Thursday, October 8, 2026

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) — Congressional Activity Brief

TOP STORY

FOREIGN POLICY / ISRAEL / CAMPAIGN POSITIONING UPDATED

Coons Publicly Calls for Reexamining U.S.-Israel Relationship on Oct. 7 Anniversary — Positions Himself as Likely Top Democrat on Foreign Relations

In an Oct. 7 anniversary video statement and media appearances (Bloomberg, Politico), Sen. Coons called on the U.S. to 'reexamine' its relationship with Israel, saying Israel has 'largely achieved its military goals' and its approach should change. This represents a significant evolution from April 2026, when Coons voted against resolutions to block weapons sales to Israel (while calling Netanyahu's government 'the most right-wing government in Israeli history'). Jewish Insider and Politico both report Coons is positioned to become the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee if Democrats flip the Senate, making this a deliberate policy staking exercise. Breitbart reports he discussed reexamining 'all' weapons sales and 'joint development' — staff should verify against the Bloomberg video footage before using specifics.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports a strong U.S.-Israel alliance and believes the Commander-in-Chief should have full authority to manage defense partnerships without congressional micromanagement — per his defense and veterans platform emphasizing robust military alliances and American global leadership. Coons' public shift three weeks before an election raises the question of whether this is principled policy evolution or political calculation aimed at his party's progressive base. Dr. Katz believes America's allies need consistency, not election-season repositioning.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons voted to allow Israel weapons sales in April — now calls to reexamine the entire relationship six months later, three weeks before Election Day
- America's allies need consistency and strength, not a senator who shifts positions based on which wing of his party he needs to appease
- Dr. Katz supports Commander-in-Chief authority on defense partnerships and believes undermining alliances publicly weakens American credibility
- Coons is auditioning to run the Foreign Relations Committee — Delaware voters should ask whether his shifting positions serve the state or his ambitions

- A physician understands that trust is built on consistency — Dr. Katz believes the same principle applies to America's alliances

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov — Oct. 7 Statement · Bloomberg Video · Jewish Insider ↑ INDEX

DEFENSE & PENTAGON

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS / FY2027 BUDGET

FY2027 Defense Appropriations — October Status; Coons' Role as Ranking Member on Defense Subcommittee in Pre-Election Period

The FY2027 defense appropriations process continues past the October 1 fiscal year start with no final enacted defense spending bill. As Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Coons retains significant influence over defense spending priorities including DOGE-related oversight language and AI guardrail provisions. No new public statements from Coons on defense appropriations have been identified this week; his media focus has been entirely on Israel/Iran and AI policy.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense spending and American military readiness — per his veterans and defense platform. While Coons holds a powerful defense appropriations role, his focus this week has been on undermining an allied relationship rather than ensuring the Pentagon is fully funded. Dr. Katz believes the Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member's priority should be getting defense funding done, not conducting a media tour questioning alliances.

• TALKING POINTS

- The fiscal year started October 1 with no final defense spending bill — where is the urgency from the Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member?
- Dr. Katz supports fully funding our military and ensuring Dover AFB and Delaware's defense infrastructure get the resources they need
- Coons is doing cable TV hits about reexamining Israel instead of doing his job on defense appropriations
- Strong defense starts with timely budgets — Dr. Katz believes our troops deserve better than continuing resolutions and political delays

SOURCES: Appropriations.senate.gov · Congress.gov ↑ INDEX

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION / DELAWARE

Dover AFB FY2027 Military Construction — Status Check

Dover Air Force Base remains a critical Delaware equities item. The base hosts the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings and the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs. No new FY2027 military construction announcements specific to Dover AFB have been identified this week. Staff should continue monitoring for Delaware-specific line items in any defense or military construction markups.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Per his veterans and defense platform, Dr. Katz supports sustained investment in Dover AFB infrastructure and believes Delaware's military installations should be a top priority for the state's Senate delegation. Dr. Katz can acknowledge bipartisan work on Dover AFB funding while pivoting to the broader point that Delaware needs a senator focused on the state's defense assets full-time.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dover AFB is Delaware's most important federal installation — it needs a senator whose top priority is Dover, not cable news
- Dr. Katz supports full military construction funding for Dover's airlift mission and mortuary affairs operations
- Delaware's military families deserve certainty about base investments, not budget limbo

