



Washington Insider

M A G A Z I N E



US Deploys THAAD Missile Defense System, Troops to Israel Amid Iran Tensions

Italy Investigates Corruption in EU RRF Funds, Multiple Arrests Made

BY LIAM FLYNN

08

PIPIR: Strengthening US and Allied Defense in the Indo-Pacific

BY CONOR LA ROUCHE

22

Iran Fires Missiles at Israel, Warning of 'Crushing' Response to Retaliation

BY ADRIANA MONTES

38



OUR TEAM



Danielle Campbell



Athena Nagel



Henry Nicholas



Kathy Malouf



Mandilee Hecht



Seb Jenkins



ZACH SCHRADER



ERIC GAHAGAN



Christina Levandowski



TRENT R. NELSON



Washington Insider

ABOUT US

Transatlantic Today delighted to present the Washington Insider Magazine, a product that we present to our readers in Washington DC and beyond. Our magazine publishes unique and independent coverage on transatlantic relations with a Washington perspective. Transatlantic Today covers policymaking, politics and business related to the transatlantic relationship.

Our magazine strives to be become a key news analysis source for news on politics and policymakers in the US with particular focus on DC. Our coverage is designed with nonpartisan journalism and real-time tools create, inform and engage a those seeking timely and concise news.

We believe in providing our audience with indepen-

dent journalism throughout expert writers, analysts and journalists. Our culture is distinguished by unwavering grit, honesty, and a focus on innovation.

Our work is designed by relentless grit, integrity and a prioritization of urgent and newsworthy topics.

In both of our website and and this magazine we cover topics about Diplomacy, Security, Defence, Counter Terrorism, foreign policy and international affairs. Indeed our reporting, OPeds, interviews with various stakeholders provide unique insights and analysis as well as the tools to arm you with the intel you need to make informed decisions.

Here I wish to commend.

Editorial Team

Table of Contents

04

Europe

10

US Nationwide

22

Security & Defense

29

Capitol Hill Politics

38

Middle East



AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
SKEPTICISM GROWS: POLL
REVEALS DEEP CONCERNS



DOD UNVEILS PLAN TO
IMPLEMENT NATIONAL DEFENSE
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY



INDIAN-AMERICAN VOTERS SEE
POLITICAL CLOUD GROW IN 2024
ELECTION

Borås, Cartagena, Nuremberg & Vienna: Finalists for the 2025 Access City Award

BY MANDILEE HECHT



Europe (Washington Insider Magazine) – The European Commission has announced the four finalists for the 2025 Access City Award, recognizing Borås (Sweden), Cartagena (Spain), Nuremberg (Germany), and Vienna (Austria) for their commitment to urban accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Commitment to Inclusive Urban Spaces

These cities have demonstrated excellence in:

- accessible built environments—improving roads, parks, and buildings.

- Public transport accessibility—ensuring inclusive mobility.

- Digital & communication

accessibility—enhancing online services and information.

European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, emphasized:

“Cities must be accessible for persons with disabilities to fully participate in society. Accessibility is a cornerstone of inclusion, benefiting over 100 million EU citizens with disabilities.”

2025 Access City Award Ceremony

Winners announced: November 29, 2024

Event: European Day of Persons with Disabilities conference

Live-streamed with international sign interpretation & captions

Special Focus on Accessible Sports Infrastructure

Aligned with the 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games, a Special Mention will be awarded for Accessible Sports Infrastructure, recognizing cities that promote inclusive sports facilities.

About the Access City Award

Since 2010, this award has celebrated cities prioritizing accessibility. It is part of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, aiming for a Europe without barriers.

Past winners:

2024: San Cristóbal de La Laguna (Spain)

2023: Skellefteå (Sweden)

2022: Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)

Belgium to Revoke Work Permits for 5 Turkish Imams Over Foreign Funding

BY LIAM FLYNN



Belgium (Washington Insider Magazine) – Belgian authorities have decided not to renew the work permits of five Turkish imams after discovering they received funding from the Turkish government, violating a recent ban on foreign financing.

Why Are Their Work Permits Being Revoked?

Foreign funding ban: Since May 2024, Belgium has prohibited economic migrants, including religious leaders, from receiving funds from foreign governments. **Screening results:** The imams,

who worked in Antwerp, Sint-Niklaas, Ghent, Diest, and Lommel, were flagged during a Flemish government review.

Concerns over foreign influence: Flemish Minister Zuhair Demir emphasized that government interference cannot be ignored.

What Happens Next?

Three months to find a new job—if they fail, Belgium's Federal Immigration Office may expel them.

60 days to appeal—if they choose to challenge the decision.

Automatic residence permit revocation: EU rules dictate that a lapsed work permit leads to residence permit loss.

Belgium's Changing Work Permit Rules

October 2024: Brussels introduces new salary-based thresholds for work permits.

Updated EU Blue Card rules: Now accepts five years of experience as an alternative to a diploma for skilled workers. Belgium's stance on foreign-funded religious leaders reflects broader efforts to limit external influence in domestic affairs.

Denmark Stops Recognizing Extended Afghan National Passports

BY MANDILEE HECHT



Denmark (Washington Insider Magazine) – Denmark has officially ceased recognizing extended Afghan national passports as of September 18, 2024. This decision means that Afghan nationals residing in Denmark who hold an extended passport must now obtain a new national passport by contacting Afghan authorities. For those with a Danish residence permit based on asylum, the Danish

Immigration Service has confirmed that they are eligible to apply for a convention or alien's passport.

However, Afghan nationals holding residence permits for reasons other than asylum must provide proof that they are unable to obtain a national passport in order to qualify for an alien's passport. Additionally,

Denmark has stated that the requirement to travel back to Afghanistan to obtain a new passport will not be considered a valid reason for issuing an alien's passport. This policy change aligns with Denmark's stricter immigration regulations and may significantly impact Afghan residents who rely on extended passports for legal identification and travel.

G7 Supports Ukraine's NATO Path, Warns of Rising Global Tensions

BY MANDILEE HECHT

Ukraine (Washington Insider Magazine) – The Group of Seven (G7) defense ministers have reaffirmed their commitment to Ukraine's "irreversible" NATO membership while expressing concerns over escalating global conflicts, particularly in the Middle East. Meeting in Naples, Italy, the ministers focused on key security issues, including Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, China's military actions around Taiwan, and tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto emphasized that while the G7 cannot single-handedly resolve these global tensions, it must act as a driving force for broader international action. The final statement reinforced Ukraine's path to full Euro-Atlantic integration, highlighting growing concerns over North Korea's support for Russia's war efforts. German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius warned that this conflict is expanding beyond its original scope, while the G7 also condemned China's increasing military activities and its backing of Russia.

The meeting took place just days after Israel claimed responsibility for the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described this as a major turning



point in the war, while US President Joe Biden suggested it could open the door to peace. However, analysts warned that Sinwar's killing might intensify Israel's military presence in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. The G7 called for an immediate ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages, warning that ongoing attacks could trigger further instability in the Middle East.

Another major point of discussion was Israel's recent strikes in Lebanon, which have endangered UN peacekeeping forces. US

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin urged Israel to scale back its attacks on Beirut and reassured that Israel had no intention of targeting peacekeepers. Italy, a major contributor to the UN force in Lebanon, has voiced strong opposition to these attacks, with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visiting Lebanon and Jordan to assess the situation.

As global security tensions continue to rise, the G7 reaffirmed its role in promoting stability and cooperation while calling on the broader international community to take decisive action.



Italy Investigates Corruption in EU RRF Funds, Multiple Arrests Made

BY LIAM FLYNN



Italy (Washington Insider Magazine) – The European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) in Rome, in collaboration with the Italian State Police, has launched a large-scale investigation into a suspected criminal organization accused of misusing funds from the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Several house searches, arrests, and asset seizures have been carried out in the Lazio and Campania regions as part of the probe.

Five civil servants, including the mayor of Ceccano, are accused of operating a corruption scheme in which public contracts worth €5 million were

awarded in exchange for bribes. The projects in question, executed between 2021 and 2023, included earthquake-proofing an elementary school, public infrastructure improvements, and migrant accommodation services. Investigators discovered that part of the bribes paid by beneficiaries was funneled to criminal associates, while another portion was laundered through shell companies using false invoices.

Authorities have placed 13 individuals under precautionary measures, with 10 under house

arrest and three banned from engaging in business activities or holding managerial positions for one year. Additionally, a court in Frosinone issued a freezing order for €500,000, which is now being executed by the Italian State Police.

