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SPOTLIGHT

The War on Facts and Figures

The Trump administration is pushing for its own narrative.

By Kirk A. Bado

It appears that President Trump wants to control his own facts thanks to a series of personnel and policy decisions.

Look at this series of moves from Trump and his officials over the last few weeks:

- On Friday Trump fired the Bureau of Labor statistics commissioner in response to a disappointing July jobs' report that revealed potential weaknesses in the economy
- The Defense Department purged thousands of DEI-connected images from its archives
- EPA rolled back provisions to report on the impact of climate change
- After Trump successfully cut funding to local PBS and NPR stations, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting said it will shut down by the end of the year
- The Smithsonian removed references to Trump's two impeachments from an exhibit in the National Museum of American History after the White House pressured the museum system to remove an art museum director. The Smithsonian said they would restore the references after the *Washington Post* revealed the glaring omission last week

"For months, people have been asking me whether I still trusted gov't data. My answer was always the same: The stats agencies faced longstanding challenges, some of which Trump was making worse. But there was no sign of political meddling. I can't say that anymore," Ben Casselman, an economics reporter at the *New York Times*, said after the president sacked the BLS chief.

The politicization of government research and data gathering carries implications far beyond the current administration. During Trump's first term, his unsuccessful efforts to add a citizenship question to the Census in part led to an historically high undercount of Black people, Latinos and Native Americans in 2020.

As Trump openly talks about wielding mid-cycle redistricting to preserve his party's power in 2025, imagine how far he might go to influence the apportionment of congressional seats and Electoral College votes following the 2030 Census.

— Kirk A. Bado

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Quote of the Day

" If I had a client who was running for president, and they wanted to go to Iowa, I would jump ship. " — Democratic strategist Rebecca Pearcey on 2028 hopefuls' travel plans, NOTUS, 8/4

HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

Justice Department requests voter registrations from 15 states

By Erika Filter

DEMOCRATS: Presidential Nominating Calendar Talks Begin Later This Month

DNC Chair Ken Martin said "the party will begin deliberating the 2028 primary calendar later this month at a meeting in Minneapolis."

- **DELIVERABLE.** He said "he expects to have a calendar set by the end of next year." (*The Hill*)
- **BUSINESS AS USUAL.** But a lack of decision on the nominating calendar "hasn't stopped the party's next crop of potential candidates from going to them anyway." Visits to Iowa and New Hampshire are "part of a well-worn strategy to bring attention to the candidates ... one that works even if the states might not be among the four early ones in the primary."
- **CAUCUS CHAOS.** If Iowa "holds its traditional caucus before the start of the official DNC calendar, party officials say, there's a distinct chance candidates might compete there anyway, hoping to earn momentum (if not official delegates) from the contest." (*NOTUS*)

VOTING: Justice Department Requests Voter Registrations from 15 States

"Over the past three months, the" Justice Department's "voting section has requested copies of voter registration lists from state election administrators in at least 15 states."

- **PARTISAN BREAKDOWN.** "Of those, nine are Democrats, five are Republicans and one is a bipartisan commission." (AP)

REPUBLICANS: Cash Advantage May Mean More Ads

"When it comes to attracting mega-donors, Republicans are crushing Democrats."

- **THE WHY.** "Corporate interests simply have more to gain these days from backing Republicans than they do from backing Democrats."
- **THE MEDIA MARKET.** "That could mean a lot more ads for conservatives than for liberals in next year's midterm elections." (*New York Times*)

WHITE HOUSE: Trump Decision to Fire BLS Commissioner Sparks Backlash

President Trump's decision to fire Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Erika McEntarfer "raised questions about the future independence of agencies tasked with reporting critical economic data—and threatened to further politicize the fraught debate over whether federal budget cuts and job eliminations have weakened the nation's ability to track major economic statistics." (*Washington Post*)

