

## MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS - US Daily Brief 28-09-22

By Adam Burrowes

### The White House

08:00 ET 13:00 BST	President Biden receives his Daily Briefing
10:00 ET 15:00 BST	Biden delivers remarks at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health
11:00 ET 16:00 BST	The President and The First Lady deliver remarks to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act and mark Disability Pride Month
12:30 ET 17:30 BST	Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre
13:15 ET 18:15 BST	The President receives a briefing from his senior economic team on global economic developments
19:00 ET 00:00 BST	The President participates in a Democratic Governors Association reception

### Elections Countdown:

- ❖ 2022 midterm elections: 41 days
- ❖ 2024 presidential election: 769 days

### Government Funding

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has dropped Senator Joe Manchin's (D-WV) energy permitting reform proposal from the continuing resolution to keep the government funded until December 16.

- Manchin agreed to scrap the proposal after a lobbying blitz failed to convince Republican senators to support his bill.
- Schumer said: "Because American families should not be subjected to a Republican-manufactured government shutdown, Senator Manchin has requested, and I have agreed, to move forward and pass the recently-filed Continuing Resolution legislation without the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2022."
- Manchin: "It is unfortunate that members of the United States Senate are allowing politics to put the energy security of our nation at risk."

- Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), one of the Progressives oppose to Manchin's bill, said: "This is a good day for the climate and for the environment and a bad day for big oil and the fossil fuel industry."
- The GOP has scored a number of significant wins on the CR. There will be no COVID-19 or Monkeypox funding and a White House request for funds to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has been dropped.
- The big win for Democrats is that the December 16 extensions falls within the current Congress meaning that even if the GOP take the House in November, Democrats will have a chance to pass a FY23 budget while still in control of both chambers.
- The Senate will likely wrap up their half of the bill on Thursday with a House vote on Friday.

### **Hurricane Ian**

Hurricane Ian is expected to make landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast this evening. State and federal authorities have ordered evacuations and prepared a relief effort to deal with the aftermath of the storm.

- The Hurricane will be the sternest test so far of presidential hopeful, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's (R-FL) political career.
- Politico: "The leadership challenges of natural disasters can make or break politicians. Both DeSantis and Biden will be judged by their response to a potentially catastrophic storm, as well as their ability to put politics aside during a time of peril."

### **Congressional Business**

The House will meet at 12:00 ET 17:00 BST

The Senate will meet at 10:00 ET 15:00 BST

### **Committee Schedule**

- ❖ SENATE Foreign Relations Committee: Hearings to examine keeping the pressure on Russia and its enablers, focusing on the reach of and next steps for U.S. sanctions.

### **Trump Investigation**

- The January 6 Committee hearing scheduled to take place today has been postponed due to Hurricane Ian.

### **India**

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and India Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar gave a joint press conference yesterday following a bilateral meeting at the US Department of State.

- The presser gave the firmest indication yet that India may be open to expanding the US-India bilateral relationship - possibly at the expense of tacit support for Russia. Jaishankar commended the changing attitudes in the US government and hinted at increased defence collaboration in exchange for more flexible US visa rules for Indians.
- Jaishankar did not commit to entering a US-led initiative to cap the price of Russian oil but struck a less absolutist tone than in previous meetings.
- Blinken: “We’re grateful for the minister’s partnership [...] he underscored the message that Prime Minister Modi delivered recently in Uzbekistan that, and I quote, “today’s era is not of war.” And then in the General Assembly, where the prime minister said of India, and I quote, “We are on the side that respects the UN Charter and its founding principles,” end quote.”
- Blinken: “At an event this weekend, you called, Mr. Minister, the shift in U.S.-India relations the single biggest change that you’ve observed in decades of service as a diplomat.”
- Jaishankar: “Our cooperation in different bilateral domains is progressing vigorously.”
- Jaishankar: “On mobility, specifically visas, this is particularly crucial given its centrality to education, business, technology, and family reunions. There have been some challenges of late, and I flagged it to Secretary Blinken and his team and I have every confidence that they will look at some of these problems seriously and positively.”
- Jaishankar: “On the price cap, we had a brief discussion on it this morning. More technical people are engaged between the two systems on this particular subject.”
- Blinken: “We have a plan when it comes to India to address the backlog of visas that’s built up. I think you’ll see that play out in the coming months, but it’s something that we’re very focused on [...] So bear with us. This will play out over the next few months, but we’re very focused on it.”

