**Press Winter break 2025**

##### **US News**

* Domestic news

##### **Slide 2**: **Iowa lawmakers voted to remove transgender people’s civil rights protections.**

##### The Iowa Senate and House passed the legislation overwhelmingly along party lines after [protesters packed the galleries and hallways](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/02/27/iowa-transgender-rights-revoke-legislature/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41574a1%2F67c1a2ec34dff96628dfe692%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F46%2F101%2F67c1a2ec34dff96628dfe692) of the Capitol in Des Moines.

##### The governor then signed the bill into law 🡪 Iowa is the first state to revoke nondiscrimination protections for transgender people. It follows [recent actions by Trump](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/01/29/trump-trans-executive-orders-fear-confusion/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41574a2%2F67c1a2ec34dff96628dfe692%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F47%2F101%2F67c1a2ec34dff96628dfe692) to roll back transgender rights.

**Slide 3**: **Kash Patel was narrowly confirmed as FBI director by the Senate (51 to 49)**: Patel — a former Trump aide, federal prosecutor and assistant public defender — was sworn in despite concerns from Democratic senators and two Republican senators who voted against his nomination that he lacked the temperament and experience needed for such a powerful law enforcement role.

+ **Slide 4:** **Trump announced conservative podcaster Dan Bongino as FBI deputy director**: The FBI deputy director is not appointed by the president himself and does not require Senate confirmation. The deputy director takes the lead on day-to-day operations at the agency, including oversight of high-profile and sensitive investigations. Typically, such appointees have had long careers as FBI agents before assuming the role.

Bongino has built a media empire adopting pro-Trump views, including [widely debunked claims](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/09/15/2020-election-trump-false-fraud-claims/) about the “rigging” of the 2020 presidential election.

The appointment, which places a second Trump [ally](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/11/30/trump-kash-patel-fbi-director/) at the top of the FBI, may add to concerns about the lack of experience among those running the country’s premier law enforcement agency. Since Trump’s inauguration, [at least eight top](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/02/20/kash-patel-fbi-senate-confirmation-vote/) FBI officials have been forced out, while managers at the agency have been told that up to 1,500 staff and agents will be transferred out of the bureau’s Washington headquarters to satellite offices across the country, The Washington Post [reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/02/21/fbi-agent-transfers-kash-patel-sworn-in/).

**Slide 5**: **D. Trump is set to sign an executive order aiming at closing the Education Department**

President Donald Trump is set to issue an executive order directing his newly confirmed education secretary to work to close the department she now leads, two people familiar with the situation said.

A draft of the executive order that circulated on Wednesday recognizes that the president does not have the power to shutter the [Education Department](https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2025/02/04/department-of-education-explained-trump/). It would take an act of Congress and 60 “yes” votes in the Senate, which is unlikely given that Republicans hold only 53 seats.

Rather, the draft calls on Education Secretary Linda McMahon to “take all necessary steps” to facilitate the closure of the department “to the maximum extent appropriate and permitted by law.”

Officials including McMahon have suggested that might include trying to shift some of the agency’s functions to other parts of government — though that would also face legal hurdles because the agency’s major programs are assigned by law to the Education Department.

**Slide 6**: **Nearly 100 people have contracted measles in Texas and New Mexico.**

The potentially life-threatening disease [is spreading rapidly](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/02/24/measles-outbreaks-texas-new-mexico/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F414b084%2F67bc5cee34dff96628dcd23a%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F58%2F103%2F67bc5cee34dff96628dcd23a) 25 years after it was declared eliminated in the U.S., as [vaccination rates have dropped](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/08/11/childhood-vaccinations-decline-worldwide/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F414b085%2F67bc5cee34dff96628dcd23a%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F59%2F103%2F67bc5cee34dff96628dcd23a).

Most U.S. measles cases this year involved people 19 and younger, and those without a confirmed vaccination. It is most threatening to children under 5.

