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From: Rick Dwyer <rdwyer@hrmffa.org>
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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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November 8, 2024

Headlines - View From The Hill - Aerospace & Defense - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities - Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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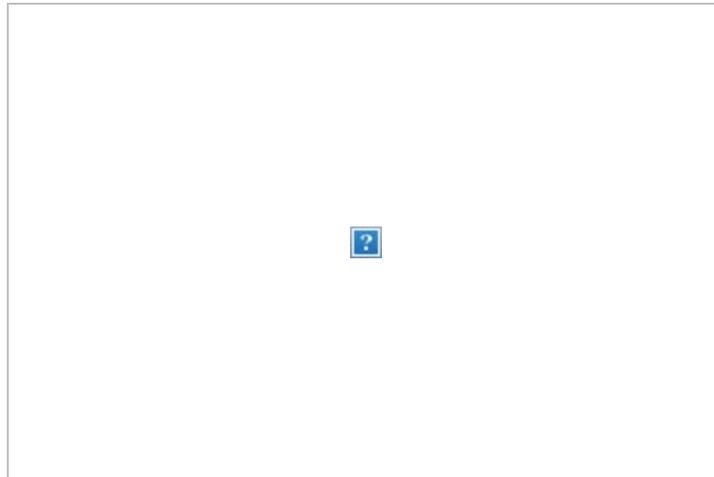


Notable Headlines

- [Navy extending service lives of three cruisers](#)
- [Foreign leaders and governments react as Trump wins 2024 U.S. presidential election](#)
- [Trump will name more conservative judges. He may even pick a majority of the Supreme Court](#)
- [Donald Trump picks Susie Wiles to be chief of staff](#)
- [‘We barely made it out’: Californians desperately flee their homes amid raging wildfires](#)

Worth Reading: [The 14 Places That Explain Trump’s Victory](#)

View From The Hill



After what can only be described as a truly brutal campaign cycle of assassination attempts, changing candidates, and high stakes, Americans went to the polls this week to determine the outcome of the 2024 election, handing Donald Trump the White House for a second time. President-elect Trump will become only the [second](#) person ever to have two nonconsecutive terms, mimicking Grover Cleveland in the elections of 1884 and 1892. While not every race has been officially called, it appears that Trump swept [every](#) swing state, while also putting up better numbers in [non-swing](#) states than a GOP presidential candidate has in decades. While his electoral college victory is not historic in terms of overall count, he did outperform Joe Biden’s 2020 win, as well as his own 2016 race, and is on track to become the first GOP candidate in 20 years to win the national popular vote—a metric largely credited to Trump’s significant [overperformance](#) with Latino and Hispanic voters in 2024. If you listened to TRG’s recent podcast breaking down the race, you already knew what signs to watch on election night to see how the race was breaking. Stay tuned for an upcoming podcast that will help inform our clients on what the outcome

means for politics and policy going into next year.

Along with the White House, the GOP will control the U.S. Senate, where republicans are on track to claim 53 seats, after flipping seats in West Virginia, Ohio, Montana, and Pennsylvania. While they lost the majority, democrats prevailed in tough races in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nevada and are likely to win in Arizona. In other words: it could have been worse for them. The next big contest for the Senate GOP is [leadership](#) elections, which will be held next week in Washington. The looming question is who will replace outgoing, long standing Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). The candidates vying to replace McConnell are Senators John Thune (R-SD), John Cornyn (R-TX), and Rick Scott (R-FL). While Thune and Cornyn have been waiting in the wings for years for this moment and represent a more McConnell-esque style, Scott is expected to play up his close ties to Trump, which will be important for the foreseeable future.

A much murkier picture exists in the House, where enough races remain uncalled that control of the chamber could still go to either republicans or democrats. While democrats won back some seats in New York, republicans exchanged those for new pickups in Pennsylvania. That said, the GOP is [slightly](#) favored to hold an extremely slim majority, and the full slate of current GOP leadership has already [announced](#) plans to run for their current positions, including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA). Assuming republicans do retain their majority, the GOP will hold unified control of government for the first time since 2016, giving the party power to enact its agenda. One thing seems clear: the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, enacted in Trump's first term and coming up for a needed extension, appears likely to stick around—a previously looming question going into 2025.