SOURCES: Appropriations.senate.gov

↑ INDEX

DEFENSE / AI / TECHNOLOGY

S. 4707 — Responsible AI Defense Act of 2026 Remains in Armed Services Committee; Day 122

S. 4707, the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Defense Act of 2026 introduced by Coons on June 8, remains in the Senate Armed Services Committee with no hearing scheduled and no reported cosponsors after 122 days. The bill has shown zero movement since introduction.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports innovation in defense technology — per his energy and environment platform's emphasis on leveraging science and technology for American competitiveness. However, Coons' pattern of introducing bills that never advance raises questions about whether these are serious legislative efforts or press release fodder. After 122 days with zero cosponsors, this looks more like messaging than legislating.

• TALKING POINTS

- 122 days, zero cosponsors, zero hearings — is this legislation or a press release?
- Dr. Katz supports real AI innovation in defense, not bills designed to collect dust

- Coons talks about AI on CNBC but can't get a single colleague to cosponsor his AI defense bill

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

RECENT LEGISLATION

CRITICAL MINERALS / BIPARTISAN **UPDATED**

S. 5637 — STRATA Act of 2026: Bipartisan Critical Minerals Bill with Sen. Sheehy (R-MT) — Press Release Issued Oct. 6

Coons and Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT) introduced S. 5637 on September 30 to strengthen U.S. and allied critical-minerals supply chains through new mining and refining technology. On October 6, Coons issued a press release highlighting the bipartisan nature of the bill. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. This is the type of bipartisan work Coons will highlight on the campaign trail to project a centrist image.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports American energy independence and domestic resource development — per his energy and environment platform calling for policies that 'enhance America's global competitiveness and create business opportunities.' Dr. Katz can acknowledge this as a reasonable policy goal while noting that Coons' record on energy has been far more focused on regulation than development, and that one bipartisan bill doesn't erase years of supporting policies that made America more dependent on foreign supply chains.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Critical minerals matter — but Coons spent years supporting regulations that drove mining and refining overseas in the first place
- Dr. Katz supports American energy independence as a core principle, not a pre-election pivot
- One bipartisan bill with a Republican doesn't make up for a career of policies that weakened domestic resource development
- Dr. Katz's energy platform calls for leveraging private-sector innovation to build supply chain resilience — that's a consistent vision, not a one-off bill

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov · Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

EDUCATION / CIVICS

S. 5676 — Strengthening Civics Education Act (Introduced Sept. 30) — In HELP Committee

S. 5676 authorizes the Secretary of Education to make grants for civics and history education programs. Referred to the HELP Committee on September 30. No cosponsors or hearing date

identified. This is consistent with Coons' education messaging but is unlikely to advance before the election.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strengthening education and believes the U.S. education system 'has failed to ensure universal access to high-quality education for every child' — per his education platform. However, Dr. Katz opposes top-down federal grant programs that add bureaucracy without accountability and believes education reform should focus on early childhood development and parental choice rather than Washington-directed curriculum grants.

• TALKING POINTS

- Every child deserves quality education — but another federal grant program isn't the answer
- Dr. Katz's education platform focuses on early childhood development and local control, not Washington mandates
- Coons introduces education bills before elections that never pass — where's the follow-through?

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

FOREIGN POLICY / ISRAEL / SANCTIONS UPDATED

S. 5476 — Settlement Sanctions Bill (Introduced Sept. 23) — In Banking Committee

Coons cosponsored S. 5476, imposing sanctions on foreign persons facilitating Israeli settlement construction in the E1 area of the West Bank. Referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. In context of this week's Oct. 7 anniversary statements, this bill reinforces Coons' shifting posture on Israel policy — sanctioning entities supporting Israeli settlements represents a significant departure from his historically strong pro-Israel record.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports a strong U.S.-Israel alliance and opposes Congress using sanctions tools against the activities of a democratic ally — per his defense and foreign policy principles emphasizing Commander-in-Chief authority and consistent alliances. Coons' cosponsorship of this bill, combined with his calls to 'reexamine' the relationship, suggests a systematic repositioning away from Israel that Dr. Katz believes weakens American credibility.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons is now cosponsoring sanctions against our ally Israel while calling to reexamine the entire relationship