- **SPECIAL COUNSEL INVESTIGATING FORMER SPECIAL COUNSEL.** The Office of Special Counsel confirmed it is investigating former special counsel Jack Smith "on allegations he engaged in political activity through his inquiries into Trump."
- **ANCIENT HISTORY.** "Smith brought two cases against Trump," both in 2023, "well over a year before the 2024 presidential election, and indictments in the two cases cited what Smith and his team described as clear violations of well-established federal law." (AP)
- **SMALL DOLLAR WINS.** Trump has amassed a political war chest bigger than that of any previous president in part due to "email solicitations to small-dollar donors in which he has repeatedly offered the prospect of perks, including having their names hung on the wall of the Oval Office."
- **ALL IN THE TITLE.** "One July missive promised donors the title of 'Trump White House Advisor' for those who completed a poll."
- **RUN IT BACK.** Unlike most presidents, who stop aggressively fundraising after they are reelected, Trump "has been determined to keep raising historic sums of money."
- **GOLDEN YEARS.** "He has told advisers that if Democrats win the House of Representatives, they will investigate and try to impeach him, and he doesn't want his last two years to be miserable." (*Wall Street Journal*)

2028 WATCH: Josh Green Mulls Run

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green (D) said he is considering a 2028 campaign, saying, "I haven't made up my mind about what the future holds. I would be honored to help whomever. I might even become a potential candidate, but only if I've actually done a good job." (Honolulu *Star-Advertiser*)

SUNDAY SCARIES: Kevin Hassett Defends Firing of BLS Commissioner

The Trump administration and former Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner William Beach clashed over the firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Erika McEntarfer.

- **MEET THE PRESS.** White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett defended President Trump's firing of McEntarfer.
- **HASSETT SAYS:** "It's the president's highest priority that the data be trusted and that people get to the bottom of why these revisions are so unreliable."
- **STATE OF THE UNION.** Former Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner William Beach defended McEntarfer, saying there was "no way" for her to rig the numbers.
- **BEACH SAYS:** "The commissioner doesn't do anything to collect the numbers. The commissioner doesn't see the numbers until Wednesday before they're published. By the time the commissioner sees the numbers, they're all prepared. They're locked into the computer system."
- **CREDIBILITY BOOST.** Beach said he will still trust the numbers coming out of BLS after McEntarfer's departure because he knows the staff and "they are completely devoted to producing the very best gold standard data possible."

- **THE HILL SUNDAY.** DNC Chair Ken Martin said the party will begin deliberating the 2028 presidential nominating calendar at its meeting in Minneapolis later this month.
- **DEADLINE.** He said the calendar should be set by the end of next year.
- **MARTIN SAYS:** “The process of having states come in to bid for this has to be fair and open. Any state that wants to be part of the early-states window will be considered by the DNC.”

HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

Derek Dooley kicks off Georgia Senate bid

By Nicholas Anastácio

GEORGIA: Derek Dooley Touches Down in Senate Race

Former Tennessee football Coach Derek Dooley (R) kicked off a bid to unseat Sen. Jon Ossoff (D), entering the GOP primary alongside Reps. Buddy Carter (R-01) and Mike Collins (R-10).

- **LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.** In his launch video titled “Georgia First,” Dooley highlighted his father, legendary Georgia football Coach Vince Dooley, and praised President Trump’s accomplishments. Dooley also touched on his three-decade coaching career and voiced his opposition to transgender athletes playing in women’s sports.
- **‘ELLO GOV’NA.** Gov. Brian Kemp (R) is expected to throw his support behind Dooley’s bid, spurring Carter and Collins to pursue the MAGA lane in the primary. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)
- **COLLINS’ OFFENSIVE.** Collins continues to rack up state legislative endorsements for his campaign, rallying support from Kemp allies. He hired Ben Tarbutton III, head of the Sandersville Railroad Co. and a longtime Kemp ally, as his finance chairman.
- **CONSEQUENCES.** “We’re told his allies are reminding potential defectors that crossing the state’s most popular Republican—a governor who spent \$2 million last cycle to protect the GOP majority in the state Legislature—could come at a steep political cost.” (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)
- **DEM INDIFFERENCE.** DSCC spokesperson Maeve Coyle referred to Dooley as a “failed football coach” and highlighted the potential proxy war between Trump and Kemp. (release) Senate Majority PAC spokesperson Lauren French said Dooley “is going to quickly discover his father’s fame won’t win him a Senate seat.” (release)
- **HOTLINE ANALYSIS.** Dooley is getting into a whole new game as he breaks his huddle to square off against Ossoff. However, he still has a ways to go before he reaches the end zone. Trump and Peach State Republicans aren’t likely to coalesce behind Dooley immediately, especially with Carter and Collins exhibiting more prominent MAGA credentials. Dooley can have Kemp’s blessing, but success isn’t guaranteed on the electoral gridiron.