The GOP's romp has left democrats [pointing](#) fingers and soul searching, as they begin plotting how to recover from a brutal cycle. A particularly incensed Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) [issued](#) a scathing indictment of his own party's failure to appeal to working class voters, who appear to have shifted significantly towards the GOP and Trump. Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) called for the resuscitation of the House Blue Collar Caucus to help democrats lead better on issues important to working class voters.

Aerospace & Defense

[Air Force to send bomber task force to Europe](#)

The U.S. Air Force plans to deploy a new bomber task force to Europe in the coming days to train with NATO allies, reinforcing its commitment to global security amid ongoing regional tensions. While details about the bombers' type, quantity, and exact location remain undisclosed due to security concerns, the task force will conduct joint training missions and showcase strategic readiness alongside NATO partners. This deployment aligns with the U.S. practice since 2018 of rotating bombers abroad temporarily rather than stationing them overseas permanently, to enhance flexibility and reduce vulnerability. Concurrently, the U.S. military is also sending B-52 bombers to the Middle East to deter Iran as tensions there escalate amidst the Gaza conflict. Both deployments underscore the Air Force's strategic posture amid the war in Ukraine and regional instability

[Israel to buy 25 F-15s, with eyes on long-distance combat punch](#)

[Navy taps RTX Raytheon for ESSM Block 2 radar-guided air-defense shipboard missiles in \\$525.5 million deal](#)

The U.S. Navy has awarded RTX Raytheon a \$525.5 million contract for RIM-162 Evolved Seasparrow Missile (ESSM) Block 2, with options that could bring the deal's value to \$2.2 billion over six years. This advanced radar-guided missile will enhance defense capabilities against diverse airborne threats, including aircraft and missiles, for the U.S. and allied navies. Deployed since 2020, the ESSM Block 2 features an active radar seeker for independent terminal engagement without support from the launch ship's radar, improving self-defense in hostile environments. ESSM Block 2 also brings increased maneuverability and range (over 25 miles), enhancing defenses against low-altitude and agile threats like anti-ship cruise missiles and high-speed surface threats. The missile will be utilized by the navies of the U.S., Australia, Canada, and several European nations.

Advanced Technologies

[Trump says he'll put ex-NFL player in charge of US missile shield](#)

Herschel Walker, former NFL player and failed GOP Senate candidate may have a role in Trump's second administration. In a speech in Georgia on Sunday, Trump said he would put Walker in charge of a new missile defense shield. Trump's exact words were "I [Trump] will build a missile defense shield all made in the USA, and put Herschel Walker in charge of that little sucker." At many points throughout the campaign Trump has declared he would create an 'Iron Dome' for the United States, similar to the missile defense systems used by Israel. However, the Iron Dome is used against short-range missiles and "any such system built to protect the US mainland would come with an astronomical price tag and little use in stopping mid to long-range missiles, such as from North Korea or Russia." It was not made clear if Trump meant Walker would oversee the process of building the new system or if he would oversee all US missile defenses. Before running for the Senate in 2022, Walker served as co-chair of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition. His Senate campaign was plagued with controversies and false statements. As the transition process gets underway, it will be a bit of time before we see if Trump will follow through on this.

[Patriot missile knocks out threat target in test with new radar](#)

[Meta AI is ready for war](#)

Meta will now allow US government agencies and contractors to use its open source Llama AI model for "national security applications." In an announcement earlier this week, the company said it's working with "Amazon, Microsoft, IBM, Lockheed Martin, Oracle and

others to make Llama available to the government.” Under their current acceptable use policy, people cannot use the latest Llama 3 model for “military, warfare, nuclear industries or applications, espionage.” However, this update from Meta opens the door for the US military to use Llama to do things like “streamline complicated logistics and planning, track terrorist financing or strengthen our cyber defenses.” Meta says Oracle has already “started building on Llama to synthesize maintenance documents to help aircraft technicians make repairs, while Lockheed Martin is using the model to generate code and analyze data.” Meta stressed how vital it was for the US to get ahead in the AI race, saying it’s “in both America and the wider democratic world’s interest for American open source models to excel and succeed over models from China and elsewhere.”