While the investigation continues, all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court. The EPPO, responsible for prosecuting financial crimes against the EU, remains committed to ensuring the proper use of European funds and tackling corruption within public institutions.

Italy Transfers First Migrants to Albania Under New Asylum Deal

By Jan Frazier



Italy (Washington Insider Magazine) – In a move to curb irregular migration, Italy has transferred the first group of asylum seekers to Albania under a controversial new agreement. The Italian navy ship *Libra* docked in the port of Shengjin on Wednesday morning, where 16 migrants—10 from Bangladesh and six from Egypt—were escorted into a newly built processing center.

The deal, the first of its kind between a European Union nation and a non-EU country, allows Italy to process asylum applications outside its borders. Two reception centers have been built in Albania, with a

maximum capacity of 3,000 migrants at any given time. Italy has set an annual limit of 36,000 migrants to be transferred, restricting the program to “non-vulnerable” men from countries classified as safe.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hailed the initiative as a model for Europe, but rights groups argue it undermines migrants’ rights to asylum. A small protest at the port highlighted concerns, with banners reading, “The European dream ends here.” Activists warn the policy could set a precedent for shifting asylum responsibilities away from EU nations

Following initial processing in Shengjin, migrants will be moved inland to Gjader, where they will await the outcome of their asylum applications. Those approved will be sent to Italy, while rejected applicants will be repatriated to their home countries.

With migration tensions rising across Europe, countries like Germany and Poland are also adopting stricter policies. As Italy implements its offshore processing system, the debate over migration management and asylum rights in the EU continues to intensify.

The No. 1 Leading Cause of Stress in America: Politics, Not Family

By Christina Levandowski



US (Washington Insider Magazine) -Every year, the American Psychological Association (APA) releases a report on the leading causes of stress in the U.S. While issues like money, health, and family consistently rank high, the latest findings reveal a new top stressor—politics. Political Anxiety Crosses Party Lines

According to the 2024 Stress in America report, seven out of ten adults cite concerns about the nation's future as a significant source of stress. This anxiety isn't limited to one political group:

- 80% of Republicans rate it as a top concern.
- 79% of Democrats agree.
- 73% of Independents feel the same way.



Lynn Bufka, a clinical psychologist and APA's deputy chief of professional practice, was surprised by the overwhelming bipartisan concern. She notes that Americans are increasingly skeptical about whether the country's checks and balances are functioning properly. Many also worry about the potential for political violence following election results.

Declining Trust in Government and Society

Beyond general political stress, the report highlights growing distrust in government:

- 54% of adults say they have little to no trust in the U.S. government.
- 41% of Americans have considered leaving the country due to political turmoil.
- 46% of respondents refuse to date someone with different political views.
- 82% are concerned about misinformation shaping public opinion.
-

These statistics reflect a deeply divided nation where personal and social relationships are increasingly influenced by political ideologies.

How to Reduce Political Stress

Despite widespread stress, experts say there are effective ways to mitigate anxiety and bridge divides. Tania Israel, a professor at UC Santa Barbara

and author of *Facing the Fracture: How to Navigate the Challenges of Living in a Divided Nation*, suggests the following approaches:

1. Engage in Face-to-Face Conversations – Social media often fuels division. Talking directly to others with different viewpoints fosters understanding.
2. Get Involved in Civic Activities – Volunteering, coaching, or working the polls can provide a sense of purpose and community.
3. Focus on Common Goals – Issues like job security, public safety, and infrastructure improvements affect everyone, regardless of political affiliation.

A Silver Lining: Voter Engagement is Rising

Despite political stress, three out of five Americans feel hopeful about the upcoming election. Additionally, 80% of respondents say they intend to vote—suggesting that political anxiety may be fueling greater civic engagement rather than apathy.

Bufka emphasizes that while division remains high, many Americans still want to find common ground. The challenge lies in relearning how to communicate effectively and work toward shared goals.

Conclusion

The data is clear—political stress has overtaken financial and family concerns in America. While the future may seem uncertain, individuals can take proactive

steps to reduce stress, rebuild trust, and foster meaningful conversations beyond partisan lines. Engaging with one another offline, focusing on shared community efforts, and staying informed through reliable sources can help Americans navigate the political turmoil without letting it dominate their mental well-being. Every year, the American Psychological Association (APA) releases a report on the leading causes of stress in the U.S. While issues like money, health, and family consistently rank high, the latest findings reveal a new top stressor—politics.

Political Anxiety Crosses Party Lines

According to the 2024 Stress in America report, seven out of ten adults cite concerns about the nation's future as a significant source of stress. This anxiety isn't limited to one political group:

- 80% of Republicans rate it as a top concern.
- 79% of Democrats agree.
- 73% of Independents feel the same way.

Lynn Bufka, a clinical psychologist and APA's deputy chief of professional practice, was surprised by the overwhelming bipartisan concern. She notes that Americans are increasingly skeptical about whether the country's checks and balances are functioning properly. Many also worry about the potential for political violence following election results.

Declining Trust in Government and Society

Beyond general political stress, the report highlights growing distrust in government:

- 54% of adults say they have little to no trust in the U.S. government.
- 41% of Americans have considered leaving the country due to political turmoil.
- 46% of respondents refuse to date someone with different political views.
- 82% are concerned about misinformation shaping public opinion.

These statistics reflect a deeply divided nation where personal and social relationships are increasingly influenced by political ideologies.

How to Reduce Political Stress

Despite widespread stress, experts say there are effective ways to mitigate anxiety and bridge divides. Tania Israel, professor at UC Santa Barbara and author of *Facing the Fracture: How to Navigate the Challenges of Living in a Divided Nation*, suggests the following approaches:

- **Engage in Face-to-Face Conversations:** Social media often fuels division. Talking directly to others with different viewpoints fosters understanding.
- **Get Involved in Civic Activities:** Volunteering, coaching, or working the polls can provide a sense of purpose and community.

1. **Focus on Common Goals:** Issues like job security, public safety, and infrastructure improvements affect everyone, regardless of political affiliation.

A Silver Lining: Voter Engagement is Rising

Despite political stress, three out of five Americans feel hopeful about the upcoming election. Additionally, 80% of respondents say they intend to vote—suggesting that political anxiety may be fueling greater civic engagement rather than apathy.

Bufka emphasizes that while division remains high, many Americans still want to find common ground. The challenge lies in relearning how to communicate effectively and work toward shared goals.

Conclusion

The data is clear—political stress has overtaken financial and family concerns in America. While the future may seem uncertain, individuals can take proactive steps to reduce stress, rebuild trust, and foster meaningful conversations beyond partisan lines. Engaging with one another offline, focusing on shared community efforts, and staying informed through reliable sources can help Americans navigate the political turmoil without letting it dominate their mental well-being.

American Democracy Skepticism Grows: Poll Reveals Deep Concerns

By Christina Levandowski



New York (Washington Insider Magazine) – A recent New York Times/Siena College poll highlights a growing skepticism among American voters regarding the state of democracy in the United States. According to the survey conducted between October 20-23, 2024, 76% of voters believe that American democracy is under threat, while nearly 45% say it does not effectively represent the people.

Distrust in Government and Political System

Voter confidence in the government remains alarmingly low. The poll reveals that 62% of respondents believe the government primarily serves elites rather than the public. This perception has been fueled by rising concerns over corruption, ineffective policymaking, and a lack of tangible progress on critical issues such as inflation, gun control, and healthcare.



Partisan Divide on Democracy's Future

Although the majority of voters agree that democracy is at risk, their views on what threatens it differ by party. Republicans tend to cite government overreach, election integrity issues, and media bias as significant concerns. Conversely, Democrats point to former President Donald Trump as the primary danger, with many fearing autocratic tendencies in his leadership approach.

"He is a dictator incarnate," said Jeffrey Braman, a military veteran from Lansing, Michigan. "More than 70 million Americans believe in him, which means they want a king, not a democracy."

Trust in the 2024 Election Process

Despite fears about the state of democracy, 78% of voters express confidence in the accuracy of the 2024 election results, an improvement from previous years. However, skepticism remains, particularly regarding Trump's potential response to a loss. The poll indicates that 60% of voters are not confident that Trump will accept the election results if he loses, with 47% fearing he may attempt to overturn them.

