

Simmons, Ellen

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
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To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | NOVEMBER 9, 2018

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | NOVEMBER 9, 2018
TOP STORIES

Election Recap

While some races have yet to be officially called, it is clear after Tuesday's election that the predicted "blue wave" in the 2018 midterms turned out to be

more of a Democratic swell. [Click here to find out who really came out on top.](#)

House: The Democrats flipped the house from Republican control, winning by a margin of 225-197 seats, capturing 30.

Senate: The Republicans strengthened their grasp on the Senate, however, winning by a margin of 51-46, gaining 2 additional seats in the process. There are several races still too close to call.

Governor Races: Republicans did not fare well in gubernatorial races—in which the Democrats captured [7 additional states](#). These include Nevada, New Mexico, Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Maine. The Republicans, on the other hand, were able to flip Alaska in their favor.

Close Calls: [The race in Georgia](#) is still highly contested, as Republican candidate Brian Kemp appears to be leading Democratic challenger, Stacey Abrams, by a margin of 50.3-48.7% of the votes—though she has stated she refuses to concede.

Along with that, the Florida Senate Race is one of the closest in history, as former governor Rick Scott leads Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson 50.1 to 49.9. As for the Governor's race, Republican Ron Desantis leads Andrew Gillum 49.6 to 49.2. Both are within grounds for a recount to be issued.

In Arizona, [the tight Senate race](#) likely will not be called until late next week, since there are over 1 million outstanding early voting ballots that still must be counted. As of early Wednesday, McSally had a lead of about 9,000 votes with 99% percent of the precincts reporting. Republicans filed a lawsuit Wednesday night to challenge the way some Arizona counties count [mail-in ballots](#), as election officials began to slowly tally more than 600,000 outstanding votes in the narrow U.S. Senate race—a task that could take days—which has become a reoccurring problem with the state. 75% of Arizonans use this means of

voting.

No matter who wins, Arizona will have its first female senator in history.

Election Firsts: This election was chock-full of historical firsts, in particular for women in politics.

Some of these include: the first Muslim women elected to congress, the youngest woman elected to congress, the first Native American women elected to congress, the first black woman from Massachusetts, the first women House members from Iowa, the first Latina congress members from Texas, the first woman governor of Maine, first woman elected governor of Iowa, the first woman senator from Tennessee, the first woman governor from South Dakota, as well as the [first female governor elected in Guam](#). Read more about these election firsts [here](#).

Pelosi: When Democrats recaptured the House Tuesday evening, for the first time in eight years, a hypothetical question that hung over the 2018 midterms became a reality: Will House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi become Speaker of the House once again? Many Democrats who pledged to oppose Pelosi were running in deep red districts and were defeated on election night. [Read more](#).

Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) noted that a number of newly elected House Democrats campaigned on voting for a [different Democratic leader](#).

[Click here for an interactive election map from the New York Times](#)

California Shooting

It pains me to have two consecutive EIBs feature this type of story but in another horrific shooting, a gunman opened fire in a crowded Southern California bar popular with college students, [killing 12 people](#), including a

sheriff's deputy.

The gunman, identified by authorities as Ian David Long, 28, was also found dead on Wednesday night in the office of the Borderline Bar and Grill, located in Thousand Oaks, a suburb about 40 miles from Los Angeles, apparently having shot himself.

Officials found a Glock .45-caliber handgun at the scene. The weapon usually holds 10 rounds and one in the chamber, but the gunman used [an extended magazine](#) in this shooting.

A veteran, Long was on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps from August 2008 to March 2013, according to Department of Defense records. Long served as a machine gunner, [deploying to Afghanistan](#) from November 2010 to June 2011. Officials are still searching for a potential motive, however, right now it is unknown. Many speculate PTSD could be a leading factor.

A sheriff said the sergeant who was killed "died a hero." Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean said [Sgt. Ron Helus](#), a 29-year veteran, was among the first officers to respond to the scene and was shot after he entered the building.

Helus, who died at a hospital early Thursday, is survived by his wife and son. Authorities said he was about a year from retirement. It is reported that as the events were unfolding Sgt. Helus stepped in front of multiple patrons at the bar to protect them from gunfire—and that his selfless actions saved the lives of many more that night.

