Friday, October 9, 2026

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

TOP STORY

FOREIGN POLICY / ISRAEL / CAMPAIGN POSITIONING UPDATED

Coons' Israel Shift Now a Multi-Outlet Story — On-Record Statements, Settlement Sanctions Bill, and Foreign Relations Chair Positioning Combine into Documented Foreign Policy Pivot

Sen. Coons' evolving position on Israel has become the dominant national story around his name this week. Across Politico, Bloomberg, Jewish Insider, Breitbart, and CNN, Coons has called on the U.S. to 'reexamine' its relationship with Israel, stated that Israel has 'largely achieved its military goals' in Gaza, and introduced S. 5476 to sanction entities facilitating Israeli settlement construction in the E1 corridor — a bill cosponsored with Sens. Warren, Wyden, and Gallego. This comes just months after his April vote against blocking U.S. weapons sales to Israel, in which he said he 'voted not to abandon our steadfast ally,' while simultaneously calling the Netanyahu government 'the most right-wing government in Israeli history' that had 'impermissibly used hunger as a weapon.' Politico's profile describes a 'political evolution' and notes Coons is positioning himself to chair the Senate Foreign Relations Committee if Democrats win the Senate. The contrast between his April vote and his October rhetoric — combined with aligning legislatively with progressive senators on sanctions — constitutes a documented shift that national media are now treating as a story in itself.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong, consistent alliances grounded in American security interests — not foreign policy positions that shift with election cycles or leadership ambitions. As a candidate who emphasizes Commander-in-Chief authority and strong defense (per his veterans and defense platform), Dr. Katz believes allies need clarity, not senators who vote to arm Israel in April and call for 'reexamining' the relationship in October. Staff should develop messaging around consistency vs. convenience, noting that Coons' shift coincides with his bid for the Foreign Relations chairmanship.

• TALKING POINTS

- In April, Coons voted to continue arms sales to Israel. By October, he's calling to 'reexamine' the entire relationship. Allies deserve consistency, not election-year pivots.
- Coons introduced a sanctions bill against Israeli settlement construction alongside Sens. Warren and Wyden — a sharp leftward move for someone who calls himself a 'staunch supporter of Israel.'

- Dr. Katz believes strong alliances require moral clarity, not political positioning driven by a committee chairmanship race.
- Politico itself describes Coons' stance as a 'political evolution' — Delawareans should ask whether it's principled evolution or calculated ambition.
- Dr. Katz supports maintaining America's commitment to its allies while holding them accountable through private diplomacy, not public sanctions threats timed to news cycles.

SOURCES: Jewish Insider · Jewish Insider — Daily Kickoff · Coons.senate.gov — Settlement Sanctions Press Release

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DEFENSE & PENTAGON

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS / FY2027 BUDGET

FY2027 Defense Appropriations — Day 9 Past Fiscal Year Start; 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 holds significant leverage over defense spending priorities, including Delaware equities at Dover AFB and other installations. No new markup schedule, amendment activity, or floor action has been reported this week. Staff should confirm the current continuing resolution authority or other operating mechanism.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and strong defense (per his economy and veterans platform planks). Coons has held the Defense Appropriations ranking position for this entire Congress, yet the defense budget remains unresolved nine days into the new fiscal year. Dr. Katz believes America's military readiness should not be held hostage to partisan budget fights.

• TALKING POINTS

- We are nine days into FY2027 with no defense spending bill — Coons is the top Democrat on Defense Appropriations and has not delivered.
- Dr. Katz supports strong defense and fiscal responsibility — that means passing a real defense budget, not governing by continuing resolution.
- Dover AFB and Delaware's military community deserve funding certainty, not Washington dysfunction.
- Sixteen years in the Senate, and Coons still can't get a defense spending bill done on time.