Public Sentiment on Political Leadership

The poll also found that voters view Trump as a major driver of political division, with nearly 60%

stating he exacerbates partisan tensions. In contrast, only 37% believe Vice President Kamala Harris contributes to worsening political divides. Interestingly, while many voters express concerns about threats to democracy, only 7% consider it their top issue when choosing a president.

Calls for Political Reform

Amid widespread dissatisfaction, 58% of voters believe that the nation's financial and political systems require significant changes or a complete overhaul. Many cite the influence of lobbyists, political elites, and corporate interests as barriers to a truly representative democracy. Randal Parr, a retired farmer from Indiana, expressed his frustration: "The Washington elite control everything, and the will of the people has been ignored. It's not just Democrats or Republicans—it's the entire system."

Looking Ahead: Can Trust in Democracy Be Restored?

As the 2024 election approaches, the growing divide over democracy's health will likely remain a defining issue. While most voters trust the election process, their broader concerns about governance, corruption, and representation signal a deep need for systemic reform. The challenge for future leaders will be restoring faith in democratic institutions and addressing the issues that matter most to everyday Americans.

Trust in American Media Reaches Historic Low as Institutional Skepticism Grows

By Christina Levandowski



US (Washington Insider media remains at an all-time low, with only 31% of Americans expressing confidence in news organizations to report “fully, accurately, and

fairly.” This figure is nearly identical to last year’s 32% and continues a trend of declining trust since 2016.

For the third consecutive year, more Americans (36%) have no trust at all in the media than those who express a fair or great deal of confidence. Another 33% report having “not very much” trust in media sources such as newspapers, television, and

radio.**Decades of Declining Media Trust**

Gallup has been tracking trust in the media since 1972. In the 1970s, public confidence was high, ranging from 68% to 72%. By the late 1990s and early 2000s, trust had dropped to between 51% and 55%. Since 2016, the numbers have remained consistently low, with the latest survey conducted from Sept. 3-15, 2024 reinforcing this trend

Partisan Divide in Media Trust

Political affiliation continues to play a significant role in media perception:

- 54% of Democrats express confidence in the media.
- 27% of Independents trust the media, matching their all-time low from 2022.
- Only 12% of Republicans trust news organizations—a figure close to their lowest historical level.

Democrats’ trust in media dropped sharply in 2016 to 51% but later rebounded, peaking between 68% and 76% from

2017-2022. However, their trust declined to 58% in 2023 and has continued to fall since.

Generational Gaps in Media Confidence

Trust in the media also varies significantly by age:

- 43% of Americans aged 65+ trust news organizations.
- Only 26% of Americans under 50 express confidence.
- Among young Democrats (ages 18-29), only 31% trust the media, compared to 74% of Democrats aged 65+.

Americans Trust Local and State Governments More Than National Institutions

Among the 10 civic and political institutions surveyed, the media ranks among the least trusted, alongside Congress. In contrast, Americans place greater trust in local and state governments.

- 67% trust local governments to handle community issues.
- 55% trust state governments to address state-level concerns.
- 54% trust the American people as a whole to make informed decisions under a democratic system.

Other key findings:

- Judicial Branch (U.S. Supreme Court): Trusted by 40%-48% of Americans.
- Executive Branch (President): trusted by less than half of Americans.
- Legislative Branch (Congress): Only 34% trust lawmakers in Washington..

- Political Candidates: gained a slight six-point increase in public trust from last year

Democrats vs. Republicans: Who Trusts Institutions More?

Partisan differences extend beyond media trust. Democrats express higher confidence in most institutions except for the judicial branch:

- Democrats (54%–82%) trust most government institutions, except Congress and the judiciary.
- Republicans have greater confidence in state and local governments and are the only group with higher trust in the judicial branch than Democrats.

Conclusion: A Crisis of Institutional Confidence

The United States continues to experience a widespread crisis of trust in key institutions, including the federal government, political leadership, and mass media. While state and local governments still maintain majority support, skepticism remains high regarding the integrity of national governance. As trust in American media reaches record lows, the growing partisan and generational divide highlights broader concerns about the role of the press in democracy. Whether these trends will shift in the future remains uncertain.

Local Governments Thrive as Centers of Compromise Amid National Polarization

By Eric Gahagan



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – A new study from CivicPulse and Carnegie Corporation of New York reveals that while political polarization is intensifying at the national level, local

governments remain strongholds of bipartisan cooperation. The survey, which polled over 1,400 local elected officials and civil service

leaders, found that although 87% believe polarization is harming the country, only 31% say it significantly impacts their local

communities.

Local Governments Prioritize Problem-Solving Over Partisanship

According to Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie Corporation, national political divisions are not disrupting local governance, where officials prioritize policy-making over party loyalty. “Communities, whether liberal, conservative, or mixed, are focused on forging compromises and addressing daily challenges,” she said.

Smaller Communities Experience Less Polarization

The study found that smaller communities are less affected by political divisions:

- 46% of officials in cities (50,000+ residents) reported strong polarization.
- Only 28% of officials in towns (1,000–10,000 residents) reported the same.

Jeff Sorensen, a township supervisor in Michigan, noted that while candidates run under party labels, once elected, “those hats come off, and we serve the people.”

Why Local Governments Are Less Divided

Surveyed officials pointed to several reasons why local governments avoid the extreme polarization seen at the national level:

- Personal connections: Local officials and constituents

interact frequently, fostering common ground.

- Issue-based governance: Local problems—such as potholes, sewer repairs, and infrastructure—rarely align with partisan ideology.
- Quick decision-making: Many local issues require immediate action, making bipartisan cooperation essential.

Sorensen recalled a 2018 emergency water crisis in Michigan, where city officials collaborated across party lines to restore clean drinking water within 72 hours. “Nobody cared about politics—we just worked together,” he said.

Polarization Intensifies During Elections

Despite their relative political stability, local governments experience heightened polarization during election seasons. The study found that local officials, responsible for ballot collection, poll worker recruitment, and election oversight, often become targets of voter frustrations regarding federal elections.

Nathan Lee, founder of CivicPulse, noted that even in small communities, officials “become the front lines for people expressing their concerns—sometimes respectfully, but often not.”

National Issues Driving Local Divisions

While local governments maintain a cooperative environment, some

national debates are infiltrating local politics, particularly:

- School curriculum and LGBTQ+ issues
- Public library book bans
- Local zoning laws

These topics, though nationally charged, fall under local governance, making them unavoidable for city councils and school boards.

The Role of Local News in Combating Misinformation

The decline of local news outlets and the rise of social media have also contributed to misinformation and increased local tensions. Emily Holmes, a local official in Pennsylvania, noted that online discussions often escalate more divisively than in-person conversations.

“People are much bolder online than they are face-to-face,” she said.

Conclusion: Local Governments as Pillars of Stability

Despite national turmoil, local governments continue to function as oases of compromise, focusing on problem-solving over partisanship. The study suggests that community-based governance fosters trust, as officials remain accessible and relatable to their constituents.

“Local government leaders are people you see at the gym or grocery store,” Lee said. “That connection builds trust, and trust is what keeps local communities working together.”

2024 Election Spending to Hit \$16 Billion: Where Is It Going?

By Christina Levandowski



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – The 2024 U.S. election is set to become one of the most expensive in history, with total spending projected to reach nearly \$16 billion. This surpasses previous records and highlights the massive financial influence in modern elections. From campaign budgets to super PACs and advertising blitzes, here's a breakdown of where the money is going.

Campaign Spending: Harris Outspends Trump

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign has spent more than double that of former President Donald Trump since she entered the race. According to Federal Election Commission data:

- Harris' campaign has spent over \$800 million on advertisements, staffing, and outreach.
- Trump's campaign has spent around \$360 million, significantly less than his opponent.

This spending difference underscores the Democratic

strategy of leveraging financial resources to gain an electoral edge.

Super PACs and Outside Groups: A Multi-Billion Dollar Influence

Beyond direct campaign funding, superPACs and outside groups have poured over \$2 billion into the presidential race alone.

- More than \$845 million has been spent targeting opposing candidates.
- Total outside spending is

- expected to exceed \$5 billion by Election Day.

Notably, pro-Trump super PAC “Make America Great Again Inc.” has invested over \$239 million, while the Harris-backed “Future Forward” has spent more than \$212 million. These groups amplify campaign messages and target key voter segments.

