



WORLD

State of U.S. democracy reaches new low, report finds

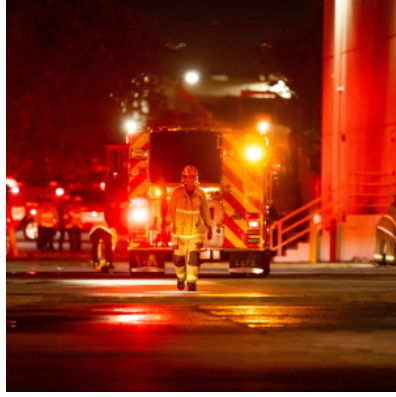


A new global democracy report finds the U.S. at its lowest level of democratic performance in the 50 years it has been measured.



POLITICS

**Republican Rep.
Massie moves
to impeach
Defense
Secretary
Hegseth over
Iran war**



NATIONAL

**Helicopter
crashes killing
at least 3
people near an
LA bus collision**



PERFORMING ARTS

**Kennedy Center
board votes to
close it, as
judge again
keeps Trump's
name off**



LAW

**Judge blocks
DHS from
acting against a
man over a
harsh email to
an ICE official**

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ONLY ON NPR

**NASA rushed
engineers out
of their labs.
They say it risks
future space
missions**



BUSINESS

**Get ready for
yet another
cost when
buying a home:
Junk fees**



MY UNSUNG HERO

**A stranger
helped a
mother and son
stuck in a
current in Lake
Michigan**



LAW

Prosecutors won't seek the death penalty for Nick Reiner



MIDDLE EAST

Turkish habit of stashing gold 'under the pillow' hurts economy, government says

For years, Turks have stashed their gold at home against a raining day, mistrustful of banks. Now the government says that tradition hurts the economy

Emre Çaylak for NPR

A federal plans for a 'Monarch Highway' stalled. States are still planting butterfly rest stops



NEBRASKA PUBLIC MEDIA

A decade ago, a federal task force announced a plan to help monarch butterflies along their great migration. The six-state effort along Interstate 35 didn't take off as expected, but some roadsides are blooming anyway.

New Hampshire chief justice resigns over state payment to ally



NHPR

New Hampshire Supreme Court Chief Justice Gordon McDonald resigned after a New Hampshire Public Radio investigation showed an ally received \$50,000 in employment benefits in a brief layoff.

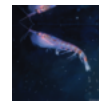


ELECTIONS

The Supreme Court rejects Trump's mail voting restrictions for this year's midterms

The Supreme Court has rejected the Trump administration's request to allow mail-in voting restrictions under a U.S. Postal Service plan for the midterm general election.

Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images



Tiny krill are turning up in deep-sea hydrothermal vents. Scientists want to know why

Antarctic krill serve as a crucial food source for penguins, seals, and whales. They recycle nutrients used by algae. Now researchers say they've found krill in a surprising place: hydrothermal vents.

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A Trump-backed crypto bill just suffered a bruising defeat in the Senate. Here's why

The legislation was intended to establish rules of the road for the crypto sector for the first time. But it suffered a stinging defeat in the Senate on Tuesday.



Finn Gomez/Getty Images

TECHNOLOGY

Bernie Sanders and Steve Bannon call for curbs on AI

The rare pairing of a progressive leader and a MAGA voice is a sign of how worries over rapidly advancing AI are upending political alliances. But their policy proposals are far apart.

GLOBAL HEALTH



Air pollution spiked after the Trump administration stopped embassy monitoring

In 2025, the Trump administration ended a long-running program to collect air pollution data at U.S. embassies. A new study suggests that led to a 24-33% increase in local pollution levels.



Emmys 2026: Here's the list of winners

The Pitt and Widow's Bay took home the top prizes in television at the Emmy Awards on Monday night. And actor Matthew Rhys became the first person to win in two lead acting categories in one night.

WATCH



Mon Laferte: Tiny Desk Concert



Tori Kelly: Tiny Desk Concert



Ratboys: Ti

Mon Laferte: Tiny Desk Concert

Mon Laferte aims to contradict, expose or challenge norms; she takes the assignment of performing in an office space as no exception.

ECONOMY

Family income rose and poverty fell in 2025 — but safety net cuts could erase gains



An annual report from the Census Bureau shows the average family made more money in 2025 than the year before, while the official poverty rate declined. Health care coverage was little changed from 2024.

ELECTIONS

How to register to vote in the 2026 elections



For the 2026 elections, NPR has collected deadlines and information on how to register to vote — online, in person or by mail — in every U.S. state and territory.