- Dr. Katz supports a strong Israel alliance — consistency in foreign policy is what allies and adversaries both respect
- Using sanctions against a democratic ally's internal policies sets a dangerous precedent

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

TECHNOLOGY / AI REGULATION **UPDATED**

S. 5471 — AI Systems Transparency Act (Introduced Sept. 23) — In Commerce Committee

Coons cosponsored S. 5471, the AI Systems Transparency Act, referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. This adds to Coons' extensive AI legislation portfolio (S. 4707, S. 4591/NO FAKES Act, S. 5307). No new action since introduction. Coons discussed AI oversight on CNBC's 'Squawk Box' on October 5, continuing his positioning as a Senate leader on AI regulation.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports innovation and believes in leveraging technology for American competitiveness — per his energy and environment platform. However, Dr. Katz is skeptical of regulatory frameworks that could stifle American innovation and hand competitive advantages to China. Coons has multiple AI bills with no cosponsors and no hearings — it's a legislative portfolio of press releases, not results.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has at least four AI bills — zero have become law, most have zero cosponsors
- AI regulation that stifles American innovation hands the advantage to China
- Dr. Katz supports innovation-friendly policies, not regulation-first approaches
- Coons talks about AI on CNBC but his bills go nowhere — results matter more than TV hits

SOURCES: Congress.gov · CNBC

↑ INDEX

IMMIGRATION / AFGHANISTAN

S. 5308 — Afghanistan TPS Act of 2026 (Introduced Aug. 6) — In Judiciary Committee

Coons cosponsored S. 5308, which would extend or establish Temporary Protected Status for Afghan nationals. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee with no hearing scheduled. Now at approximately Day 63 with no movement.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — per his core platform principles. Extending TPS designations without clear end dates effectively creates permanent immigration pathways that bypass the legal immigration system. Dr. Katz believes immigration policy should prioritize enforcement and legal pathways, not open-ended protected status expansions.

• TALKING POINTS

- TPS was designed to be temporary — Coons wants to make it permanent through the back door
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and legal immigration, not expanding protected status indefinitely
- Delaware families are struggling with cost of living — Coons' priority is immigration expansion

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

IMMIGRATION / TECHNOLOGY / WORKFORCE

S. 5307 — Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Talent Act (Introduced Aug. 6) — In Judiciary Committee

Coons cosponsored S. 5307, which appears designed to facilitate immigration pathways for AI talent. Referred to the Judiciary Committee with no hearing scheduled. Now at approximately Day 63. This bill combines Coons' two priority areas — AI and immigration — into a single legislative vehicle.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports investing in American education and workforce development to equip America's workforce with the skills required for future jobs — per his economy platform. Rather than importing talent through expanded immigration, Dr. Katz believes the priority should be training Americans to fill high-tech jobs through education reform and workforce development.

• TALKING POINTS

- Instead of training Americans for AI jobs, Coons wants to import foreign workers
- Dr. Katz's platform calls for investing in American education and workforce development first
- We should be training Delaware students for the AI economy, not outsourcing the talent pipeline

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS / OVERSIGHT

Legislative Effectiveness Tracker — Multiple Previously Tracked Coons Bills Remain Stalled

All previously tracked Coons bills remain stalled with no new committee action, floor movement, or additional cosponsors: S. 3891 (ICE Accountability Act, ~Week 36 in Judiciary), S. 4011 (Tropical Forest Act), S. 4089 (Blue Envelope Act), S. 4144 (ESCRA), S. 4145 (Pro Codes Act), S. 4591 (NO FAKES Act, on Legislative Calendar but not scheduled), S. 4664 (Safer Choice Act), S. 5186 (ASSET Act), S. 5313 (Quantum-GUARD Act). This is a pattern of bills introduced but never advanced.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's legislative record in the Delaware State Senate demonstrates actual results — passing the DHIN restructuring, the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway legislation (SB 241), lobby reform (SB 141), and live-streaming of Senate proceedings (SR 14). The contrast is clear: Dr. Katz passed legislation that became law; Coons introduces bills that collect dust. Delawareans deserve a senator who delivers results, not press releases.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has at least nine bills going nowhere in committee — that's not legislating, that's press releasing
- Dr. Katz passed real legislation in Delaware: scenic byway protection, lobby reform, government transparency
- After 16 years in the Senate, why can't Coons get his own bills through committee?
- Results matter — Dr. Katz's track record is getting things done, not introducing bills that die