Ad Spending in Battleground States: The Fight for Swing Votes

Advertising remains the largest expense for campaigns and their supporters. While Democrats have outspent Republicans in total TV ad spending, recent reports show a shift in battleground states:

- Pro-Trump ads in Pennsylvania totaled over \$35 million, compared to \$30 million for pro-Harris ads.
- Similar trends are seen in Wisconsin and Arizona, where Republican ad spending has gained momentum in the final weeks.

The intense focus on swing states underscores their crucial role in determining the election outcome.

Senate Races: Democrats Lead in Spending

Like the presidential race, Democrats have outspent Republicans in several key Senate battles:

- In Ohio, Democratic incumbent Sherrod Brown outspent Bernie Moreno 4-to-1.



- The Texas Senate race is the exception, where Ted Cruz and Colin Allred have spent nearly equal amounts in a highly competitive contest.

These spending patterns suggest that financial resources could be a deciding factor in close Senate races.

Billionaire Donors Shaping the Election

The 2024 election is also heavily influenced by wealthy donors, with the top 10 contributors donating nearly \$600 million. This level of financial backing highlights the power of elite donors in shaping election

outcomes.
Conclusion: The Cost of Winning in 2024

With \$16 billion in projected spending, the 2024 election cycle is a testament to the growing financial stakes in American politics. Campaigns, super PACs, and donors are investing heavily to sway voters, especially in battleground states and key Senate races. As Election Day approaches, spending is expected to surge even higher, making this one of the most financially intense elections in U.S. history.

Harris Holds Narrow 46%-43% Lead Over Trump in Tight Presidential Race

By Eric Gahagan



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – A new Reuters/Ipsos poll shows Vice President Kamala Harris holding a slim 46% to 43% lead over former President Donald Trump, with voter concerns about the economy and immigration shaping the race. Despite the lead, the contest remains too close to call, with seven key battleground states likely to determine the outcome of the November 5 election.

Voter Sentiment: A Nation on the Wrong Track

The survey reveals a pessimistic electorate, with:

- 70% of voters saying their cost of living is worsening

- 60% believing the economy is on the wrong path.
- 65% expressing concerns over immigration policies.

While voters favor Trump's economic and immigration policies, Harris leads on issues like political extremism, democracy, abortion rights, and healthcare.

Key Policy Comparisons

- Economy: Trump leads 46% to 38%.
- Immigration: Trump leads 48% to 35%.
- Democracy & Political Extremism: Harris leads 42% to 35%.
- Abortion & Healthcare: Harris holds an edge.

Voter Turnout: Enthusiasm Rises

The poll suggests higher voter engagement than in 2020, with 79% of registered voters—including 87% of Democrats and 84% of Republicans—saying they are certain to vote.

Final Push: Turnout Will Be Crucial

With the Electoral College ultimately deciding the winner, both campaigns are ramping up efforts to mobilize voters. The race remains on a knife's edge, making battleground states and voter turnout pivotal in determining the next U.S. president.

PIPIR: Strengthening US and Allied Defense in the Indo-Pacific

By Conor La Rouche



China (Washington Insider Magazine) – As tensions rise in the Indo-Pacific, the United States faces a critical challenge—the risk of exhausting its munitions in a prolonged conflict with China. The Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR), launched in June 2024, could be the answer to ensuring sustained military readiness.

The Threat: A War of Attrition Against China

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has invested heavily in long-range strike capabilities,

posing a serious threat to US and allied forces. The biggest risk for the US in a war is sustainment—replacing expended munitions and weapons systems quickly enough to remain combat-effective. Recent US operations have highlighted this vulnerability. For example:

- The US Navy depleted a significant portion of its global stockpile of SM-3 interceptors during missile defense operations in October.
- US defense production struggles to keep pace, with

key missiles like advanced SM-3 variants being produced at a rate of just a dozen per year.

Enter PIPIR: A Multinational Defense Initiative

PIPIR is designed to enhance defense industrial resilience across the Indo-Pacific by:

- Pooling resources among allies to ensure faster resupply in wartime.
- Expanding co-production of critical military hardware, such as:
 - Artillery (South Korea)
 - Missiles & Rockets (Australia)



- Hypersonic Interceptors (Japan)
- Drones (Taiwan)
- Integrating regional supply chains to overcome the Pacific's logistical challenges.

region, PIPIR could reduce delivery times from weeks to days, helping offset China's anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) strategy.

- Securing Commitments for Wartime Supply – Establishing binding agreements among allies to guarantee continued arms production and resupply during crises.

Key Steps for PIPIR's Success

To maximize its impact, PIPIR should focus on:

- Assessing Defense Production Capacity – Identifying which allies have surplus production and where investments are needed.
- Standardizing Critical Weapon Systems – Emulating NATO's standardization agreements to ensure interoperability.

Avoiding the “Tyranny of Distance”

A major US weakness in the Indo-Pacific is logistics—resupplying forces across vast distances. Pre-positioned stockpiles are not enough, as they are:

- Limited in size and can't sustain a prolonged conflict.
- Vulnerable to Chinese missile strikes in a war.

By co-producing weapons in the

Conclusion: A New Model for Allied Defense Cooperation

While still in its early stages, PIPIR has the potential to transform US-led defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. With China's military modernizing rapidly, ensuring supply chain resilience and wartime sustainment will be crucial in deterring conflict and protecting US interests.

US Deploys THAAD Missile Defense System, Troops to Israel Amid Iran Tensions

By Jan Frazier



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – The United States has announced the deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system and 100 troops to Israel, further solidifying its support amid escalating tensions with Iran.



US Reinforces Israel's Air Defenses

According to the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved the deployment to enhance Israel's existing missile defense systems and protect both Israeli and US personnel from potential Iranian missile attacks.

"This action underscores the United States' ironclad commitment to the defense of Israel and to defend Americans in Israel from any further ballistic missile attacks by Iran," the Pentagon said.

What is THAAD?

The THAAD system, one of the most advanced US missile defense platforms, is designed to:

Intercept ballistic missiles at high altitudes.

Complement Israel's existing defenses, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow

systems.

Protect key military and civilian targets from long-range missile threats.

Unlike Iron Dome, which targets short-range rockets, THAAD is built to stop ballistic missiles in their final approach, adding a new layer of protection.

Why Now? Rising Regional Tensions

The US move follows Iran's October 1 missile barrage on Israel—retaliation for the assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and an Iranian general. This strike heightened fears of an all-out regional conflict, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowing a response.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that the US deployment was "putting the lives of its troops at risk," signaling potential consequences for further escalation.

Implications: Will Israel Strike Iran?

Military experts suggest that the deployment of THAAD could signal Israel is preparing for a retaliatory strike against Iran, but is waiting until the missile defense system is operational.

- Israel has expanded its attacks in Lebanon, engaging Hezbollah forces.
- Biden has urged restraint, advising against attacking Iran's nuclear sites or oil facilities.
- The US continues to provide military aid, with over \$14 billion allocated since October 2023.

Conclusion: US-Israel Defense Ties Strengthen Amid Crisis

While Washington says it prefers diplomacy over escalation, its military presence in Israel signals an enduring commitment to Israel's security. Whether this deployment deters Iran or pushes the region closer to war remains to be seen.

DOD Unveils Plan to Implement National Defense Industrial Strategy

By Conor La Rouché



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has released the National Defense Industrial Strategy Implementation Plan (NDIS-IP), detailing how it will strengthen the defense industrial base and mitigate risks in the near, medium, and long term.

A Roadmap for Defense Industrial Strength

The NDIS-IP builds on the National Defense Industrial Strategy (NDIS) released in January 2024. It provides a

structured approach to:
Enhance supply chain resilience
Strengthen defense production capabilities

Foster international collaboration

Modernize military infrastructure and acquisition pathways

“The defense industrial base serves a larger purpose than any single action or investment dollar,” said Laura Taylor-Kale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy.

Six Key Initiatives in the NDIS-IP

The NDIS-IP outlines six major

initiatives to ensure a modernized, resilient defense industrial base:

Indo-Pacific Deterrence Initiative

- Focus on munitions, missile production, and submarine manufacturing.
- Strengthens U.S. military presence in the Indo-Pacific.

Production and Supply Chains Initiative

- Onshoring of defense-critical production.
- Reducing reliance on adversarial capital sources.
- Cybersecurity enhancements

and critical material stockpiling.

Allied and Partner Industrial Collaboration Initiative

- Deepens partnerships under AUKUS (Australia, UK, US).
- Expands weapons system co-production with allies.

Capabilities and Infrastructure Modernization Initiative

- Upgrades the nuclear and organic industrial bases.
- Enhances maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capacity.

