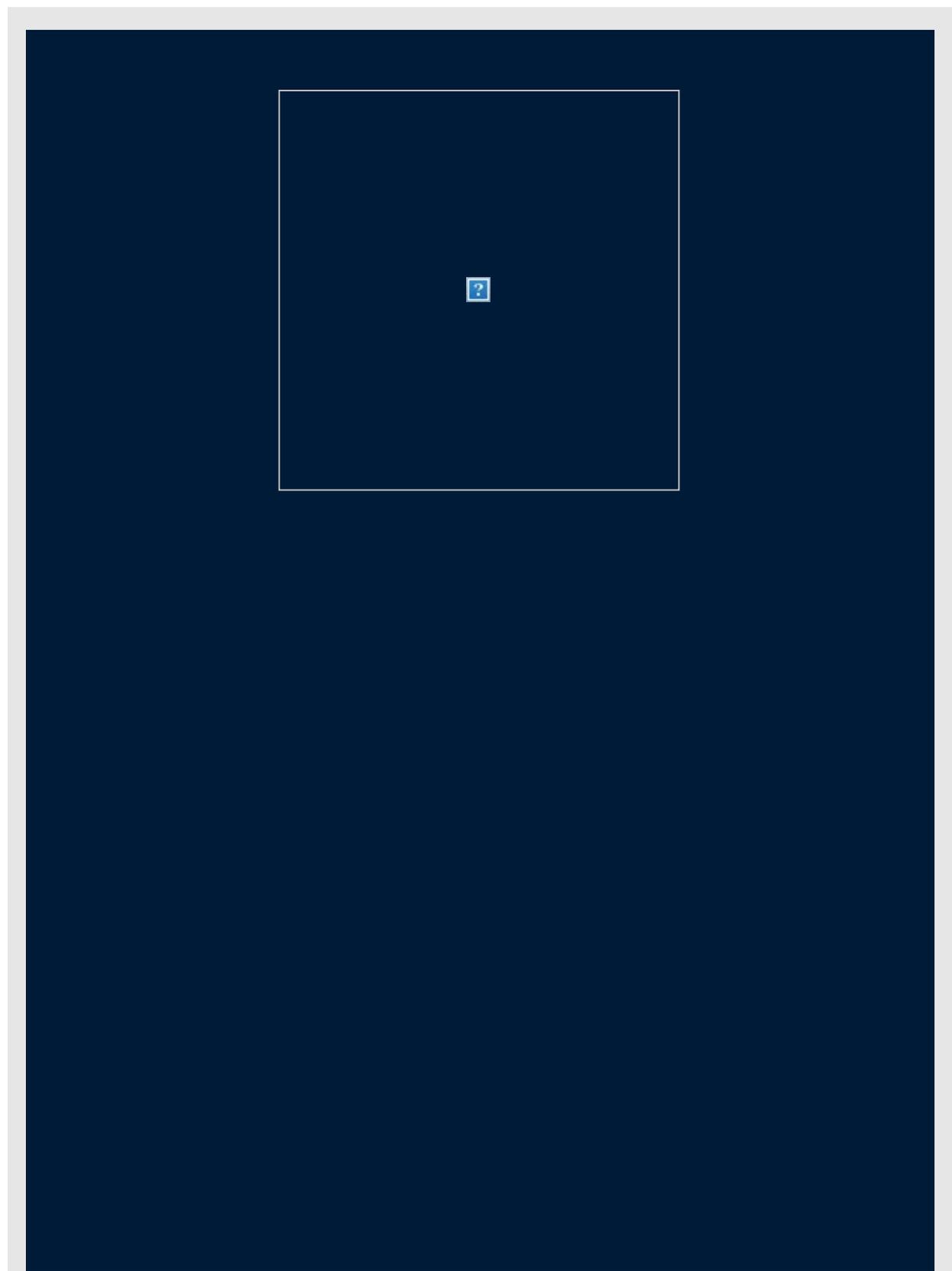


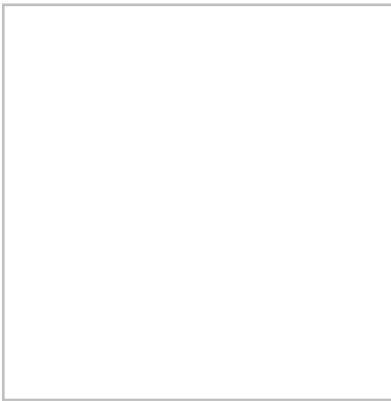
From: [The Roosevelt Group](#)
To: [Ireland, Michelle](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 8:02:21 AM