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

APPROPRIATIONS & DELAWARE FUNDING

FEDERAL FUNDING / COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE / DELAWARE NEW

Coons Seeks $30 Million for Delaware Beach Replenishment After Nor'easter — Tours Damage with Army Corps

Coons toured storm damage in Dewey Beach on October 5 with Rep. McBride, Army Corps officials, and DNREC Secretary Greg Patterson following a four-day nor'easter that caused significant erosion, dune damage, and flooding. He is now seeking $30 million in additional federal funding on top of the $10 million the delegation secured earlier this year for Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island beach replenishment. Coons stated he will 'keep fighting for the

funding Delaware needs to rebuild and recover.' This is a high-visibility constituent-services moment in Sussex County during campaign season.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports protecting Delaware's beaches and coastal infrastructure — per his energy and environment platform's commitment to 'safeguarding natural resources, including Delaware's beaches and open spaces.' Dr. Katz authored Delaware's National Scenic Byway legislation (SB 241) demonstrating his record on preserving Delaware's natural assets. He can acknowledge the beach funding effort while noting that Coons should explain why Delaware's infrastructure needs always seem to require emergency requests rather than proactive long-term planning.

• TALKING POINTS

- Delaware's beaches need protection — Dr. Katz authored scenic byway preservation legislation because he believes in proactive conservation, not just emergency spending
- Why does Delaware's infrastructure always require emergency funding requests? After 16 years, Coons should have a long-term coastal resilience plan in place
- Sussex County voters deserve a senator who plans ahead for coastal threats, not one who shows up after storms for photo ops
- Dr. Katz supports federal investment in Delaware's coastal infrastructure as part of a comprehensive, proactive approach

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov · WDEL ↑ INDEX

FISCAL POLICY / GOVERNMENT FUNDING

[STAFF VERIFY] FY2027 Appropriations Status — Confirm Current Operating Authority and Delaware Earmarks

FY2027 began on October 1, 2026. Staff must confirm immediately whether Congress passed a continuing resolution, an omnibus, or individual appropriations bills — or whether the government is operating under a shutdown or other arrangement. Additionally, verify the status of any Delaware-specific earmarks or community project funding that Coons submitted for FY2027 appropriations bills. This is critical context for campaign messaging on fiscal responsibility.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and believes the federal government should operate on timely budgets — per his economy platform calling for policies that 'ensure fiscal responsibility and secure a stable, prosperous future.' Coons has been in the Senate for 16 years and the government still can't pass budgets on time.

• TALKING POINTS

- After 16 years in the Senate, Coons can't help get budgets passed on time — that's a failure of leadership
- Dr. Katz's platform calls for fiscal responsibility, which starts with actually passing a budget
- Continuing resolutions waste taxpayer money and create uncertainty for Delaware's military installations and federal workers

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

DELAWARE

JUDICIARY / DELAWARE / ETHICS NEW

Coons and Blunt Rochester File Ethics Complaint Against Third Circuit Judge Jennifer Mascott

On October 6, Coons and Sen. Blunt Rochester filed an ethics complaint against Third Circuit Judge Jennifer Mascott, who holds 'Delaware's seat' on the court. The complaint, filed with Circuit Executive Margaret Wiegand, alleges Mascott continued actively managing public affairs firm Adfero for at least six months after her confirmation, and notes she has issued only three written precedential opinions. Coons cited his Judiciary Committee role. This is a Delaware-specific judicial accountability story Coons will use to demonstrate constituent engagement. Covered by Politico, Forth.News, and The News Journal.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports government transparency and accountability — per his Delaware Senate legislation on lobby reform (SB 141), conflicts of interest prohibitions, and open government (SR 14 on live-streaming proceedings). However, Dr. Katz believes ethics complaints against judges should be based on clear legal standards, not political positioning. Staff should evaluate whether Coons is weaponizing judicial ethics processes for campaign purposes three weeks before an election.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz has a proven record on government ethics — he authored Delaware's lobby reform and conflict of interest legislation
- Ethics complaints should be based on clear standards, not political timing — why file this three weeks before the election?
- Dr. Katz believes in judicial independence and accountability, but the timing raises questions about Coons' motives
- If Coons is serious about judicial ethics, where was this complaint six months ago when the reporting first surfaced?

