

**From:** Morning Consult  
**To:** [james\\_cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_cason@ios.doi.gov); [The Morning Consult](#)  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Washington: Republican Voters Largely Back Trump for Knocking McConnell  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 16, 2017 8:09:51 AM

---



By [Eli Yokley](#)

## Top Stories

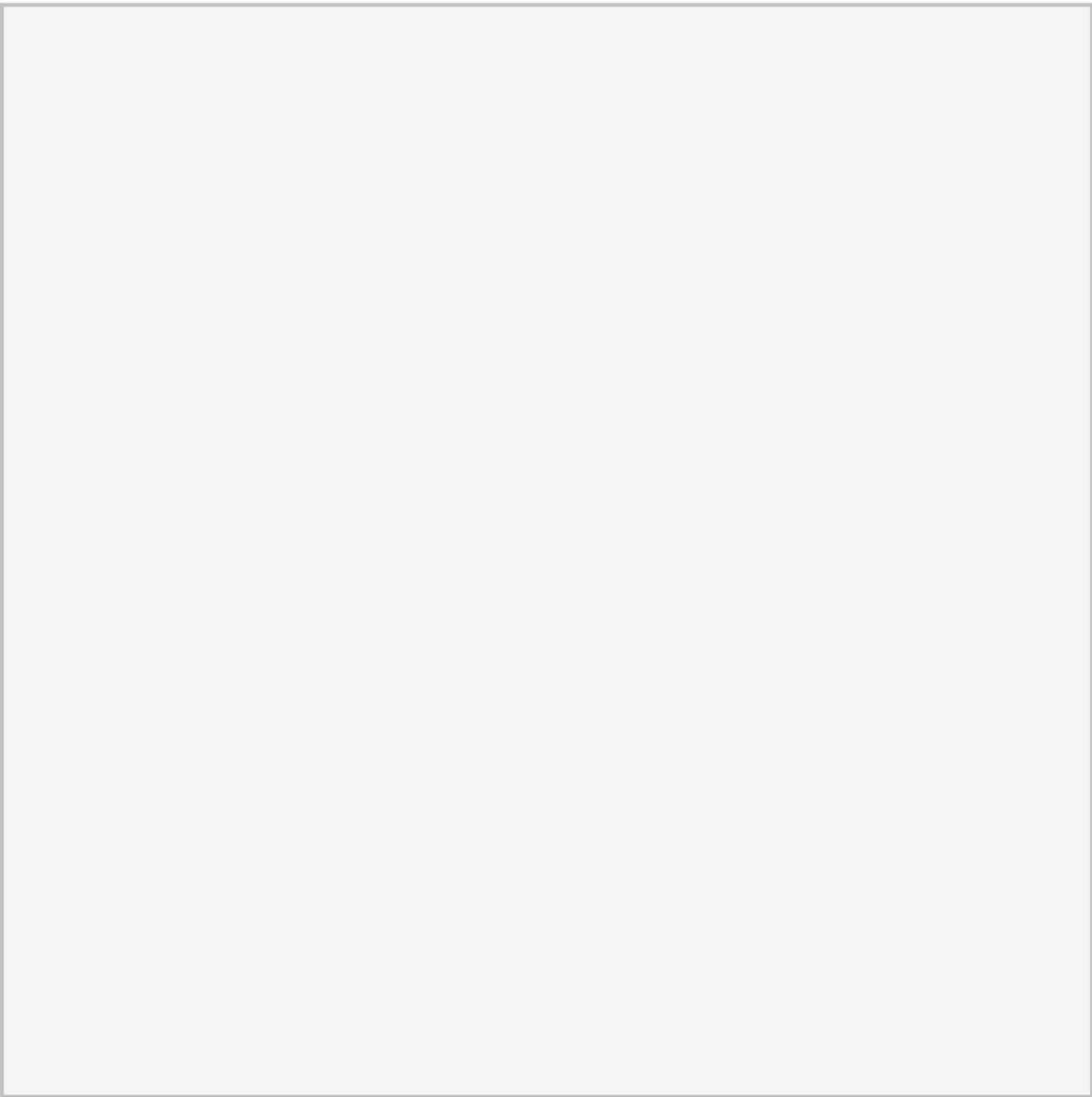
- Half of Republican voters said they are OK with President Donald Trump's attacks on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, according to a new Morning Consult/POLITICO survey. Trump's approval rating steadied after a decline last week. ([Morning Consult](#))
- Trump on Tuesday again blamed "both sides" for racially motivated violence on Saturday, reverting to his initial statement on clashes in Charlottesville, Va., and irking fellow Republicans. ([The New York Times](#))
- Former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore will face Sen.

