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## SPOTLIGHT

### Common Census

#### President Trump's sights are set on the Census...again

By Kirk A. Bado

President Trump further ratcheted up his redistricting power grab yesterday by demanding a new census before the regularly scheduled count of every person in the country, slated for 2030 to determine the apportionment of congressional seats and the Electoral College for the next decade.

Like his attempts to meddle with the Census during his first term, Trump demanded that the millions of people in the country without legal status not be included.

"I have instructed our Department of Commerce to immediately begin work on a new and highly accurate CENSUS based on modern day facts and figures and, importantly, using the results and information gained from the Presidential Election of 2024," Trump posted. "People who are in our Country illegally WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN THE CENSUS."

The directive runs afoul of the 14th Amendment, which calls for the "whole number of persons in each state" to be included in the count. A federal court denied a push from Trump to exclude undocumented immigrants from the Census in 2020. The president also unsuccessfully tried to pressure the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Trump's latest push for a new census would almost certainly face difficult legal challenges and exorbitant costs. The 2020 Census cost \$13.7 billion, according to estimates from the GAO. Legal experts swiftly condemned Trump's call for a new census, with Brennan Center for Justice's Vice President Kareem Crayton telling the *New York Times* that coupled with the White House's redistricting pressure campaign, Trump "has attempted to make a mockery of free and fair elections."

The president's demands are also a fundamental misunderstanding of the purpose of the census. Yes, the Census divides up political power and sets the Electoral College map. But it also is one of the largest and most comprehensive data projects in the world. The decennial snapshot chronicles the country's changing population, housing, and workforce. Trump's attempts to interfere undermine important data

that is crucial to dividing up public and private resources. This is just the latest front in Trump's war on facts and figures.

— *Kirk A. Bado*

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## Quote of the Day

" We don't know if it's being used for official purposes, campaign purposes—it's a mystery. " — Philip Hensley-Robin, executive director of Common Cause Pennsylvania, on Rep. Rob Bresnahan's (R-PA 08) helicopter, NOTUS, 8/8

## HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

### Trump defends economy using Heritage Foundation economist's numbers

By Erika Filter

#### REPUBLICANS: Arresting Democrats Harder Than Imagined

The MAGA base has called for Texas Democrats to be criminally charged and forced back to Austin, but there's no evidence the lawmakers have broken any law.

- **FANTASY REMAINS A FANTASY.** "The far right lusts to see prominent Democrats or" adversaries of President Trump "hailed off in handcuffs, only to be let down when their revenge fantasies run into reality."
- **PROBES UNLIKELY TO GO ANYWHERE.** Legal experts say the probes into former special counsel Jack Smith, former FBI Director James Comey, and former Presidents Biden and Obama are unlikely to spark serious criminal charges.
- **STRUGGLING TO DELIVER.** "Both Trump and his base are learning that it's not simple to round up political opponents, even with Trump loyalists in charge of the Justice Department." (*Politico*)

#### WHITE HOUSE: Trump Points to More Favorable Numbers Following BLS Firing

"During an impromptu news conference," President Trump "displayed charts from Stephen Moore, an economist at the conservative Heritage Foundation, that he said proved his economy was better than that of his predecessor," former President Biden.

- **UNRIGGING THE ECONOMY.** Trump's display of the numbers came shortly after he fired Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Erika McEntarfer for releasing jobs numbers he called "rigged." (*New York Times*)
- **TRUMP THE CORPORATE EXECUTIVE.** "In dealing with America's biggest companies, the commander in chief has no qualms about acting as the micromanager in chief."

