

## MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS - US Daily Brief 21-11-25

by Adam Burrowes

### The White House (times subject to change)

15:00 ET 20:00 GMT

President Trump meets with New York City Mayor-Elect Zohran Mamdani

#### Key Dates:

- ❖ Dec. 2: Tennessee Special Election
- ❖ Jan. 30: Government funding expires

### Washington

At 15:00 ET 20:00 GMT, President Donald Trump will meet with New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani in the Oval Office. Trump's schedule suggests the meeting will be closed to the press.

- The Financial Times notes that Trump "has repeatedly called Mamdani a communist. In the run-up to this month's mayoral election, the president threatened to withhold federal funds for New York City if Mamdani were elected."
- Mamdani told reporters on Thursday, "My team reached out to the White House because I will work with anyone to make this city more affordable. I intend to make it clear to President Trump that I will work with him on any agenda that benefits New Yorkers."

### Economy

MNI's Tim Cooper and Chris Harrison write in a [review](#) of yesterday's jobs report, "The long-postponed September Employment Situation report delivered a largely solid if slightly stale snapshot of the US labor market, with an unexpectedly large uptick in the unemployment rate to a 4-year high appearing to outweigh consensus-beating payrolls growth to deliver a slightly dovish market reaction."

- Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-Deremer told Fox Business the data is a "solid report for the American people." Chavez-Deremer added that while manufacturing jobs were not "exactly where we want them to be," she insisted it will "take time" to see progress, per Politico.
- Vice President JD Vance said in an interview with Breitbart yesterday that the jobs report showed that "the Trump economic policies are actually working" and celebrated "seeing the job growth go to native born American citizens."
- Vance continued, "My message to the American people who are still feeling like things are unaffordable, who are still feeling like things are rough out there, is, look, we get it and we hear you and we know there's a lot of work to do. There's a lot of wood to chop because the Biden administration put us in such a very, very tough spot."

### Artificial Intelligence



House Republicans are working on 'long-shot' legislation to be included in the must-pass annual Pentagon spending bill (NDAA) that would prevent states from crafting their own Artificial Intelligence regulation.

- The move may offer a more balanced solution than a pending Executive Order from President Trump that would "empower the Justice Department to sue states that have implemented AI regulations while also allowing the administration to withhold coveted broadband funding from these states," per Punchbowl News.
- The Washington Post notes, "The proposed executive order comes after a split among Senate Republicans in July killed a proposal backed by the White House to block all state AI regulation, as part of President Donald Trump's signature tax and immigration law."

Axios [reports](#), "The executive order, which was expected as soon as Friday, is likely to be delayed, multiple sources told Axios, and Capitol Hill is feeling the heat to provide a legislative play in the National Defense Authorization Act."

- Axios notes, "The draft executive order to preempt state-level AI regulation has been widely denounced as a Big Tech power grab by many groups, but some tech, AI and startup leaders applauded it."
- Punchbowl notes, "Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told tech industry officials Wednesday night that the administration will act on its own if lawmakers can't make progress."

California State Senator Scott Wiener, who sponsored a major AI bill that was signed into law this year, said in a statement to Axios that "Trump thinks he's the king, but he's not. He has no power to issue a royal edict canceling state laws."

- Wiener added, "AI has so much promise to improve people's lives — cure diseases, help us fight climate change, etc. — and as with any new technology, there are also risks. California has the power and the responsibility to both promote AI innovation and reduce those risks."
- Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) wrote in a letter to Senate Democrats, "Democrats have direct control over whether the AI moratorium is enacted into law. Our message should be simple: Congress should not give Big Tech a multi-year holiday from state oversight."

## Housing

Politico reports that House Financial Services Chair French Hill (R-AK) blocked a bipartisan Senate plan to include most of an [affordable housing package](#) in the must-pass annual defence bill.

- The US Green Building Council notes that the ROAD to Housing Act encompasses 40 different provisions "aimed at increasing housing supply and improving affordability and access to housing."
- According to Politico, "Senate Banking Chair Tim Scott [R-SC] and ranking member Elizabeth Warren [D-MA] sent a proposed deal to the House Thursday that included those provisions alongside a separate policy that would temporarily ban a central bank digital currency. Hill has told his counterparts that he is hopeful for a bicameral