Luther Strange in a September runoff for the Republican nomination for Attorney General Jeff Sessions' old Senate seat. Moore led Strange 39 percent to 33 percent in Tuesday's primary. ([Roll Call](#))

- Provo Mayor John Curtis secured the Republican nomination in former Rep. Jason Chaffetz's old House seat. He beat two other Republicans for the nod in the safe Republican district. ([The Salt Lake Tribune](#))

## Chart Review

[Voters Are OK With Trump Taking Some Time Off](#)  
**Morning Consult**



## **Events Calendar (All Times Local)**

### **WEDNESDAY**

No events scheduled

### **THURSDAY**

No events scheduled

### **FRIDAY**

No events scheduled

**SPONSORED BY BRAND INTELLIGENCE**



## **This Is the Future of Brand Reputation Tracking**

See how Morning Consult Brand Intelligence is changing the way media, marketing and communications executives are managing brand reputation.

## General

### [Violence adds momentum to removal of Confederate statues](#)

**Jesse J. Holland, The Associated Press**

Cities and states accelerated their plans to remove Confederate monuments from public property Tuesday as the violence over a Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, moved leaders across the country to plan to wipe away much of the remaining Old South imagery. Only two statues were taken down immediately, in Gainesville, Florida, where the Daughters of the Confederacy removed a statue of a Confederate soldier known as "Ole Joe," and in Durham, North Carolina, where protesters used a rope to pull down a Confederate monument dedicated in 1924.

### [U.S. Believes North Korea Produces Its Own Rocket Engines](#)

**Felicia Schwartz and Paul Sonne, The Wall Street Journal**

The U.S. believes that North Korea produces its own rocket engines rather than relying on foreign imports, a U.S. intelligence official said Tuesday. The comments from the intelligence community come as experts have questioned if Kim Jong Un's regime obtained Soviet-designed rocket engines through illicit channels in Ukraine or Russia.

### [Down the Breitbart Hole](#)

**Wil S. Hylton, The New York Times**

Steve Bannon once said it was the platform for the alt-right. Its current editors disagree. Is the incendiary media company at the nerve center of Donald Trump's America simply provocative - or dangerous?

### [In a meeting with sailors, Mattis lauds their service and vulgarly criticizes people 'sitting on the sidelines'](#)

**Dan Lamothe, The Washington Post**

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis met with sailors serving on the submarine USS Kentucky last week in his home state of Washington, praising them for their sacrifices and expressing concern that he has "grown remote from those of you who matter." Then he noted the up-and-down nature of military life, told the sailors that they'll miss being in the Navy after they leave - and issued an off-color compliment.

---

## Presidential

### [Trump Defends Initial Remarks on Charlottesville; Again Blames 'Both Sides'](#)

**Michael D. Shear and Maggie Haberman, The New York Times**

President Trump reverted Tuesday to blaming both sides for the deadly violence in Charlottesville, Va., and at one point questioned whether the movement to pull down Confederate statues would lead to the desecration of memorials to George Washington. Abandoning his precisely chosen and carefully delivered condemnations of the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis from a day earlier, the president furiously stuck by his initial reaction to the unrest in Charlottesville.

### [Trump goes off script, and white supremacists cheer](#)

**Matthew Nussbaum, Politico**

For the white supremacists who have been roundly vilified since their rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, last weekend, Donald Trump's news conference on Tuesday came as validation: The president used many of their talking points, condemning the left-wing groups that animate their rage and defending monuments to Confederate leaders who tried to protect slavery. Democratic and Republican politicians quickly decried Trump's impromptu question-and-answer session.