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov

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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 line items, announcements, or funding developments specific to Dover AFB have been reported this week. Staff should continue monitoring the military construction appropriations process for Dover-specific items.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports robust military infrastructure investment, particularly at Dover AFB, which is central to Delaware's economy and national defense (per his veterans platform calling for sustained commitment to military communities). Dr. Katz believes Dover AFB deserves proactive advocacy, not just election-year attention.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dover AFB is the backbone of Delaware's military presence — it deserves year-round advocacy, not just pre-election photo ops.
- Dr. Katz supports strong defense infrastructure investment and will make Dover AFB a top priority.
- After 16 years, what new military construction has Coons secured specifically for Dover?
- Our service members and their families at Dover deserve a senator who fights for their base every day.

SOURCES: Dover Air Force Base (official) · Senate Appropriations Committee

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DEFENSE / AI / TECHNOLOGY

S. 4707 — Responsible AI Defense Act of 2026 Remains in Armed Services Committee; Day 123

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 123 days. Despite Coons' frequent national media appearances touting AI policy leadership — including a CNBC appearance this week — this defense-specific AI bill has gained no traction in committee. The bill's stagnation contrasts with Coons' high-profile AI messaging.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports incentivizing private-sector investment in research and innovation (per his economy platform). Coons talks about AI on CNBC but can't get

a single cosponsor for his own defense AI bill in four months. Dr. Katz believes effective governance requires results, not just cable news appearances.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons introduced his defense AI bill 123 days ago — zero cosponsors, zero hearings, zero progress.
- He went on CNBC this week to talk AI leadership while his own bill sits collecting dust.
- Dr. Katz believes AI policy should be driven by practitioners and innovators, not senators seeking headlines.
- Talk is cheap — results matter. Where are the cosponsors?

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 4707

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RECENT LEGISLATION

EDUCATION / CIVICS

S. 5676 — Strengthening Civics Education Act (Introduced Sept. 30) — In HELP Committee; Day 9

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 a bipartisan-friendly topic but the bill has shown no movement in its first nine days.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz believes in quality education and workforce development (per his education platform) and supports civics literacy. However, he believes education policy should prioritize fundamentals — reading, math, science — alongside civics, and that Washington grant programs must include accountability measures to ensure taxpayer dollars produce results, not bureaucratic overhead.

• TALKING POINTS

- Civics education matters — but so does accountability for how federal grant dollars are spent.
- Dr. Katz supports education that prepares students for success, starting with strong fundamentals and including civics.
- Another Coons bill with no cosponsors — is this legislation or a press release?
- Dr. Katz's education platform emphasizes early childhood through secondary education — real investment in outcomes, not Washington programs.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5676

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CRITICAL MINERALS / BIPARTISAN / ENERGY

S. 5637 — STRATA Act of 2026: Bipartisan Critical Minerals Bill with Sen. Sheehy (R-MT) — Day 9

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. The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Coons issued a press release on October 6. This is a genuinely bipartisan bill with a Republican cosponsor, making it harder to attack directly. No hearing scheduled.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports American energy independence and reducing reliance on foreign supply chains (per his energy and environment platform). Staff should acknowledge this as a step in the right direction but note that Coons' broader energy record — including support for regulations that have hindered domestic mining and energy production — undercuts the credibility of a single bipartisan bill. One bill with a Republican does not erase years of supporting policies that made America dependent on China for critical minerals in the first place.

• TALKING POINTS

- Critical minerals independence is essential — Dr. Katz has been saying this. One bipartisan bill doesn't make up for years of energy policy that made us dependent on China.
- Coons supported regulations that strangled domestic mining — now he wants credit for a fix?
- Dr. Katz supports comprehensive American energy independence, including nuclear energy and domestic mineral production.
- Welcome to the party, Senator — but Delaware and America needed this a decade ago.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5637

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FOREIGN POLICY / ISRAEL / SANCTIONS