**Slide 7**: clear conflicts of interest linked to Musk’s role as head of DOGE, as employee cuts target, among others, a federal agency in charge of regulating Tesla

**Slides 8-9-10**: **CPAC (Conservative Political Action Committee) 2025 took place in Maryland**: among other things, it reinforced Trump’s deification, featured another Nazi salute (this time by Trump advisor Steve Bannon), another speech by JD Vance saying that immigration is the greatest threat for the US and Europe, and Elon Musk playing with a chainsaw offered by Argentina president Javier Milei.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/5159449-trump-victory-lap-cpac-2025/>

**Slides 11-12: Elon Musk’s demand that federal workers justify their work caused chaos.**

Elon Musk’s [demand that all 2.3 million government workers](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/02/22/musk-email-federal-workers/)justify their work prompted confusion and resistance on Sunday, as several government agency leaders told their staffs not to reply to a mass email requesting bullet-point summations of their accomplishments.

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard instructed personnel in U.S. spy agencies not to respond, according to the text of an email she sent to the workforce on Sunday, citing the agencies’ sensitive and classified work. Defense Department employees were given similar instructions to not respond, as were FBI personneland Department of Homeland Security employees.

The latest directivescome as employees and leaders alike across the government were caught off guard by an email sent Saturday titled: “What did you do last week?”

It commanded federal employees to “reply to this email with approx. 5 bullets of what you accomplished last week and cc your manager,” according to a copy obtained by The Washington Post. It gave employees a deadline of 11:59 p.m. Eastern time Monday.

The email left many worried, others defiant and still others stunned. The resistance, which grew throughout the weekend, came even from some top administration officials selected by President Donald Trump.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/22/musk-federal-employees-explanation-dismissal-00205613>

**Slide 13**: **although unelected and not an official member of the Trump administration, Elon Musk attended Trump’s first Cabinet meeting of his new term on Wednesday, February 26th**

**Slide 14**: **Canada is fighting back! More than 230,000 Canadians sign petition to revoke Musk’s citizenship**

More than 230,000 Canadians have signed a [petition](https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-5353) asking the country’s prime minister to revoke Elon Musk’s citizenship and passport, accusing the tech billionaire and Trump ally of joining a “foreign government that is attempting to erase Canadian sovereignty” and engaging in “activities that go against the national interest of Canada.”

**+ slide 15 do you know what a “Canadiano” is? 🡪** some Canadian coffee shops are serving “Canadianos” instead of Americanos.

* Foreign affairs

**Slide 16**: **Emmanuel** **Macron tried to sway Trump as the U.S. backed Russia over Ukraine in U.N. vote**

French President Emmanuel Macron tried Monday to bend President Donald Trump back to the side of Kyiv and Europe, after an intense White House effort to end the war in Ukraine in which the U.S. leader blamed Ukraine, not Russia, for the invasion by the Kremlin three years ago.

Meeting Trump in the Oval Office, Macron scrambled to salvage transatlantic ties amid what appears to be [a historic realignment](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/23/trump-world-putin-ukraine/) between Washington and Moscow.

The French visit — on the third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine — came as the Trump administration [sided with Russia and against Ukraine and Europe](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/02/24/united-nations-ukraine-russia-trump/) at the United Nations in votes about how to mark the grim date. It was the most profound split between Western allies at the international body since the lead-up to the Iraq War in 2003, and it was yet another signal of the way in which Trump has [embraced Russia](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/02/19/trump-zelensky-putin-russia-ukraine/), a historic foe, rather than Europe and Ukraine, the United States’ longtime partners against Kremlin aggression.

