

MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS - US Daily Brief 04-11-25

by Adam Burrowes

The White House *(times subject to change)*

13:00 ET 18:00 GMT

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt briefs reporters

Government Shutdown Key Dates:

- ❖ Nov. 5: The shutdown will overtake the 2018-19 shutdown as the longest ever

Washington

President Donald Trump has no public events scheduled. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt will brief reporters for the first time since October 23 at 13:00 ET 18:00 GMT.

- House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) will be joined by Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer and House GOP leaders for a press conference at 10:00 ET 15:00 GMT.

Election Day

Today is Election Day in several states. The main focus is on the New York mayoral race, gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia, and a consequential Congressional redistricting ballot measure in California.

- In New York, Democratic candidate Zohran Mamdani is strongly favoured, despite a campaign from a coalition of Republicans and moderate Democrats in opposition. According to [Polymarket](#), the implied probability of a Mamdani win is 92%. Former Democratic mayor of New York City Eric Adams has endorsed former Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo, who opted to run as an independent after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani.
- Mamdani has received lukewarm support from national Democrats. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) offered Mamdani his endorsement only after his election appeared inevitable. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has yet to offer an endorsement.

President Trump has identified Mamdani as a potential weakness for Democrats, highlighting his democratic socialist policies as representative of the party. In a message on Truth Social yesterday, Trump endorsed Cuomo and threatened to withhold federal funds from the city.

- Trump wrote: "If Communist Candidate Zohran Mamdani wins the Election for Mayor of New York City, it is highly unlikely that I will be contributing Federal Funds, other than the very minimum as required, to my beloved first home, because of the fact that, as a Communist, this once great City has ZERO chance of success, or even survival! It can only get worse with a Communist at the helm, and I don't want to send, as President, good money after bad."

In Virginia, former Democratic Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) has a solid lead over Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears (R). The latest Emerson College/The Hill survey, released Saturday, showed Spanberger leading Earle-Sears 55% to 44%. Spanberger improved her standing by 3 points in the poll, while Earle-Sears improved her standing by 2 points, per the Hill.

- ABC News notes, “The results of the Virginia gubernatorial election -- which comes during an election off-year -- is often viewed as a political bellwether for competitive races in the midterms the following year.”

In New Jersey, Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) leads Republican Jack Ciattarelli, but polling is close enough to suggest a surprise is not out of the question.

- “The Decision Desk HQ (DDHQ) polling average shows Sherrill leading Ciattarelli 50.1 percent to 45.5 percent. A Suffolk University poll released last week shows Sherrill with a 4-point lead, while an AtlasIntel poll also released last week showed Sherrill up 1 point over Ciattarelli,” per the Hill.

In California, Governor Gavin Newsom’s (D-CA) Proposition 50 ballot measure to establish a new Congressional district map appears set to pass. Newsom was sufficiently confident to tell supporters to stop donating to the effort last week.

- The new California congressional map would make five GOP-held seats more favourable to Democrats ahead of next year’s midterm elections. It is a reaction to a Republican map in Texas that could net the GOP five additional seats.

Government Shutdown

It’s Day 35 of the government shutdown. The shutdown is now tied with the partial shutdown in 2018-2019 as the longest in US history. Yesterday, Senate Republicans blocked an attempt by Democrats to fully fund Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The White House will release enough funds to cover about half a month’s worth of benefits, per Semafor.

- At 11:30 ET 16:30 BST today, the Senate will vote for a 14th time on the House-passed funding measure. It is expected to fail again.

