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★ U.S. GOVERNMENT UPDATES ★

Making Daylight Saving Time (DST) Permanent

Twice a year people across the country adjust their clocks, moving them an hour forward or an hour back. Many states in recent years have begun pushing to eliminate time change across the country and the federal government has taken notice.

The US House of Representatives has recently passed the bipartisan **Sunshine Protection Act (H.R. 139)** and sent it over to the Senate for consideration. Under the bill, states would observe daylight saving time year-round. It allows states to opt out of permanent daylight-saving time. However, opting out means a state would choose to remain on permanent standard time rather than participating in year-round daylight-saving time.

DST was first used in Germany during World War I as a way to save energy. The US adopted the practice in 1918 but repealed it a year later. Over the next several decades the US reinstated DST and repealed it, leaving a patchwork of on again-off again practices across the country.



Congress passed the **Uniform Time Act in 1966**, which standardized daylight saving time and its start and end dates across the country — except for Hawaii and Arizona, who opted to keep standard time year-round.

It Has Been Tried Before: During the energy crisis of 1974, the US decided to adopt permanent DST. However, after the first winter of dark mornings, public support dropped so low that it was repealed.

Supporters of permanent DST argue that year-round daylight-saving time boosts economic activity and improves public safety. "The biannual time change disrupts daily routines, inconveniences families and businesses, and no longer reflects the needs of our modern economy," said **Rep. Gus Bilirakis**.

Opponents argue that the bill would force children and commuters to travel or wait for buses in pitch-black morning conditions while also creating long-term health risks. "By moving the clock back an hour in winter, permanent daylight-saving time would push winter sunrises to an absurdly late hour, depriving Americans of morning sunshine that is essential for our safety and well-being," said **Sen. Tom Cotton**.

New Air Force One Takes Flight with New Paint Job.

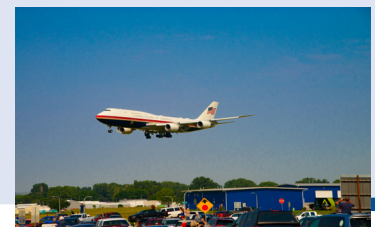


Trump

President Donald Trump has unveiled a newly refurbished presidential aircraft, touting its size, luxury, and updated red, white, and blue paint scheme.

The Boeing 747-8i, donated by the government of Qatar and modified for presidential use, is expected to serve as an interim Air Force One while Boeing continues work on two delayed VC-25B replacement aircraft slated to be delivered in late 2027. The Pentagon accepted the Qatari aircraft last year and has spent recent months preparing it for presidential service.

The aircraft features a red, white, and dark blue color scheme, replacing the light blue- and-white design that has defined presidential aircraft since the Kennedy administration. The Air Force confirmed the updated paint scheme would become the standard across the presidential and executive airlift fleet, including the VC-25B aircraft currently under development.



"Term limits are critical to fixing what's wrong with Washington, D.C. The Founding Fathers envisioned a government of citizen legislators who would serve for a few years and return home."

SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TX)

THE ISSUE: At the start of every new congressional term a handful of lawmakers introduce legislation that would amend the US Constitution and impose term limits on members of Congress. The amendment would limit US Senators to two six-year terms and Members of the US House of Representatives to three two-year terms after its enactment.

As Americans grow tired of politicians fighting to get things done in Washington D.C., they are looking for solutions and the idea of term limits is becoming more appealing as the gap between lawmakers and the general public continues to widen.

Many states have begun to pass or consider an Article V Convention to impose these term limits. **Article V of the U.S. Constitution** gives states the power to call a convention to propose amendments. It takes 34 states to call the convention and 38 to ratify any amendments that are proposed. To date, 20 states have passed an Article V resolution.

THE CONTROVERSY: There is much debate on what the Founding Fathers intended for time served in Congress when they wrote the Constitution. They voted to not include term limits in the final version of the US Constitution, choosing instead to rely on regular frequent elections as the primary check against tyranny.

Many founders believed that allowing officials to serve longer terms fostered greater expertise and stability in government. Others argued that omitting term limits



could create a de facto monarchy or encourage corruption.

Those currently serving in congressional leadership positions (those who set and guide the consideration of legislation) have been in office for an average of thirty years or more.

