THE ECHO: A FRIDAY TIPSHEET OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON TWITTER
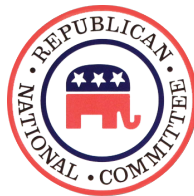
Thanks to the support of GSPM alumnus William H. Madway Class of 2013.

INSTITUTIONS

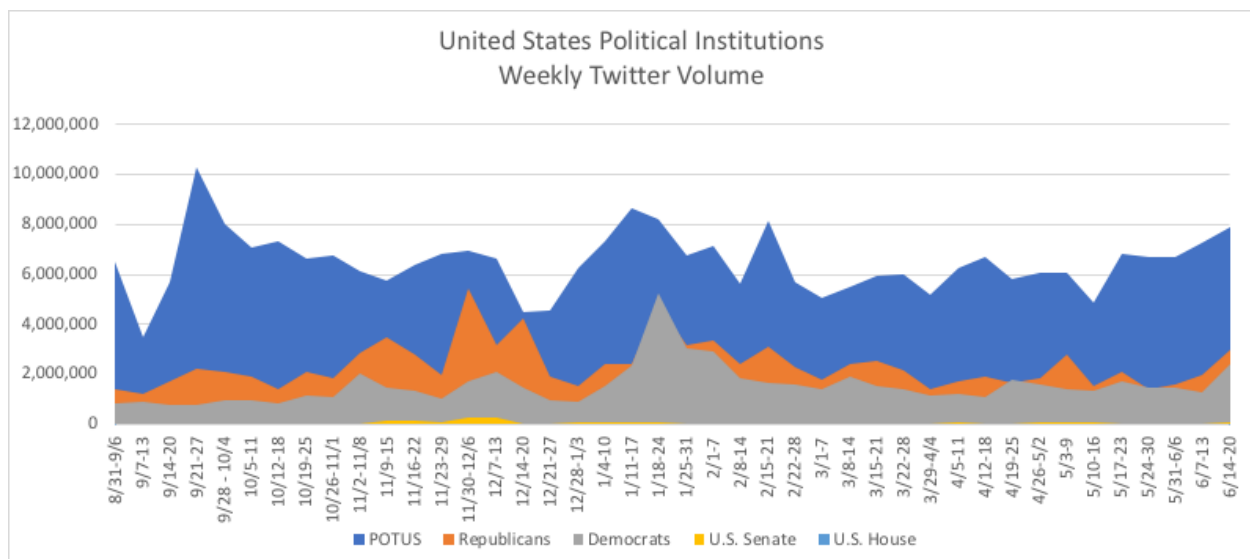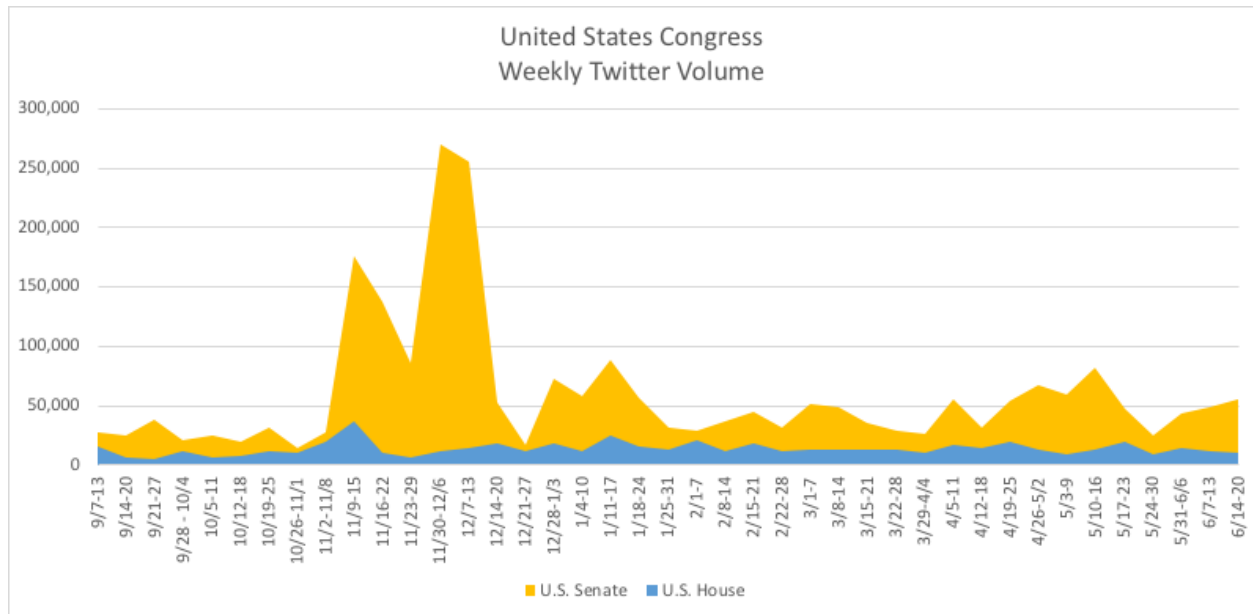| POTUS	Republicans	Democrats	U.S. Senate	U.S. House
7.9m ▲8%	**3.0m ▲54%**	**2.4m ▲87%**	**55.3k ▲15%**	**10.7k ▼5%**
Average 6.5m	Average 2.4m	Average 1.6m	Average 59.4k	Average 13.8k