Executive Insight Brief

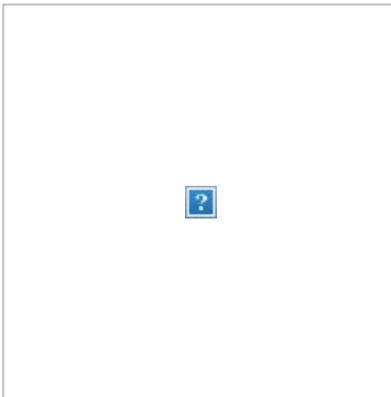
February 28, 2025

Notable Headlines



- [King Charles invites Trump for unprecedented second UK state visit](#)
- [Bloomberg alum shifts party registration as New York mayoral race heats up](#)
- [Slotkin, Espaillat to deliver Democratic responses to Trump's joint address](#)
- [Judge rules mass firings of federal probationary employees is likely illegal](#)
- [Chief justice pauses order for Trump to pay \\$2 billion in foreign-aid funding](#)

View From The Hill



The major news on Capitol Hill this week was Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) [successfully](#) ramming through his budget reconciliation resolution. Just ten minutes after initially delaying the vote on Tuesday evening, Johnson and his leadership team hurriedly rushed Members back to the House Floor to pass the resolution, after an angry phone call from President Trump helped [flip](#) Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN) to a “yes.” This notches another win for Johnson, who, despite consistent doubts and criticism, has now long outlasted his predecessor, former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), and has regularly managed to squeak out victories from his slim majority. Far from final victory, however, republicans and the White House will now need to [reconcile](#) the Senate and House versions of budget reconciliation, all while working to overcome democrats’ [messaging](#) that the GOP will inevitably end up cutting into critical services like Medicaid.

The next major [hurdle](#) for Congress is to fund the federal government beyond the

current Continuing Resolution (CR) which expires on March 14th. Key leaders on the Appropriations Committees and within leadership have yet to strike a deal on topline budget numbers, and democrats are tying negotiations to guarantees that the Trump administration will spend the dollars that Congress appropriates in the manner intended—a requirement to which the White House is unlikely to agree. Absent such an agreement, Congress may be forced to consider an additional CR for the rest of the fiscal year 2025; however, it remains unclear if such a measure could pass either chamber if defense hawks balk or democrats withhold all of their support in the Senate, where sixty votes are needed to overcome a filibuster. All of this is to say the federal government, despite unified control by one party, may be headed towards a shutdown in mid-March.

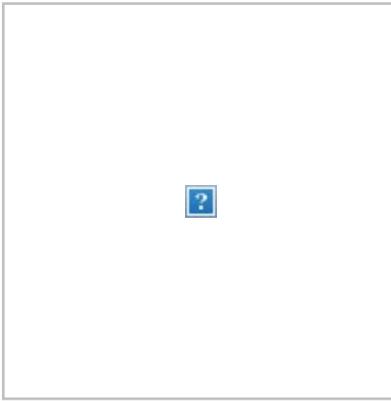
Former Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR) **advanced** out of committee this week to be Trump's Secretary of Labor. She had come under fire from republicans, including Sen. Rand Paul, for her previous support of union-friendly legislation. Meanwhile, Jonathan McKernan, President Trump's pick to lead the now-largely shuttered Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, faced a **grilling** from Senate Democrats over his commitment to enforcing consumer protection laws, and Jamieson Greer was **confirmed** as the U.S. Trade Representative amidst looming trade battles over tariffs.

While democrats on the Hill have been consistently and vocally critical of Elon Musk and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) taking a sledgehammer to parts of the federal government, more republicans are now also **beginning** to speak out. Though still supportive of the overall efforts to decrease bloat in the bureaucracy, Senate Republicans pushed back on DOGE in a meeting with White House Chief of Staff Suzie Wiles this week, requesting more transparency into the initiative and articulating the blowback they have started to receive from concerned constituents.

Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) **flew** to Washington to vote against the House GOP budget measure this week, four weeks after giving birth to her second child. The move highlights a recent and bipartisan push to allow Members to vote by proxy for up to twelve weeks after they or a spouse has given birth. Women **comprise** just 28% of lawmakers on Capitol Hill, and Pettersen is only the 14th Member to give birth while in office.

