THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • US MIDTERMS

Democrats Win Both the House and the Senate in the US Midterms

A record number of ballots were cast, and Washington may now be split between two parties.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Midterm elections are held halfway through a US president's four-year term. On 3 November, Democrats won control of the House of Representatives and the Senate. By early Wednesday they led the House 228 to 139, with several races undecided. AP reported a 54-44 Senate majority, also with two races undecided.

More than 124 million ballots were cast, according to the University of Florida Election Lab. That passes the previous midterm record of nearly 119 million in 2018.

The result ends Republican control of both houses of Congress. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called it a "generational remake of the Senate map." President Donald Trump said he has veto power, which lets him refuse to sign a bill, and that he would stay open to working with Congress.



The map marks the United States, where the midterm votes were cast.

WHY IT MATTERS

Congress passes the laws on taxes and spending, so new laws may now need both parties to agree.

WORLD • UKRAINE

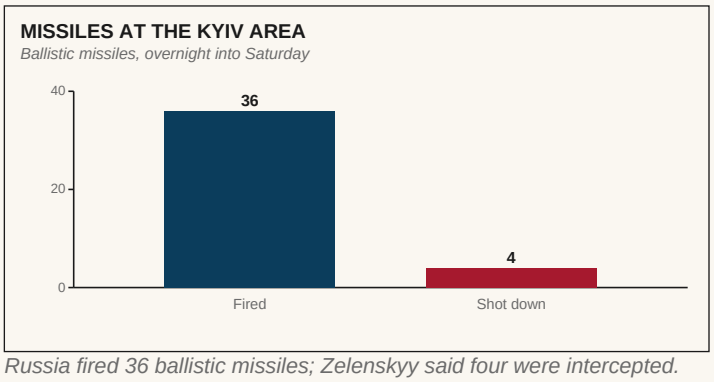
Ukraine, Russia and the US Sit Down in Abu Dhabi

France says Europe will be there too, as the Kremlin had ruled it out.

Delegations from Ukraine, Russia and the United States meet in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is the fourth round of talks led by the US and the first since February. Moscow agreed to return after US envoy Steve Witkoff met President Vladimir Putin in October.

France's foreign minister, Jean-Noel Barrot, said Sunday that European officials will attend too and will make sure "Europe's voice" is heard. The Kremlin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, had said the three-way format was already agreed. Russia's delegation, led by Vladimir Medinsky, now includes two deputy foreign ministers.

The two sides want different things. Russia wants Ukraine to give up large parts of its land and renounce NATO membership. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wants security commitments, including who would act if Russia attacked again. Russia also fired 36 ballistic missiles at the Kyiv area on Saturday, and Zelenskyy said four were intercepted.



Russia fired 36 ballistic missiles; Zelenskyy said four were intercepted.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Geography: Abu Dhabi is in the United Arab Emirates, far from the war in Ukraine.

UNITED STATES • IMMIGRATION

Trump Says His Immigration Crackdown Was “Too Tough”

In a Sunday interview, the president said he is open to a deal on immigration.

In an interview on 60 Minutes on Sunday, President Donald Trump said his immigration enforcement was “too tough” and likely cost his party in the midterms. Immigration enforcement means checking who is allowed to live and work in the country.

He said he is open to a deal that would secure the border and let some immigrant workers stay if they have no criminal record and have lived in the United States for some time. He did not say when such a deal would happen. Any new law would need Congress to agree.

Trump also said voters “didn’t like the war” with Iran. On 6 November he said Stephen Miller will replace Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff.

WHY IT MATTERS

Immigration affects workers, employers and families, so changes to the rules can reach many homes. It is a good topic for the table: what would a fair rule look like?

Also in United States

• Alaska: Democrat Mary Peltola leads Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan by a couple of hundred votes in the Senate race.

• Counting: more Alaska votes will be counted over the next two weeks.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Gaza: the first winter storm of the season flooded about 70,000 tents within 12 hours, Gaza’s Government Media Office said.

• Iran: Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said mediators have not travelled since the US midterms.

TALK ABOUT IT

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Why might it be harder to pass new laws when two parties each control a part of Washington?

Why do you think countries want a seat at the table when a war’s talks begin?

INDIA • MINERALS

India Offers 20 Blocks of Critical Minerals at Auction

The ninth round also makes it easier to hold an auction.

Critical minerals are materials used in electric vehicles, renewable energy technology, defence equipment, aerospace, electronics and advanced manufacturing. On 5 November, India’s Ministry of Mines launched the ninth auction round in Goa.

It offers 20 blocks in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The blocks hold minerals such as rare earth elements, vanadium, gallium, titanium, graphite, potash and glauconite.

In the first eight rounds, 64 of 100 blocks were successfully auctioned. Rules notified on 16 October cut the minimum number of qualified bidders in some rounds from three to two.

There are also 11 exploration blocks, aimed at copper, vanadium, rare earth elements and potash. An exploration licence lets private companies explore 29 critical and deep-seated minerals before mining begins. These blocks go to the bidder who quotes the lowest percentage of future mining revenue.

WHY IT MATTERS

The minerals in this auction are used in electronics and electric vehicles, things many families use or plan to buy. Where they come from affects what they cost later.

SPORTS CORNER

TENNIS: FINALS FIELD SET

Eight players are set for the Nitto ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, from **15 to 22 November**. The field includes Alexander Zverev, Carlos Alcaraz, Ben Shelton and Daniil Medvedev. The draw is on 12 November.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Whether the Abu Dhabi talks on 10 and 11 November lead to another round.

• How the last Alaska Senate votes are counted over the next two weeks.

“Asking a good question is the first step to a good answer.”

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.