**Slide 17**: **The U.S. voted with** [**Russia and 16 other countries**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/02/24/united-nations-ukraine-russia-trump/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F414ef52%2F67bdae6efe9d672c2a370232%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F19%2F102%2F67bdae6efe9d672c2a370232) **against a U.N. resolution condemning Russia. And Russia said it could give the U.S.** [**access to its rare minerals**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/02/24/putin-russia-rare-metal-ukraine-trump/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F414ef53%2F67bdae6efe9d672c2a370232%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F20%2F102%2F67bdae6efe9d672c2a370232)**.**

The United States voted with Russia, North Korea and 15 other Moscow-friendly countries Monday against a U.N. resolution condemning Russian aggression in Ukraine and calling for the return of Ukrainian territory. The resolution, sponsored by representatives from Kyiv, passed overwhelmingly in the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.S. delegation also abstained from voting on its own [competing resolution](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/02/22/ukraine-war-un-resolution-trump/) that simply called for an end to the war, after European-sponsored amendments inserting new anti-Russian language in the resolution were approved in the 193-member body by a wide margin. The amended U.S. resolution also passed.

https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/24/politics/us-joins-russia-ukraine-un-vote/index.html

**Slide 18**: **Trump vowed to impose 25% tariffs on Europe, adding that the EU had been created to “screw the US”… 🡪 the EU responded saying that it would take retaliatory measures**

**Slide 19**: **Tariffs**: China and Canada [unveiled retaliatory measures against the US](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAkCD247PEzzJghnkN7Siw6I3vXTbVx0Hde_hMbJ1UnlSvvJvFx-1lNTC_0oqxGEoPB-1umOuP_p2F6Zcnq5IVLnnNLikyAXlpieZBmROV2MNGynA15OOSuZ8rzaLQL5dbzGsziM-HQY9-qZSs0u6XQrHN5gUw3P7RVDrXaB1NCvhms3AcqJe0vH7byb_7lJwkEJBq51gGf35h90xi6b6r0uIlPUzQKyLBrzpnUMfZw60KZ9Fjyvlu6YjiKfDVxRvs/4ei/fVGiHXOgSty7UWfqgRvWoA/h35/h001.5H3FF-gixUwauDxI28ofszrXhKHQHeTdCBqZQV_4Xe8) after Donald Trump imposed his sweeping tariffs plan on Tuesday, despite warnings it could spark an escalating trade war. The new US tariffs stand at 25% against goods from Canada and Mexico and 20% against those from China.

China’s finance ministry said additional 15% tariffs would be imposed on chicken, wheat, corn and cotton, with further 10% tariffs on sorghum, soya beans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables and dairy products. It has also raised additional complaints against the US with the World Trade Organization.

The Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, said Ottawa would respond with immediate 25% tariffs on C$30bn (£16.3bn) worth of US imports. He said previously that Canada would target US beer, wine, bourbon, home appliances and Florida orange juice.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/04/trump-tariffs-canada-mexico-china?utm_term=67c6a042285964ac359ee8d78277b368&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email>

+ **slide 20**: **Trudeau’s reaction to Trump’s “dumb” trade war**: seen as a way to destabilize the Canadian economy to better absorb the country as its 51st state

+ **slide 21**: an unlikely symbol of tensions between Canada and the USA: a Canada goose was documented fighting off a bald eagle (also echoing a Canadian victory in an ice hockey game against the USA three days earlier)

+ **slide 22**: even beer ads are getting political

🡪 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OzbmriDgQc>

**Slide 23: UK PM Keir Starmer met with D. Trump**

Starmer used flattery [and a royal invitation](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/27/trump-starmer-ukraine-king-charles/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F4157499%2F67c1a2ec34dff96628dfe692%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F26%2F101%2F67c1a2ec34dff96628dfe692) to push Trump to support Ukraine. After private talks, Trump affirmed that “the US and UK have a special relationship, very special, really like no other passed down through the centuries. And we’re going to keep it that way. We’re going to keep it very strong as it is.”

Despite the generally cordial tone, Trump didn’t shy away from goading the prime minister at times. During questions about the war in Ukraine, he asked the prime minister, “could you take on Russia by yourselves?”, prompting nothing more than a laugh from Starmer.

