

MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS - US Daily Brief 05-12-25

by Adam Burrowes

The White House *(times subject to change)*

10:00 ET 15:00 GMT	President Trump receives an Intelligence Briefing
11:40 ET 16:40 GMT	President Trump attends the FIFA World Cup Drawing
15:00 ET 20:00 GMT	President Trump signs Executive Orders
20:00 ET 01:00 GMT	President Trump and the First Lady attend a Concert by Andrea Bocelli

Key Dates:

- ❖ Jan. 30: Government funding expires
- ❖ Jan 31: Texas Special Election
- ❖ April 16: New Jersey Special Election

Washington

President Donald Trump will receive an intelligence briefing in the morning. He will then attend the FIFA World Cup draw at 11:40 ET 16:40 GMT, where he is expected to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, whose nations are co-hosting the event.

- At 15:00 ET 20:00 GMT, Trump will sign Executive Orders in the Oval Office, before attending a concert with First Lady Melania Trump.

Today's meeting with Carney will be Trump's first face-to-face with his Canadian counterpart since Trump torpedoed trade talks with Ottawa in retaliation for an Ontario government-sponsored ad criticising US tariffs. Today will mark the first time Trump and Sheinbaum have met in person.

- The ad hoc North American leaders' summit comes as the United States Trade Representative prepares to wrap up a three-day public hearing on the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.
- USTR Jamieson Greer told Politico this week that the US may walk away from the trade bloc and renegotiate bilateral trade agreements, "The president's view is he only wants deals that are a good deal. The reason why we built a review period into USMCA was in case we needed to revise it, review it, or exit it." Greer indicated that Trump's decision is likely to come early in the new year.

CBS' Jennifer Jacobs [reports](#) that Trump will 'talk trade' with Carney and Sheinbaum. However, we think it's unlikely that Trump announces any major decision related to the USMCA today, as he tends to greet world leaders cordially in person, with the exception of Oval Office meetings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

- The New York Times [notes](#), “Trump’s antipathy toward the North American trade deal is longstanding. Ahead of the 2016 election, and even once in office, Mr. Trump repeatedly threatened to scrap NAFTA altogether.”

Elsewhere in Washington, Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet with Peruvian Foreign Minister Hugo de Zela at the Department of State at 16:30 ET 21:30 GMT.

- Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau will meet with Burundi President Évariste Ndayishimiye at 09:30 ET 14:30 GMT and then Cabo Verdean Foreign Minister José Luís Livramento 16:30 ET 21:30 GMT. (More on Trump’s engagement with Africa below)

The Trump Doctrine

The Trump administration released its 33-page [National Security Strategy](#), outlining security priorities that it claims will ‘correct’ strategies that have “fallen short” since the end of the Cold War. The NSS is a document that is typically released once every presidential term, shaping policy and budgets related to national security.

- The document notes, “After the end of the Cold War, American foreign policy elites convinced themselves that permanent American domination of the entire world was in the best interests of our country. Yet the affairs of other countries are our concern only if their activities directly threaten our interests.”

Politico notes that the NSS “has some brutal words for Europe, suggesting it is in civilizational decline, and pays relatively little attention to the Middle East and Africa. It has an unusually heavy focus on the Western Hemisphere that it casts as largely about protecting the US homeland.”

- The document explicitly states that the strategy is a “corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine, laid out in 1823 and broadly seen as formalising the Western Hemisphere with the US sphere of influence.
- Indeed, Politico notes, “the strategy spends an unusual amount of space on Latin America, the Caribbean and other U.S. neighbors. That’s a break with past administrations, who tended to prioritize other regions and other topics, such as taking on major powers like Russia and China or fighting terrorism.”

Healthcare

Politico reports that House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), “will hold a discussion with House GOP members this weekend about what could be included in a health care package as pressure builds to deal with the expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies.”

- According to the report, Johnson will present a framework during the GOP conference meeting next Tuesday that will likely pull from various GOP proposals aimed at providing more options for health care coverage outside of Obamacare.

Yesterday, House Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NY) and Jen Kiggans (R-FL) released their bipartisan pitch for a one-year extension of the subsidies and a package of reforms. Politico reports that moderate Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) could soon release the text of his separate plan, which includes a two-year extension of the subsidies with reforms.

- House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) said, “A lot of our members have different ideas. We’re putting them all together, and we’re going to come up with something that I think even people like Jen would support.”

