

# POLITICO

VOL. 18 • NO. 71 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 | POLITICO.COM

## House GOP investigates Zelensky's Pennsylvania visit

The Ukrainian leader visited a factory in Scranton over the weekend, flanked by Democrats.

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## Biden's final UN address

'There is so much more I want to get done'

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## Walz, Buttigieg step up debate prep in Minneapolis

Tim Walz faces off against JD Vance in the vice presidential debate Oct. 1 in New York.

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## Matt Wuerker

The cartoonist's daily take on the world of politics.

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JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/AP

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he is "profoundly disappointed" by the committee's insistence on setting dates "during which I am carrying out the president's important foreign policy objectives."

## House GOP moves toward holding Blinken in contempt

The secretary of State failed to appear for a hearing on the Afghanistan withdrawal Tuesday

BY ANTHONY ADRAGNA

House Republicans moved Tuesday to hold Secretary of State Antony Blinken in contempt of Congress over claims he obstructed their investigation into the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

House Foreign Affairs Chair

Michael McCaul (R-Texas) had subpoenaed Blinken, requiring him to testify on Tuesday. But the secretary of State responded he'd be in New York for events surrounding the U.N. General Assembly. Blinken reiterated "I am willing to testify," but he said he is "profoundly disappointed"

by the committee's insistence on unilaterally setting dates "during which I am carrying out the president's important foreign policy objectives."

That argument didn't sway McCaul — and the committee ultimately approved the contempt

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## U.S. officials looked at Americans traveling to Ukraine to fight. Ryan Routh fell through the cracks.

BY BETSY WOODRUFF SWAN AND ERIN BANCO

The federal government has been monitoring Americans who traveled to Ukraine to fight, fearing some could become violent when they return home. But they missed the man suspected of attempting to assassinate Donald Trump last week.

The Department of Homeland Security in 2022 launched an inter-agency effort to scrutinize Americans returning from Ukraine's war zone. The previously unreported effort aimed to identify Americans who might turn violent upon their return, according to five people familiar with the plans. Officials worried the Russia-Ukraine war

would attract American extremists who would learn combat skills on the battlefield and then attack their fellow Americans when they returned.

Officials across DHS and the FBI began attempting to identify Americans in talks with Ukrainian authorities and analyzing intelli-

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## Johnson's pitch fails to appease spending critics

Republican fiscal hawks are concerned they'll get jammed with a so-called omnibus

BY OLIVIA BEAVERS AND JORDAIN CARNEY

Speaker Mike Johnson made his final pitch on his bipartisan short-term spending bill to skeptical House Republicans on Tuesday. It didn't do much to appease his critics.

Johnson has embraced a "clean" plan to avert a government shutdown on Oct. 1, punting the deadline to Dec. 20. It's expected to pass the House on Wednesday, despite some GOP opposition, given widespread Democratic support.

But GOP fiscal hawks are concerned that kicking the spending fight into December means they'll get jammed right before the holidays with a so-called omnibus — a massive funding bill that lumps all 12 individual pieces of spending legislation together, typically negotiated by congressional leaders with little input from rank-and-file members. Those types of funding bills are widely unpopular, among Republicans especially, but commonly used when leaders are running up against a tight deadline.



FRANCIS CHUNG/POLITICO

House Speaker Mike Johnson has embraced a "clean" plan to avert a government shutdown on Oct. 1, punting the deadline to Dec. 20.

The Louisiana Republican sought to assuage those concerns in a private House GOP meeting Tuesday morning. He committed to not doing an omnibus, as well as any so-called minibus, which combines some but not all of the 12 spending bills.

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## Biden climate chief says there isn't much spending GOP can claw back from IRA

BY JOSH SIEGEL

White House adviser Ali Zaidi said the Biden administration is racing to lock in the hundreds of billions of clean energy investments in its landmark climate law — a pledge that comes as former President Donald Trump is vowing to dismantle the whole effort.

In an interview with the POLITICO Energy podcast ahead of Climate Week in New York City, Zaidi said the incentives in Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act and actions by U.S. allies abroad

have sparked a shift in clean energy manufacturing and deployment.

"The Biden-Harris administration is focused on sprinting through the next few months, [with a] relentless focus on execution," said Zaidi, the national climate adviser to President Joe Biden. "We're implementing the largest investment climate in the history of the world and a regulatory agenda that has helped secure public health gains and environmental gains."

"And frankly, I think there's

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# CONFERENCE: THE MORE DANGEROUS STATE OF THE WORLD AND THE NEED FOR FIT LEADERSHIP

*THE MUCH MORE DANGEROUS CASE OF DONALD TRUMP*

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