INSTITUTIONS: The nation's political institutions were focused on the immigration crisis this week where families were being separated due to the administration's "zero tolerance" policy and a shift in enforcing existing law. President Trump led the charge for most of the week defending the policy before signing an executive order on Wednesday, essentially ending the crisis he had assigned blame to Democrats. As you can see above, tweets about both parties and discussion referencing the U.S. Senate, where most of the action was taking place legislatively, were up significantly from the previous week.

United States Political Institutions
Weekly Twitter Volume

Legend: POTUS, Republicans, Democrats, U.S. Senate, U.S. House

Powered by
crimson hexagon

United States Congress Weekly Twitter Volume

This week there was more interest in the Republican party than the Democrat party on Twitter, reflecting the long-term trend on the platform since last summer. Crimson Hexagon reports that this past week sentiment ran 5 to 1 negative against Republicans – it was 4 to 1 in the previous issue of The ECHO. Several of the top tweets were reactions to the border crisis, including a tweet resignation from the GOP by former John McCain for President campaign manager Steve Schmidt. President Trump's tweet assuring that Republicans would fix immigration was also among the top retweeted of the week.

United States Leading Political Parties Weekly Twitter Volume

Powered by
crimson hexagon
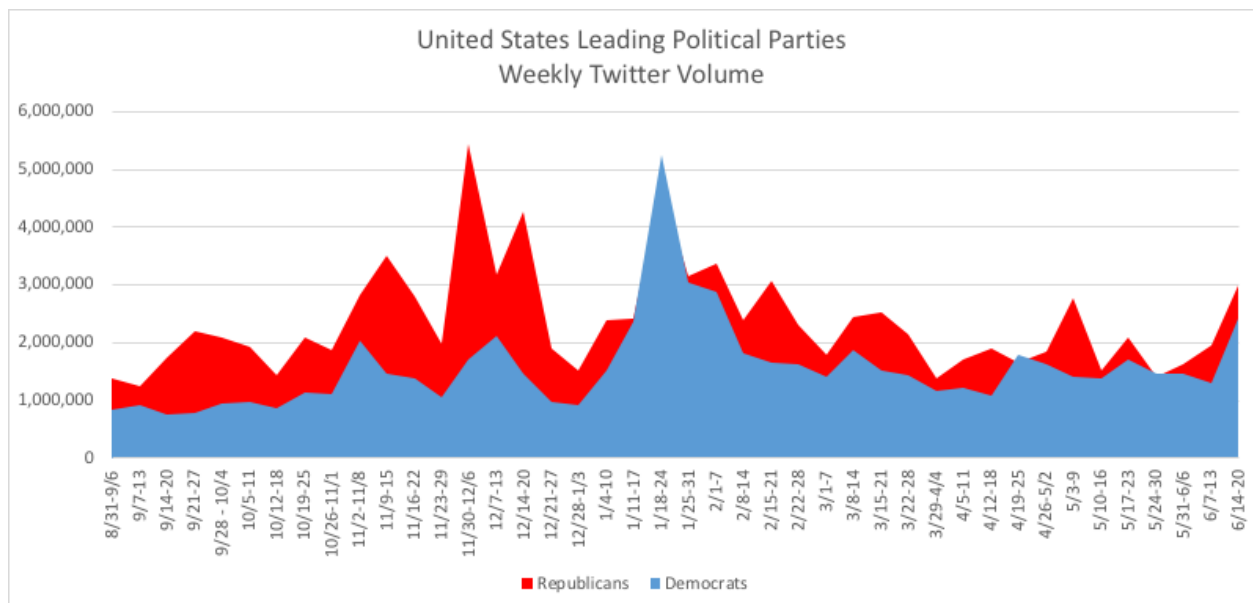
SENATE INCUMBENT COMPETITIVE RACES