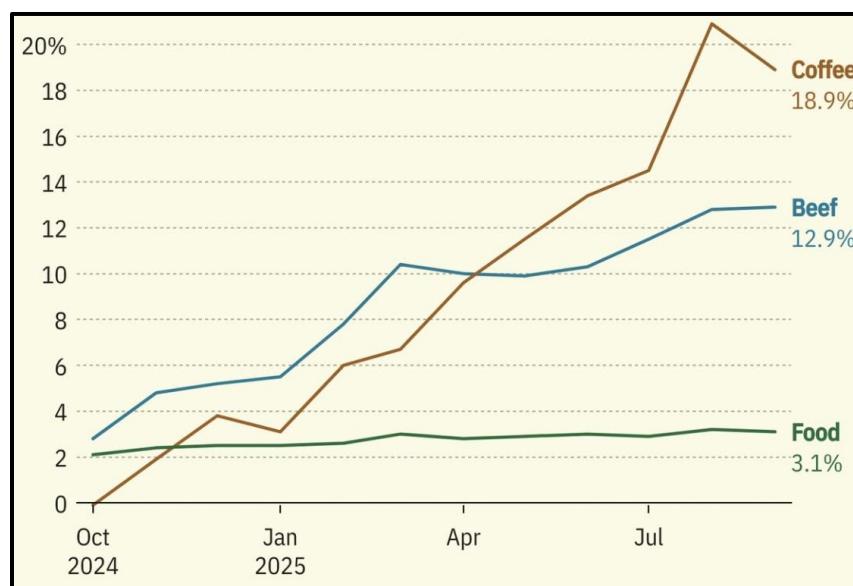
deal on the housing package, but portions of the plan are unpalatable to most House Republicans. The standoff could lead to no finance-related measures making it into the NDAA."

## Tariffs

President Trump yesterday [expanded tariff relief](#) to cover a raft of Brazilian agricultural exports, including coffee, fruit, beef, and other goods. The move appears to be an acceleration of White House efforts to curb rising prices, which have weighed heavily on Trump's approval rating in recent months.

- Trump wrote in the Executive Order modifying the tariffs, "On October 6, 2025, I participated in a call with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, during which we agreed to begin negotiations to address the concerns identified in [Executive Order 14323](#). These negotiations are ongoing."
- The order referenced above alleged that the Brazilian government and judiciary abused authority in pursuing the prosecution of former President Jair Bolsonaro.
- AP notes that Brazil said that the relief doesn't affect levies that Trump had enacted in July to punish the country for prosecuting Bolsonaro. Thursday's decision harmonizes Trump's plans, ensuring that neither the April nor July tariffs apply to certain products."

**Figure 1: US Change in Consumer Prices, Year-over-year**



Source: Semafor, BLS

## Healthcare

Punchbowl reports that Republican senators have been privately lobbying President Trump to support a limited short-term extension of Obamacare subsidies, "arguing it would save the GOP from a 2026 drubbing and buy time for Congress to pass a longer-term health care plan that mirrors the president's preferences."

- Punchbowl notes, “The pitch comes as senators are staring down a mid-December deadline to have a bill ready for floor action — a commitment Senate Majority Leader John Thune [R-SD] made as part of negotiations to end the government shutdown.”
- Punchbowl continues, “A short-term extension of the Obamacare subsidies could mean one, two or even three years, with strict eligibility crackdowns, such as income caps and anti-fraud provisions. A Trump-led push would provide political cover for vulnerable Republicans; it would also save Thune from having to deal with a divided conference.”

## Congressional Business

The House is OUT

The Senate is OUT

**Committee Schedule –**

## Ukraine War

US sanctions on Russian oil majors Lukoil and Rosneft took effect today, potentially leaving “nearly 48 million barrels of Russian crude stranded on the water, pushing dozens of tankers to scramble for alternative destinations in the latest overhaul of the global oil trade,” per [Bloomberg](#).

- *“The US Treasury said earlier this week that the measures were already a success, given lower demand and discounts on key Russian oil grades … With the restrictions now in effect, Indian refiners are seeking replacement supplies, booking oil tankers for cargoes from the Middle East at a pace that has pushed freight rates for the route to near a five-year high,” adds Bloomberg.*
- Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy for ING Groep NV, “Russian export flows are holding up, but it’s not finding its way through to their destinations yet. If that continues and finally backs up all the way, we could start seeing supply falling, which will be a concern to markets.”

## 21-Point Peace Plan

The office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [confirmed yesterday](#) that Kyiv has received a new US-drafted 21-point peace plan for Ukraine. In a carefully worded but non-committal [statement](#), Zelenskyy’s office said the Ukrainian president will discuss the peace plan with Trump in the coming days.