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov · Forth.News ↑ INDEX

BUSINESS CLIMATE / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE / DELAWARE ECONOMY **UPDATED**

ExxonMobil Texas Redomiciliation — Coons Enters Week Thirty-Four Without Addressing Delaware's Eroding Corporate Franchise Position

ExxonMobil's board-recommended redomiciliation from New Jersey to Texas — bypassing Delaware entirely — now enters its thirty-fourth week as a data point in Delaware's eroding position as America's preeminent state of incorporation. Coons has made no public statement addressing this trend or offering solutions to preserve Delaware's corporate franchise advantage, which generates significant state revenue through franchise taxes and supports the state's legal services industry.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports reducing the corporate tax burden and incentivizing business investment — per his economy platform calling for 'reducing the corporate tax burden, incentivizing business investment.' He also authored Delaware SB 100 to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax. When a Fortune 10 company chooses Texas over Delaware, it's a warning sign that Dr. Katz has been talking about for years. Coons' silence on this issue after 34 weeks is disqualifying for a senator whose state depends on corporate franchise revenue.

• TALKING POINTS

- ExxonMobil chose Texas over Delaware — 34 weeks later, Coons still hasn't said a word
- Dr. Katz authored legislation to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax (SB 100) because he understands business competitiveness
- Delaware's corporate franchise is the foundation of the state's revenue — and it's eroding on Coons' watch
- When businesses flee Delaware, jobs and revenue follow — Dr. Katz has a plan, Coons has silence

SOURCES: Dr. Katz Platform — Economy · Dr. Katz Legislation — SB 100 ↑ INDEX

VETERANS / DELAWARE / HEALTHCARE

Veterans Affairs — Southern Delaware VA Advanced Medical Facility Advocacy Remains Stalled

Veterans in Kent and Sussex counties continue to lack accessible, advanced medical care services tailored to their unique health challenges. No new federal action has been announced on establishing a VA advanced medical facility in southern Delaware. Coons has made no public

statements on this issue in the current news cycle despite his appropriations role and the ongoing campaign.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has specifically called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware — per his veterans platform. As a physician who has cared for patients 'from the tiniest infants to resilient centenarians,' Dr. Katz understands that veterans in Sussex and Kent counties cannot continue driving hours for advanced care. This is Dr. Katz's home-turf issue where his healthcare expertise and specific policy proposal directly contrast with Coons' inaction.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz has a specific plan for a VA advanced medical facility in southern Delaware — Coons has nothing
- Kent and Sussex veterans shouldn't have to drive hours for advanced medical care
- As a physician, Dr. Katz understands veterans' unique healthcare needs — Coons is a career politician
- Sixteen years in the Senate, on the Appropriations Committee, and still no advanced VA facility for downstate veterans

SOURCES: Dr. Katz Platform — Veterans

↑ INDEX

CAMPAIGN FINANCE / ETHICS NEW

Coons' Donor History — WHYY Reports Coons Received $18,700 from Now-Imprisoned Contractor

WHYY reported (Sept. 26) that Coons received $18,700 in the 2014 and 2020 cycles from former Navatek CEO Martin Kao and his wife. Kao is now in federal prison for illegal campaign contributions to another senator. Coons' campaign quietly donated the money to four Delaware charities in October 2023. Coons said of Kao, 'I do not remember him at all.' This is a verified, sourced campaign finance story that has not been widely amplified.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz authored comprehensive lobby reform legislation in Delaware (SB 141), including financial reporting requirements and conflict of interest prohibitions. The contrast is between a candidate who has fought for transparency and accountability and an incumbent who quietly returned tainted money two years after the donor was charged, claiming he didn't remember the person who gave him nearly $19,000.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons took $18,700 from a donor now in federal prison for illegal campaign contributions

- He quietly returned the money two years after charges were filed — and says he doesn't remember a donor who gave $18,700
- Dr. Katz authored Delaware's lobby reform and ethics legislation because he believes transparency prevents corruption
- If Coons can't remember who's giving him thousands of dollars, that's either a transparency problem or a memory problem