Nelson (FL)	Manchin (WV)	Heller (NV)	Brown (OH)	Donnelly (IN)
55.2k ▲413%	52.2k ▲312%	18.4k ▲122%	15.4k ▲74%	14.5k ▲745%
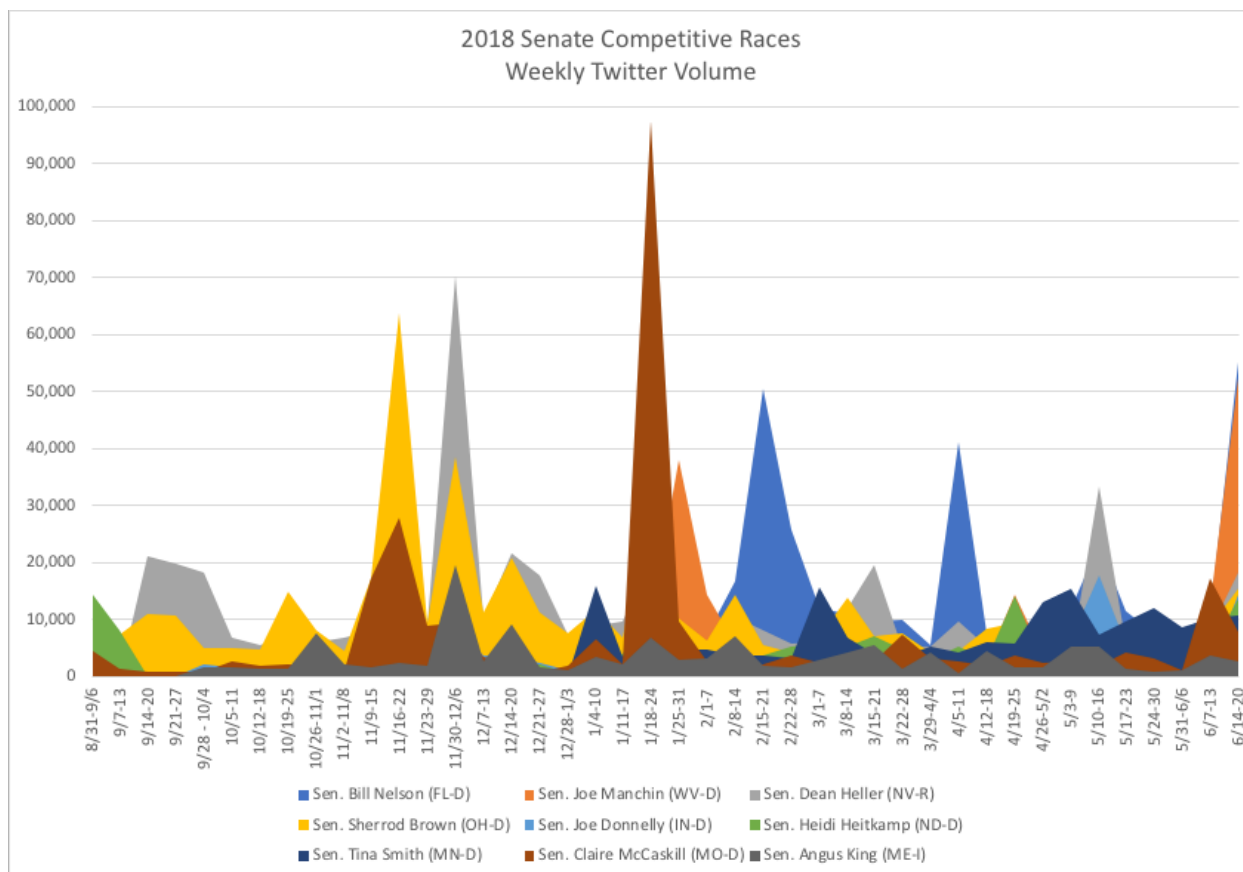
SENATE RACES: Among Senate incumbents in 2018 toss-up races all five on our leaderboard are up significantly. Notably, Sen. Joe Donnelly, who rarely cracks our top five found his way into the mix this week with his tweet supporting the "Keep Families Together Act" in response to this well-circulated tweet from Alyssa Milano prompting Senators Donnelly, Joe Manchin, Doug Jones, Jon Tester, Claire McCaskill, and Heidi Heitkamp to cosponsor the bill. Sen. Heller was also up on his "request" of Trump to stop separating children from parents at the border.

