



# The PEORIA Project

# THE ECHO: A FRIDAY TIPSHEET OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON TWITTER

**SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2017**: This week, President Trump (10.3 million related tweets, +81%) reignited a divisive debate on Twitter over protesting the American flag during the playing of the national anthem (10.7 million tweets, +910%). Other top movers in our U.S. Twitter metrics: Senate Republican primary in Alabama (+481%), Puerto Rico and Hurricane Maria (+424%), and the retirement of U.S. Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) (+421%). Examples of tweets are included below and in-depth analysis is available at U.S. News & World Report.

#### INSTITUTIONS



POTUS
10.3m ▲81%



Republicans
2.2m ▲26%



773k ▲3%



U.S. Senate 38k ▲50%



**U.S. House 6k ▼19%** 

### **KEY RACES**



Flake (AZ)
39k ▲1%



Heller (NV)
20k ▼7%



Nelson (FL) 8k ▲13%



Manchin (WV)
4k ▲ 103%



McCaskill (MO) **761 ▼10%** 



<u>Lewis</u> <u>MN-02</u> **7k ▲154%** 



<u>Issa</u> <u>CA-49</u> **11k ▲158%** 



<u>Comstock</u> <u>VA-10</u> **2k ▲21%** 



Faso NY-19 1k ▲73%



<u>Coffman</u> <u>CO-06</u> **850** ▲43%





#### **NEWSMAKERS**



Fmr. Sec. of State
Hillary Clinton
619k ▼30%



<u>U.S. Sen. Susan</u> <u>Collins (ME)</u> **224k** ▲418%



U.S. Sen. Maj. Ldr. Mitch McConnell 139k ▲39%



Paul Manafort
53k ▼61%



<u>U.S. Sen. Bob</u> <u>Corker (TN)</u> **46k** ▲ **421**%

#### **HOT TOPICS**



NFL/USA Flag 10.8m ▲910%



Puerto Rico /
Hurricane Maria
3.9m ▲424%



Graham-Cassidy /
Repeal & Replace
2.4m ▲17%



Republican Senate
Primary (AL)
597k ▲481%



<u>Tax Reform</u> **197k ▲191%** 

## **TOP TWEETS**



134k Retweets | 316k Likes



17k Retweets | 84k Likes





#### THE ECHO

**ABOUT:** Released weekly on Friday mornings on U.S. News & World Report, 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 through a donated 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 Heliosight, which allows us to quickly view trending topics and search terms.

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 (top) and the House (bottom) as a function of seven-day search interest on Google. They are listed in order of the total number of times each were mentioned on Twitter over the past seven days (Thursday to Wednesday).

Top Institutions include several 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.

Newsmakers and Hot Topics are detected in several ways using Memeorandum.com, The Week's Daily Briefing "10 Things", and general monitoring throughout the week. Final decisions on what to include are made by our editorial team and listed from left to right in order of total mentions on Twitter.

*Top Tweets* are listed as examples of posts that drove the week's discussion on Twitter. In most cases, these will include a large number of @ replies, retweets, and favorites (hearts) but because of varying numbers of followers, other tweets might have greater total engagement than the ones listed.

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