- In a [statement](#) on X, Zelenskyy said he discussed “options for achieving real peace” with US Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll, when the military leader presented Zelenskyy the plan. “We are ready for constructive, honest and swift work,” Zelenskyy wrote.
- Axios reports that A US official said Zelenskyy and Driscoll “agreed on an aggressive timeline for signature.” Zelenskyy’s office said in a statement that the Ukrainian president “outlined the fundamental principles that matter to our people, and



following today's meeting, the parties agreed to work on the plan's provisions in a way that would bring about a just end to the war."

## Contents of the Plan

The White House confirmed that a draft of the blueprint circulating online is authentic. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement, "This plan was crafted to reflect the realities of the situation, after four years of a devastating war, to find the best win-win scenario, where both parties gain more than they must give"

- The Wall Street Journal [reports](#) that the draft calls for Ukraine to cede the eastern Donbas region now under its control to Moscow and accept Russia's de facto control of other parts of Ukraine where the front line would be frozen. Ukraine's military would be capped at 600,000 personnel and its goal of joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would be foreclosed.
- "If the overall deal is adopted, Russia would be invited to rejoin the Group of Eight, and promised, on a case-by-case basis, the lifting of sanctions that have deprived the Kremlin of hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue. Washington and Moscow would collaborate on artificial intelligence, data centers, energy deals and rare-earth mining in the Arctic, under the 28-point plan," per the Journal.
- Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies at King's College London, has published a useful annotated summary of the 21-point plan [here](#).

Axios [reports](#), "Trump's plan demands painful concessions from Ukraine, but it also includes an unprecedented promise. [Zelenskyy's] top objective in peace talks is to obtain a robust U.S. and European security guarantee, and this is the first time Trump has been willing to put one on the table."

- Axios notes that the draft, "states that any future "significant, deliberate, and sustained armed attack" by Russia on Ukraine "shall be regarded as an attack threatening the peace and security of the transatlantic community," and the U.S. and its allies will respond accordingly, including through military force."

A flurry of calls between Zelenskyy and international leaders is expected to take place today. First, Zelenskyy will talk with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron, and British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. Bild [reports](#) that Zelenskyy and Merz will then have a call later today with President Trump.

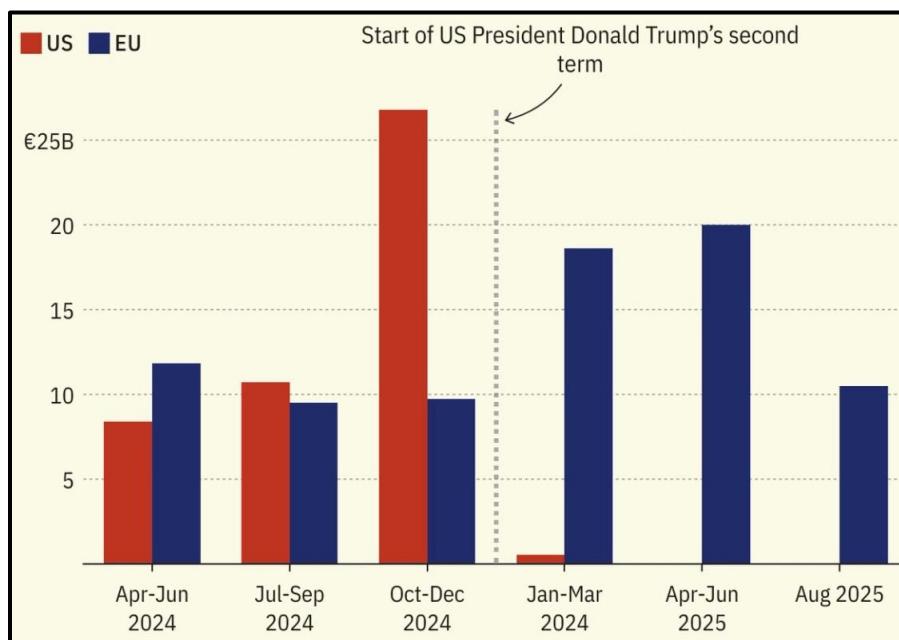
- European leaders have warned that they, and more importantly Kyiv, should not be excluded from the peace process, as appears to have been the case with the drafting of the 28-point plan.
- The major concessions that would be forced on Ukraine, combined with some of Russia's most maximalist demands being accepted by the US, has led to criticism of the deal both in Europe and by Russia hawks in the US. However, it appears the Trump administration is paying little heed to this, with its main focus being a rapid end to the war by any means necessary.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters this morning, when asked if Russia had taken part in talks with the US on the mooted 28-point Ukraine peace plan, says, "No, we

haven't received anything officially. We're seeing some innovations. But we haven't received anything officially. And there hasn't been any substantive discussion of these points."