KENTUCKY: Fiery Time at Fancy Farm

Republicans looking to succeed retiring Sen. Mitch McConnell (R) threw jabs at one another on Saturday at the annual Fancy Farm picnic in western Kentucky.

- **HEARING DOUBLE.** Rep. Andy Barr (R-o6) and 2023 GOV nominee Daniel Cameron (R) both laid into waste removal entrepreneur Nate Morris (R), questioning his MAGA credentials. Barr boasted his congressional experience during his speech while Cameron pushed back against diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.
- **NOT SO NICE.** Morris harshly criticized McConnell during his speech, linking Barr and Cameron to the octogenarian. He said he wanted to be remembered as the candidate that would “trash Mitch McConnell's legacy.” (AP)
- **GHOSTED.** “McConnell, who spoke earlier on the stage, had left a seated area behind the podium by the time Morris spoke.”
- **MCCONNELL SAYS:** “I'm wondering how you'd want to be different from the longest-serving Senate leader in U.S. history?” (*Louisville Courier Journal*)

LOUISIANA: Cassidy Makes Reelection Bid Official

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R) officially launched his reelection campaign on Friday in Metairie, boasting his “productive working relationship” with President Trump. Majority Leader John Thune and NRSC Chairman Tim Scott reiterated their support for Cassidy’s reelection following his launch.

- **THE FIELD.** Cassidy faces state Treasurer John Fleming (R), state Sen. Blake Miguez (R), Public Service Commissioner Eric Skrmetta (R), and health care administrator Sammy Wyatt (R) in the GOP primary. (*Times Picayune/New Orleans Advocate*)

MINNESOTA: Peggy Flanagan Boasts LGBTQ+ State Legislative Endorsements

Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan (D) is touting her support from a majority of LGBTQ+ state legislators as she runs to replace retiring Sen. Tina Smith (D). The eight endorsements include a majority of Minnesota Queer Legislators Caucus members, as well as the caucus’ chair, state Rep. Brion Curran (D).

- **THE LIST.** Other endorsements include state Sen. Erin Maye Quade (D) and state Reps. Leigh Finke (D), Jess Hanson (D), Athena Hollins (D), Heather Keeler (D), Liish Kozlowski (D), and María Isa Pérez-Vega (D). Former state Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn (D) also endorsed Flanagan.
- **CHECKMATE.** Flanagan faces Rep. Angie Craig (D-02), who is openly lesbian, in the Democratic primary. (*Hotline* reporting)

TEXAS: Rick Perry Endorses Cornyn

Former Gov. Rick Perry (R) endorsed Sen. John Cornyn (R) over state Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) in the Republican primary. Perry, who served as energy secretary under President Trump’s first term, called Cornyn a “steady, conservative leader” that “delivers real results without the drama.” (release)

HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

Texas Democrats leave state to resist redistricting process

By James A. Downs and Amelia Monroe

REDISTRICTING ROUNDUP: Texas Democrats Head Out

A majority of Texas legislative Democrats left the state to deny Republicans a quorum as they planned to consider the newly proposed congressional map this week. The Legislature is set to convene Monday afternoon. Texas House Minority Leader Gene Wu (D) said “he was taking it day by day in a plan to stay in Illinois,” where most legislators fled. Others went to New York or Massachusetts. (NBC News)