Meanwhile, the Senate is barrelling towards a vote on the subsidies without a clear plan from either side on an optimum strategy. The vote was promised by Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) in return for moderate Senate Democrats striking a deal to reopen the government. Democrats are expected to propose a longer-term ‘clean’ extension of the ACA credits, which is highly unlikely to gather the requisite 60 votes to pass.

- Punchbowl reports, “As of Thursday, Thune hadn’t decided whether Republicans will even offer an alternative to the Democratic proposal. Some GOP senators think it’s political malpractice not to present a plan that would avert massive premium hikes in the new year. Others don’t see a reason to engage in what is essentially a political exercise for Democrats, especially since there isn’t anything concrete that unites Republicans.”

Congressional Business

The House is OUT

The Senate is OUT

Committee Schedule –

National Defense Authorisation Act

Republican leaders are unlikely to release the final text of the must-pass annual Pentagon spending bill today, amid intraparty fights over policy riders to include in the package that usually passes with strong bipartisan support.

- House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) told reporters yesterday, “Getting an agreement right now between Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate’s not easy. But we’re getting close, and we want to get it done.”
- Already dealing with a rebellion from Rep Elise Stefanik (R-NY) over his refusal to include a bill that would compel the FBI to inform Congress of investigations into lawmakers, Johnson is now “dealing with additional NDAA threats, from GOP hard-liners pushing inclusion of a provision to ban the Federal Reserve from issuing a digital currency to Financial Services Chair French Hill’s opposition to a scaled-down version of a Senate housing proposal backed by Trump,” per Politico.

Redistricting

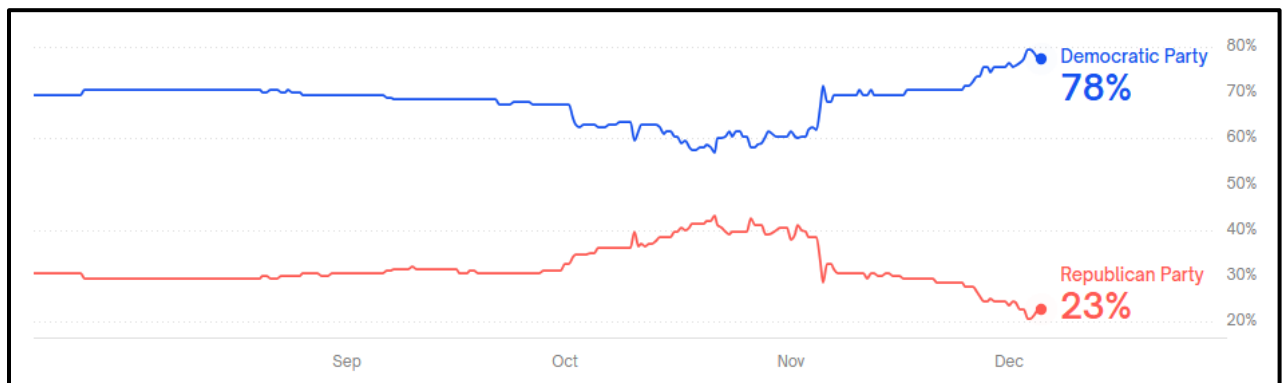
The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in favour of a new Texas Congressional map that could net the GOP an additional five House seats at the 2026 midterm elections, overturning a lower court ruling blocking the map for racial gerrymandering. The decision, the first of the ‘redistricting war,’ suggests the Supreme Court is likely to defer to states in other pending cases, including a Republican challenge to a California map that was passed via a ballot initiative last month.

- The unsigned ruling reads, “The District Court improperly inserted itself into an active primary campaign, causing much confusion and upsetting the delicate federal-state balance in elections.” The Hill notes that conservative Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, and Neil Gorsuch sided with Texas and rejected the notion that state Republicans redrew the map based on race.
- On paper, Republicans are expected to gain up to nine seats via redistricting: Five in Texas, two in Ohio, one in North Carolina, and one in Missouri. Florida and Indiana Republicans are also considering new maps this month.

NBC [reports](#), “Florida entered the national redistricting arms race, with lawmakers holding a hearing Thursday that kicked off yet another contentious map-drawing fight. Republicans are hoping Florida, where they have full control of state government and already represent 20 of 28 congressional districts, will be fertile ground for further shoring up the party’s narrow House majority ahead of next year’s midterm elections.”

- Democrats are expected to gain at least six seats: Five in California, one in Utah, and are considering new maps in Virginia and Maryland.
- According to Polymarket, the decision has done little to change the outlook for the House. The implied probability of a Democratic win is 78%.

Figure 1: Which party will win the House in 2026?