President Donald Trump is **set** to deliver his first address to the joint-session of Congress since returning to the White House next week on Tuesday, March 4th.

Pentagon News



The Pentagon confirmed that President Donald Trump has dismissed multiple senior military leaders, including Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. CQ Brown, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti, and Air Force Vice Chief Gen. James Slife. In a [post on Truth Social](#), Trump thanked Brown for his more than 40 years of service and announced that retired Air Force Lt. Gen. [Dan "Razin" Caine](#) would be his replacement. Trump praised Caine for his role in defeating ISIS during his first term and claimed he was previously passed over for promotion. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth emphasized a shift toward a "warfighter ethos" and announced the search for replacements for Franchetti and Slife.

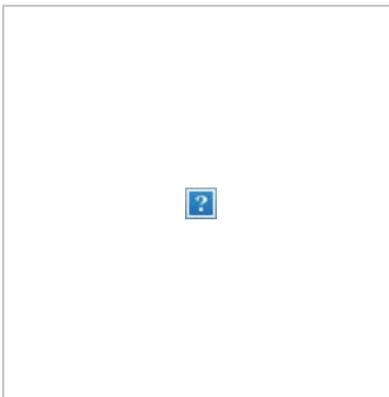
In addition to these firings, Hegseth has also removed the top legal officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, [raising concerns](#) about the independence of the military justice system. The administration reportedly seeks to reform Pentagon legal policies, particularly in areas like rules of engagement and war crimes prosecution. Critics argue that this could weaken impartial legal oversight, while Hegseth insists he wants legal advisers who support commanders rather than hinder decision-making. The move has prompted backlash from legal experts and former officials, who warn it could erode the military's commitment to established codes of conduct.

With President Volodymyr Zelensky's upcoming [visit to the White House](#), discussions surrounding a critical minerals agreement in Ukraine have taken center stage. President Trump has proposed a [deal](#) involving a U.S.-controlled fund that would channel revenues from Ukraine's natural resources, with a portion reinvested back into the country. Notably absent from the most recent draft was Trump's initial demand for Ukraine to contribute \$500 billion to a U.S.-owned fund and repay double the value of any future American aid. Ukraine, meanwhile, has emphasized the need for a security provision, which is only vaguely outlined in the proposal. In his [first Cabinet meeting](#), Trump echoed his cautious stance on security guarantees, stating, "I'm not going to make security guarantees beyond very much. We're going to have Europe do that."

Critical minerals have been a key focus of President Trump's policy since his first term and have spurred many of his interests in increasing U.S. territory abroad, as evidenced by his recent remarks about acquiring minerals from Canada and Greenland. These minerals are vital to energy technologies and highly vulnerable to supply-chain disruptions, and competition with China has exacerbated these challenges.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Kunkel, the Air Force director for force design, integration, and wargaming warned this week that the reported 8% cuts to the budget **would be painful**. Kunkel said this during a discussion at the Hudson Institute Kunkel citing the Air Force is now "smaller and older" than at any other time in its history. He continued saying, "there's not many places that we can go for such cuts." However, Kunkel also expressed hope the Air Force could receive additional funding citing their focus on lethality and deterrence which is in line with Trump administration priorities for the services. As the Air Force moves forward, Kunkel indicated they will need to fine-tune capabilities to counter the nation's threats. Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD), the effort to create a sixth-generation fighter is on hold as the Air Force considers its cost. In December, then Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall, announced he would let the Trump administration make its own decision on the effort. Kunkel is stressing the importance of NGAD saying, "it fundamentally changes the character of the fight in a really good way for the joint force."

Next Week's Hearings



Armed Services Committee:

House: NONE

Senate:

- 3/4, 9:30 AM - Nomination Hearing for Elbridge Colby to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
- 3/5, 2:30 PM - To receive testimony on the posture of the United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for FY2026 and the Future Years Defense Program

Appropriations Committee:

House:

- 3/5, 10:15 AM - Financial Services and General Government, - Member Day

- 3/5, 10:30 AM - Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education - Member Day
- Senate:** NONE

Homeland Security Committee:

House:

- 3/4, 10:00 AM - Future of FEMA: Perspectives from the Emergency Management Community
- 3/5, 10:00 AM - Countering threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Security

Senate: NONE



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