S. 5476 — Settlement Sanctions Bill (Introduced Sept. 23) — In Banking Committee; Day 16

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. Cosponsored with Sens. Warren, Wyden, and Gallego. No hearing date scheduled. This bill is covered extensively in today's Top Story as part of Coons' documented Israel policy shift.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** See Top Story contrast. Dr. Katz believes sanctioning allies' domestic activities while adversaries like Iran go unchecked sends the wrong message. This bill aligns Coons with the progressive wing of his party, not with Delaware's traditionally strong pro-Israel sentiment.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons is cosponsoring sanctions against Israeli construction with Elizabeth Warren — that tells you where his priorities have shifted.
- Dr. Katz believes America should stand with its allies, not sanction them alongside progressives.
- Where is Coons' bill to sanction Iran's nuclear suppliers? He has one for Israeli construction companies but not for Tehran's enablers.
- This is about positioning for a committee chairmanship, not about Delaware's values.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5476 · Jewish Insider — Settlement Sanctions ↑ INDEX

TECHNOLOGY / AI REGULATION

S. 5471 — AI Systems Transparency Act (Introduced Sept. 23) — In Commerce Committee; Day 16

Coons cosponsored S. 5471, the AI Systems Transparency Act, referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. No hearing date or additional cosponsors reported. Coons discussed AI oversight on CNBC's 'Squawk Box' on October 5, adding to his public AI messaging. This is now his third active AI-related bill alongside S. 4707 (defense AI) and the NO FAKES Act (S. 4591). None have advanced significantly.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports innovation-friendly AI policy driven by practitioners, not Washington regulators (per his economy platform's emphasis on incentivizing private-sector research and innovation). As a physician, Dr. Katz understands AI's clinical applications firsthand — Coons is stacking up AI bills with no medical or technical background and no legislative results to show for it.

• TALKING POINTS

- Three AI bills, zero results — Coons is building a press portfolio, not passing legislation.
- Dr. Katz, as a physician and former health-systems consultant, has hands-on experience with technology in clinical settings.
- AI regulation should be shaped by people who use the technology, not career politicians seeking a talking point.

- Coons talks AI on cable news; Dr. Katz has used health information technology to improve patient care in Delaware.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5471 ↑ INDEX

IMMIGRATION / AFGHANISTAN

S. 5308 — Afghanistan TPS Act of 2026 (Introduced Aug. 6) — In Judiciary Committee; Day 64

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 64 with no movement.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement (per his core campaign positioning). While America has obligations to Afghan allies who served alongside U.S. forces, Dr. Katz believes any immigration measure must be paired with border security enforcement — not used as a standalone expansion of protected status without accountability.

• TALKING POINTS

- We should honor commitments to Afghan allies who fought alongside Americans — but not through blanket TPS expansions with no vetting standards.
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders first, then targeted humanitarian measures with accountability.
- Coons keeps introducing immigration bills with no border security component — that's the pattern.
- Sixty-four days in committee with no hearing — even Democrats don't prioritize this bill.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5308 ↑ INDEX

IMMIGRATION / TECHNOLOGY / WORKFORCE

S. 5307 — Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Talent Act (Introduced Aug. 6) — In Judiciary Committee; Day 64

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 64. This bill combines Coons' AI agenda with immigration expansion — creating AI workforce visas without corresponding investment in American STEM training.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports investing in education and workforce development to equip America's workforce with skills required for future jobs (per his economy platform). Rather than importing AI talent through new immigration pathways, Dr. Katz believes America should first invest in training American workers — including through programs at Delaware institutions like UD and Delaware State University.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons' answer to AI workforce needs is more immigration — Dr. Katz's answer is investing in American workers and American education.
- Delaware has UD and DSU training AI talent right now — why isn't Coons fighting for them first?
- Dr. Katz supports workforce development that puts Americans at the front of the line for future jobs.
- Another immigration expansion bill disguised as tech policy.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5307

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LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS / OVERSIGHT UPDATED