Powered by
crimson hexagon

HOUSE INCUMBENT COMPETITIVE RACES

Paulsen	Coffman	Denham	Hurd	Comstock
MN-03	CO-06	CA-10	TX-23	VA-10
8.0k ▲197%	6.6k ▲281%	5.0k ▲101%	4.9k ▲2,618%	4.3k ▼72%

2018 House Competitive Races
Weekly Twitter Voume

Rep. Erik Paulsen (MN-03-R)   Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06-R)   Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-10-R)   Rep. Will Hurd (TX-23-R)
Rep. Barbara Comstock (VA-10-R)   Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48-R)   Rep. Carlos Curbelo (FL-26-R)   Rep. Jason Lewis (MN-02-R)
Rep. Don Bacon (NE-02-R)   Rep. John Faso (NY-19-R)   Rep. Peter Roskam (IL-08-R)   Rep. Claudia Tenney (NY-22-R)
Rep. John Culberson (TX-07-R)   Rep. Rod Blum (IA-01-R)   Rep. Mike Bost (IL-12-R)   Rep. Steve Knight (CA-25-R)
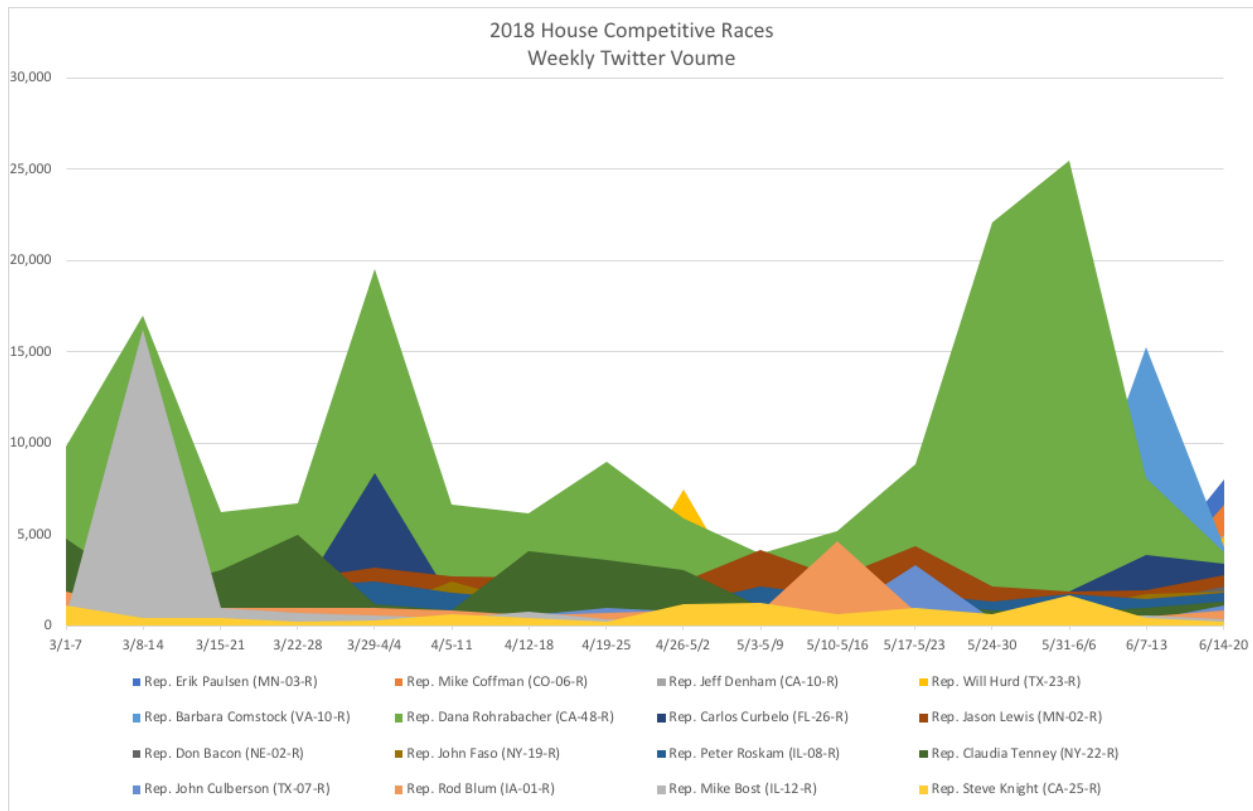
HOUSE RACES: The lower chamber was also pulled into the controversy but with a lighter Twitter volume as would be expected given the Senate's leadership on the issue. Border Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX-23) experienced a *boom* of a week on Twitter where posts about him were up 2,618 percent on his statement that "In the land of the free and the home of the brave, we should not be using kids as a deterrent policy." California Republican Jeff Denham introduced a more comprehensive bill with GOP colleagues. Colorado Republican Mike Coffman said he would introduce a bill from Democrat Sen. Diane Feinstein in the House to end the crisis. Rep. Erik Paulsen's opponent, Dean Phillips, challenged him to "draft a bill to cease the practice NOW." But, by week's end, President Trump reluctantly ended the policy his administration executed.