Source: Polymarket

Ukraine War

Vice President JD Vance told NBC News that he expects “good news” over the next weeks on a deal to end the war in Ukraine.

- Asked about his biggest frustration so far as vice president, Vance said: “Oh, man. I mean, look, the Russia-Ukraine thing has been a source of perennial frustration, I think, for the entire White House.”
- Vance continued: “I think that we really thought – and you’ve heard the president say this a million times – that that would be the easiest war to solve. And if you would put, you know, peace in the Middle East as easier to achieve than peace in Eastern Europe, I would have told you you were crazy.”

Vance added that he remained optimistic. "I do think, for what it's worth, that we have made a lot of progress, but we're not yet quite across the finish line there. I think there's hope – should hopefully be some good news the next few weeks on that front."

- Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters this morning that Russia and the US were making progress in peace talks on Ukraine and Moscow was ready to continue working with the current US team, per Reuters.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is scheduled to hold emergency talks this evening with Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen aimed at addressing Belgian concerns over using frozen Russian sovereign assets to fund Ukraine's war effort.

- Merz told reporters in Berlin yesterday, "I don't want to persuade [De Wever], but rather convince him. If we take this path, we will do so to help Ukraine, possibly for the next two to three years."

The meeting comes a day after the European Commission unveiled a proposal to raise €90 billion (about \$105 billion) for Ukraine, with some of it generated by frozen Russian assets, [per DW](#).

- DW notes that Merz and his government strongly support the initiative. In an opinion piece published Wednesday in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, he argued that the financial risks should be shared fairly among EU member states, proportionate to their economic strength.

The Guardian notes that De Wever's government has "repeatedly argued that should Russia decide to launch retaliatory legal action, or demand its money back because the sanctions against it have been lifted, it risks being left on the hook for billions, alone."

- Bloomberg [reports](#) that US officials lobbied several EU countries to block the effort, arguing "that the assets are needed to help secure a peace deal between Kyiv and Moscow and should not be used to prolong the war."

India

The Press Trust of India reported yesterday that a US trade delegation is likely to visit New Delhi next week for talks with Indian counterparts. The trip is the latest sign that negotiators could be close to completing the first [tranche](#) of a trade deal by year end, understood to include the relaxation of tariffs.

- The news comes as Russian President Vladimir Putin continues a two-day visit to India - his first since the start of the Ukraine war - aimed at deepening commercial and political ties.
- CNN [notes](#), "This is India's diplomatic split screen. On one side: the potential purchase of advanced Russian fighter jets, cheap oil, and an ironclad friendship forged in the Cold War. On the other: American collaboration on technology, trade and investment - and the hope President Donald Trump will lift his punishing tariffs."
- Putin told India Today that energy cooperation with India shouldn't be affected by "fleeting political swings." Putin noted that, despite US tariffs aimed at curbing India-

- Russia energy purchases, "trade in petroleum products, crude oil, petroleum products for consumers of oil, Russian oil, running smoothly in India," per Reuters.
- Despite outward cooperation on energy, ING [noted](#) that "India's crude oil imports from Russia have declined meaningfully, while imports from the U.S. have surged, signaling a deliberate diversification of supplier," adding, "We see a high probability of an India-U.S. trade deal emerging in 2026"

Africa

Yesterday, Trump hosted the signing of the 'Washington Accords' peace deal between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda. The deal purports to end a long-running conflict between the DRC and a military group alleged to be sponsored by Kigali.

- The White House said in a statement, "The Washington Accords reaffirm the parties' commitment to implement the Peace Agreement between the DRC and Rwanda, agreed to in Washington, D.C. on June 27, 2025, and achieve the vision of the Regional Economic Integration Framework (REIF) to create a bold roadmap for peace, security, and unprecedented economic growth."

In a sign that the Trump administration is deepening its economic involvement in Africa, the White House announced that it remains committed to the Biden-era Lobito Corridor infrastructure project.

- The White House said in a joint statement with the European Union, "By linking the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to the Atlantic Ocean port of Lobito in Angola, the Lobito Corridor will open new avenues for two-way trade between Central Africa and the United States and Europe."

Chart of the Day

President Trump's approval rating has stabilised at -13.6%, following a significant decline that started during the US government shutdown and continued through November.

- Trump remains deeply unpopular across a range of core issues, including inflation (-32%), the economy (-20%), trade (-16.5%), and immigration (-7%), per Silver Bulletin.

Figure 2: President Trump Approval Rating



Source: Silver Bulletin

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