

Congress Juggles Food Aid, Hemp Ban, and FCC Oversight in a Turbulent Day on Capitol Hill

By Villager staff

(VILLAGER) - Congress spent Wednesday navigating a cross section of policy fights that reveal how strained the machinery of federal governance has become. The Senate Agriculture Committee is preparing to vote on a proposal to let families using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) buy hot rotisserie chicken — a change that would overturn a decades old prohibition on hot foods. Sen. Jim Justice argued that denying low income households access to a warm meal is “borderline inhumane”, and the amendment has drawn bipartisan support, mirroring a House provision that passed overwhelmingly earlier this year.

At the same time, Senate Republicans are struggling to manage a growing pileup of legislative business before recess. Majority Whip John Thune acknowledged that negotiations over a pre recess agreement were “starting to pick up”, even as members weigh whether to force votes on contentious provisions tied to the SAVE America Act.

The White House mounted the day’s most aggressive lobbying effort, urging Senate Republicans to delay a looming ban on intoxicating hemp products. President Donald Trump personally called Sen. Ted Budd after Budd filed an amendment to ensure the ban proceeds on schedule. The administration wants a four week delay to continue negotiations, a request that has divided Republicans and raised questions about why the White House waited until the last minute to intervene.

Institutional tensions surfaced during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, where Sen. John Kennedy warned that the Federal Communications Commission’s recent scrutiny of broadcast networks is “getting into the foothills of violating the First Amendment”. His comments reflect bipartisan unease with the agency’s direction, including inquiries into alleged political bias and the early renewal of Disney owned ABC station licenses.



Ethics controversies continued to ripple through the House. Rep. Max Miller faces domestic abuse allegations from his ex wife, drawing national attention and prompting the White House to privately urge him to withdraw from his reelection bid. His Democratic challenger, Brian Poindexter, has declined to center his campaign on the scandal, instead emphasizing economic struggles facing working families. Separately, Rep. Chuck Edwards ended his reelection campaign after the House Ethics Committee recommended censure for inappropriate conduct toward staffers.

Congress also advanced major policy initiatives. The Senate Commerce Committee unanimously approved the Kids Online Safety Act, a sweeping measure requiring platforms to prioritize children’s safety and allow users to opt out of algorithmic personalization. And Senate Majority Leader Thune initiated steps toward a vote on the Protect College Sports Act, which would overhaul athlete compensation rules and conference expansion policies after major athletic conferences dropped their opposition to the bill’s revised structure.

Steal The Vote!

By Villager staff

(FT. WORTH, TX) - Tarrant County commissioners postponed a decision on whether to cut polling locations for the November election, after dozens of residents testified against reducing sites. Most speakers urged the court to maintain or expand access, arguing that fewer locations would burden voters and suppress turnout.

The delay means the county will revisit the proposal later rather than approving changes immediately.



Taken together, the day’s developments show a Congress grappling with the full spectrum of governance — from the mundane but meaningful question of whether families can buy a warm meal to the profound challenges of safeguarding democratic institutions and restoring trust in public health leadership. The stakes extend far beyond Capitol Hill, shaping daily life across the country and testing whether federal leaders can meet the moment with clarity and accountability.

AISD 2026–2027 School Year Calendar

Austin ISD serves a large portion of students in the Austin area. For the 2026–2027 school year, the AISD calendar includes the following highlights:

- First Day of School: **August 18, 2026** (Tuesday)
- Fall Break / Thanksgiving Week: **November 23–27, 2026**
- Winter Break: **December 21, 2026 – January 5, 2027**
- Spring Break: **March 15–19, 2027**
- Last Day of School (Students): **May 27, 2027** (Thursday)

For the full calendar and official updates, visit the AISD Academic Calendar.

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