On Thursday, as Sgt. Helus' body was carried in a hearse through the community, Thousand Oaks came to a standstill as thousands lined the streets and overpasses to pay respects to their fallen hero.

Jeff Sessions

Jeff Sessions is out as Attorney General, after resigning at Trump's request. In what has been a thing that seemed to have been a long time coming, Sessions finally stepped down after months of verbal bombardment at the hands of the president. [Read his resignation letter here.](#)

Sessions was [an enforcer](#) of much of the Trump administration's hardline approach on immigration and regularly praised the President's tough words on crime. But even as he continued to carry out the Trump agenda, his relationship with the President remained strained and fraught for months due to the ongoing Mueller investigation.

[Matthew G. Whitaker](#) will become the nation's acting AG with President Donald Trump announcing the appointment Wednesday, saying on Twitter that Whitaker "will serve our Country well" and that a permanent attorney general will be nominated later.

Democratic House leader, [Nancy Pelosi](#), called the firing of Sessions "another blatant attempt" by Donald Trump to end the Mueller investigation, and criticized his choice of acting replacement.

It has been reported by some that Trump is considering former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to replace Sessions. [Read more here.](#)

Quick Hits

Justice [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) of the Supreme Court was hospitalized on Thursday morning with three broken ribs, after falling in her office Wednesday evening. At 85, Ginsburg is the court's [eldest justice](#) and has served for 25

years since being appointed by former President Bill Clinton in 1993. She is the leader of the court's liberal wing. Her approach to the law has been described as cautious, though she has been [influential in shaping](#) jurisprudence in cases involving gender discrimination, women's reproductive health, and international law.

China's largest airshow, the Zhuhai Airshow, opened Tuesday with a dazzling display by [Chinese stealth fighters](#), a demonstration intended to highlight China's improving air combat capabilities. The relatively new [J-20 stealth fighter](#) stole the spotlight. Though, when it comes to being ready to deploy them, it seems China is running into grievous issues related to the new stealth fighter's engine—which has had many experts speculating whether it will ever come close to the capability we see projected in the [dominant F-22 Raptors](#) and even our own issue-ridden F-35s.

In more news from the Zhuhai Airshow, the mockup of [China's CH-7](#) stealth combat drone unveiled this week looks a lot like one the U.S. Navy was developing—until it dropped the project, allowing China to position itself to beat the U.S. and other allies in fielding a long-range, high-altitude combat drone. That's despite the fact that—in the words of one expert—the United States had a “ten-year head start.” [Full story here.](#)

In business news, Tesla has named a new chair to replace Elon Musk, after the CEO agreed to step down from the company's board as part of a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Musk's successor as chair, effective immediately, will be [Robyn Denholm](#), a Tesla board member and technology executive. Denholm has been on Tesla's board since 2014, which many said is the only real downside to the appointment. Investors and analysts were hoping for a truly independent, outside chairperson to fully check Musk's often wild antics. [Read more.](#)

Almost half the top jobs in the State Department are empty. In 18 countries, the

White House has yet to designate a U.S. ambassador. That includes Australia, a close ally to America that is beginning to look to China instead. [Read the full story here.](#)

Look Ahead

Saturday, November 10

9:30am: Event: The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs
GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Seventh Floor, City View Room

11:00am: Event: The World War One Centennial Commission
National World War I Memorial, 14th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Pershing Park

Monday, November 12

9:00am: Discussion: The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
SAIS, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Kenney Auditorium

1:00pm: Ceremony: The United States Navy Memorial
U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Tuesday, November 13

8:30am: [Forum: Govexec](#)

District Architecture Center, 421 Seventh St. NW

9:00am: [Meeting: Transportation Department; Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; Labor Department; Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

DOT, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Conference Center

9:30am: [Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)
CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

9:30am: [CSIS discussion on missile defenses](#)
1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW 2nd Floor Room A/B

10:00am: [Discussion: The Center for American Progress](#)
CAP, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor

10:00am: [Cyber-enabled economic warfare conference](#)
923 16th and K St NW

10:30am: [Center for American Progress discussion on U.S.-Japan relationship](#)
1333 H St. NW

12:00pm: [Book Discussion: The International Spy Museum](#)
International Spy Museum, 800 F St. NW

12:30pm: [Center for a New American Security discussion on a new nuclear strategy](#)
1152 15th St., NW, Suite 950