THOSE FOR congressional term limits say that forcing elected representatives in Congress to face term limits would make it so that they better represent the public. They point out that when Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to run for a fourth term, Congress moved swiftly to pass the **22nd Amendment** to impose term limits for presidents, but refuse to do the same for themselves. Current politicians have become so embeded in the system that they are far removed from those they are supposed to be serving.

THOSE AGAINST congressional term limits say that experienced representatives make better policy decisions and reduce the influence of lobbyists. They argue that forcing turnover can lead to a loss of "institutional knowledge", making lawmakers more dependent on unelected staff and lobbyists who stick around permanently. Imposing term limits would deprive the voting public of the candidate they truly want to represent them in Congress.



TERM LIMITS were strongly debated during the Constitutional Convention in 1787. The preceding Articles of Confederation actually enforced term limits for delegates (three years out of every six), but this idea was dropped in the new Constitution.

Alexander Hamilton argued that term limits would restrict the energetic administration of government, and thought periodic elections would act as the true safeguard against abuse.

Thomas Jefferson strongly advocated for rotation in office (term limits), believing it prevented corruption and kept leaders connected to the public.

"We require age verification at brick-and-mortar shops. Why shouldn't we require it online?"

SEN. MIKE LEE (R-UT)

THE ISSUE: There has been an increased pressure from government officials for social media and internet providers to censor information or images that they deem harmful to those under the age of 18.

US Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) has introduced the **Shielding Children's Retinas from Egregious Exposure on the Net (SCREEN) ACT (S. 737)**. The bill requires commercial websites and online platforms with content harmful to minors to use age-verification technology.

It would require certain websites to use concrete technology to ensure users are not minors, going beyond basic self-attestation or birthdate entry. Platforms must actively prevent minors from viewing content deemed harmful to children. The bill proposes checking user traffic coming from known Virtual Private Network (VPN) addresses unless the service knows the user is outside the United States.

THE CONTROVERSY: The bill calls for age verification when dealing with inappropriate or harmful content where minors are concerned. But who determines what is harmful? The government would. The language in the bill allows for application to not only legit harmful sites but also streaming services, like Netflix and social media platforms, if the government deems them to contain any harmful content.

There are also major concerns about protections for internet users and their private data and information once collected by these sites. Uploading government IDs or biometric scans (like facial photos) creates large databases of sensitive personal data that hackers can steal.

THOSE FOR age verification say that protecting minors from harmful content on the internet outweighs a person's right to access a website. This bill would give companies an enforceable standard to meet statutory requirements and avoid heavy civil penalties. Parents cannot be everywhere all at once and the internet makes it all too easy for children to access information they shouldn't. One of the government's fundamental responsibilities is to protect children through laws and policies. This is an extension of something they already do on many levels.

THOSE AGAINST online age verification laws say these mandates create severe risks with very little actual improvement to user safety. They can harm domestic abuse survivors, whistleblowers, and activists who rely on anonymity to stay safe, leading to being cut off from vital support networks. They point out that millions of adults lack a standard photo ID or have identification that does not match their current name or appearance. Requiring proof of identity turns everyday web browsing into a form of tracking and mass surveillance.



ONLINE AGE VERIFICATION

has gained steam recently due to data showing that addictive social media algorithms and sites with harmful imagery are strongly linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, and loneliness in young people. States across the US have begun a major push to implement age verification systems on what they view as mostly unregulated internet.



The Executive and Legislative Branches are Clashing Over Constitutional Powers.

War Powers are something that many past Presidents and Congress' have fought to control. Article I, Sec. 8, of the US Constitution grants Congress the ability to declare war while Article II, Sec. 2, gives the President the role of Commander-in-Chief. In 1973, the 93rd Congress passed the War Powers Resolution to limit independent military actions by presidents. This required presidents to notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops and bringing those troops home within 60 - 90 days unless Congress declared war or approved continued deployment. In recent decades, congressional consent has usually been accomplished by the passage of an "authorization for the use of military force" instead of a war declaration.

Recently, the conflict in Iran has once again brought this issue back to the forefront. President Trump's administration has argued that the president holds inherent constitutional power under Article II to deploy forces and protect US assets and allies without prior congressional approval. Congress has been unable to pass legally binding legislation to end the conflict but has passed resolutions asking the President to put an end to the conflict. Since the War Powers Resolution's passage, the courts have repeatedly declined to rule on its constitutionality.