New Capabilities Using Flexible Pathways Initiative

- Advances the Replicator Initiative to accelerate tech innovation.
- Improves defense acquisition processes.

Intellectual Property & Data Analysis Initiative

- Ensures efficient resource use across program life cycles.
- Integrates intellectual property planning into acquisition.

What's Next? A Cross-Cutting Defense Strategy

The NDIS-IP is designed to unify efforts across military branches and defense agencies, ensuring no single component is solely responsible for execution.

"A key focus of implementation is championing initiatives that are cross-cutting," Taylor-Kale noted.

With this plan, the DOD aims to fortify national security, enhance deterrence, and create a more agile defense ecosystem.



India, US Strengthen Defense Ties with New Agreement at INDUS-X Summit

By Conor La Rouche

US (Washington Insider Magazine) – Stanford, CA U.S. and Indian defense officials signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the INDUS-X Summit on September 9, 2024, pledging deeper cooperation in defense innovation and technology development.

Bipartisan and Enduring US-India Relations

At the summit, Hoover Institution Director Condoleezza Rice emphasized that US-India relations will remain strong regardless of political changes, stating:

"This is one of the most important, if not the most important, relationships."

Launched in 2023, the India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) fosters collaboration between the two nations' militaries and defense industries, particularly encouraging start-ups and small tech firms to contribute to defense innovation.

Key Developments from the INDUS-X Summit

\$1.2 million in prizes awarded for maritime surveillance tech.

30+ active US-India defense projects, a significant rise from just a handful in 2016.



Major US-India military exercises ongoing in Rajasthan, with plans for testing Javelin missiles and Stryker vehicles along the India-China border.

Strengthening Defense Innovation and Collaboration

The MOU, signed by DIU Director Doug Beck and Indian Defense Official Amit Satija, aims to:

Expand joint military exercises and technology demonstrations.

Enhance information sharing and reduce regulatory friction.

Leverage start-ups and commercial tech for faster defense production.

India-US Cooperation Extends to Space

The summit also highlighted

growing space collaboration:

India signed the Artemis Accords in 2023.

Potential participation in the US Lunar Gateway Program.

Joint space data-sharing since 2019 for enhanced security.

General Stephen Whiting of US Space Command raised concerns over:

China's satellite towing capabilities that could disrupt orbiting assets.

Russia's potential nuclear-armed satellite deployment.

A Strategic Step Forward

The INDUS-X Summit showcased the increasing synergy between the US and Indian defense sectors, aligning shared security interests with joint innovation initiatives.

India, US Strengthen Defense Ties with New Agreement at INDUS-X Summit

By Conor La Rouché



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – To maintain military superiority, the US must transform its defense technology acquisition process, ensuring it keeps pace with adversaries. Members of the House Armed Services Committee warn that without a fundamental culture shift, the Department of Defense (DoD) will remain stuck in a slow, costly, and unsustainable cycle.

Barriers to Innovation in US Defense

Despite legislative reforms such as Other Transaction Authorities and the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies Program, bureaucratic red tape and risk-averse culture still hinder innovation.

Rigid procurement processes

delay deployment of cutting-edge technologies.

Fear of failure discourages creativity, leading to outdated capabilities.

Congressional delays and inflexible budgets obstruct rapid experimentation.

Key Recommendations for a Cultural Shift

Encourage bold decision-making instead of punishing risk-taking.

Shift from rigid technical requirements to broad capability-based goals.

Enhance collaboration between DoD and Congress for proactive funding.

Invest in testing infrastructure to accelerate new tech deployment.

Leveraging America's Innovation Ecosystem

With world-class universities

, venture capital markets, and a strong entrepreneurial spirit, the US has the tools to redefine defense technology development. But unlocking this potential requires aligning incentives and streamlining acquisition policies.

The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) pushes for modernized acquisition based on mission outcomes, not bureaucratic checkboxes.

Lawmakers demand urgent action, calling for early implementation reports to track progress.

The message is clear: The US cannot afford to let bureaucracy stifle innovation while competitors rapidly develop next-generation defense capabilities.

US Election 2024: White-Wing Politics Reshape Global Dynamics

BY JAN FRAZIER

US (Washington Insider Magazine) – With the U.S. presidential election just weeks away, the political landscape remains polarized, raising concerns over its impact on global affairs. The race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump has underscored the dominance of white-wing politics in the U.S., with both candidates advocating positions that could have far-reaching consequences for international relations.

US Foreign Policy and Global Implications

Both Harris and Trump have taken firm stances on key global issues, including the ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine. While the Biden administration has warned of potential arms restrictions on Israel, Harris has reaffirmed continued military support. Similarly, Trump and his party remain staunch backers of Israel's military actions, aligning with far-right Christianist ideologies that see Israel's existence as fulfilling apocalyptic prophecies. Further, both candidates have dismissed international rulings on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, rejecting decisions by the International Court of Justice and ignoring

human rights organizations' findings on apartheid policies. This disregard for global governance raises concerns about the future of U.S. diplomacy.

Immigration Crackdowns and Domestic Policy Shifts

Despite America's long-standing reputation as a "nation of immigrants," both Harris and Trump have pledged stricter immigration policies. The U.S. continues to struggle with a humanitarian crisis at its southern border, and proposed crackdowns on undocumented migrants signal a shift toward more restrictive policies. While Harris supports targeted reforms, Trump has vowed mass deportations, fueling fears of intensified xenophobia.

Climate and Environmental Policies

On climate change, the candidates have taken divergent but ultimately troubling positions. While the Democratic platform nominally supports climate action, the administration has approved controversial drilling projects. Meanwhile, Trump and his allies remain committed to expanding fracking and rolling back



environmental regulations. With the U.S. being one of the world's top polluters, these policies could have devastating consequences for global climate efforts.

The Future of U.S. Leadership

As the November 5 election approaches, the dominance of white-wing politics in the U.S. is shaping not only national policy but also its role on the global stage. Whether under Harris or Trump, the U.S. appears poised to continue policies that prioritize militarization, nationalism, and economic self-interest over international cooperation. For the rest of the world, this election could mark a turning point in how the U.S. engages with allies and adversaries alike. Whoever wins, the trajectory of American leadership remains uncertain, with consequences that will be felt far beyond its borders.

Foreign-Born Voters Share Concerns About US Election and Politics

BY JAN FRAZIER

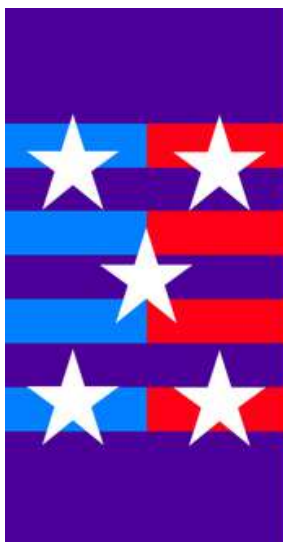
US (Washington Insider Magazine) – As the 2024 U.S. presidential election approaches, foreign-born voters are preparing to cast their ballots, many for the first time. With one in ten eligible voters being naturalized citizens—a record high—these individuals bring unique perspectives shaped by their experiences in other political systems. Concerns over campaign finance, immigration policies, and the electoral process dominate their views.

Campaign Finance Sparks Alarm

Colin Paton, a Houston resident originally from Australia, is unsettled by the staggering sums of money flowing into U.S. elections. “The fact that a candidate can raise \$1 billion from donors is terrifying,” he says, comparing it to Australia’s more regulated political fundraising landscape. Other voters echo his sentiment, arguing that excessive campaign spending undermines democracy and shifts power toward wealthy interests.

Immigration Policies Divide Opinions

For many foreign-born voters, immigration remains a defining issue. Pierre Uwimana, a



Rwandan-born voter in Florida, is still undecided, waiting for clearer policy positions. “Having gone through the immigration system myself, I want policies that protect families rather than separate them,” he explains. Meanwhile, Bill Harms, a German immigrant who has lived in the U.S. since 1957, believes the Biden administration has mismanaged immigration, leading him to support Trump.

Concerns Over Electoral System

Several voters question the fairness of the Electoral College. Julie Smiley, originally from the UK, believes it diminishes the value of individual votes. “Each vote should count equally,” she says, advocating for reform. Randall Woodard, a Canadian-born professor, acknowledges flaws in the system but expresses faith in U.S. institutions.