- **NOT WITHOUT A RESPONSE.** State Republicans are fighting back. Gov. Greg Abbott (R) said he will try to expel Democrats from office if they do not return to Austin for the special session by this afternoon. “He cited a nonbinding 2021 legal opinion from Attorney General Ken Paxton (R), who said it would be up to a court to decide whether a lawmaker who had left the state to deny quorum had forfeited their office.” According to Paxton, Abbott could replace the lawmakers with someone of the governor’s choosing. Lawmakers already face \$500 per day fines for breaking quorum. (*Texas Tribune*)
- **TIMELINE.** Special sessions in Texas only last 30 days, but Abbott could continue to call them, if he wanted, to try to pass the map. (*Politico*)
- **POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES.** If the current map passes, multiple Democratic members may face each other in primaries. One Democratic lawmaker said Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-37) would “taint his legacy” by running against Rep. Greg Casar (D-35). They were both drawn into an Austin-based seat. (*NOTUS*)
- **NATIONAL DEMOCRATS WANT FIREWORKS.** The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee urged Democrat-controlled legislatures to consider mid-cycle redistricting to counter Texas and other potential Republican states. “While the D.L.C.C. was the first arm of the national party to make such an explicit call for new maps, officials at the Democratic National Committee indicated their support,” including DNC Chairman Ken Martin.
- **BY THE NUMBERS.** Democratic legislative majorities only oversee 35 congressional districts, according to the DLCC. Republican legislative majorities oversee 55 congressional seats. (*New York Times*)
- **OUT WEST.** California legislative Democrats held calls to discuss the next steps as Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) increasingly seems prepared to respond to Texas’ redistricting plan. Members of the congressional delegation told the state lawmakers how the lines might change and briefed them on polling “on how California voters would respond to lines being redrawn.” (*California Playbook*)
- **NO HOCHULMANDER YET.** New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) said she “could just call a special election and change” the redistricting process, but the state’s lengthy constitutional amendment process means New York likely can’t change its congressional lines before the next election. Hochul’s office said some of the Texas Democrats who left the state arrived in Albany. (*New York Playbook*)
- **ON THE BAYOU.** Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court “on Friday afternoon instructed the parties in a Louisiana redistricting dispute to file new briefs on whether the creation of a second majority-Black congressional district violates the Constitution.” The Court originally heard the case in the spring but decided to punt it to next term for reargument. A group of non-Black voters in 2024 filed a lawsuit against a newly formed congressional map which added a second majority-Black seat. The voters claimed the map was an unconstitutional race-based gerrymander, and a federal panel agreed.
- **HOW WE GOT HERE.** The state argued it was following a court order after the first map violated the Voting Rights Act, and that its decisions in map-drawing were political. During the hearing before the Court, attorneys for Louisiana asked for “breathing room” on the tension between the Voting Rights Act and the 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection. In the filing, justices asked parties to address whether the lines violate the 14th and 15th amendments. (*SCOTUSblog*)
- **MAJOR IMPLICATIONS.** The filing suggests the Court could potentially curtail the Voting Rights Act, if they rule the VRA stands in conflict with the equal protection clause. A narrow ruling might just affect the Louisiana map—likely resulting in an additional Republican seat. But a broad ruling would extend far past Louisiana, if they rule against using race-based redistricting to protect minority voting power.

- **HOLD THE PHONE.** That the Court asked whether the newly formed district violates the Constitution does not necessarily predestine the justices to gut the Voting Rights Act. (*Politico*)

RACE FOR THE HOUSE: Democratic Doctors Gear Up

As the battle over health care access and Medicaid becomes a focal point for candidates going into 2026, more than half a dozen Democratic doctors are joining the fleet of GOP challengers in races across the country. These candidates have created avenues for the Democratic party to go on the offensive, acting as “unique messengers to talk about the real life impact of health care cuts.”

- **THE WAITING ROOM.** Most of the six candidates are running in competitive districts that could make or break the House majority. Family physician Jasmeet Bains (D) will run against Rep. David Valadao (R-CA 22), former Biden administration official Tina Shah (D) confirmed her bid against Rep. Tom Kean Jr. (R-NJ 07), physician Dave Oxman (D) is running for retiring Rep. Dwight Evans’ (D-PA 03) seat, emergency room doctor Ada Cuellar (D) is running against Rep. Monica De la Cruz (R-TX 15), and Navy veteran Kishla Askins (D) is looking to fill the toss-up seat left open by retiring Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE 02). (*Punchbowl News*)

CALIFORNIA 13: Voters Want Epstein Transparency

Controversy swirling about the Epstein files may cost the Republican party essential votes in battleground districts across the country, particularly in the Central Valley. The area is “arguably the most closely fought political terrain in America” and voters from both sides of the aisle are concerned about the lack of transparency from President Trump.