- Peskov added that "Our contacts [between Russia and the United States] are not ceasing, and we have never stopped them." There appears to be little credence to Peskov's claims, with US presidential envoy Steve Witkoff's apparently [accidental reply on X](#) implicating 'K' in the initial story on the plan, seemingly implicating Russian presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev.
- Peskov said Russia and the US "are not discussing the US proposals yet in detail", but that "Russia remains open to negotiations". He adds that Zelenskyy's room for manoeuvre is "shrinking due to Russian battlefield progress", and that Zelenskyy must make a "responsible decision" and do it now.

**Figure 2: Government Support to Ukraine**



Source: Semafor

## Energy

The Trump administration has proposed a plan to open federal waters off the California coast to new oil and gas leasing for the first time in four decades, per [Politico](#).

- Politico notes, "The proposed five-year schedule for offshore oil and gas leasing represents the most aggressive in decades, with the Interior Department considering as many as 34 auctions in federal waters between 2026 and 2031. That includes as many as six sales off the Southern California coast, two in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and 21 sales off of Alaska, including in an area of the High Arctic previously untouched by oil drilling — though many of the most controversial auctions are not set to take place until after President Donald Trump is set to leave office."

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a statement, "The Biden administration slammed the brakes on offshore oil and gas leasing and crippled the long-term pipeline of America's



offshore production. By moving forward with the development of a robust, forward-thinking leasing plan, we are ensuring that America's offshore industry stays strong, our workers stay employed, and our nation remains energy dominant for decades to come."

- Earlier this month, California Governor Gavin Newsom (D-CA) [described](#) the plans as "dead on arrival" in California, adding: "I also think it remarkable that [Trump] didn't promote it in his backyard at Mar-a-Lago; he didn't promote it off the coast of Florida."

Politico [reports](#) separately that the House Natural Resources Committee approved bipartisan legislation Thursday aimed at overhauling permitting reviews to enable faster buildup of new energy and infrastructure projects.

- Politico notes that Chair Bruce Westerman's SPEED Act "would limit the scope of permitting reviews and restrain legal challenges for projects under the National Environmental Policy Act, a bedrock environmental protection law Republicans and some Democrats believe is mired in too much red tape."

## Argentina

The Wall Street Journal [reports](#): "A planned \$20 billion bailout to Argentina from JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Citigroup has been shelved as bankers pivot instead to a smaller, short-term loan package to support the financially distressed government."

- The financial assistance package was intended to make up half of a planned bailout, with the US Treasury Department to provide a parallel USD\$20 billion currency swap.
- The Journal reports, "Instead, banks are focused on plans to lend Argentina around \$5 billion through a short-term repurchase, or "repo" facility, where Argentina would exchange a portfolio of investments for dollars from the banks."

## Venezuela

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) is expected to announce new legislation today that would bar the Trump administration from spending money on military campaigns targeting Venezuela unless lawmakers approve an Authorization for Use of Military Force, according to an aide cited by Punchbowl News.

- Punchbowl notes, "Half a dozen leading lawmakers earlier this week pitched a resolution seeking to prevent Trump from using U.S. forces against any groups he's labeled as designated terrorist organizations within the Western Hemisphere. The Senate has blocked two similar resolutions in recent months."

## Iran

The Departments of State and Treasury announced new sanctions on Iranian entities, individuals, and vessels to stem the flow of revenue that the Iranian regime uses to advance its nuclear program and crack down on the shadow fleet of tankers Iran relies on to transport its oil exports to market.

- The State Department noted, "The Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East to fund its destabilizing activities. This behavior enables Iran to fund its nuclear escalations, support terrorist groups, and disrupt the flow of trade and

freedom of navigation in waterways that are crucial to global prosperity and economic growth.”

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said, “Today’s action continues Treasury’s campaign to cut off funding for the Iranian regime’s development of nuclear weapons and support of terrorist proxies. Disrupting the Iranian regime’s revenue is critical to helping curb its nuclear ambitions.”