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 37 in Judiciary), S. 4011 (Tropical Forest Conservation, ~Week 31), S. 4089 (Blue Envelope Act, ~Week 28), S. 4144 (ESCRA, ~Week 26), S. 4145 (Pro Codes Act, ~Week 26), S. 4591 (NO FAKES Act, on legislative calendar but unscheduled), S. 4664 (Safer Choice Act, ~Week 18), S. 5010 (Self-Employment Assistance, ~Week 12), S. 5186 (ASSET Act, ~Week 10), S. 5313 (Quantum-GUARD Act, ~Week 9). Not a single one of these bills has gained a cosponsor, received a hearing, or advanced in any way since introduction.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz authored and passed legislation in the Delaware State Senate — including the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway bill (SB 241), lobby reform (SB 141), and live-streaming of the State Senate (SR 14). Coons has a growing pile of introduced-and-forgotten bills. Dr. Katz believes voters should judge senators by results, not press releases.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has introduced dozens of bills this Congress — how many have gotten a single hearing? Staff should compile the exact number.

- Dr. Katz passed real legislation in the Delaware Senate: scenic byway preservation, lobby reform, government transparency. That's a track record.
- Introduction is not accomplishment. Coons' legislative graveyard keeps growing.
- After 16 years in the U.S. Senate, Coons should be able to get at least one cosponsor on his bills.
- Dr. Katz believes in legislative effectiveness, not legislative theater.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — Coons Sponsor Search

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APPROPRIATIONS & DELAWARE FUNDING

FEDERAL FUNDING / COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE / DELAWARE **UPDATED**

Coons Seeks $30 Million for Delaware Beach Replenishment After Nor'easter — Funding Not Yet Secured

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. Coons is now seeking $30 million in additional federal funding for beach replenishment, on top of $10 million already secured this year by the Delaware delegation. A Coons spokesperson told WHYY the figure was developed with DNREC and Governor Meyer's office, and that emergency funding depends on a final damage estimate DNREC says will likely be 'in the tens of millions.' The funding has not been secured — Coons said he will 'keep fighting for the funding Delaware needs.' Cape Gazette also reported a Coons visit to Dewey Beach on October 8.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Beach replenishment is critical to Sussex County's tourism economy and property values — Dr. Katz should acknowledge the importance of federal storm recovery funding for Delaware's coast. However, staff should note that Coons is announcing a funding request, not a funding award. After 16 years in the Senate and a seat on Appropriations, Coons should be delivering results, not requests. Dr. Katz supports infrastructure investment through public-private partnerships (per his economy platform) and believes Delaware's coastal resilience requires a long-term federal commitment, not reactive post-storm scrambles.

• TALKING POINTS

- Delaware's beaches are critical infrastructure — storm recovery funding is a priority, and Dr. Katz supports it.
- But after 16 years on Appropriations, why is Coons still 'seeking' funding instead of delivering it?
- Dr. Katz supports long-term coastal resilience planning through public-private partnerships, not just emergency requests after every storm.
- A request is not an appropriation — Delawareans need results, not press conferences.

- Sussex County's economy depends on its beaches. This should be built into the budget, not treated as a surprise every storm season.

SOURCES: WDEL · WHYY · Coons.senate.gov ↑ 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 whether Congress passed a continuing resolution, an omnibus, or individual appropriations bills — or whether the government is operating under some other mechanism. Also verify the status of any Delaware-specific earmarks or community project funding that Coons submitted for FY2027. This is now Day 9 of the new fiscal year without a confirmed spending framework.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and believes the federal government should pass budgets on time (per his economy platform). Governing by continuing resolution is a failure of basic governance — and Coons, as a senior appropriator, bears direct responsibility.

• TALKING POINTS

- It's Day 9 of the fiscal year — does Delaware even have a budget? Staff must confirm immediately.
- Dr. Katz believes fiscal responsibility starts with passing a budget on time.
- Coons is a senior appropriator — this is literally his job.
- Continuing resolutions hurt Delaware's military installations, federal workers, and infrastructure projects.