### **Democrat News**

Axios has reported that “White House officials are quietly preparing for the potential departure of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen after the midterms.”

- According to Axios, a final decision is likely to be made depending on the outcome of November’s general election.
- The news comes as reports suggest that another administration heavyweight, National Economic Council chair Brian Deese, may also be departing the White House early next year.
- Yellen has often been described as a savvy economist but not a natural politician. Axios writes that Yellen, “has been reluctant to make overly political arguments when they violate her core academic beliefs.”

### **Russia**

The US is leading a response to an expected move by Russian President Vladimir Putin to annex Ukrainian territory through the recognition of referenda to join Russia in occupied territories.

- Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is preparing further sanctions if Russia moves forward with annexation. “We are prepared and we will impose additional severe and swift costs on Russia for proceeding with the annexations. Ukraine has the absolute right to defend itself throughout its territory, including to take back the territory that has been illegally seized, one way or another, by Russia.”
- William Taylor, a former US ambassador to Ukraine: “My bet is that the [global] reaction would be to double down on support for the Ukrainians on the battlefield. The Russians have a big manpower problem and now’s the time for the Ukrainians, reinforced by these weapons... to allow them to break through the Russian lines and push the Russians out.”
- Just Security: “There is speculation that Russian President Vladimir Putin may announce the annexation of the regions in a speech to a joint session of Russia’s parliament on Friday.”

### Taiwan

Vice President Kamala Harris has said in a speech in Japan that the Biden administration intends to deepen America’s unofficial ties with Taiwan.

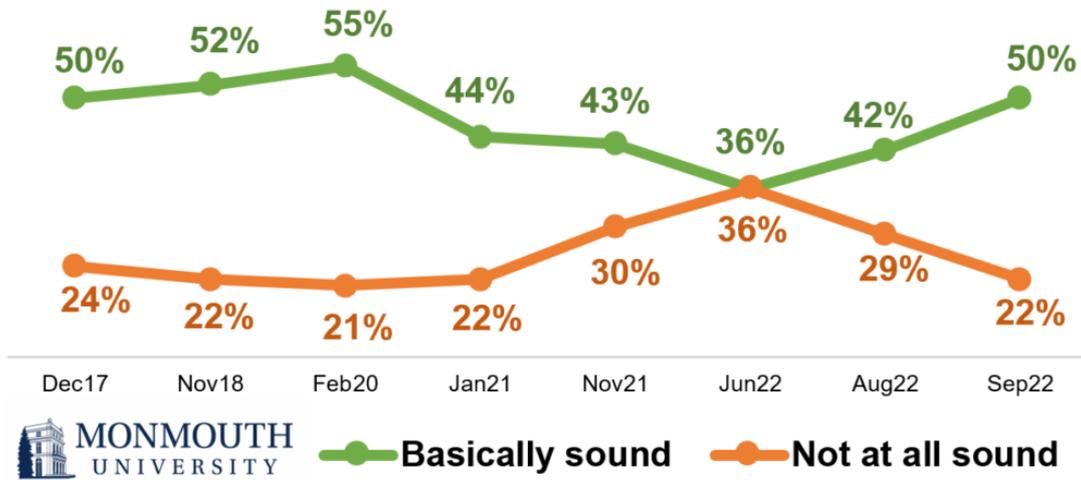
- Harris: “Taiwan is a vibrant democracy that contributes to the global good -- from technology to health, and beyond, and the United States will continue to deepen our unofficial ties.”
- Harris is on a four-day trip to Japan and South Korea to firm up bilateral relations and lay the groundwork for a trip from President Biden later in the year.
- A Biden trip to the region is likely to include a meeting between Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

### Poll of the Day

A Monmouth University poll has shown that voters are increasingly confident in the American political system. Monmouth speculates that this confidence may be due to the public hearings of the January 6 Committee.

- Patrick Murray, director of Monmouth University Polling Institute: “There’s certainly a correlation between the hearings kicking off and a decreased faith in the American system’s resilience, but it is not clear what caused the rebound. It may be that Americans feel confident in our democratic processes after withstanding the test of Jan. 6, or it could simply be they are no longer thinking about those dangers without the weekly presence of televised hearings.”

### Chart 1: American System of Government



Source: Monmouth University

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