The White House Ballroom has been another instance where the usage of Executive powers are in question. In October 2025, demolition of the original East Wing of the White House began. A major lawsuit was filed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to stop the project for lacking congressional approval. Lower courts have ruled that construction could not continue without congressional approval but the Supreme Court recently ruled that construction could continue because the organization who brought the suit in the first place did not have standing, or a right to bring the lawsuit due to not having a personal stake in the outcome.



Meanwhile, lawmakers have introduced specific measures, like the People's White House Historic Preservation Act, to mandate public and congressional review for such changes but none have advanced.

HISTORY OF THE EAST WING

1805: President Thomas Jefferson built a single-story colonnade on the east side, which was later removed in 1866.

1902: Architect Charles McKim rebuilt the East Terrace as a glass-enclosed, single-story entrance for visitors and social events.

1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt added a second story to cover an underground air-raid shelter (now the Presidential Emergency Operations Center) and added workspace for the First Lady.

2025: The historic East Wing was demolished to make space for a new White House State Ballroom.



This newsletter is a publication of the **Student Governmental Affairs Program (SGAP)**, a nonprofit organization founded by **National Write Your Congressman**.

2435 N. Central Expressway | Suite 300
Richardson, TX 75080
<https://www.sgap.org>



YES: REP. SETH MOULTON (D-MA)



"Term limits for Congress is a very controversial idea but at the end of the day I think it would probably make Congress better. If you went to Congress knowing that you had a certain

period of time to get things done and to do the right thing for the country, and now is going to be your legacy not just how many times you could get reelected, then maybe you would make better decisions."



NO: REP. HARRIET HAGEMAN (R-WY)



"The drafters of our constitution intended the legislative branch, the one directly elected and accountable to the voters, to be the most robust and strongest of the three branches. And I believe

that term limits would not only undermine that intent, but substantially alter our relationship with our elected officials...We need to strengthen the legislative branch, not weaken it. Yet, that is ultimately what will happen if we have term limits."



YES: SEN. JOHN CURTIS (R-UT)



"I'm deeply concerned that children remain vulnerable to explicit content online, as well as the psychological and societal harm it brings. Our bill ensures that online platforms

take responsibility by leveraging modern technology to verify users' ages and prevent minors from accessing explicit material — all while upholding personal freedoms."



NO: REP. ANALILIA MEJIA (D-NJ)



"Instead of accountability, this bill mandates age verification for every user, meaning more Americans will be forced to hand over IDs and personal data to Big Tech, resulting in

more surveillance and less responsibility for the very companies profiting off harm to children. Nearly a hundred civil liberties and child safety organizations opposed this bill for exactly that reason."



Dear Member of Congress:

I am a student receiving information from the Student Governmental Affairs Program. Here are my opinions on these issues. I would greatly appreciate any response you might like to share.

1) Should members of Congress have term limits?

Comments: _____

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Undecided

2) Should the government require age verification to access websites they deem harmful to minors?

Comments: _____

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Undecided

Student Name

School Name

School Address

Nationwide Student Voting Results from the Last SGAP Newsletter

	Yes	No	Undecided
1) Should SNAP be used to buy junk food? Yes: "I feel like people should spend their SNAP on food that they want to eat and if it's unhealthy then that is on them." "I feel like it could negatively impact kids if they are told what they are allowed to buy." "That would be embarrassing in an already sad situation." No: "SNAP should not be used to buy junk food with taxpayer money." "Junk food causes so many health problems." "If they want to buy junk, they need to use their own money to do so."	10%	79%	11%
2) Should the US withdraw from NATO? Yes: "We are tired of paying more than our fair share to protect other countries." "We put a lot of money into NATO and some countries put little to no money in it nor help us." No: "We need not to anger any allies in this time of war." "I think that the other members of NATO do need to pull their weight but I don't think we need to leave NATO."	38%	50%	12%

This ballot was prepared by the Student Governmental Affairs Program (SGAP), a nonprofit, nonpartisan student civics program, located at: 2435 N. Central Expressway, Suite 300, Richardson, TX 75080 | Phone: 1-800-806-7427 | Website: <https://www.sgap.org>