- **IN THE THICK OF IT.** Trump “took his penchant for telling corporate bosses how to run their companies to another level Thursday by publicly calling on Intel’s chief executive to resign,” after having previously “told Detroit carmakers not to raise prices ... demanded Walmart ‘eat the tariffs.’ He’s pressured the Washington Commanders football team to change its name and wants Coca-Cola to use cane sugar instead of corn syrup.”
- **NO WAY OUT.** “All of that intervention is creating a risk for business leaders who thought they had largely figured out the Trump playbook.”
- **ALL FOR NAUGHT.** “Public flattery and splashy U.S. investment announcements were supposed to placate the president and keep companies out of his Truth Social posts. ... Now that the president has called for the head of one CEO, the fear is that he will target others who displease him.” (*Wall Street Journal*)
- **TRUMP CALLS FOR NEW CENSUS.** Trump said “he plans to conduct a census that would not count people present in the country illegally, an order that clashes with the Constitution and would face legal challenges.”
- **NOT THE POINT.** The Census “is meant to provide a full accounting of everyone present in the United States, including people living in the U.S. without authorization. It is unclear if Trump is ordering a new census to be conducted immediately, or if he is saying he wants to redesign the process ahead of the planned 2030 Census.”
- **THE REDISTRICTING ANGLE.** “A census that excludes undocumented immigrants could shrink the congressional representation of some blue states, many of which have sizable undocumented populations. But it could reduce the caucuses of red states as well.” (*Washington Post*)

## 2028 WATCH: Steve Bannon Reportedly Plotting Presidential Run

Former White House adviser Steve Bannon is reportedly “in the early stages of planning an audacious run for president in 2028.”

- **BACK TO BASICS.** Bannon, who helped fuel President Trump’s rise in his first term, is reportedly seeking political advice and “has privately ridiculed the prospect of” Vice President JD Vance “at the top of the ticket.” (*Daily Mail*)
- **BANNON SAYS:** “Trump 2028.” (*Fox News*)

## HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

### Former Michigan House speaker exits Senate race

By Nicholas Anastácio

#### ALASKA: Sullivan and Mary Peltola Are Neck and Neck in Hypothetical Matchup Poll

A Data for Progress poll (July 21-27; 678 LVs; +/-4%) found Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) and former Rep. Mary Peltola (D) locked in a tight two-person matchup. Sullivan got 46%, Peltola got 45%, 4% were undecided. 5% of voters said they’d rank neither candidate.

- **FAVORABILITY.** Peltola had a more positive favorability split, 52%-43%, than Sullivan, 48%-48%. (*19th News*)
- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** It’s important to keep in mind that Data for Progress is a progressive pollster before reading too much into the poll’s results. Peltola is an undeniably strong Alaskan Democrat, but going up against Sullivan could be the most difficult office for her to pursue next year compared to a comeback House bid and a gubernatorial campaign.

## GEORGIA: Mike Collins Ahead in Three-Way GOP Primary Poll

A TIPP Insights poll conducted for the GOP-aligned League of American Workers (July 28-Aug. 1; 981 LVs) found Rep. Mike Collins (R-10) at 27%, Rep. Buddy Carter (R-01) at 20%, and former Tennessee football coach Derek Dooley (R) at 8% in a three-way GOP primary. 6% supported someone else and 39% were undecided. No margin of error was provided.

- **NEXT NOVEMBER.** In general-election matchup polls (July 28-Aug. 1; 2,395 LVs; +/-2%), Sen. Jon Ossoff (D) was neck and neck against Collins, 45%-44%, and Carter, 45%-43%. Ossoff led Dooley, 45%-42%. (*Daily Caller*)
- **KEEP IN MIND.** Steve Cortes, the founder and president of the League of American Workers, is supporting Collins' bid. (X)
- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** Caution should be given to this poll given Cortes' endorsement of Collins. But it's unsurprising that the two congressmen are receiving more support than Dooley, a political newcomer starting out with relatively low name ID.
- **SOUNDS LIKE IT.** Gov. Brian Kemp's (R) super PAC, Hardworking Americans, is launching a two-week ad buy to boost Dooley's bid on Fox News. Kemp hasn't officially endorsed Dooley, but the move signals the governor's team is behind the former football coach. (*Punchbowl News*)
- **FROM 2022 TO NOW.** Reps. Russell Fry (R-SC 07) and Morgan Luttrell (R-TX 08) endorsed Collins in the GOP primary. Both Luttrell and Collins were first elected to the House in 2022. (X/X)

## IOWA: Paralympian-Turned-Legislator Plans to Enter Race

State Rep. Josh Turek (D) is planning to enter the race against Sen. Joni Ernst (R), joining a four-person Democratic primary. In a voicemail reviewed by *Semafor*, Turek told a potential supporter: "I just wanted to let you know that I am running for the U.S. Senate."