Women in Leadership and Representation

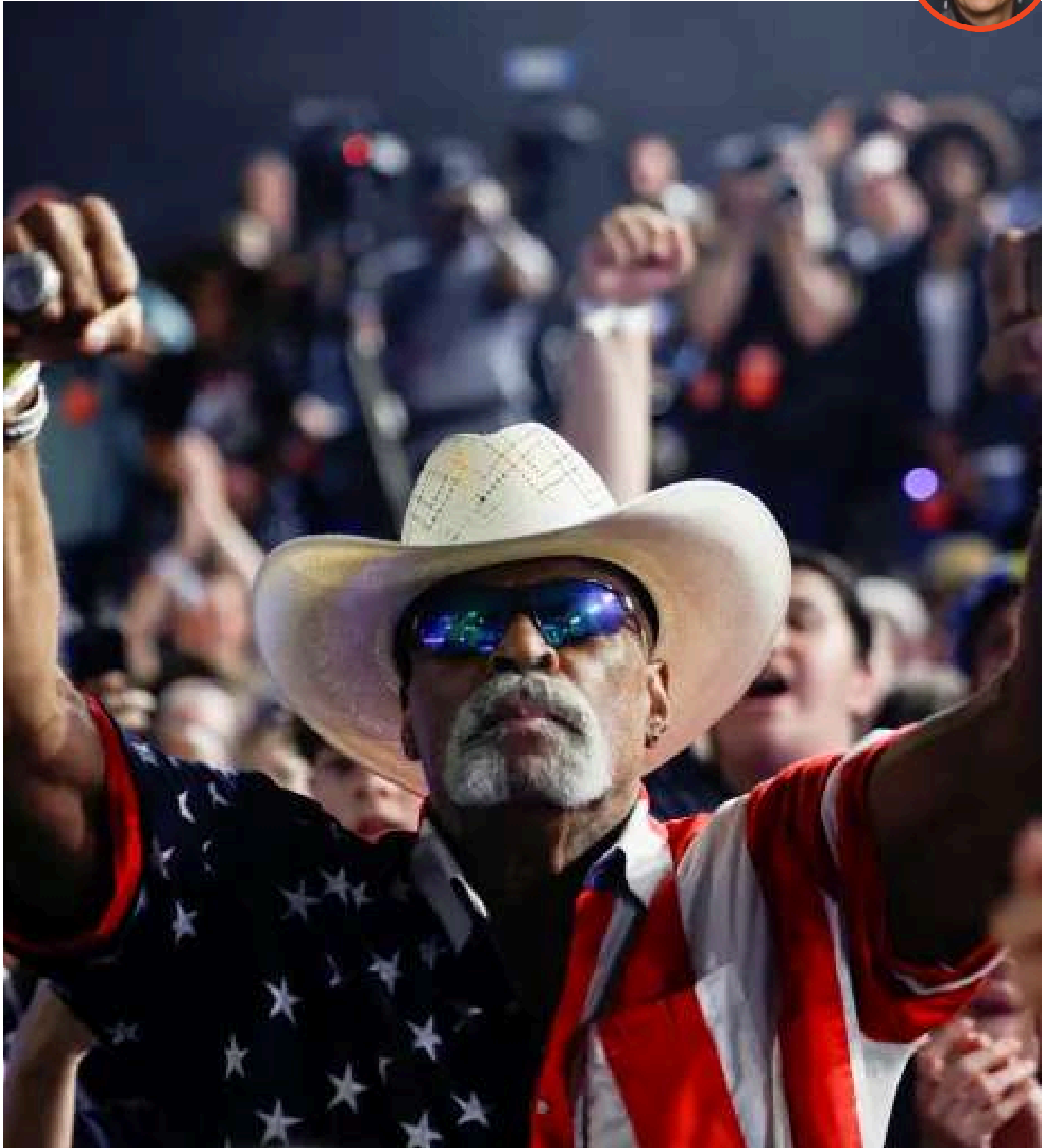
For some, representation plays a key role in their decision. Saumya Shiohare, an Indian-born content creator, supports Kamala Harris, citing her heritage and gender as factors. “Women need to be in leadership roles,” she states, believing Harris will bring a thoughtful approach to governance.

A Defining Election for Foreign-Born Voters

As millions of naturalized citizens prepare to vote, their perspectives highlight key concerns about American democracy. From financial influence in politics to immigration policies and electoral fairness, these voters are helping shape the future of the nation.

US Election 2024: Latest Polls, Key Takeaways & Campaign Updates

BY JAN FRAZIER



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – With just over three weeks until the US presidential election, the campaigns of Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are intensifying. Here’s a breakdown of the biggest political developments this week and where the candidates stand in the polls.

1. Harris Maintains Slim Lead in Polls

As of October 11, the latest national polling averages show Vice President Kamala Harris leading slightly:

- FiveThirtyEight: Harris at 48.5%, Trump at 46% (+2.5 lead for Harris)
- 270toWin: Harris at 49.3%, Trump at 46.5% (+2.8 lead for Harris)

However, a Reuters/Ipsos poll suggests Harris is gaining traction among suburban voters (47% vs. 41%), while a New York Times/Siena College poll indicates she may be losing ground among Black voters (78% support vs. Biden’s 90% in 2020).



2. Hurricane Milton Sparks Disinformation Battle

Hurricane Milton, a Category 5 storm, made landfall in Florida, becoming a political flashpoint. Trump falsely claimed that the federal government was withholding aid from Republican areas, while President Joe Biden called such disinformation “un-American.” Harris also criticized Trump for politicizing disaster relief.

3. Harris Intensifies Media Presence, Trump Clashes with Press

Harris has ramped up her media appearances, giving interviews on Call Her Daddy, The Howard Stern Show, The View, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and 60 Minutes. Meanwhile, Trump backed out of a scheduled 60 Minutes interview, later accusing the network of bias and calling for CBS’s broadcasting license to be revoked.

4. Health & Fitness Become Key Talking Points

At 59, Harris has emphasized her health as a campaign advantage, particularly after Biden’s withdrawal from the race due to age concerns. A White House memo stated that Harris “possesses the physical and mental resilience required to execute the duties of the Presidency.” Meanwhile, Trump (78) faced renewed scrutiny over his speech patterns and cognitive abilities.

5. Trump Doubles Down on Anti-Immigration Rhetoric

Trump continues to push a hardline stance on immigration, making controversial remarks about migrants. He pledged to invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 for mass deportation and called for the death penalty for undocumented immigrants convicted of killing US citizens. Studies, however, show undocumented immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens.

6. Bob Woodward’s New Book Paints Trump in Controversial Light

Veteran journalist Bob Woodward’s latest book, War, alleges Trump maintained close contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin after leaving office and even sent pandemic-era virus-testing machines to Russia. While Trump’s team has denied the claims, the book features insights from former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley, who calls Trump “fascist to the core.”

Conclusion

With just 23 days left before the election, both campaigns are in overdrive. Harris is ramping up media engagement and focusing on key demographics, while Trump is doubling down on controversial policies and media attacks. Stay tuned for more updates as the race to November 5 intensifies.

Social Science Faculty Provide Insight and Analysis on US Election Challenges

By Henry Nicholas



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – With the US presidential election fast approaching, Harvard’s Dean of Social Science, Lawrence D. Bobo, convened a panel of esteemed faculty members to analyze the state of the nation’s political system. The discussion featured insights from historians, sociologists, political theorists, and psychologists, aiming to provide a deeper understanding of the current electoral climate.

A Forum for Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Bobo, who also serves as the

W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences, emphasized the need for interdisciplinary dialogue, stating, “*We don’t have enough occasions in the social sciences to share ideas across disciplines to understand key issues.*” The panel sought to illuminate the challenges facing American democracy, if not provide reassurance about its future.

Rising Political Polarization and Erosion of Norms

Theda Skocpol, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, outlined what she described as deliberate efforts

by the Republican Party to undermine electoral integrity and governance. Citing research from her books *The Tea Party* and *The Remaking of Republican Conservatism* and *Rust Belt Union Blues*, she detailed a timeline of actions she termed “legal hardball”—strategies used to consolidate power and weaken democratic norms.

Eric Nelson, Robert M. Beren Professor of Government, offered a counterperspective. While acknowledging the Republican Party’s radicalization, he argued that both parties have engaged in a cycle of norm-breaking, beginning with Democratic

opposition to Reagan's 1987 Supreme Court nominee, Robert Bork. "The phenomenon we've seen is a spiral," Nelson said, pointing to reciprocal actions such as filibuster eliminations and Supreme Court confirmation battles.