### [Trump's Loyal Sidekick on North Korea: Japan's Shinzo Abe](#)

**Peter Landers, The Wall Street Journal**

Amid a welter of conflicting views over North Korea, there is one reliable standby. Japan's prime minister has agreed with President Donald Trump, every time.

### [What to Expect From Nafta 2.0 Negotiations: QuickTake Scorecard](#)

**Greg Quinn and Eric Martin, Bloomberg**

Sparks could fly when trade negotiators for U.S. President Donald Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto meet Aug. 16-20 in Washington. Their task: Begin renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement.

## Senate

### [Moore, Strange Advance to Runoff in Alabama Senate Primary](#)

**Bridget Bowman, Roll Call**

Judge Roy Moore and Sen. Luther Strange will advance to a Republican primary runoff in the Alabama special election Senate race for the remaining term of former Sen. Jeff Sessions' seat. With 85 percent of precincts reporting, Moore led Strange 40 percent to 32 percent, The Associated Press reported.

### [Colorado's Gardner faces blowback at home over Obamacare repeal](#)

**Rachana Pradhan, Politico**

Sen. Cory Gardner was hammered for supporting Obamacare repeal during a series of raucous town halls on Tuesday, where constituents repeatedly criticized his role in a closed-door partisan process to draft the failed GOP health bill. Gardner, who's responsible for protecting the GOP majority in the Senate in 2018, faced heated criticism over the repeal effort that collapsed just a few weeks ago, even as congressional leaders try to pivot to tax reform when they return from the lengthy recess next month.

### [Wicker Renews Call to Remove Confederate Emblem From](#)

#### [Mississippi Flag](#)

**Eric Garcia, Roll Call**

In the wake of racial violence over the weekend in Virginia, Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi renewed his call Monday to remove the Confederate battle emblem from his state's flag. The Republican senator advocated the change in light of the fact that an altered version of the Mississippi flag was displayed Saturday during the neo-Nazi rally in the central Virginia city of Charlottesville, The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger reported.

---

## House

### [Provo Mayor John Curtis declares victory in Republican primary for Chaffetz's seat](#)

**Courtney Tanner, The Salt Lake Tribune**

Provo Mayor John Curtis declared victory in the Republican primary Tuesday

night against his two staunchly conservative rivals in the special election to replace retired Rep. Jason Chaffetz. The Associated Press called the race before 10 p.m. The National Republican Congressional Committee rushed to congratulate Curtis. And Utah Gov. Gary Herbert stood by the mayor's side as he announced his triumph.

### **Black lawmakers say Confederate statues should come out of Capitol**

**Cristina Marcos, The Hill**

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are reviving calls to remove Confederate statues from the Capitol following the violence at a white nationalist rally in Virginia. The "Unite the Right" rally of white supremacists and subsequent clash with counter-protesters began as a protest against the Charlottesville city council's decision to remove a statue of Confederate general Robert E. Lee.

### **Will Hurd: Trump Should Apologize for Charlottesville Remarks**

**Bridget Bowman and Simone Pathé, Roll Call**

Rep. Will Hurd called on President Donald Trump to apologize for his latest remarks on recent violence sparked by a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Hurd, who is African-American, is also one of the most vulnerable House Republicans.

---

## **States**

### **GOP Governors Step Up Effort to Discredit Cordray**

**Ryan Rainey, Morning Consult**

Republican governors on Tuesday stepped up their efforts to discredit Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray as he approaches the end of his term and possibly considers a bid to be Ohio's governor. On Tuesday, the Republican Governors Association filed a Freedom of Information Request with the CFPB requesting documents on whether Cordray, a Democrat, used federal resources to coordinate with Democratic officials in his home state.

### **'Bathroom bill' dies again in Texas as session abruptly ends**



## **Paul J. Weber and Will Weissert, The Associated Press**

A Texas "bathroom bill" targeting transgender people died again late Tuesday along with many of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's summer demands as an already bruising legislative session was derailed by Republican backbiting that could preview an even nastier 2018 primary season. It is the second time that North Carolina-style bathroom restrictions have failed to pass in Texas, and Abbott gave no indication he would order weary lawmakers to stay in Austin and try again - which would risk a third failure over what has erupted into one of the most high-profile bills in any U.S. legislature.