Military Installations & Communities

[House members push senators to back better pay for junior enlisted](#)

House lawmakers are pushing the Senate to prioritize quality-of-life improvements in the upcoming defense authorization bill, warning that military families—who have traditionally encouraged military careers—are increasingly unlikely to recommend service to their own children due to concerns over low pay and inadequate support. In a letter to Senate leaders, lawmakers emphasized the need for better pay and benefits, noting that current economic pressures have outpaced military pay increases, creating financial insecurity for many enlisted families. The House’s version of the bill includes substantial reforms, such as pay raises of up to 19.5% for troops ranked E-4 and below, which would bring nearly all base salaries above \$30,000 annually. The bill also proposes expanding childcare access, increasing funding for military medical facilities, and enhancing housing stipends and spouse job training—investments that would total more than \$24 billion over five years. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jack Reed acknowledged ongoing negotiations and the intent to wrap them up soon, but he has not specified which issues remain unresolved in the final draft.

[Defense Secretary Calls for Calm Transition, Apolitical Military Ahead of Trump Transition](#)

[2024 Veterans Day Free Meals and Restaurant Deals and Discounts](#)

With Veterans Day approaching this Monday, TRG wanted to share some great offers available for veterans! Here are a few of the deals to look out for if you're a veteran or active-duty military member. And to our veterans reading this: thank you for your service and sacrifice. Some of our top picks include a free tall drink at Starbucks, 10 free wings at Bonefish Grill, a complimentary selected meal at California Pizza Kitchen, and free pancakes at IHOP—plus many more! For a complete list, check out the link above. Additional discounts include 10% off at Target, 20% off select items on Amazon for Veterans Day, free haircuts at Sport Clips, and a special membership offer from AARP.

Homeland Security

[Biden admin is planning for a possible migrant surge before Trump takes office](#)

The Biden administration is preparing for a possible surge in border crossings ahead of Trump's presidency due to potential immigrant's concerns over border closures. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas held a virtual meeting with Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to discuss border security under President-elect Donald Trump. These agencies addressed questions concerning ICE detention facility capacity and operational preparedness for a potential increase in immigration. After Trump's victory, smugglers in Central and South America began advertising their services to come to the U.S., saying that the time to move is now. DHS officials reiterated that they have not yet seen a surge in migrants heading to the U.S. and state that immigration law will continue to be enforced.

[Trump 'takes it upon himself to share intelligence': Former Homeland Security Secy.](#)

[White Supremacist Charged with Attempted Weapon of Mass Destruction Attack and Plot to Destroy Nashville Energy Facility](#)

Skyler Philippi, a 24 year old white supremacist, was arrested on charges of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to destroy an energy facility. He planned to target Nashville, Tennessee's power grid using a drone carrying an explosive device, which would have left hospitals and thousands of Americans without power. Thankfully, the FBI compromised his plot before he could carry out the attack. Beginning in June 2024 Philippi began telling sources about his desire to commit mass shootings, and by September he was driving with undercover employees (UCEs) of the FBI to an electric substation to conduct reconnaissance. On November 2, 2024, he recited a Nordic prayer and told the UCEs that "this is where the New Age begins." When he was arrested the drone was powered up and the explosive device was armed.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Boeing's machinists strike is over but the troubled aerospace giant still faces many challenges](#)

Boeing factory workers have voted to accept the fourth formal contract offer and end their strike after more than 7 weeks. The offer included a 38% wage increase over 4 years, and will allow the company to restart idled assembly lines in the Pacific Northwest. The strike

involved 33,000 union machinists responsible for assembling the 737 Max, Boeing's best selling airliner. As the strikers return to work, Boeing will need to focus on improving its financial circumstances while simultaneously prioritizing quality of workmanship and public relations. Several federal investigations into Boeing began after a door plug blew off a 737 Max during a flight in January, leading to regulations on Boeing airplane reduction until regulators felt confident in their manufacturing safety.