Judicial Conflicts and Constitutional Challenges

Nelson attributed the deepening divide to the increasingly partisan nature of Supreme Court appointments, which has led to mounting frustration from both parties. He noted, *"Presidents no longer nominate justices who are at least minimally acceptable to the minority party."* As a result, proposals such as imposing term limits on justices are now being debated, despite constitutional concerns.

Meanwhile, Skocpol highlighted an alarming rise in extra-legal threats, citing examples such as the January 6 Capitol riot and harassment of public officials following false claims about the 2020 election. She warned that *"an outright authoritarian movement has emerged, aiming to diminish elections to mere symbolic acts while employing intimidation and quasi-legal tactics."*

Beyond Partisan Politics: The Role of Technology and Psychology

Shifting the conversation beyond party politics, Jill Lepore, David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History, explored the

impact of technology on governance. Drawing from her book *If Then*, she argued that technological advances over the past six decades have eroded institutional trust and exacerbated political dysfunction.

Mina Cikara, a psychology professor specializing in polarization, discussed research on altering people's meta-perceptions—how individuals believe others view them and their identity groups. She suggested that shifting these perceptions could reduce polarization and open avenues for constructive dialogue.

Constitutional Crisis and Public Perception

During the Q&A session, concerns over democratic stability dominated the discussion. Nelson cautioned that the election results could trigger *"terrifying constitutional impasses"* and heightened instability. However, he also expressed skepticism about the constant framing of elections as existential threats, warning that *"voter fatigue from*

alarmist rhetoric might desensitize the public to real dangers." Lepore agreed, noting that extreme rhetoric has become "standard get-out-the-vote messaging" on both sides. Skocpol, however, countered by questioning whether recognizing threats to democracy should be dismissed as mere rhetoric. Nelson responded that "the sheer volume of warnings may paradoxically cause people to disengage from genuine threats."

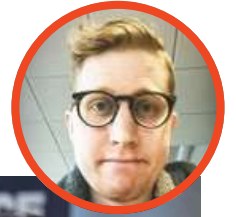
Conclusion: Navigating a Tumultuous Political Landscape

The symposium highlighted the complexities of American political dynamics, from deepening polarization and judicial battles to the influence of technology and psychology. While perspectives varied, all panelists agreed on the importance of fostering critical analysis and open discourse to navigate the country's democratic challenges. With the election on the horizon, their insights serve as a crucial reminder of the broader forces shaping the nation's political future.



Nikki Haley Discusses Presidential Bid & U.S. Politics at Georgetown Event

BY HENRY NICHOLAS



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – On October 3, 2024, Georgetown’s Institute of Politics and Public Service (GU Politics) welcomed Nikki Haley, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, for an engaging discussion on her 2024 Republican presidential campaign and the state of U.S. politics.

Haley’s Decision to Run for President

During the event, Haley reflected on the challenges of running for office, particularly the impact on her family. However, she emphasized her motivation:

“The reason you do it is because you know you can make people’s lives better.”

Campaign Strategy & Debate Approach

In a conversation with Rick Wiley, a former senior advisor to her campaign, and Mo Elleithee, GU Politics Executive Director, Haley explained her campaign strategy during the Republican primaries. Rather than focusing solely on Donald Trump, she prioritized addressing policy issues and gaining voter trust.

“The goal was slow and steady wins the race. You take out one at a time.”

She also highlighted her



willingness to challenge Trump on policy issues but avoided personal attacks.

Insights on Foreign Policy & National Security

Students at Georgetown were eager to hear about Haley’s tenure as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. She shared insights on global diplomacy, national security, and the growing influence of foreign powers like Russia and China in the digital age.

Encouraging Dialogue

Haley concluded by encouraging students to engage in open, respectful political discussions. When asked how to restore public trust in politics,

she advised:

“Listen before you speak. Understand why someone thinks what they think. Usually, it’s because of an experience.”

Georgetown’s Commitment to Political Discourse

The event was a reflection of GU Politics’ mission to provide students with direct engagement opportunities with political leaders. Katie Cheung (SFS’27), a student attendee, praised the university for fostering a space where public figures can address unfiltered questions in a constructive and respectful environment.

Georgetown continues to be a hub for political dialogue, shaping future leaders by promoting civic engagement and bipartisan discussions.

Indian-American Voters See Political Clout Grow in 2024 Election

BY HENRY NICHOLAS



US (Washington Insider Magazine) – On a vibrant October evening in New York City, Indian-American leaders, tech executives, and Bollywood celebrities gathered at The Pierre to celebrate Diwali. Yet, beyond the glittering outfits and festivities, the community buzzed with excitement over a historic political milestone—Kamala Harris becoming the first U.S. presidential candidate of South Asian descent to lead a major party ticket.

A Historic Moment for Indian-American Voters

“This time around is so unique because we actually have someone we can relate to,” said Jessel Taank, the first Indian cast member of *The Real Housewives of New York City*.

Reshma Saujani, CEO of Girls Who Code and the first Indian-American woman to run for U.S. Congress, echoed this sentiment: “You cannot be what you cannot see.”

With Indian Americans expanding beyond their traditional strongholds in California and New York to key battleground states like Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, their political

influence is stronger than ever.

Indian-American Voter Turnout on the Rise

Indian Americans have demonstrated a growing commitment to electoral participation. According to *AAPIData*, they had the highest voter turnout among Asian Americans in the last two presidential elections.

71% of eligible Indian Americans voted in 2020 – a 9% increase from 2016

Turnout is expected to rise to 75% in 2024, according to political analysts

Harris vs. Trump: Competing for the Indian-American Vote

Both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are actively courting Indian-American voters, who form the largest and most politically engaged segment of the Asian-American electorate.

Democratic Leaning: A 2024 *AAPIData* survey found 55% of Indian Americans identify as Democrats, though this number has slightly declined since 2020.

Shifting Republican Support: A Carnegie Endowment survey shows 61% of Indian-American

voters plan to support Harris, while 32% back Trump—a modest Republican gain, particularly among younger Indian-American men.

Key Issues Driving Indian-American Voters

Reproductive Rights: Many Indian-American women cite abortion rights as a top issue influencing their support for Harris.

U.S.-India Relations: Some Republicans argue that Trump built stronger ties with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which could sway Hindu nationalist voters.

Immigration Policies: While some favor Trump’s stricter immigration stance, others feel Harris and Biden’s policies align better with the immigrant experience.

The South Asian Vote Could Tip the Election

With Indian Americans forming a decisive voter base in swing states, their preferences could determine the 2024 presidential outcome.

“The fact that the South Asian population leans towards Harris and has high voter turnout could be enough to tip the scales,” said Karthick Ramakrishnan, co-founder of *AAPIData*.

As the election nears, the political clout of Indian-American voters is more evident than ever, reinforcing their role as a pivotal force in shaping U.S. politics.



Iran Fires Missiles at Israel, Warning of ‘Crushing’ Response to Retaliation

By Adriana Montes



Iran (Washington Insider Magazine) – Iran launched a missile attack on Israel late Tuesday, claiming it was in retaliation for the assassinations of senior Hezbollah, Hamas, and Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officials. The strikes sent Israelis rushing to bomb shelters as air raid sirens blared across the country. Explosions were reported in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, with Iran’s state media asserting that 80% of its missiles hit their targets, while Israel claimed to have intercepted a “large number” of them.

The IRGC said the attack was a direct response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, IRGC commander

Abbas Nilforoushan, and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reportedly ordered the strikes, warning that any Israeli retaliation would trigger a “more crushing and ruinous” response. Tehran stated that it specifically targeted three Israeli military bases.

Israel reported minimal casualties, with two people sustaining light injuries in Tel Aviv from shrapnel. However, a Palestinian worker in Jericho was killed when debris from a missile struck him.

The United States, which assisted Israel in intercepting the missiles, condemned the attack as “totally unacceptable.

” US Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that Israel and its allies had successfully countered the threat and reaffirmed US support. Meanwhile, Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups warned that US bases in the region would become targets if Washington joined any military response.

The missile attack comes amid an escalation of hostilities between Israel and Iran-aligned groups, with Israeli ground incursions into Lebanon further inflaming tensions. As Jordan temporarily suspended air traffic and the UN called for a ceasefire, concerns of a wider regional conflict continue to grow.

