



## House Democrats move to impeach the President

Yesterday, [House Democrats introduced a resolution calling on Vice President Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment](#) to remove the President from office. [House Republicans objected](#) to passing the resolutions by unanimous consent, [setting up a vote later tonight](#). If the Vice President fails to respond, which is expected, the House will move forward with a vote on [articles of impeachment tomorrow](#). The sole article of impeachment charges the President with “incitement of insurrection.” The article also references the 14th Amendment that bars anyone who takes part in an insurrection or rebellion against the U.S. from holding any state or federal office. This would prevent the President from running for President in the future. Once the article is passed by the House, it will be sent to the Senate, where no action is expected before the inauguration of President-elect Biden on January 20. However, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has privately told colleagues [he thinks the President has committed an impeachable offense and is glad the House has moved to impeach](#) him. He believes impeachment will make it easier to restore the Republican Party after the President leaves office.

+Jim [said](#): “The fastest way to remove the dangerous president would be for [@VP](#) to [#InvokeThe25th](#). If he won’t do it, we must immediately take up articles of impeachment. I’ve also joined other colleagues [@RepRaskin](#), [@davidcicilline](#), and [@RepTedLieu](#) in co-sponsoring a resolution in the House.”

## Rep. Cori Bush introduces resolution to discipline House members

Representative Cori Bush of Missouri introduced a resolution [directing the House Ethics Committee to launch an investigation](#) into those who voted to overturn the election results last week and punish those members found guilty with censure and possible expulsion from the House.

+Jim has cosponsored the resolution and [said](#): “Sometimes when you play with fire you start a bonfire. I joined [@RepCori](#)’s resolution because peaceful protest is welcome; rioting, sedition, & insurrection are not. Members of Congress who incited the violent attack on our Capitol building yesterday must be held accountable.”

## U.S. Capitol Police officers suspended following insurrection; others under investigation

[At least two U.S. Capitol Police officers have been suspended over their complicity in the insurrection at the Capitol last week](#). One officer was seen taking selfies with rioters, while another was wearing a MAGA hat and walking with rioters through the building. [More than a dozen officers are under investigation](#) for their activities during the violence. Investigators have

found evidence of social media messages supporting the rally that led to the riot, as well as support for the false claims that the election was not conducted fairly. [The investigation will also look into why the Capitol Police were understaffed and unprepared based on warnings from the FBI that there were credible threats of violence.](#) The security failure led to the resignation of the Chief of the Capitol Police and the Sergeants of Arms of both the House and the Senate. + Jim has joined several letters including calling for an [investigation into the Capitol Police](#), calling for a [commission to investigate the security failures](#), and a letter to the FBI and DHS [regarding their online threat monitoring](#).



### **FBI warns of armed protests; increased security presence leading up to inauguration**

The FBI is warning law enforcement officials across the country of plans for [armed protests at all 50 state capitals and in Washington, DC](#) in the days leading up to President-elect Biden's inauguration. According to the FBI's bulletin, groups in every state plan to storm state capitol buildings, courthouses, and other government buildings. [Law enforcement has been placed on high alert across the country.](#) The agency is particularly concerned with the potential for massive and violent protests if President Trump is removed from office before January 20th. Senior defense officials have said that as many as [15,000 National Guard troops](#) will likely be deployed to Washington to prevent violence by extremists prior to and following the inauguration

### **Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security resigns**

[Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, resigned yesterday,](#) effective immediately. Wolf cited several recent court rulings that he was serving illegally in the position since he had never been confirmed by the Senate. Today another district court struck down a DHS rule, this time stopping a rule from going into effect that would severely limit asylum claims, citing Wolf's illegal role in the decision. [His abrupt departure nine days before the Biden inauguration has created security concerns](#) in the defense and intelligence communities based on threats of further violence leading up to and during President-elect Biden's inauguration. Wolf is the third member of the President's cabinet to resign following the violent insurrection at the Capitol. He was the fifth official to serve as DHS Secretary during the four years of the Trump Administration.



### **Major corporations suspend political contributions**

A growing number of major corporations, including Google, Coca-Cola, UPS, Amazon, and Marriott, [have decided to suspend all political contributions](#), while others will no longer fund the

147 members of the House and Senate who voted against the certification of the Electoral College vote last week. The moves will dry up major sources of funding for political action committees (PACs), both political parties, and hundreds of candidates, and [will change the political campaign finance system in unforeseen ways](#).



### **Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee**

Yesterday, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 3,527 new cases, bringing the total to 657,396 confirmed COVID-19 cases statewide. There have been 7,865 deaths, an increase of 80 since yesterday. There are 3,079 people currently hospitalized with the virus. There have been 5,879,860 tests statewide, more than 20,996 since yesterday, with a 16.93% positivity rate. [While closed Monday and Tuesday due to freezing weather, Metro Nashville's FREE COVID-19 testing will re-open this week and continue at the Community Assessment Centers and mobile testing sites](#). If you need a test, get a test. For a list of free testing sites around the state you can visit [this website](#). As of today in [Davidson County](#), there have been 77,113 confirmed cases, 380 new today, and 519 total deaths.

As of Monday, [271,575 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#), including approximately 22,775 people in Davidson County. Of all people vaccinated in the state, 24,994 have received a second dose. Tennessee, including Metro Nashville, has started general population vaccinations for people 75 years of age and older. To find out what phase your county is in and how to book your appointment visit [covid19.tn.gov](#). In Nashville, appointments for people 75+ are full for the month of January but people are encouraged to join the waiting list by registering [here](#) or call 615-862-7777.

Vaccine supply is made available to states by the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed. The administration has come under pressure in recent weeks for limiting vaccination supplies, which are nowhere close to the amount of demand nationwide. [In a reversal today, the Trump administration announced sweeping changes, including making more doses of the vaccine available and urging states to provide shots to anyone 65 and older](#). The administration said nearly 40 million doses are available. Prior to the announcement, CDC data showed only 25 million doses had been distributed to states and 9 million doses had been administered to people nationwide. [This news comes after an announcement from President-elect Biden last week that he would release all available supply when he takes office next week](#). While more vaccinations are the goal, the concern over this proposal is that supply is needed to make sure everyone who has gotten their first dose can get the second dose. Releasing the majority of supply trusts that manufacturers supplies will increase rapidly enough to provide second shots.



## **Biden picks career diplomat to head the CIA**

[President-elect Biden has picked William J. Burns](#), a career diplomat, to head the CIA. Currently the President of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace, Burns previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Russia and Jordan. [His relationships with Russia and in the Middle East are considered valuable as the Biden administration will be working to ease tensions and repair relations in those areas.](#) Burns also served as Deputy Secretary of State. While not an intelligence professional, he has had extensive intelligence experience, including being one of the negotiators during the secret talks that led to the 2015 deal that limited Iran's nuclear program. The Trump administration withdrew from that deal in 2017 and imposed crippling sanctions that have led to escalating tensions and Iran's restarting of uranium enrichment prohibited under the deal.



## **Administration names Cuba as sponsor of terrorism**

[The Trump administration has designated Cuba a state sponsor of terrorism.](#) The move will likely complicate any efforts by President-elect Biden to repair relations with the Cuban government. President Obama removed Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism in 2015 in an effort to normalize relations with the country after over sixty years of tension and economic blockades following the Communist revolution led by Fidel Castro. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the new designation was necessary [after accusing Cuba of "repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism in granting safe harbor to terrorists."](#) Cuba now joins three other countries on the list: Iran, North Korea and Syria.