#)

On Monday, the American Trucking Association (ATA) filed comments with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deriding California's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule as “ill-conceived” and “unattainable.” According to information on the Federal Register, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) notified the EPA it had adopted the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulations earlier this year. Those regulations would apply to state and local government fleets, drayage truck fleets, federal agency fleets and large commercial fleets that own, lease or operate on-road medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and light-duty package delivery vehicles, and require those vehicles to incorporate zero-emitting vehicles into the fleets beginning in 2024. The ACF regulations also require all new California-certified medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales be zero-emitting vehicles starting in 2036. In its public comments to the EPA, the ATA said the rule would disrupt the supply chain, calling the rule complex and capricious. “ATA remains adamantly opposed to California's ill-conceived, unattainable regulation,” ATA President & CEO Chris Spear said.

### [At 60K Projects and Counting, USDOT Celebrates Biden-Harris Administration's Progress on Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

### [USDOT Praises Trucking's Efforts in New Trafficking Report \(Transport Topics\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking has issued a new 175-page report detailing challenges and successes in combating sex and forced labor trafficking in the transportation sector. The report, three years in the making and made public on Sept. 6, lauds the trucking industry for its efforts to join the fight at high-level federal and state government agencies, as well as keeping an eye out for illicit activity at the nation's truck stops and on its roadways. The report highlighted the

transportation sector's vital role in combating human trafficking. It noted that the industry's widespread presence in people's lives provides significant opportunities to prevent this crime. The report emphasized that when properly trained, transportation workers and travelers can act as a frontline defense by recognizing and reporting suspected trafficking. Additionally, the report stated that since the advisory committee's 2019 publication, "USDOT has seen counter-trafficking efforts among transport stakeholders increase significantly across the transportation sector."

## Biotechnology & Healthcare

### [In wake of Change Healthcare, CrowdStrike outages, health systems look to diversify, strengthen supply chain \(Fierce Healthcare\)](#)

2024 has been a year that has tested healthcare organizations' cyber resilience, and shone a spotlight on critical vulnerabilities. In late February, UnitedHealth Group's Change Healthcare unit faced a significant ransomware attack, sending shockwaves through the healthcare sector with far-reaching financial consequences. Change is a major component of UHG's claims processing and revenue cycle management services. Per a survey released in March, "94% of hospitals reported some financial impact stemming from what the American Medical Association is calling 'the most significant and consequential cyberattack' on healthcare in the country's history." Just a week after the Change Healthcare attack was disclosed, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) released a report on fortifying the nation's cyber-physical systems. Cyber resiliency is now a critical topic that's front and center for every healthcare provider, payer, vendor, health tech company and supplier.

### [US has worst healthcare system among wealthy nations, survey says](#)

### [Research That Led to Obesity Drugs Wins Major Medical Prize \(NYT\)](#)

The Lasker Awards, a prestigious set of prizes given for advances in medicine and public health research, were given on Thursday to scientists whose research helped lead to the discovery of a new class of obesity drugs, infectious disease specialists who worked on the drivers of H.I.V. infection and how to stop it, and a scientist who discovered a way the body protects itself from infectious diseases and cancer. The Laskers are highly regarded in the fields of biomedicine and are sometimes seen as foretelling recipients of the Nobel Prizes

in the sciences. This year's Lasker-DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award went to three scientists for their work on GLP-1, the hormone that led to drugs like Wegovy (the same compound is the basis for Ozempic), which have transformed the treatment of obesity. They are Dr. Joel Habener, Svetlana Mojsov and Lotte Bjerre Knudsen.

## Climate & Development

### [Upstream electrification can cut oil and gas production emissions by more than 80%, report says \(Reuters\)](#)

Oil and gas production facilities could reduce associated emissions by more than 80% by switching to electricity generated from renewables or natural gas designated for burning, a report from research firm Rystad Energy said on Thursday. The report said oil-producing rigs and other assets in the Norwegian Continental Shelf emit 86% less carbon dioxide per barrel of oil equivalent after fully electrifying. Though other producing countries may face logistical hurdles, even partial electrification will significantly cut emissions, analysts said. Scientists estimate that the world needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions by around 43% by 2030 from 2019 levels to stand any chance of meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of keeping warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. About 140 billion cubic meters per annum of gas has been flared, a process where excess gas is burned off, globally in the last 10 years, equaling about 290 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

### [Tyson Foods Sued Over Emissions Reduction Promises](#)

### [California court slams state water regulators for overstepping authority in key agricultural hub \(The Hill\)](#)

A California Superior Court has cracked down on state regulators for penalizing a key agricultural region's water managers, chastising officials for potentially unlawful behavior. Judge Kathy Ciuffini, of Central California's Kings County Superior Court, last week issued a preliminary injunction that prevents the State Water Resources Control Board from requiring fees and reports from growers who over-pump the area's groundwater. In the injunction, Ciuffini affirmed allegations that the State Water Board had issued "underground regulations," which could cause undue harm to the livelihoods of the region's

growers. Officials put this southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley under “probation” in April, saying they had identified multiple deficiencies in the Tulare Lake basin’s groundwater sustainability plans. Water extraction had caused so much damage to certain areas that the Tulare Lake basin sunk as much as six feet from June 2015 to April 2023, according to a State Water Board staff report. Probation would have meant that farmers who pumped 500 acre-feet or more of water each year would have had to meter and register their wells at a cost of \$300 each, report their pumping activities and pay \$20 for each acre-foot extracted, according to the SJV Water news site.

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## Next Week's Hearings

### **Armed Service Committee:**

**House:** NONE

**Senate:** NONE

### **Appropriations Committee:**

**House:** NONE

**Senate:** NONE

### **Homeland Security Committee:**

**House:**

- Tuesday, September 24th, 10:00 AM - [The Future of FAMS: Evaluating the Federal Air Marshal Mission](#)
- Tuesday, September 24th, 2:00 PM - [An Outage Strikes: Assessing the Global Impact of CrowdStrike’s Faulty Software Update](#)

**Senate:**

- Tuesday, September 24th, 10:00 AM - [Safeguarding the Homeland: Examining Conflicts of Interest in Federal Contracting to Protect America's Future](#)



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