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov ↑ INDEX

DELAWARE

DELAWARE / AI / HEALTHCARE / HIGHER EDUCATION NEW

University of Delaware Launches NSF National AI Institute for Human-AI Cooperation in Health Care — $21.5M Federal Grant at STAR Campus

The University of Delaware launched the NSF National AI Institute for Human-AI Cooperation (HAIC) at its STAR Campus in Newark, funded by a 5-year, $21.5 million National Science Foundation grant. The institute, headquartered at UD's Data Science Institute, will be the national hub for human-centered AI supporting decision-making in health care, with a focus on

physical therapy and rehabilitation. Partners include Delaware State University, UPenn, Princeton, and the University of Florida. Labs have been operational since mid-July. HAIC Director Cathy Wu emphasized 'human in the loop' AI design with direct clinician feedback. Coons appeared in the launch event photo but was not quoted or credited in the article text. His attendance aligns with his AI legislative push (S. 5471 AI Systems Transparency Act; CNBC AI oversight appearance Oct. 5).

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** This is a Delaware win — Dr. Katz should welcome federal research investment at UD and DSU that keeps clinicians in the loop and puts patients first. As a physician with over two decades as an anesthesiologist and pediatric critical-care specialist (per his bio), Dr. Katz can speak with unique authority about AI in clinical settings. His platform supports incentivizing private-sector investment in research and innovation and workforce development for future jobs. The contrast: Dr. Katz has actually practiced medicine and managed health systems; Coons shows up for the photo op but has never treated a patient. AI in health care should be guided by practicing clinicians, not career politicians.

• TALKING POINTS

- The UD and DSU AI health care institute is great news for Delaware — federal research investment in our universities creates jobs and advances medicine.
- Dr. Katz, as a physician who has spent decades in operating rooms and clinical settings, understands what AI in health care needs: clinicians in the loop, patients first.
- Coons was at the launch event — but what does a career politician know about AI in a clinical setting? Dr. Katz has lived it.
- Dr. Katz supports workforce development that trains Delawareans for future jobs, including AI-assisted health care roles.
- AI in medicine should be shaped by doctors and nurses, not by Washington regulations written without clinical input — that's per Dr. Katz's healthcare platform and his DHIN experience building health IT in Delaware.

SOURCES: Delaware Public Media

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BUSINESS CLIMATE / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE / DELAWARE ECONOMY UPDATED

ExxonMobil Texas Redomiciliation — Coons Enters Week Thirty-Five 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-fifth week as a data point in Delaware's eroding position as America's preferred state of incorporation. Coons has made no public statement addressing this trend or proposing measures to defend Delaware's corporate franchise, which

generates hundreds of millions in annual revenue for the state. No new corporate redomiciliation developments have been reported this week, but the underlying trend remains a concern for Delaware's fiscal future.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz authored SB 100 in the Delaware State Senate to repeal the state corporate income tax and make Delaware more competitive for business. He understands that Delaware's corporate franchise is an economic lifeline. Coons has spent 16 years in the Senate and 35 weeks since ExxonMobil's announcement without saying a word about defending Delaware's business brand. Dr. Katz believes protecting Delaware's competitive advantage requires proactive leadership, not silence.

• TALKING POINTS

- ExxonMobil chose Texas over Delaware. Thirty-five weeks later, Coons still hasn't said a word.
- Dr. Katz introduced legislation to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax — he understands what it takes to keep businesses in our state.
- Delaware's corporate franchise revenue is irreplaceable — where is Coons' plan to defend it?
- If Delaware loses its edge as America's corporate home, every taxpayer in the state pays the price.
- Dr. Katz has business ownership experience and served on the Delaware Senate's small business and banking committees — he knows this issue firsthand.