THE ECHO

ABOUT: Released weekly on Friday mornings online, The ECHO is a social media research publication of George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management's (GSPM) Public Echoes of Political Rhetoric in America (PEORIA) Project. THE ECHO is funded in part by GSPM alumnus William H. Madway and through a reduced-cost license to Crimson Hexagon.

METHODOLOGY: The ECHO features U.S. data collated by sets of keywords on the Crimson Hexagon platform. The first value represents the number of related tweets including the name or topic and the second demonstrates its increase or decrease over the week. Our analysis is informed by further research using Crimson Hexagon's additional features, which allows us to quickly view trending topics and search terms.

Top Institutions include five components. We track both parties, chambers of Congress, and the presidency with several related terms beyond their official accounts on Twitter. For example, the presidency includes @POTUS and @realDonaldTrump as well as "Donald Trump", "President Trump" and "DonaldTrump" as search terms. Rolling averages are published since late summer 2017 after the launch of The ECHO.

Key Races are determined on a rolling basis based on our editorial team's evaluations of campaigns rated as "Toss Up" by the Cook Political Report, Sabato's Crystal Ball, and Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales. We feature the top five races in the Senate and the House as a function of seven-day related-tweet volume on Twitter. They are listed in order of the total number of times each were mentioned on Twitter over the past seven days (Thursday to Wednesday).

CONTACT: Sign up to receive The ECHO in your Inbox every Friday here. For questions about The ECHO, please contact its author Dr. Michael D. Cohen at GSPM by email at michaeldcohen@gwu.edu. For more information about the GSPM Global Center for Political Management and The PEORIA Project, please contact Dr. Michael Cornfield by email at corn@gwu.edu. For questions about GSPM, please contact Dr. Lara Brown by email at larambrown@gwu.edu. All can be reached by phone at 202-994-6000.