- **TRACK RECORD.** Turek, a former Paralympian for the U.S. wheelchair basketball team, won his district last year by 5 points as President Trump carried the seat by 8 points. (*Semafor*)

## KANSAS: Former USDA Official Files to Run Against Marshall

2020 KS-01 candidate Christy Davis (D), who served as a White House appointee for the Department of Agriculture Rural Development under former President Biden, filed paperwork to run against Sen. Roger Marshall (R). Attorney Anne Parelkar (D) and 2022 candidate Michael Soetaert (D) have also filed paperwork to run.

- **MARSHALL LAW.** Marshall is poised to win reelection in his ruby-red state, entering last month with a \$2.7 million war chest. The senator won his seat in 2020 by roughly 11 points. (*Topeka Capital-Journal*)

## MICHIGAN: Joe Tate Drops Out

State Rep. Joe Tate (D) is dropping out of the race to replace retiring Sen. Gary Peters (D), looking to seek reelection to the state's lower chamber.

- **MONEY GAP.** Tate, a former state House speaker and the first Black member to serve in the position, struggled to compete with the seven-figure fundraising numbers of Rep. Haley Stevens (D-11), state Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D), and 2018 GOV candidate Abdul El-Sayed (D) during the second quarter. Tate raised about \$193,000 in Q2. (AP)

## MINNESOTA: Cook Shifts Rating to Likely Democrat

The *Cook Political Report with Amy Walter* shifted the open race's rating from Lean Democrat to Likely Democrat, citing the lack of a high-profile GOP recruit that can take on either Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan (D) or Rep. Angie Craig (D-02) next November.

- **WHAT COULD'VE BEEN.** "Two Republicans told us there was a self-funding GOP businessman who was ready to enter the race, but the politically-motivated assassination of" former state House Speaker Melissa Hortman (D) "and her husband in June, understandably dissuaded this person from jumping into a political contest."
- **ANYONE ELSE.** 2024 nominee Royce White (R) and former Navy SEAL Adam Schwarze (R) are the two Republicans in the race, and the GOP is trying to avoid another White nomination. Former NBA player Willie Burton (R) is a potential contender, but national Republicans may look to recruit from the business community. (*Cook Political Report with Amy Walter*)
- **SHOUT OUT.** House Majority Whip Tom Emmer shouted out Burton during a GOP forum last month in Carver County, referring to Burton as a potential candidate for retiring Sen. Tina Smith's (D) seat.
- **DIVIDING LINES.** White, an avid supporter of President Trump, "has attacked Schwarze because [he] signed a document at a fundraiser that said he was a member of the 'leadership team' that supported" 2024 presidential candidate Nikki Haley (R). Schwarze denied being an activist for Haley, but said he's "not MAGA." (*MinnPost*)
- **SENATORIAL BACKUP.** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) will join Flanagan at a Minneapolis rally on Aug. 22. "to share their plans on how to change the status quo in Washington and make the government work for working people." (release)

## NORTH CAROLINA: End Citizens United Backs Roy Cooper

End Citizens United endorsed former Gov. Roy Cooper (D) to replace retiring Sen. Thom Tillis (R). (release)

- **NOT SO FAST.** Minister Orrick Quick (D) launched a longshot bid for the open seat, saying in a Facebook post: "It's time to have more godly men in Washington." Quick has unsuccessfully run for seats on the High Point City Council. (*High Point Enterprise*)
- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** Cooper virtually has a glidepath to the Democratic nomination, likely to face RNC Chairman Michael Whatley in the general election.

## TEXAS: Senate Hopefuls Steal Redistricting Spotlight

The Lone Star State's redistricting fight is emboldening current and potential Senate contenders on both sides to steal the spotlight.