SOURCES: drmikekatz.com — Economy & Cost of Living ↑ 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. Dr. Katz's veterans platform specifically calls for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware. Coons has not publicly championed this project.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's veterans platform explicitly calls for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware to serve veterans in Kent and Sussex counties. As a physician, he understands the health care access gap facing downstate veterans. Coons has not made this a priority despite his Appropriations seat. Dr. Katz believes veterans deserve accessible care regardless of zip code — per both his veterans and healthcare platforms.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz has specifically called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware — Coons hasn't.
- Veterans in Kent and Sussex shouldn't have to drive hours for specialized care.
- As a physician, Dr. Katz understands healthcare access challenges — this isn't abstract policy for him.
- Coons sits on Appropriations — where is the funding request for downstate veterans' care?

SOURCES: drmikekatz.com — Veterans

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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. Outmigration and cost-of-living data are key to the campaign's economic messaging.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's economy platform emphasizes that rising inflation and increasing costs have made it difficult for many Americans to save, retire, and maintain purchasing power. If outmigration data shows Delawareans leaving, it reinforces Dr. Katz's message that Coons' policies have failed working families.

• TALKING POINTS

- Are Delawareans voting with their feet? Staff needs updated migration data.
- Dr. Katz's platform addresses cost of living, homeownership, and economic opportunity — the core reasons people leave.
- If people are leaving Delaware, 16 years of Coons in the Senate hasn't helped.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau

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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' — Foreign Relations Chair Positioning Continues

On October 1, CNN's Christiane Amanpour interviewed Coons about Trump's summit with Xi Jinping and the stalemate in the Iran conflict. Per CNN's headline, Coons stated the U.S. will be 'paying for Iran war for a long time to come.' Coons' April statement on record shows he 'voted to end President Trump's war of choice with Iran.' Full transcript unverified — staff should obtain the video. Combined with the Israel shift and the settlement sanctions bill, Coons is building a comprehensive pre-election foreign policy profile as he positions for the Foreign Relations Committee chairmanship.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense and Commander-in-Chief authority (per his core positioning). Coons calls the Iran conflict a 'war of choice' while simultaneously refusing to articulate what alternative policy would have prevented Iranian nuclear threats. Dr. Katz believes America must project strength against adversaries like Iran, not second-guess military decisions for political positioning.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons calls Iran a 'war of choice' — what was his alternative? Let Iran get a nuclear weapon?
- Dr. Katz supports Commander-in-Chief authority and strong defense against adversaries who threaten American security.
- Coons is positioning for Foreign Relations chair by criticizing American military decisions on international TV — that undermines our credibility.
- Strength deters adversaries. Equivocation emboldens them.

SOURCES: CNN (Amanpour) · Coons.senate.gov — Iran Disapproval Statement ↑ INDEX

JUDICIARY / DELAWARE / ETHICS UPDATED

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

On October 6, Coons and Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester filed an ethics complaint against Third Circuit Judge Jennifer Mascott, a Trump appointee who holds 'Delaware's seat' on the court. The complaint, filed with the Third Circuit's chief administrator, cites Politico reporting that Mascott continued running Adfero, a public affairs firm, after confirmation. The senators noted she 'has issued only three written opinions in precedential cases, two of which are only about a page long.' Coons is the Ethics Committee vice chair and a Judiciary Committee member. The News Journal and Politico both covered the story.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz authored comprehensive lobby reform legislation in the Delaware State Senate (Katz SB 141) and legislation prohibiting registered lobbyists from

performing official government duties — he has a genuine ethics reform record. Coons' complaint against a Trump-appointed judge reads as partisan — he's the Ethics Committee vice chair using that role against a political opponent's judicial appointee. Dr. Katz believes ethics oversight should be applied consistently, not selectively weaponized.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz passed real ethics reform in the Delaware Senate — lobby reform, conflict of interest prohibitions, transparency requirements.
- Coons files an ethics complaint against a Trump judge weeks before an election — coincidence?
- Where was Coons' ethics outrage when Democratic-appointed judges had similar outside activities?
- Ethics oversight should be consistent and nonpartisan — Dr. Katz's legislative record proves he means it.
- Coons authored SB 141 on lobby reform and prohibited lobbyists from government roles — that's real reform, not election-season stunts.