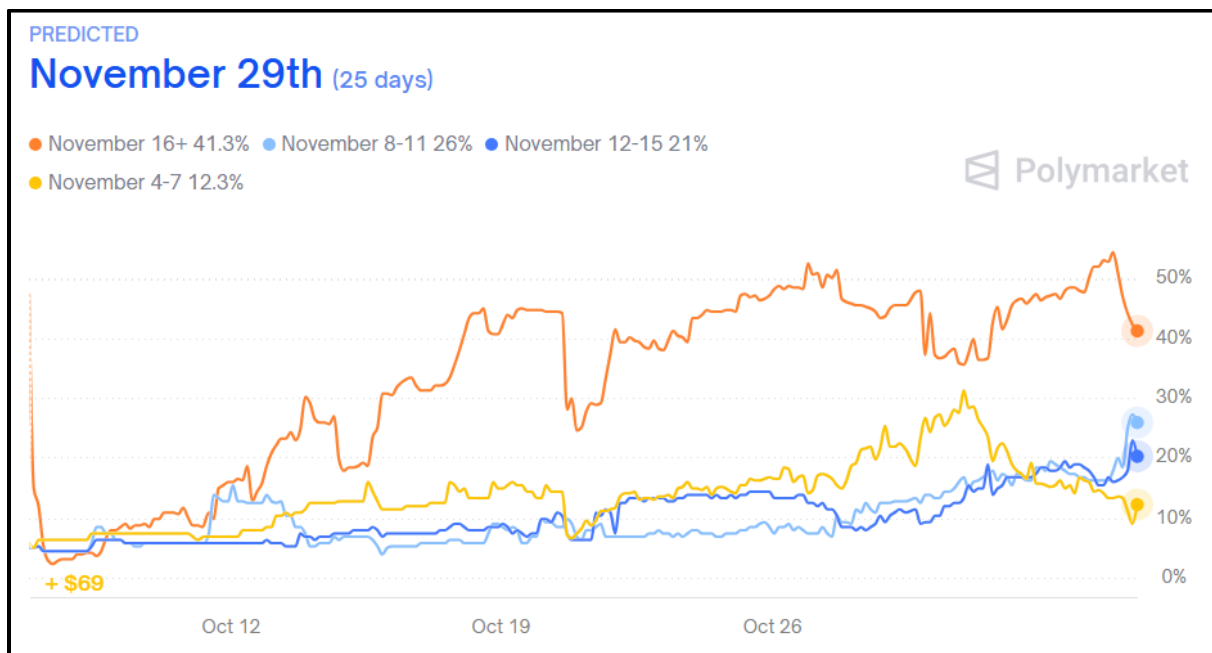
There is no sign of an imminent breakthrough in the stalemate, but there has been an acceleration in bipartisan talks aimed at finding a resolution.

- Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) told reporters yesterday that the Senate is “getting close to an offramp” to end the shutdown, citing bipartisan talks among rank-and-file senators.
- Punchbowl notes, “The outlines of a potential deal to end the shutdown are starting to take shape, although the talks are very fragile at this point and there’s still a long way to go.”

Axios reports, “The contours of a three-legged plan to end the government shutdown” has come into sharper focus. The plan includes reopening the government with a new short-term funding measure – likely through December or January; assurances for Democrats on a vote on ACA tax credits; and passing a three-bill appropriations minibuss to fund military construction, legislative affairs, and agriculture.

- Punchbowl notes, “To be abundantly clear, accepting this offer would be a cave by Democrats, who have been saying they need an Obamacare deal to open the government. But this construct would only require a handful of Democrats to break from their party.
- “Progressives will be livid. A commitment to vote on an Obamacare bill is far from a guarantee that it will pass in the Senate, much less in the House. It’ll be fascinating to see how Schumer handles this.”

Figure 1: When will the Government Shutdown End?



Source: Polymarket

Tariffs

The Supreme Court will, on Wednesday, hear arguments from the plaintiffs - a dozen Democrat-run states and a group of private businesses – and the Trump administration’s defence of President Trump’s reciprocal tariffs.

- The case hinges on the plaintiffs’ claim that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) declaration Trump tapped to impose the tariffs was unlawful. Three federal courts have ruled in favour of the plaintiffs’ argument. The case does not cover sectoral tariffs on products like steel, aluminium, and autos, which were imposed under a different legal authority.
- Each side will have 40 minutes to make its arguments and then receive questions from the nine Supreme Court justices. The court will have until the end of its term, next July, to issue a ruling. There is an expectation that the court will expedite the ruling, considering the impact of the decision.

Politico notes, “Many legal experts think there is a strong chance the Supreme Court will strike down the duties that Trump imposed under the International Emergency Economic

Powers Act (IEEPA), a 1977 sanctions law that empowers Trump to “regulate” imports but does not specifically authorize tariffs.”

- NYT writes, “A loss wouldn’t completely unwind the Trump agenda. IEEPA tariffs account for roughly half of the tariff revenue that the government has so far collected in the 2025 fiscal year, Deutsche Bank estimated in a research note this morning. And the president has other tariff powers at his disposal, including those allowed under other trade laws.”
- The Hill notes, “No president before Trump invoked the law to impose tariffs, so the Supreme Court has never decided that question. The justices’ answer may depend on how they view a 50-year-old appellate decision dating back to former President Nixon.”

Congressional Business

The House is OUT

The Senate is IN

Committee Schedule –

Semiconductors

The Wall Street Journal [reports](#) that shortly before Trump met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, South Korea earlier this month, top administration officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, told Trump that greenlighting the sale of Nvidia’s top Blackwell AI chips “would threaten national security, saying they would boost China’s AI data-center capabilities and backfire on the US.”

- WSJ reports, “Trump wanted to discuss a request by Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang to allow sales of a new generation of artificial-intelligence chips to China, current and former administration officials said.”
- “The U.S. was already preparing to make other concessions in the meeting with Xi, in exchange for Beijing allowing exports of rare-earth magnets. Others against the approval, the officials said, included U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who helped lead trade talks,” the report added.