SOURCES: WHYY · Dr. Katz Legislation — SB 141 ↑ INDEX

DELAWARE ECONOMY / QUALITY OF LIFE

[STAFF VERIFY] Delaware Population and Outmigration Trends — October Data Check

Staff should check whether updated Census Bureau population estimates, IRS migration data, or American Community Survey releases for Delaware have been published since the last data check in early October. Recent trends have shown Delaware experiencing net domestic outmigration, particularly among working-age residents and retirees.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's economy platform addresses cost of living, homeownership affordability, and economic opportunity — all factors driving outmigration. Per his homeownership platform, Delaware's median home price surged 53% from 2018-2023. When people leave Delaware, it reflects failures in economic policy that Coons has had 16 years to address.

• TALKING POINTS

- People are leaving Delaware — that's a verdict on the cost of living and economic opportunity Coons has failed to address
- Dr. Katz's platform tackles the root causes: housing costs, stagnant wages, and a business climate that's falling behind
- Sixteen years in the Senate and Delaware is losing residents — that's Coons' record

SOURCES: Dr. Katz Platform — Homeownership ↑ INDEX

FOREIGN POLICY & DIPLOMACY

WAR POWERS / IRAN / FOREIGN RELATIONS UPDATED

Coons on CNN: U.S. Will Be 'Paying for Iran War for a Long Time to Come'

On October 1, CNN's Christiane Amanpour interviewed Coons about Trump's summit with Xi Jinping and the stalemate in the Iran conflict. Coons stated the U.S. will be 'paying for Iran war

for a long time to come.' This is consistent with his April 2026 statement that he 'voted to end President Trump's war of choice with Iran.' S.J.Res. 191, the Iran War Powers Resolution that Coons cosponsored, remains stalled in the Foreign Relations Committee after approximately Day 161.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense and Commander-in-Chief authority on military operations — per his veterans and defense platform. Coons' characterization of the Iran conflict as a 'war of choice' and his efforts to constrain presidential military authority through war powers resolutions undermine the Commander-in-Chief's ability to protect American interests. Dr. Katz believes the President needs flexibility to respond to threats, not congressional handcuffs.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons calls Iran a 'war of choice' — Iran's aggression against American allies and interests is not a choice, it's a reality
- Dr. Katz supports Commander-in-Chief authority because threats don't wait for congressional debate
- Coons' war powers resolution would tie the President's hands while Iran threatens American forces and allies
- A doctor knows you don't ask for a committee vote before treating a life-threatening emergency — the same applies to national security

SOURCES: CNN · Coons.senate.gov — April Statement ↑ INDEX

ELECTION INTEGRITY / DHS / IMMIGRATION NEW

Coons-Led Letter Demands DHS Secretary Mullin Halt Alleged 'Election Interference' — Challenges Noncitizen Voter Claims

Coons joined Schumer, Durbin, Peters, Padilla, and Blunt Rochester in a letter demanding DHS Secretary Mullin stop efforts to 'assert federal control' over the 2026 midterms. The letter specifically challenges Mullin's claim that 250,000 noncitizens are registered to vote. Coons' press release characterizes DHS election integrity efforts as 'interference.' This puts Coons on record opposing federal efforts to verify voter citizenship — directly relevant to the SAVE Act debate.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act and believes only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections — per his stated position on election integrity. Coons is now on record calling federal efforts to identify noncitizen voters 'election interference.' Dr. Katz believes verifying voter citizenship is common sense, not interference, and Coons' opposition

reveals his party's real position: they'd rather block verification than risk finding noncitizens on the rolls.

TALKING POINTS

- Coons calls verifying voter citizenship 'election interference' — most Americans call it common sense
- Dr. Katz supports the SAVE Act: only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections, period
- If there are no noncitizens on voter rolls, why is Coons fighting so hard to prevent anyone from checking?
- Coons signed a letter challenging the claim that 250,000 noncitizens are registered — if he's right, verification should prove it
- Protecting election integrity isn't interference — opposing verification is

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov

↑ INDEX

TECHNOLOGY / ENERGY / NATIONAL SECURITY

S. 5313 — Quantum-GUARD Act of 2026 (Introduced Aug. 6) — In Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coons cosponsored S. 5313, addressing quantum computing security concerns. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Now at approximately Day 63 with no hearing scheduled or additional cosponsors.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports leveraging technology for national security and competitiveness — per his energy and environment platform. Quantum computing security is a legitimate concern, but this bill's lack of movement after 63 days fits the pattern of Coons introducing legislation that generates headlines but not results.