- **DEM SIDE.** State Rep. James Talarico (D), who could enter the race this month, has become an unofficial spokesperson for state House Democrats who fled the state while 2024 nominee Colin Allred (D) sticks to a conventional campaign approach.
- **GOP SIDE.** On the GOP side, state Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) is flocking to both mainstream outlets and new media while Sen. John Cornyn (R) maintains an "institutionalist approach," writing a strongly worded letter to the FBI to track down state House Democrats who fled. (*Politico*)
- **BRUTAL.** 2022 GOV nominee Beto O'Rourke (D), who's still keeping the door open on a Senate run, said in response to Allred's run: "I don't think it's any secret that Colin is probably not off to the strongest start."
- **'ABSOLUTELY OPEN.'** O'Rourke added that there's "still a ton of opportunity" for other Democrats to enter the primary, referring to it as "absolutely open." Allred and astronaut Terry Virts (D) are currently in the race. (*Texas Monthly*)

## HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

### Former Biden officials contend with experience on campaign trail

By James A. Downs and Amelia Monroe

#### RACE FOR THE HOUSE: Former Biden White House Staff Run for Congress

Former President Biden “may be back on the ballot in several races across the country—at least on the résumés of several Democratic candidates. So far, at least six former Biden administration officials are running for Congress in competitive seats. Each candidate is discussing their time in the administration differently, with some proudly highlighting their service in the unpopular former president’s administration, while others are more coy.”

- **BIGGER PICTURE.** Interviews with candidates revealed a common through line in their campaign pitches: commitment to service. Not every candidate jumped over the moon to discuss the former president specifically, but each leaned into their experience and willingness to serve the country. Navy veteran Kishla Askins (D), running in NE-02, told *Hotline* her time in the Biden VA Department is just one facet of her “three decades” of experience and service but that she was “proud” of her time there. Not all candidates, like former Commerce Department official Eric Chung (D) in MI-10, make such direct mention. These candidates will likely have to mention the Biden White House at some point—whether they like it or not—as they run in crowded primaries in order to create separation from like-minded opponents.
- **HISTORY.** Four former Biden administration officials currently serve in Congress, and each touted their past ties to varying degrees.
- **LAST TIME.** “But not all candidates preached about their time in the Biden White House during their runs last cycle.” Former Agriculture Department official Lanon Baccam (D) deleted some of his social media posts in support of the administration, and Republicans hammered him on TV for it. He lost by 4 points to Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA 03). (*Hotline* reporting)
- **NJ-07.** Former Biden administration official Megan O’Rourke (D) confirmed her congressional bid to take on Rep. Tom Kean Jr. (R). O’Rourke is the third confirmed candidate that has experience in the Biden administration: former head of the Small Business Administration Michael Roth (D) and senior adviser in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General Tina Shah (D). O’Rourke will also take on former Navy helicopter pilot Rebecca Bennett (D), businessman Brian Varela (D), and 2022 candidate Greg Vartan (D) in the primaries. (*New Jersey Globe*)

#### REDISTRICTING ROUNDUP: Here Comes Florida

Republicans now look to pick up roughly 12 seats across the country ahead of 2026 via redistricting efforts. “Republicans are hoping to net a minimum of three House seats in Florida. ... Add that to the five seats in Texas, one each in Missouri and Indiana, plus two or three in Ohio, where state law mandates a redraw ahead of 2026.” (*Punchbowl News*)

- **FLORIDA.** House Speaker Daniel Perez (R) “sent out a memo to lawmakers Thursday afternoon announcing his creation of the Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting. ... It’s unclear if Florida will be able to pass a new map.” The state Senate president declined to comment on his interest in redistricting efforts. Perez said the state Supreme Court’s recent ruling, which affirmed current lines, may allow them to “seek legal guidance” about a potential new map. (*Miami Herald*)