[Voters reject public transportation expansion in two metro Atlanta counties](#)

[TSA proposes cyber risk management programs for surface transportation, pipeline operators](#)

The TSA is seeking public comment on proposed requirements for surface transportation and pipeline companies to implement cyber risk management programs. The rule calls for high-risk pipelines and companies in passenger and freight rail systems to develop cyber risk management programs. This proposal would also require cybersecurity incidents on pipeline, rail, and some transit systems be reported to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and any physical incidents to TSA. A TSA spokesperson states they have met with industry operators to gain their insights, and that the threats to these systems from nation-state actors are unprecedented. TSA is also requiring a physical security coordinator be appointed to the pipeline industry and will require reports on physical security issues.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Trump says he will give RFK Jr. a major health role. Here's what that means for patients, drugmakers](#)

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., vaccine skeptic and former presidential candidate, has been promised a prominent health role during Trump's second term. While the exact nature of the role is unclear, health experts are concerned about severe ramifications for patients, drugmakers, and public health. Lower vaccination rates and a rise in preventable disease could exacerbate our nation's existing public health challenges. Kennedy, who does not have medical or scientific credentials, espouses that drug companies and federal health agencies responsible for their regulation are harming Americans' health, suggesting to take some vaccines off the market. Kennedy's new platform would also bring uncertainty to the pharmaceutical industry without the ability to predict what products he could endorse or revile behind a podium.

[What a big Republican win Tuesday could mean for Obamacare](#)

[FDA proposes ending use of decongestant found in many cold, allergy medicines](#)

The FDA has proposed ending the use of a common ingredient in over-the-counter cold and allergy medications. An extensive review of the data shows that the ingredient, oral phenylephrine, doesn't actually relieve nasal congestion. As a nasal spray, it works by reducing the swelling of blood vessels in the nasal passages, but in the oral form not enough medication makes it to the nose to be effective. The FDA's decision would only affect the oral form. This rule could hurt retail stores such as CVS and Walgreens, which sold 242 million bottles of drugs containing phenylephrine in 2022, generating nearly \$1.8 billion in sales, according to a presentation by FDA staff last year. If this proposal passes, people will likely return to using pseudoephedrine, which was the primary ingredient in cold medicine until 2006 when it was moved behind the counter for its potential misuse in making methamphetamine.

Climate & Development

[Chinese companies use Biden's climate law to expand their solar dominance](#)

About a year ago the Biden administration accused one of China's largest solar manufacturers of evading American tariffs. Now, that same company is building a massive panel factory in Texas – and it could receive “more than \$1 billion in tax subsidies under President Joe Biden's signature climate law.” This move by Trina Solar puts US officials at a crossroads and asks, “Should America reward the companies of one of its biggest adversaries for creating domestic jobs and expanding clean energy?” While giving billions in taxpayer money to Chinese businesses “could drive down the cost of solar energy, create jobs, and cut greenhouse gas emissions” it could also “sideline American manufacturers that are struggling to compete with cheap Chinese-made imports and sink US efforts to build clean energy technologies at home.” The facility is currently under construction and Trina Solar plans to employ 1,300 people and offer an annual payroll of \$80 million. While Wilmer, Texas mayor Sheila Petta praised Trina Solar's arrival, the concept of China benefiting from Biden's climate law has sparked heated debate on Capitol Hill “where there are mounting calls to bar Chinese companies from receiving IRA money.” Biden and Congressional Democrats hoped the IRA would invigorate a ‘Made in America’ clean energy movement, but as of right now Chinese companies are coming to America.

[COP29 chief exec filmed promoting fossil fuel deals](#)

[Already in the political crosshairs, fates of NOAA and FEMA hang in the election balance](#)

Agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), have become increasingly politicized in recent years despite the offices' history of remaining above the fray. With natural disasters

consistently slamming the US with 24 so far this year “causing at least \$1 billion in damage, both agencies have taken on a greater role.” However, these agencies have become a target for some conservatives who are skeptical of climate change and want to slash government budgets. Trump has promised to cut federal budgets and Elon Musk said he would cut “at least \$2 trillion from the budget” if he served in a second Trump administration. While it is not entirely clear how Trump may approach NOAA and FEMA, FEMA in particular has come under scrutiny during the responses to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Some comments made by Trump and other Republicans led FEMA to be the target of threats. With Republicans controlling the White House, the Senate, and potentially the House it may create circumstances where the oversight of FEMA is more intense.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Service Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Appropriations Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Homeland Security Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE



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