### **Divisions escalate between red states and blue cities**

**Joel Ebert, USA Today**

When Veronica Zavaleta fled an abusive partner in Mexico City in 2001, she felt a sense of security in her new Nashville home. Today, Zavaleta, 43, says the town that embraced her years ago feels less welcoming, in part because state officials helped block a pro-immigrant measure by city leaders that would limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

### **Centene subsidiary SilverSummit will cover Nevada's rural counties on Obamacare exchange**

**Megan Messerly and Riley Snyder, The Nevada Independent**

Gov. Brian Sandoval was hiking Ophir Creek with his daughter when it came to him. He was thinking about the 8,000 Nevadans across 14 counties who had had no foreseeable access to health insurance coverage after Anthem announced in June that it was scaling back its coverage on the state's health insurance exchange.

### **Texas Legislature sends another tree bill to Abbott**

**Emma Platoff, The Texas Tribune**

In an unusual move late Monday night, the Texas Senate voted to reverse itself on several amendments to a controversial tree-removal bill. The upper chamber on Friday passed an altered version of House Bill 7, a measure governing cities' authority to regulate tree removal.

---

## **Advocacy**

## [Trumka quits White House manufacturing initiative](#)

**Ian Kullgren, Politico**

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka resigned from President Donald Trump's manufacturing council Tuesday, citing as the "last straw" the president's backpedaling from Monday's blanket condemnation of Saturday's white supremacist demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia. "President Trump's remarks today repudiate his forced remarks yesterday on the KKK and neo-Nazis," Trumka said in a statement on Twitter.

## [Verizon to Compete With AT&T for Police, Emergency-Response Customers](#)

**Ryan Knutson, The Wall Street Journal**

Verizon Communications Inc. said it is building dedicated lanes at the core of its U.S. wireless network for firefighters and other first responders, a bid to compete with AT&T Inc.'s plans for its own public-safety network. In March, AT&T won a \$6.5 billion federal contract to build FirstNet, which is intended to provide nationwide wireless data coverage and priority access for first responders during emergencies.

---

## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

### [Mr. Trump Makes a Spectacle of Himself](#)

**The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

Here is one thing we are reminded of over and over about President Trump: The man simply cannot help himself - especially when cornered. Given one more chance to forcefully condemn the neo-Nazis and white supremacists whose rally in Charlottesville, Va., ended in violence and a counterprotester's death, Mr. Trump angrily insisted, as he had suggested on Saturday, that both sides were equally to blame - a false equivalency that not just his critics but also an increasing number of his supporters have urged him to abandon.

### [The nation can only weep](#)

**The Editorial Board, The Washington Post**

Tuesday was a great day for David Duke and racists everywhere. The president of the United States all but declared that he has their backs.

## [Trump and the CEOs](#)

### **The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

An old line in politics is that the Fortune 500 never elected anyone, and that's truer of Donald Trump than of any recent President. But this week's CEO resignations from Mr. Trump's manufacturing advisory council should still concern the President because they are a symbol of his eroding support beyond his core political base.

## [Conservatism's Damaging Game of Footsie with the Alt-Right](#)

### **Jonah Goldberg, National Review**

Last year around this time (and the year before that), I was arguing with some of my fellow conservatives about the insanity of finding any common cause whatsoever with the so-called alt-right. The issue wasn't that every avowed nationalist who claimed membership in the alt-right was a Nazi or Klansman.

---

## **Research Reports and Polling**

### [Republican Voters Largely Back Trump for Knocking McConnell](#)

#### **Cameron Easley, Morning Consult**

President Donald Trump's repeated criticism last week of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) prompted a fresh round of hand-wringing among Republicans in Washington, but a new Morning Consult/POLITICO poll shows half of GOP voters were OK with the broadsides. In the survey, conducted after the president spent days chiding the top Senate Republican for failing to secure the necessary votes to repeal and replace Obamacare, 50 percent of Republicans said Trump's rebukes were appropriate, compared with 32 percent who said they were inappropriate and 19 percent who didn't know or had no opinion.



This email was sent by: Morning Consult  
PO Box 27068 Washington, DC, 20038, US  
[Manage your email preferences](#)

SUBSCRIBE