- **BACKED INTO A CORNER.** Despite disagreements over Trump’s success as president, voters in the district seem to agree on one thing: “the government should cough up every last bit of information it has on” convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. In particular, both Republican and Democratic voters criticized Trump for his mishandling of the files and blamed Republicans for “put[ting] themselves into this predicament” by riding their campaigns on the files’ release and backtracking as soon as they were under fire.
- **STATE OF THE STATE.** Rep. Adam Gray (D) was able to seize victory against then-Rep. John Duarte (R) in 2024 by a narrow 187 votes. The margin has turned the district into a major pick-up opportunity for both parties in 2026. (*Los Angeles Times*)

NEW HAMPSHIRE 01: Democratic Primary Gets Another Name on the Ballot

State Rep. Heath Howard (D) joined the crowded race for four-term Rep. Chris Pappas’ (D) open seat, who is forgoing a reelection bid and opting to run for retiring Sen. Jeanne Shaheen’s (D) seat. (WMUR)

- **THE FIELD.** Howard is one of six other Democratic candidates battling for the party pick in the primary: American Coalition for Ukraine Director Sarah Chadzynski, 2018 candidate Maura Sullivan, former Portsmouth City Councilor Stefany Shaheen—the daughter of Jeanne Shaheen, Harvard University professor Carleigh Beriont, former Biden administration official Christian Urrutia, and state Rep. Alice Wade. On the other side of the aisle, Bedford GOP Committee Vice Chair Melissa Bailey (R) and 2024 candidate Chris Bright (R) have so far launched bids for the Republican nomination.

PENNSYLVANIA 08: Bresnahan Irked By Stock Trading Rules

Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R) said last week he does not plan to tell his financial advisers to stop trading stocks, even as he's faced criticism for multiple trades since taking office. Bresnahan has said he does not have anything to do with the trades.

- **BRESNAHAN SAYS:** “And then do what with it? Just leave it all in the accounts and just leave it there and lose money and go broke?”
- **THE RATIONALE.** Bresnahan says he wants to put his assets in a blind trust, but House Ethics Committee rules bar him from offering instructions on its management. He said he does not want to trade with Chinese companies or short American businesses. Blind trusts forbid communication between owner and trustee. (WVIA)

HOTLINE LATEST EDITION

Nancy Mace officially launches anticipated gubernatorial campaign

By Abby Turner

CALIFORNIA: Spotlight Turns to Whether Rick Caruso Will Launch Gubernatorial Bid

Now that Vice President Kamala Harris announced she will not run for governor, the spotlight has turned to businessman Rick Caruso (D) to make a decision. “While Caruso has been circumspect about his next move ... behind the scenes, the wheels are turning.”

- **GOV OR MAYOR.** His supporters have urged him to run for governor or run against Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass (D) again, who he lost to in 2022. “He has polled both races and spent the last five or six months traversing California on a listening tour with prominent political donors.”
- **PREVIEWING THE ATTACKS.** “A governor’s race would offer new insight into how Caruso defines his political identity. His past affiliation with the GOP has led many stalwart Democrats to view him skeptically and his party shape-shifting was used as a cudgel against him in the 2022 race against Bass.” (*Politico*)

FLORIDA: Al Lawson Considers Jumping in Democratic Primary

Former Rep. Al Lawson (D) “says he's mulling a run for Florida governor in 2026, attributing his interest to what he calls the displeasure of the state's Black community with the most prominent Democratic candidate in the race so far,” former Rep. David Jolly (D), “having been a Republican.”

- **GAUGING SUPPORT.** Lawson “recently sent a brief email to supporters, titled ‘Governors Race -Endorsement Question,’ saying he needed ‘to let all of you know that I’m think about running for Governor.’” (*Tallahassee Democrat*)

KANSAS: Cindy Holscher Frustrated With Kelly Staff’s Involvement in Primary

State Sen. Cindy Holscher (D) “expressed frustration Friday with behind-the-scene involvement of” term-limited Gov. Laura Kelly’s (D) “staff in attempting to influence who launched a campaign for the Kansas Democratic Party’s nomination for governor in 2026.”