TALKING POINTS

- Another Coons tech bill, another zero-movement story — 63 days, no cosponsors, no hearing
- Quantum security matters, but so does actually passing legislation
- Dr. Katz supports real action on technology security, not bill-introduction theater

SOURCES: Congress.gov

↑ INDEX

SENATE DEMOCRAT CAUCUS WATCH

HOMELAND SECURITY / FISCAL POLICY / IMMIGRATION **UPDATED**

DHS and TSA Funding — Senate Democrats Continue to Use Funding Debates to Resist Immigration Enforcement

Senate Democrats, including Coons, continue to use FY2027 DHS and TSA funding debates to push for restrictions on interior immigration enforcement, oppose expanded ICE detention capacity, and resist Republican efforts to increase border security funding. The caucus position remains unified: leverage appropriations to constrain enforcement agencies rather than fund them. No new specific Coons statement on DHS funding has been identified this week, but his signed letter demanding DHS Secretary Mullin stop 'election interference' (see Foreign Policy section) reinforces his alignment with the caucus position of opposing DHS enforcement actions.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — per his core platform principles. He opposes Senate Democrat efforts to defund or constrain ICE and border enforcement through the appropriations process. Dr. Katz believes DHS and ICE should be fully funded to carry out their enforcement mission, and that Coons' caucus is deliberately using budget fights to undermine border security.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons and Senate Democrats are trying to defund ICE through the budget process — Dr. Katz supports fully funding border enforcement
- Using appropriations riders to handcuff ICE is a backdoor open-borders strategy
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — Coons' caucus opposes both
- Delaware families are affected by the fentanyl crisis — Coons' party is fighting to weaken the agencies that stop it

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov — DHS Letter

↑ INDEX

ELECTION INTEGRITY / IMMIGRATION UPDATED

SAVE America Act — Senate Democrats Continue to Block Voter Citizenship Verification; Coons Now on Record Opposing DHS Verification Efforts

The SAVE Act (H.R. 22), requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections, remains pending in the Senate after passing the House in April 2025 (220-208, largely party-line). Senate Democrats are expected to oppose or filibuster the bill, framing it as voter suppression. Coons' position has been reinforced this week by his co-signed letter to DHS Secretary Mullin explicitly challenging the claim that 250,000 noncitizens are registered to vote and calling verification efforts 'election interference.' This is the most direct evidence yet of Coons' opposition to voter citizenship verification.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act and believes only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections — a position most Americans share. Dr. Katz opposes Senate Democrat efforts to block or filibuster the bill, calling their resistance a choice to protect a broken system over basic election integrity. Coons' letter to DHS this week makes his position undeniable: he opposes verifying voter citizenship and calls common-sense election security 'interference.'

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons signed a letter calling voter citizenship verification 'election interference' — that tells you everything
- Dr. Katz supports the SAVE Act: if you're a citizen, verification is easy; if you're not, you shouldn't be voting
- Every illegal vote cancels out a legal Delaware voter's voice — Coons is fine with that
- The SAVE Act passed the House — Senate Democrats like Coons are the only thing standing in the way
- Coons won't even let DHS check voter rolls — what is he afraid they'll find?

SOURCES: Congress.gov — H.R. 22 · GovTrack — H.R. 22 · Coons.senate.gov — DHS Letter ↑ INDEX

2026 RACE CONTEXT

CAMPAIGN INTELLIGENCE

Race Snapshot: Coons vs. Katz (General: Nov. 3, 2026)