The UK’s distance from the European Union appears to have worked in its favour when it comes to Trump’s tariffs. While the president did not explicitly confirm that Britain would be spared, he strongly implied it, stating that the UK is in a “very different place” to the EU.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/27/trump-starmer-meeting>

**Slide 24**: **Trump and Vance ganged up to bully Ukraine leader Volodymyr Zelinskyy in a surreal press conference**

Trump on Friday, February 28th, presided over one of the greatest diplomatic disasters in modern history. Tempers flared, voices were raised and protocol was shredded in the once-hallowed Oval Office. [As Trump got into a shouting match with Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zelenskyy,](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/28/trump-zelenskyy-meeting-ukraine-aid-war) a horrified Europe watched the post-second world war order crumble before its eyes.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/28/trump-zelenskyy-shouting-match-oval-office?utm_term=67c2bfae613028f90e76dcf44482da08&utm_campaign=SaturdayEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=saturdayedition_email>

* Immediately followed by a European summit (joined by Canada and Turkey) in London (**Slide 25**)

**Slide 26**: Donald Trump has [suspended delivery of all US military aid to Ukraine](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEDZ6B-1FqgwPH629GPFez9eInZC7Bkfo3JATjdbVoGl9sXTqjPMvXdkSZnL6S9JTIcVOz6DaBLnAPo-SCteSD3RKAbV2nVkRwNQt_tFeuqVTQEbKisaOaFnkPAghx5r9sm1jT5BKqJH3ItIWcKercZ0ftkrOFyNz8PYs7cbbPWGtcCLAMR9UIGo4E6CqoYuALG5zTDVd9vn_vXnXoJU7dpacpV40B8Pflux9KNVShBe_XrSUCU5JajSVrb9-HzNqKcsFra96pqM50ESLJnKiR50/4ei/fVGiHXOgSty7UWfqgRvWoA/h33/h001.04_FTg0RpFzOL0WyDGCHsORNxaJK4rQUZL3YzBBhn4o), blocking billions in crucial shipments as the White House piles pressure on Ukraine to sue for peace with Vladimir Putin. The Trump administration was earlier reported to be drawing up a plan to restore ties with Russia and lift sanctions on the Kremlin.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/04/us-military-aid-ukraine-pause-trump-zelenskyy-updates?utm_term=67c6a042285964ac359ee8d78277b368&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email>

+ **slide 27**: The [US has stopped sharing intelligence with Ukraine](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEDZ6B-1FqgwPH629GPFez9e4NROqaFQIr_Zz9-PunaKpERs8DyBpPfPT5eiNWo3NVKfHmhTxe7OzQs0PtXgYz2KqgwAghLSqI4QUjwg33CufWcB77VDC3mFURfApaWGhAoWVpulLsLY0SSduyAqXJuyUc-8LVPBKE4SZUeq5RnZ4Zu5PViMbaypa4PHRNq5bhMvKFSI35jLf18AoIA3NAA9P69WVM9Sdm4V_IX8wNq2iP8dFjDx7rQurivmk4T7e56jymtQHzPhA5i4V5-6lmQW/4ek/t211x2KeTmGP_c66_2O3Ng/h35/h001.Lt494g9QsiuPQyxd9IwtW15T7-2gmiNKc9s14_GJWbA) after Donald Trump’s suspension of military aid on Monday, in another serious blow to Kyiv in the war with Russia. Ukrainian officials suggested the US would no longer provide information about targets inside Russia, hindering Ukraine’s ability to carry out effective long-range drone strikes.

**Slide 28**: European leaders holding emergency talks in Brussels have agreed on a [massive increase to defence spending](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEDZ6B-1FqgwPH629GPFez9eZlAT4UV5SAbimf64FGwvJg5nVT_G9xavcmvVsZinBsuffPt1wymmYI1Jm4kB9_ZPpCDUEys_rJkY3FiWqKSbEtXMx3xfwSFHxNtXVOgwI_P3gg5HavY8hnqsOb7OZg8lANRVUjPkN3I3MdLRMPmkzXCQXDi2A3yLTnovCMrtvhwgQ5AHAd88vOc9eSbufVAANwXsJZk2QlJwebaQ-TP2-j9yaGK7AORpFBrAajaMVMURaJauqxiQaG8FH0mpUE39_kC03E6JK9AywaMPSU6tww/4el/06oYcuypQKCdTOM9jvOcsA/h35/h001.bODfSG_0VQ97lBAgzEzT3gviTYV_R3hYdGnSpMMCWno), amid a drive to shore up support for Ukraine after Donald Trump halted US military aid and intelligence sharing. The European Commission president, [Ursula von der Leyen](https://www.theguardian.com/world/ursula-von-der-leyen), who presented to leaders an €800bn (£670bn) plan to increase European defence spending, said it was “a watershed moment for Europe” and also for Ukraine.