Risk of Regional War Grows as Israel and Iran Exchange Threats

BY JAN FRAZIER



Israel (Washington Insider Magazine) – Tensions between Israel and Iran have reached new heights, raising fears of a full-scale regional conflict. Israel has vowed to respond to Iran's massive missile barrage launched late Tuesday, while Tehran has warned that any retaliation will be met with "multiplied intensity."

The missile attack—comprising nearly 200 projectiles—was Iran's response to the assassinations of key Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) leaders. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Tehran had made a "big mistake" and that the

attack "will not go unanswered."

The United States has thrown its support behind Israel, with President Joe Biden's administration warning Iran of "serious consequences." Meanwhile, Iran's military leadership has cautioned Washington against intervening. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi contacted European officials, reaffirming that any Israeli retaliation would trigger an even "tougher" response from Tehran.

As diplomatic efforts struggle to contain the crisis, the UN Security Council has scheduled an emergency meeting to

address the escalating situation. However, hostilities continue unabated.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah fighters clashed with Israeli troops near the village of Odaisseh—the first face-to-face combat since 2006. Israel has expanded its military operations against Hezbollah, deploying additional troops and intensifying air and ground offensives.

With the war in Gaza already destabilizing the region, concerns are mounting that the conflict could spiral into a larger, multi-front war involving Iran and its allied groups across the Middle East.

12 Killed, 33 Injured in Egypt University Bus Crash

By Adriana Montes



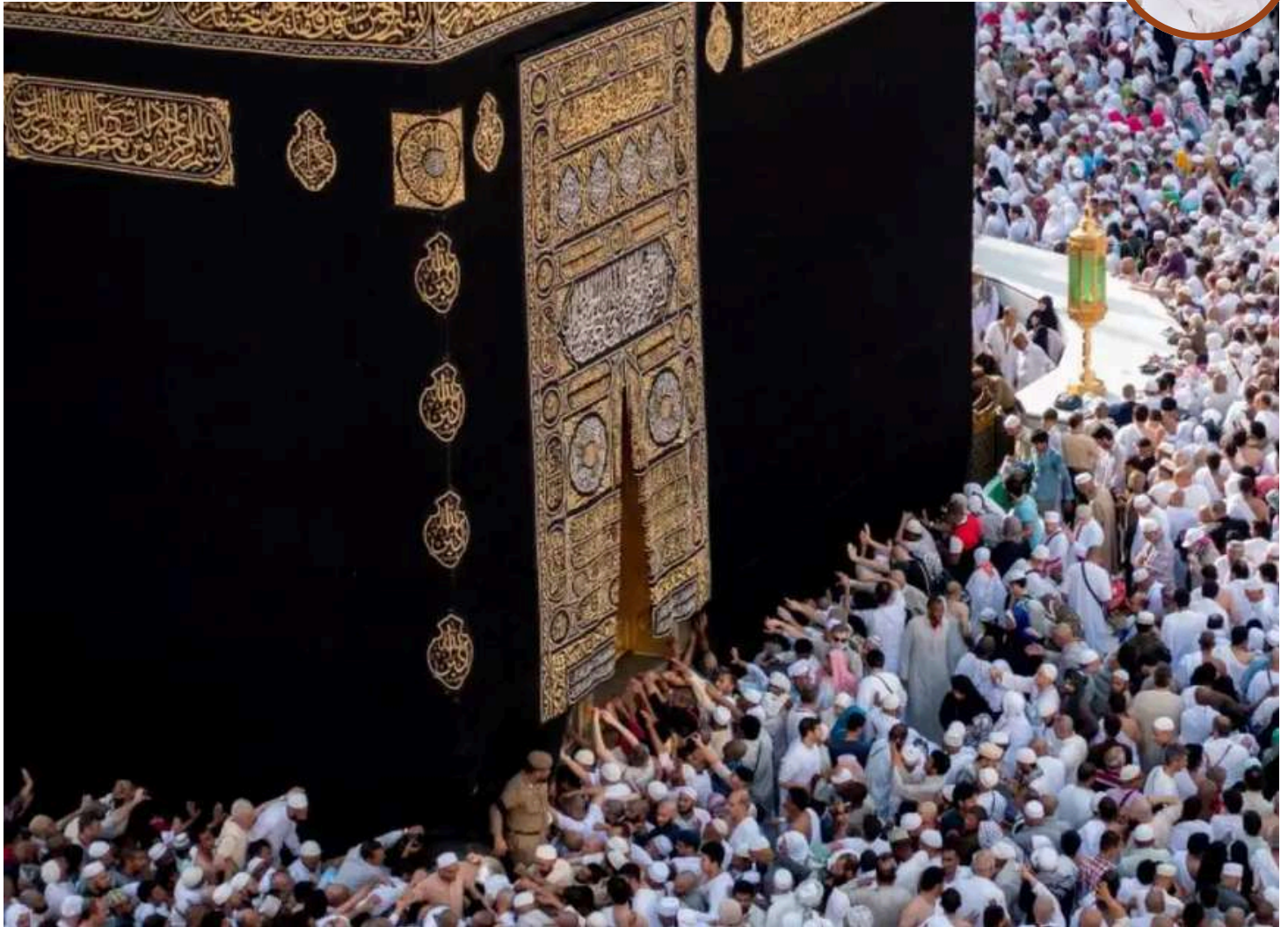
Egypt (Washington Insider Magazine) – A tragic bus accident in northeastern Egypt has claimed the lives of 12 university students and left 33 others injured, according to the Health Ministry. The crash occurred on the Ain Sokhna highway as students from Galala University were returning to their dormitory in Porto Sokhna.

Emergency responders, including 28 ambulances, rushed to the scene, transporting the injured to the Suez Medical Complex. Authorities have not disclosed their condition or the cause of the accident. However, local reports indicate that the bus driver has been arrested as part of an ongoing investigation.

Egypt has a long history of deadly road accidents, primarily due to speeding, poorly maintained roads, and weak enforcement of traffic laws. This latest tragedy underscores the urgent need for improved road safety measures to prevent further loss of life.

WHO Expands Digital Health Certification for Hajj Pilgrims

By Adriana Montes



Saudi Arabia (Washington Insider Magazine) – The World Health Organization (WHO) and Saudi Arabia have announced an expansion of the Hajj health card initiative, leveraging the WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN). This initiative aims to enhance the safety and quality of care for the roughly 3 million pilgrims who travel to Saudi Arabia annually.

The Hajj health card provides critical health information, including medication needs, allergies, immunization records, and pre-existing conditions. Pilgrims can share this data securely with authorized health providers, ensuring personalized and efficient medical care.

Following a successful pilot

involving 250,000 pilgrims from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Oman, WHO and Saudi Arabia plan to scale the program to more countries. With over 80 nations now part of the GDHCN, the initiative marks a significant step toward global digital health integration, streamlining cross-border healthcare, and improving international patient data security.

Saudi Arabia's Future Investment Initiative Opens Amid Regional Tensions

BY JAN FRAZIER



Saudi Arabia (Washington Insider Magazine) – The Future Investment Initiative (FII), often called “Davos in the Desert”, began in Riyadh, drawing 7,000 global business leaders amid escalating regional conflicts. The event, launched in 2017 to promote Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, aims to diversify the

economy beyond oil.

Key topics include Saudi Arabia’s push for AI leadership, energy transition, and megaprojects like NEOM. Despite geopolitical uncertainty, Saudi officials reaffirm their commitment to Vision 2030, recently unveiling

Sindalah, NEOM’s first luxury island resort.

While regional wars impact economic outlooks, speakers focus on investment opportunities and long-term growth, reinforcing Saudi Arabia’s role as a key global investment hub.

Pakistanis Face Increased UAE Visa Rejections Amid Changing Workforce Needs

By Adriana Montes



Pakistan (Washington Insider Magazine) – Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, has confirmed that visa challenges for Pakistanis remain unresolved, despite the UAE's amnesty scheme ending on October 31. During GITEX Global 2024, he

revealed that many Pakistani IT professionals and startup owners are facing visa rejections, as the UAE now prioritizes highly skilled workers over traditional laborers. While UAE officials previously denied any visa restrictions, the growing number of

rejections highlights a shift in employment policies favoring specialized talent. Tirmizi urged Pakistanis to develop emotional intelligence and organizational skills to align with the UAE's evolving job market.



Washington Insider

M A G A Z I N E



**NIKKI HALEY DISCUSSES PRESIDENTIAL BID & U.S.
POLITICS AT GEORGETOWN EVENT**

Scan Me Now