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov · Politico

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ELECTION INTEGRITY / DHS / IMMIGRATION

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

Coons joined Schumer, Durbin, Peters, Padilla, and Blunt Rochester in a letter demanding DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin stop efforts they characterize as 'election interference.' The letter cites reports that USCIS staff are building law-enforcement records on individuals, including U.S. citizens, from data the senators call unreliable. The senators wrote this constitutes an effort 'to potentially disenfranchise voters.' This aligns Coons with the Democratic caucus' broader opposition to voter verification and immigration enforcement measures ahead of the midterms.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders, strong ICE enforcement, and the SAVE America Act requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote. Coons is calling routine immigration enforcement 'election interference' — Dr. Katz believes ensuring only citizens vote is not disenfranchisement, it's democracy. Coons' letter attempts to stop DHS from verifying citizenship status, which Dr. Katz views as protecting a broken system.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons calls immigration enforcement 'election interference' — Dr. Katz calls it common sense.
- Verifying that voters are citizens is not disenfranchisement — it's protecting every legal voter's ballot.

- Dr. Katz supports the SAVE Act and strong ICE enforcement — Coons is fighting both.
- Why is Coons trying to stop DHS from checking citizenship records? What is he afraid they'll find?

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov

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SENATE DEMOCRAT CAUCUS WATCH

HOMELAND SECURITY / FISCAL POLICY / IMMIGRATION

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 deportation funding. The Democratic caucus position remains unified against enforcement-oriented DHS funding priorities. Coons has not broken from his caucus on any immigration enforcement funding vote this Congress. His October 1 letter demanding DHS Secretary Mullin halt voter verification efforts further solidifies his alignment with the caucus' anti-enforcement posture.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — core campaign positions. He opposes Senate Democrat efforts to defund or restrict ICE operations through appropriations riders. Dr. Katz believes DHS and TSA should be fully funded for their enforcement mission, not hamstrung by partisan conditions. Coons' caucus is trying to use the budget process to undermine border security — Dr. Katz would oppose that approach.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons and Senate Democrats are trying to defund ICE through the budget process — Dr. Katz supports fully funding border enforcement.
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — Coons votes with his caucus to restrict both.
- Funding DHS means funding enforcement — you can't claim to support border security while cutting ICE's budget.
- Delaware families deserve a senator who prioritizes their safety, not one who follows Chuck Schumer's lead on defunding enforcement.

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · Coons.senate.gov — DHS Letter

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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). No Senate Democrat has indicated support. Senate Democrats are expected to filibuster the bill, framing it as voter suppression. Coons has not made a specific public statement on the SAVE Act itself, but his October 1 letter demanding DHS halt citizenship verification efforts effectively places him in opposition to the bill's underlying principle. His caucus membership and consistent voting record further confirm expected opposition.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act. He 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 opposing citizenship verification is now on-the-record evidence that he opposes even administrative efforts to ensure voter eligibility — reinforcing Dr. Katz's contrast.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz supports the SAVE Act — only citizens should vote in American elections. Coons' caucus is blocking it.
- Coons won't even let DHS verify citizenship status — he wrote a letter demanding they stop.
- Requiring proof of citizenship to vote is common sense, not suppression. Most Americans agree.
- Coons is choosing party loyalty over election integrity — Dr. Katz chooses Delaware voters.
- If you need ID to board a plane, you should need proof of citizenship to vote. Dr. Katz supports that principle.