2:30pm: [Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies](#)
WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300
Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor, Auditorium

3:00pm: [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace brief with James Clapper](#)
1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW

5:30pm: Event: The Anwar Sadat Congressional Gold Medal Committee and

the Shafik, Gabr Foundation
325 Rayburn House Office Building
RSVP: RSVP@SadatGoldMedalCommittee.org

5:30pm: Markup: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Committee
S-216 U.S. Capitol

6:30pm: [Discussion: The George Washington University Elliott School of
International Affairs](#)
GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Room 113

Wednesday, November 14

7:00am: Discussion: The U.S. Navy Memorial
U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
RSPV: Barker@navymemorial.org

7:30am: [Seminar: The Air Force Association](#)
Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va.

7:30am: [Air Force Association breakfast series](#)
1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA

7:30am: [International Conference on Cyber Conflict, Day 1](#)
Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania
Avenue NW

8:20am: [Summit: Access Intelligence](#)
Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, Va.

9:00am: [Lecture: The Friends of the National World War II Memorial](#)
National Defense University, 260 Fifth Avenue SW, Lincoln Hall Auditorium

10:00am: Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Topic: Electronic Health Record Modernization Program
334 Cannon House Office Building

10:00am: Report release on post-9/11 war costs
236 Russell Senate Office Building

11:30am: [Discussion: The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#)
CSBA, 1667 K St. NW, Suite 900

11:30am: Hearing: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Committee
Topic: Pending Nominations
342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

1:00pm: Meeting: Treasury Department; United States Mint
Topic: American Veterans Medal
United States Mint, 801 Ninth St. NW, Eighth Floor Board Room
Dial-in available at 866-564-9287; access code: 62956028

2:00pm: [Discussion: The Heritage Foundation](#)
Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Lehrman Auditorium

2:00pm: [Discussion: The National Archives: Remembering Vietnam](#)
National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, McGowan Theater

2:00pm: Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Topic: GI Bill Payment Delays
334 Cannon House Office Building

2:30pm: [Discussion: New America](#)

New America, 740 15th St. NW, Suite 900

3:00pm: Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Interagency cyber cooperation: Roles, responsibilities and authorities of
the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security
2118 Rayburn House Office Building

Thursday, November 15

8:00am: [International Conference on Cyber Conflict, Day 2](#)

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania
Avenue NW

8:30am: [Forum: The Center for Strategic and International Studies and the
Center for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding](#)

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

9:00am: [Meeting: National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#)

Topic: National Space Issues

NASA Headquarters, Executive Conference Center, 300 E St. SW, Room
8Q40B

Dial-in to 888-942-9869; passcode 9695733#

Meeting number, 904 172 523; password, BgR6jDz@ (case sensitive)

9:00am: [Summit: Access Intelligence](#)

Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, Va.

9:00am: [Workshop: The National Academy of Sciences](#)

NAS, Keck Center, 500 Fifth St. NW, Room 100

9:30am: Forum: The Woodrow Wilson Center and the Hyundai Motor-Korea
Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy

WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300

Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

10:00am: Discussion: The Henry L. Stimson Center
Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

10:45am: [National Defense Industrial Association forum and lunch](#)
Key Bridge Marriott, Capital View Ballroom, 14th floor, 1401 Lee Highway,
Arlington, VA 22209

12:00pm: [Webinar: Defense One](#)

12:30pm: [Discussion: New America](#)
New America, 740 15th St. NW, Suite 900

12:45pm: [Summit: Defense One](#)
The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

2:00pm: Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Topic: VA Contract Disability Examinations
334 Cannon House Office Building

Friday, November 16

8:00am: Oversight Summit
1100 New York Ave. NW

9:00am: [Summit: Access Intelligence](#)
Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, Va.

9:00am: [Workshop: The National Academy of Sciences](#)
NAS, Keck Center, 500 Fifth St. NW, Room 100

12:00pm: [Forum: The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

1:00pm: Meeting: State Department

Topic: Fine Arts Gifts/Loans/Financial Contributions

2201 C St. NW, Henry Clay Room

RSVP by November 9 with your name, date of birth, citizenship, and a government-issued ID number - Curator@state.gov

1:00pm: Meeting: The State Department Fine Arts Committee

State Department, 2201 C St. NW, Eighth Floor, Henry Clay Room

Have a great weekend!