North Korea

South Korea's Newsis reports that according to the country's National Intelligence Service, North Korea's Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is "[willing](#)" to talk to President Trump, adding that a US-North Korea summit is "[highly likely](#)" and could come after the joint military exercises planned between South Korea and the US in [March](#).

- The prospect of a fourth in-person meeting has been speculated upon for some time. With Trump visiting East Asia last week, there were some reports that a meeting between Trump and Kim could have taken place during this period. Trump [said](#) en route that he would be open to the prospect.

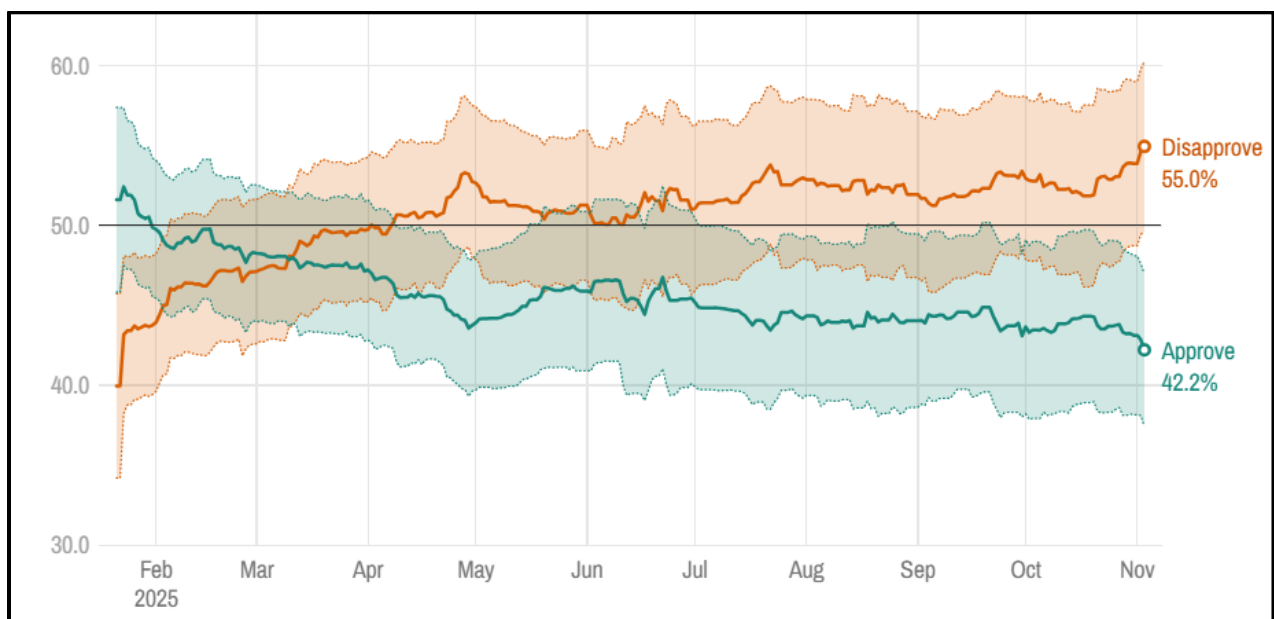
- South Korea's President Lee Jae-myung has said that he would support any Trump-Kim summit, [saying](#) at the end of the APEC meeting, "Ensuring President Trump effectively fulfils his role as a peacemaker on the Korean Peninsula, as he himself desires, is also a path to securing peace and security for the Republic of Korea." This stance fits with Lee's stated intention to pursue the "[Sunshine policy](#)" of engagement with North Korea.
- Even if a meeting does take place in 2026, there has been little sign of meaningful shifts towards any form of peace agreement between the North and South, which are still technically at war. The three previous Kim-Trump meetings failed to reach a deal, and recent [missile tests](#) by Pyongyang and North Korea's continued support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine threaten to further dampen prospects of an agreement.

Chart of the Day

President Trump's approval rating has taken a hit this week after a sustained period without significant movement either way.

- Silver Bulletin notes, "At the start of the week, Trump's net approval rating in our average was -9.2. That's right around where it had been all month. But as of today, Trump's net approval rating has hit a new second term low of -10.8.
- "He's seen some less negative results from Morning Consult (net -5) and Clarity Campaign Labs (-6), but everything else looks rough: Verasight/Strength in Numbers: -15, Quinnipiac University: -14, YouGov/The Economist: -19, Ipsos/Reuters: -17, YouGov/Yahoo News: -16, Navigator Research: -16
- "Even the pollsters that usually give Trump his best numbers — Rasmussen Reports and RMG Research — have his approval rating underwater this week, at net -8 and -1, respectively."

Figure 2: President Donald Trump Approval Rating



Source: Silver Bulletin

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