- **HERE'S THE TWIST.** A voter-approved amendment in 2010 prohibits redistricting that favors one political party over another. The court decision dealt with the minority voter protections part of that amendment. Perez and Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) do not have a good relationship, leading some to speculate the White House probed Perez to act on districting. That could open a new map up to potential court challenges on the Fair Districts amendment.
- **LOOKING FOR COVER.** Perez in his memo barred legislators who have made “statements about redistricting that suggest an intent to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party” or who have expressed interest in running for Congress as a way to insulate a new map from partisan gerrymandering claims. (*Florida Playbook*)
- **INDIANA.** Gov. Mike Braun (R) “was noncommittal about the prospect of redistricting in Indiana following a meeting with” Vice President JD Vance and Indiana Republican legislative leaders. Braun said the conversation was “pretty good” and “we listened” as the group discussed a host of issues. The state House speaker and Senate pro tempore did not answer questions about potential redistricting efforts. Their later statements did not touch on it, either. (*Indianapolis Star*)
- **TEXAS.** Texas Democrats breaking legislative quorum traveled to California and will headline a press conference with Gov. Gavin Newsom (D). “Newsom and California leaders will discuss their efforts to counter Republican gerrymandering.” (release)
- **HARD BALL.** The deadline for lawmakers to return to the state as set by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) and state Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) is today. Abbott sued state House Minority Leader Gene Wu (D) and asked the state Supreme Court to remove him from office. Paxton “said he will go to court Friday to expel Democratic lawmakers if they don’t return by then.” Both efforts appear legally dubious, at best, right now. (*Washington Post*)
- **BRING THE SEAT.** Abbott said in an interview he plans to call “special session after special session with the same agenda items on there” so long as Democrats don’t return to the capitol. He also said they are currently “searching for” and “preparing to arrest” the state lawmakers. (NBC News)
- **SWERVE.** Democrats, who have traditionally favored independent redistricting efforts, are now making a collective “U-turn” as Republicans look to extract seats across the country. The National Democratic Redistricting Committee said it’s “not going to oppose states taking corrective and temporary measures,” though it traditionally favors more democratic means of map-drawing. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 11), who has in the past both opposed and supported the California independent commission, said “Democrats cannot and will not unilaterally disarm,” a sentiment echoed by many party leaders across the country. (*Politico*)

## PENNSYLVANIA 08: Member Controversy Amid Concealed Helicopter Purchase

Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R) is a multimillionaire that leads one of the state’s poorest districts, and he’s seemingly trying to conceal “one whirling aspect of his wealth: his new personal helicopter.” While it isn’t illegal for lawmakers to buy expensive luxuries like these, it is frowned upon for Bresnahan to forgo transparency about the purchase altogether.

- **HIDDEN FILES.** The helicopter, which retails between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, has yet to appear in Bresnahan’s personal financial disclosures. In an analysis of Federal Aviation Administration records, congressional financial disclosures, and commercial flight data, it was uncovered that the multimillionaire member purchased the chopper in late 2024. Aside from financial records, Bresnahan has also attempted to conceal flight records—when looking for the aircraft on the flight tracking website, FlightAware, “users are met with this message: ‘This aircraft (N422RB) is not available for public tracking per request from the owner/operator.’”
- **CLOCKS TICKING.** In May, all members of Congress were scheduled to file new congressional disclosures that detail all personal finances for 2024. Bresnahan was granted a 90 day extension and is expected to hand over detailed financial information by Aug. 13.

- **WALKING A FINE LINE.** Based on U.S. Census data, Bresnahan represents a district that ranks second-to-last in median household income: about \$61,140. The member also advocated against and proposed bills that cracked down on federal lawmakers' involvement in the stock market. It's been confirmed that he has continued to trade stocks since getting in Congress. Bresnahan originally pitched himself as a state “everyman who grew up sweeping floors, wiring electrical junction boxes and driving work trucks.” But, if his lack of transparency persists he risks “alienating constituents.” (NOTUS)

## HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

### Eleni Kounalakis drops out of California governor's race

By Abby Turner

#### ALASKA: Mary Peltola Leads in Hypothetical Matchup Against Nancy Dahlstrom

A poll (July 21-27; 678 LVs; +/-4%) conducted by progressive pollster Data for Progress found, in a simulated rank-choice vote for governor, former Rep. Mary Peltola (D) led Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom (R), 65%-35%, in the final round. In the first round, Peltola had 40%, conservative activist Bernadette Wilson (R) had 11%, Dahlstrom had 10%, and former state Sen. Click Bishop (R) had 6%. Four other candidates polled below 6% and 18% were unsure. (*The 19th*)

- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** Do not expect a Democrat to win Alaska's gubernatorial race by a 30-point margin. Peltola, who hasn't declared a run for governor, narrowly lost her House seat to Rep. Nick Begich (R-AL) by just under 3 points in the final round of ranked-choice voting.

#### CALIFORNIA: A Third of Voters Undecided After Kamala Harris Forgoes Run

An Emerson College poll (Aug. 4-5; 1,000 RVs; +/-3%) found a plurality of voters, 38%, are still undecided after former Vice President Kamala Harris announced she would not run for governor.

