DECEMBER 7-13, 2017: While the mainstream media focused, appropriately, on the race to fill the open Senate seat in Alabama (more than 6.3 million related tweets) and movement toward reconciliation of tax reform among Republicans on Capitol Hill (over 685,000 related tweets but down 77 percent from last week), another issue was bubbling up in political discussions on Twitter: Net Neutrality. The debate over whether internet service providers would be able to charge customers more for certain content over others led our Hot Topics section this week with 2.1 million related tweets representing a 240% increase from last week. It also boosted conversation about Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06), whose support of Net Neutrality gained widespread acclaim on the platform. Our in-depth analysis is available at U.S. News & World Report.
NEWMAKERS

AL Sen. Candidate
Roy Moore
3.3m ▲108%

AL Sen. Candidate
Doug Jones
2.2m ▲351%

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
744k ▲844%

Mitch McConnell
216k ▲35%

Brietbart E.C.
Steve Bannon
241k ▲86%

HOT TOPICS

Net Neutrality
2.1m ▲240%

Alabama Senate Race
768k ▲369%

#MeToo / Sexual Harassment
757k ▲32%

Tax Reform / Tax Cuts / Tax Bill
685k ▼77%

Jerusalem
633k ▲3%

TOP TWEETS

Never forget,
After Roy Moore said gay people should be put in jail,
After he said the country was better off under slavery,
After he said Muslims have no place in public life,
Even after he was outed as a serial pedophile,
The @GOP ENDORED him and FUNDED his campaign.

70k Retweets | 163k Likes | Link

This is Rep Mike Coffman. He is the first Republican member of Congress to officially call on the FCC to cancel their vote to repeal #netneutrality. Let’s thank him. We have 24 hours to get more Republicans to join him. #TheResistance

136k Retweets | 226k Likes | Link

“How is twitter still free 😂😂”
Because of net neutrality. That’s how.
And there’s a vote to repeal it in a week.
So why don’t you LMAOOOO your way on over to the messages app and text RESIST to 50409

4k Retweets | 8k Likes | Link
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 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.

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 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).

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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