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Anthropic co-founder says slowing AI is a 'collective action problem'

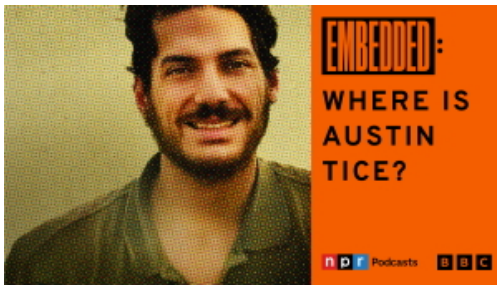
Anthropic co-founder Jack Clark discusses growing concerns about artificial intelligence, recent warning signs and what he says companies should do to reduce the risks.

Life Kit: Tools to help you get it together



and your dating luck, according to a





EMBEDDED

Episode 3: Retracing Austin Tice's steps through Syria leads to a shocking breakthrough

The Austin Tice files begin to give up their secrets. Josh and Sara uncover names, locations and new leads about what happened to Austin Tice. But to understand them, they have to go back to the start - to Austin's own journey through Syria, the

rebels he befriended, and the road he took before he vanished. That road leads to a town outside Damascus — and a shocking discovery.

Russell Gossett

IMMIGRATION

For thousands of Haitians in the U.S., end of protected status brings fear, grief and defiance



Haitians in the U.S. lost their Temporary Protected Status under Trump's immigration crackdown. Now facing deportation to a homeland wracked by gang violence, disease and extreme poverty, Haitians in Miami are meeting the moment with grief, anger, and courage.



Geopolitics and grain don't mix, say these Montana farmers

Farmers in states bordering Canada say they are reeling from President Trump's trade wars and resulting retaliatory tariffs. And it's just not neighborly.

MY UNSUNG HERO



New to the U.S., he struggled to find belonging. A fellow student changed that

When Teyu Chou was 11 years old, his family immigrated to the U.S. The transition was isolating and confusing. But a fellow student stepped up and helped him adjust.

Short Wave podcast: Revealing the science behind everyday mysteries



Chimp convalescence, ant amputation: the wild world of animal doctors



A course correction in managing drying rivers



Long COVID scientists try to unravel blood clot mystery

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POLITICS

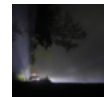
Mitch McConnell returns to Senate after fall that led to an extended medical absence



McConnell spent weeks in recovery before explaining he was "briefly unconscious" following the fall that sent him to the hospital and a weeks-long recovery process.

EUROPE

NATO jets shoot down a drone in Lithuanian airspace



The incident came less than a day after NATO leaders pledged that strikes close to the alliance's territory would drive the trans-Atlantic organization to increase support for Kyiv.



IMMIGRATION

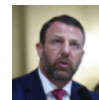
Texas landowners sue federal government over border wall plans

A lawsuit filed Monday takes aim at federal agencies' use of waivers to expedite construction of a wall along the border with Mexico and claims that landowners' constitutional rights are being violated.

Mary Cantrell/
Marfa Public Radio

ELECTIONS

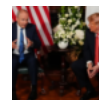
Federal agents may have broken state laws in voter fraud hunt, whistleblower claims



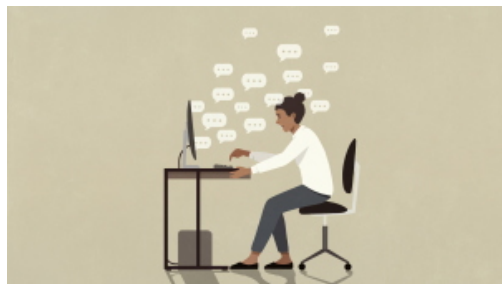
Federal agents may have broken state laws after the Department of Homeland Security began surging personnel for what it called the Unlawful Voter Initiative, a federal whistleblower alleges.

POLICY & POLITICS

Trump touches a nerve while in Ireland by saying reunification would be 'fantastic'



President Trump held talks in Dublin with Irish President Catherine Connolly and Ireland's Prime Minister Micheál Martin during a weekend visit centered on a major golf tournament.



Malte Mueller/Getty Images/fStop

ONLY ON NPR

NPR looked for ChatGPT's new crisis feature. It's hard to find

Earlier this year, OpenAI launched a feature on ChatGPT meant to help people at risk of suicide connect with someone they trust for support. But its setup may prove challenging to someone in crisis.

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