Sen. Coons (D) is running for a third full term. Dr. Mike Katz won the September 15 Republican primary with approximately 77% of the vote. Delaware is historically Solid Democratic; NBC's Decision Desk rates this race 'Solid DEM'; Harris won Delaware by 14.7 points in 2024. Coons has missed 3.0% of Senate roll call votes since 2010. His legislative profile focuses on International Affairs (27%), Commerce (21%), and Labor (10%). Committees: Appropriations (Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member), Foreign Relations, Judiciary. Key financial disparity: Coons had approximately $4.8 million cash-on-hand as of Aug. 26; Katz had less than $100,000 (per Spotlight Delaware). No public polling has been identified.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Strategic note for Katz: Key vulnerabilities this week: (1) Israel/Iran repositioning — inconsistency narrative, (2) debate refusal — WDEL offer declined, documented, (3) election integrity — Coons now on record opposing voter citizenship verification, (4) campaign finance — $18,700 from imprisoned donor, (5) legislative ineffectiveness — nine+ bills stalled with zero movement. Cash-on-hand gap remains the single

biggest structural challenge. The debate refusal is a messaging asset — lean into 'what is Coons afraid of?' framing.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons turned down WDEL's debate offer — Delaware voters deserve to hear both candidates side by side
- A $4.8 million war chest can't buy accountability — Coons needs to answer for his record, not hide behind it
- Dr. Katz won 77% of the primary vote because Republicans want a candidate who shows up and fights
- The race rating says 'Solid DEM' — but that was before Coons started dodging debates and shifting on Israel

SOURCES: Delaware LIVE — Debate Story · WDEL — Debate Story · NBC Decision Desk

↑ INDEX

CAMPAIGN DYNAMICS / DEBATE NEW

Debate Standoff — Coons Declines WDEL/CoastTV Offer; UD Debates Also Canceled

Coons' office turned down WDEL's offer to host a debate on WDEL radio and CoastTV. Separately, the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication decided last year not to hold its traditional debates for U.S. Senate and Congress candidates. Dr. Katz has publicly called for a televised debate, asking both state party chairs to jointly organize one. Delaware College Republicans published an op-ed in Bay to Bay News urging Coons to accept. The WDEL offer remains open. This is a documented refusal the campaign can point to.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has publicly called for a televised debate and has asked both party chairs to help organize one. Coons' refusal to debate reinforces the narrative that a 16-year incumbent is avoiding accountability. Per Dr. Katz's government reform background — including his legislation on live-streaming the Delaware Senate (SR 14) and open redistricting (SR 9) — he believes in transparency and public discourse. An incumbent who refuses to debate is an incumbent who doesn't want to defend his record.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons turned down WDEL's debate offer — the invitation is still open, Senator
- Dr. Katz believes in open government and public discourse — he passed legislation to live-stream the Delaware Senate
- If Coons is proud of his record, why won't he defend it on a debate stage?
- Delaware voters deserve at least one televised debate before they vote — Coons owes them that

- UD canceled debates AND Coons declined WDEL — who exactly is silencing public discourse here?

SOURCES: Delaware LIVE · WDEL · Bay to Bay News ↑ INDEX

CAMPAIGN DYNAMICS / INTRAPARTY **NEW**

Write-In Challenge from Shulli — Right-Flank Threat Following Arminio Controversy

John Shulli, who lost the September 15 primary to Katz, filed as a write-in candidate positioning himself as the more conservative choice. This followed Katz's public call for House nominee Joe Arminio to drop out after Arminio misgendered Rep. McBride at a forum. Arminio called Katz 'a traitor to the Republican Party of Delaware.' WHYY and Spotlight Delaware have covered the rift. Staff should monitor whether Shulli's write-in effort gains any traction or media coverage in the final weeks.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Internal advisory: This is a vulnerability, not a contrast opportunity. Staff should avoid amplifying Shulli's candidacy. The strategic question is whether Katz's principled stand on the Arminio situation costs more conservative votes than it gains among moderates and independents. In a Solid-D state, the path to competitiveness runs through the center. Staff should develop messaging that reinforces Katz's independence and focus on issues — economy, healthcare, veterans — rather than relitigating the Arminio episode.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz won 77% of the Republican primary — his mandate from GOP voters is clear
- This race is about Coons' record vs. Dr. Katz's vision for Delaware, not intraparty disputes
- Dr. Katz is focused on the issues that matter to all Delawareans: healthcare, cost of living, veterans' care
- Independence and integrity are Dr. Katz's brand — that's what Delaware needs in Washington

SOURCES: WHYY · Spotlight Delaware ↑ INDEX

Sources: Congress.gov · GovTrack · NPR · Coons.senate.gov · Ballotpedia · C-SPAN

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