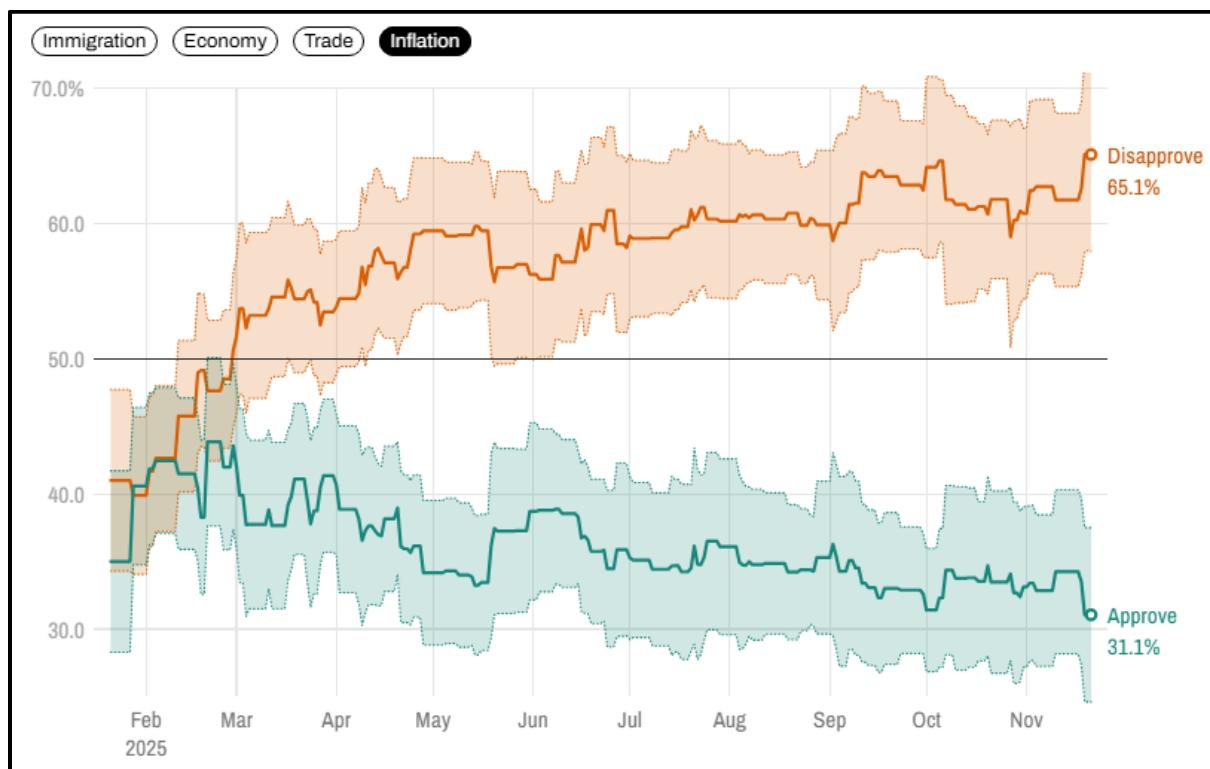
- Treasury noted in a statement, “Today’s action builds on recent sanctions taken in February and May targeting key enablers of Iran’s military oil exports. Today’s action is being taken primarily pursuant to the counterterrorism authority Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, as amended, and E.O. 13902, which targets Iran’s petroleum and petrochemical sectors. It continues the robust sanctions campaign targeting Iranian oil sales in support of the President’s National Security Presidential Memorandum 2 (NSPM-2), instituting maximum economic pressure on Iran.”

### Chart of the Day

President Donald Trump’s approval rating on his handling of inflation has plunged to a new low of -34%, according to Silver Bulletin. His handling of the economy appears to be the primary factor behind a recent collapse in his approval rating, which sank to a new low of -14.1% this week.

- The New York Times’ Editorial Board [wrote today](#): “*The cost of Mr. Trump’s policies is likely to increase in the coming months. His most inflationary policy is his campaign to build a wall of tariffs around the American economy. Tariffs are taxes on imports, and they are initially paid by the businesses that bring goods into the United States. In the early months of Mr. Trump’s presidency, importers mostly absorbed those costs rather than raising prices to recoup the money from consumers. Some companies said they were waiting to see if the tariffs would last. As time has passed, companies increasingly have shifted the costs of the tariffs to their customers.*”
- The Times notes that “Goldman Sachs estimates that the share of tariff costs borne by consumers has increased from 22 percent in April to 55 percent in October, and that it will continue to rise, reaching 67 percent by the middle of next year.”

**Figure 3: President Donald Trump Approval Rating on Inflation**



Source: Silver Bulletin

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