- **PORTER LEADS.** Former Rep. Katie Porter (D) led with 18%, followed by former Fox News host Steve Hilton (R) with 12%, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco (R) with 7%, and former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (D) with 5%. The rest of the field polled below 3%, while 5% said they would vote for someone else.
- **BEST OF TWO.** “In California's nonpartisan system, the top two candidates move on from the primary to the general, regardless of party affiliation.” (*The Hill*)
- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** While Porter leads in this first poll since Harris dropped out, two Republicans are leading the rest of the Democratic field. Democrats need to secure not just one, but two front runners, if they want a guaranteed shot of holding the governor's mansion after the state's top-two primary.
- **ELENI IS OUT.** Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis (D) suspended her bid for governor, instead opting to run for state treasurer.
- **WHAT COULD'VE BEEN.** “Kounalakis was seen as a formidable threat because she has won statewide office twice, albeit in the low-visibility lieutenant governor's race, and because of her family's long history as prolific Democratic fundraisers.”



- **NANCY COULDN'T HELP.** She also snagged an endorsement from Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-11) after Harris announced she would not run for governor. Kounalakis previously said she would not run if Harris joined the race. (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

## **GEORGIA: Chris Carr Sues Over Georgia Law Allowing Burt Jones' Unlimited Fundraising**

State Attorney General Chris Carr's (R) campaign "filed a federal lawsuit Thursday challenging a 2021 Georgia law that allows" Lt. Gov. Burt Jones (R) "to raise unlimited cash while imposing strict limits on" Carr's own fundraising. "Carr argues Jones' ability to raise and spend unlimited funds through his leadership committee 'significantly disadvantages' Carr's campaign for governor."

- **SWITCHING UP.** "As attorney general, Carr is constitutionally bound to represent the state when it is sued." His office defended Georgia against multiple challenges to the fundraising law that passed in 2021 under Gov. Brian Kemp (R).
- **TRIED ONCE BEFORE.** The state ethics commission dismissed a complaint from Carr last month seeking an investigation into the source of Jones' \$10 million campaign loan. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

## **MAINE: Third Independent Candidate Joins Over a Dozen Running for Governor**

Former environmental specialist John Glowa (I) is running for governor in a field that includes over a dozen candidates. He is the third independent candidate to launch a bid, the most prominent being state Sen. Rick Bennett (I). (*Maine Morning Star*)

## **OHIO: Amy Acton, Vivek Ramaswamy Statistically Tied in New Poll**

An internal poll (July 24-28; 800 LVs; +/-3.5%) for former state Department of Health Director Amy Acton (D) and conducted by Impact Research showed the lone Democrat in a statistical tie with 2024 presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy (R), 46%-47%, with 7% undecided. Acton led among independents, 48%-40%, with 11% undecided. (*Downballot*)

- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** To gain an edge on Ramaswamy, Acton will need to strengthen her lead among independents in the state and find other ways to compete beyond financial firepower, as the presumptive GOP nominee has held a consistent fundraising advantage over her.

## **VIRGINIA: Pro-Winsome Earle-Sears PAC Falsely Claims She Served Overseas**

Spirit of Virginia PAC, a PAC supporting Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears (R) and tied to Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R), falsely claimed in a radio ad that Earle-Sears "fought for our freedom overseas." Earle-Sears has previously said she did not serve "on any foreign battlefields" while in the U.S. Marines. (*NOTUS*)

## **OVERLOOKED**

### **Corporate Cooperation**

By Amelia Monroe

Amid President Trump's tariff crackdown and executive order frenzy, the Republican president is gunning to influence large corporations and their decisions—like getting Coca-Cola to switch their formula from corn syrup to cane sugar. In response, CEOs have opted for flattery and compliance to stay out off the president's radar. Apple CEO Tim Cook, who has leveraged gift-giving, public spectacles, and insider negotiations to stay on Trump's good side, is the latest example. While Trump's approach differs from those who've come before, it's not the first time presidents have gotten involved in corporate business. In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered a complete overhaul of monopolies; In 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt seized control of the Montgomery Ward company for its in compliance with labor laws; In 2009, former President Obama urged then-General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner to resign for the car company's bail out of the Detroit automaker.