**Slide 29**: **Donald Trump’s State of the Union Address**: rather another campaign rally, during which the president touted his “achievements” (DOGE, end of DEI, tariffs…) and railed the Democrats

Key takeaways:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/03/04/politics/takeaways-trump-congress-address/index.html>

+ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55ydhE2TY-M>

**Slide 30: Counter powers at work! In a surprise move, the US Supreme Court said that a judge can force the Trump administration to pay foreign aid**

A sharply divided Supreme Court on Wednesday, March 5th denied the Trump administration’s request to block a lower court order on foreign aid funding, clearing the way for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to restart nearly $2 billion in payments for work already done.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined the court’s three liberal justices in the 5-4 order, which was the high court’s first significant move on [lawsuits related to President Donald Trump’s initiatives](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/07/trump-lawsuits-executive-orders-actions-legal-challenges/) in his second term.

**Slide 31 + 32**: **have you seen these lovely belly dancers? 🡪 maybe this image of money falling from the sky will refresh your memory 🡪 what about gold statue of D. Trump?**

* Trump reposted an AI-generated video showing a fantasized version of what Gaza could become if his idea of turning it into the new Riviera happened (it of course features Musk and Netanyahu too)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PslOp883rfI>

##### **The media**

##### **Slide 33**: **Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos announced that the “opinion” section of the newspaper will now only feature points of view defending individual liberties and the free market. This follows his refusal for the newspaper to endorse K. Harris in October 2024.**

*Post* Opinions Editor David Shipley, whom Bezos recruited from Bloomberg Opinions in 2022, chose to resign rather than stay to oversee the paper's revamped sections.

"We are going to be writing every day in support and defense of two pillars: personal liberties and free markets," Bezos [wrote in a memo to staffers](https://x.com/JeffBezos/status/1894757287052362088) announcing the changes. "We'll cover other topics too of course, but viewpoints opposing those pillars will be left to be published by others."

Newspaper op-ed sections have incorporated opposing views for years. The term "op-ed" is literally an abbreviation for pieces running "opposite the editorial pages" that often conflicted with a publisher's editorial line. But Bezos characterized that practice as outdated.

"There was a time when a newspaper, especially one that was a local monopoly, might have seen it as a service to bring to the reader's doorstep every morning a broad-based opinion section that sought to cover all views," Bezos said. "Today, the internet does that job."

<https://www.npr.org/2025/02/26/nx-s1-5309725/jeff-bezos-washington-post-opinion-section>

**Space**

**Slide 34**: **A private company’s lunar lander touched down on the moon on Sunday, March 2nd**: Firefly Aerospace’s Blue Ghost lander, which is on a two-week research mission with NASA funding. It’s part of what could become [a new era in lunar exploration](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/03/02/firefly-blue-ghost-moon-landing/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41653da%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F69%2F105%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c).

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/03/02/firefly-blue-ghost-moon-landing/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41653da%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F71%2F105%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c>

**Oscars**

**Slide 35**: **“Anora” dominated at the 97th Academy Awards with five wins.**

The [sex-worker comedy-drama](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/movies/2025/03/03/anora-mikey-madison-oscars-2025/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41653cb%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F48%2F105%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c) picked up best picture, [best director](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/movies/2025/03/02/sean-baker-oscars-record-wins-anora/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F41653cd%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F50%2F105%2F67c5976e34dff96628e2083c) and best actress for Mikey Madison. Adrian Brody won Best Actor for the second time for his role in *The Brutalist*, while Zoe Saldana and Kieran Culkin won best supporting actress / actors, respectively for *Emilia Perez* and *A Real Pain*.