- **ALL FOR NOTHING.** Holscher “said she was among three Democrats in the Kansas Senate told by the Kelly administration to stand aside so Democratic primary voters would be more likely to nominate” attorney Chris Mann (D), who instead chose to launch another campaign for state attorney general. (*Kansas Reflector*)

MAINE: Attorney Joins the Dozen Candidates Running for Governor

Attorney Jason Cherry (D) announced his bid to succeed term-limited Gov. Janet Mills (D). Cherry ran unsuccessfully against Sen. Angus King Jr. (I) last year. He joins over a dozen candidates on both the Democratic and Republican sides. (WMTW)

SOUTH CAROLINA: Nancy Mace Finally Launches Gubernatorial Campaign

Rep. Nancy Mace (R-01) formally launched her run to replace term-limited Gov. Henry McMaster (R) this morning at The Citadel, her alma mater.

- **JOINING THE PACK.** She joins a crowded Republican primary field that includes state Attorney General Alan Wilson (R), Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette (R), Rep. Ralph Norman (R-05), and state Sen. Josh Kimbrell (R). (WJCL)
- **AHEAD OF THE GAME.** Mace announced her gubernatorial bid in a video released yesterday ahead of today’s event. (WRDW)
- **VYING FOR THE TRUMP ENDORSEMENT.** “She has been keeping the White House informed of her plans, though it was not clear whether President Trump would endorse her.” Mace said yesterday “that she was prepared to be a ‘super MAGA governor.’”
- **NOT ALWAYS IN LINE.** However, Mace criticized Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection, which led to Trump endorsing an unsuccessful House primary challenger against her.
- **BUT SHE MADE AMENDS.** “After briefly trying to navigate an independent path as a moderate, she tacked to the right, made peace with” Trump, “and became a hard-line MAGA Republican in the House.” (*New York Times*)

VIRGINIA: Trump Considers Endorsing Winsome Earle-Sears

President Trump signaled he would probably endorse Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears (R) for governor.

- **DEFENDING TRUMP CRITICISM.** “Trump’s suggestion that he will endorse Earle-Sears follows a testy interview between her and” CNN reporter Manu Raju, “who pressed the gubernatorial candidate on her past criticism of Trump in 2022.” She “insisted her support for Trump has been consistent, adding that they met in the Oval Office recently but declined to go into specifics on what they discussed.” (*Washington Examiner*)
- **SPANBERGER SEIZES ON INTERVIEW.** Former Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D) launched a digital ad highlighting Earle-Sears’ Friday interview on CNN. The ad features Earle-Sears dismissing “questions about cuts to the federal workforce that have disproportionately impacted Virginia by saying she wanted ‘to talk about real issues.’”
- **THE NARRATOR SAYS:** “Trump job cuts are hitting Virginia really hard, but Winsome Earle-Sears doesn’t think it’s a real problem ... Really, not a real issue that thousands of Virginians are losing their jobs? Not a real issue that communities are suffering?” (*Washington Post*)
- **SPLITTING THE TICKET.** As state Attorney General Jason Miyares (R) is “showing financial strength while the Democratic nominees for governor and lieutenant governor post stronger fundraising numbers than their GOP rivals, some political observers are wondering” if 2025 could be the first time in two decades that Virginians pick statewide winners from different parties. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)

WISCONSIN: Democratic State Senator Likely to Run After Evers' Announcement

State Sen. Kelda Roys (D) says she's "very likely to run" for governor after Gov. Tony Evers (D) announced he would not seek a third term. Roys ran in the Democratic primary in 2018, when Evers won his first term. Roys "said she doesn't feel a significant rush to announce her decision." Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez (D) is the first Democrat to officially launch a campaign following Evers' announcement. (*The Cap Times*)

OVERLOOKED

All is Fair in Politics and Redistricting

By Amelia Monroe

As the threat of redistricting looms over the Democratic Party's chances of winning back the majority in 2026, blue states are looking to soften the blow by changing districts of their own. The push for counter-attack redistricting is the latest pull to level the playing field in a historically partisan tug-of-war battle that severely favors one side over the other. The term "gerrymander" dates back to 1812 and was an amalgamation of Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry's name and his nickname "salamander," which was dubbed after a state Senate district was redrawn to benefit Democratic-Republicans while also looking like a salamander. According to the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, Florida, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas were some of the most gerrymandered states in the country. Most gerrymandering redistricting efforts benefit Republicans, but that isn't always the case. Oregon and Nevada's 2021 Congressional maps both benefit incumbent Democrats.