SOURCES: Congress.gov — H.R. 22 (SAVE Act) · GovTrack — H.R. 22 · Coons.senate.gov — DHS Letter

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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 Republican primary on September 15 with approximately 74% against John Shulli. Delaware is historically Solid Democratic — The Hill (Sept. 16) described the race as 'solid blue' and said Coons 'is expected to

cruise to a fourth term' in a state Harris won by 15 points. No general election polling has been found for Coons vs. Katz. Q3 FEC filings are due October 15 — no early numbers available. No paid TV or digital ad spending has been reported by either campaign. Inside Elections' October 2 ratings were referenced but the specific Delaware rating was not confirmed. Coons' committees: Appropriations (Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member), Foreign Relations, Judiciary, Ethics (Vice Chair).

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Strategic note for Katz: Coons is well-funded and nationally active. Key vulnerabilities this week: (1) documented Israel policy flip-flop with national media coverage, (2) debate avoidance — WDEL confirmed Coons rejected their debate offer, (3) legislative ineffectiveness — zero bills advancing, zero cosponsors on most recent legislation, (4) AI in health care contrast — UD institute launch gives Katz a physician-credibility opportunity. Upcoming deadline: Q3 fundraising numbers due Oct. 15 — prepare for fundraising contrast. Staff should monitor for Inside Elections/Cook Political Report rating updates.

• TALKING POINTS

- 25 days to Election Day — Coons is avoiding debates, shifting on Israel, and stacking up bills that go nowhere.
- Dr. Katz offers Delaware a physician, a former state senator with a legislative track record, and an independent voice.
- Coons has been in office 16 years — what has changed for Delaware?
- Q3 fundraising numbers drop Oct. 15 — be ready to contrast grassroots support vs. Washington special-interest money.

SOURCES: The Hill · WDEL — Debate Story · Delaware LIVE — Katz Debate Call

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CAMPAIGN / DEBATES / TRANSPARENCY UPDATED

Debate Watch: Coons Rejects WDEL Debate Offer — No Broadcast Debate Scheduled 25 Days Before Election

WDEL reported (Sept. 29) that Coons' office turned down the outlet's offer to host a debate airing on WDEL radio and CoastTV. The offer remains open. Katz's campaign says the University of Delaware's Delaware Debates program has no 2026 schedule posted. The only joint appearance was a September forum at the Jewish Community Center in Talleyville, which did not allow direct candidate-to-candidate exchange. Katz told WDEL: 'He hasn't been available for open discourse in the past... He has been in office for 16 years, and he has not been visible throughout the state.' With 25 days until the election, no broadcast debate is scheduled.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has publicly called for a televised debate and the campaign has accepted WDEL's offer. Coons' refusal to debate fits the 'inaccessible incumbent' narrative. Dr. Katz authored legislation to live-stream the Delaware State Senate (SR 14) and supported open redistricting (SR 9) — transparency and accountability are central to his record. Coons won't even face his opponent on local radio after 16 years in office.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons rejected WDEL's debate offer — what is he afraid of?
- Dr. Katz passed legislation to live-stream the Delaware State Senate. He believes in transparency. Coons won't even show up.
- Sixteen years in office and he won't face voters in a debate — that's not leadership, that's avoidance.
- No UD Debates, no WDEL debate, no broadcast debate of any kind with 25 days to go. Delawareans deserve better.
- Dr. Katz is ready to debate anywhere, anytime — Coons should accept.

SOURCES: WDEL · Delaware LIVE ↑ INDEX

CAMPAIGN FINANCE / ETHICS

Coons' Donor History — WHYY Reports $18,700 from Now-Imprisoned Contractor; Money Redirected to Charity

WHYY reported (Sept. 25) that Coons' campaign received $18,700 in the 2014 and 2020 cycles from the family of Hawaii defense contractor Martin Kao, who is now in federal prison for illegal campaign contributions to another senator. After Kao pleaded guilty, the Coons campaign gave the money to four Delaware charities. WHYY reports no wrongdoing by Coons. Coons noted his average donation is $26 and said 'senators, members of Congress, raise too much money to run for election.' The charitable redirect limits the attack value, but the documented link to a convicted illegal donor remains on the record.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz authored comprehensive lobby reform legislation (SB 141) and legislation prohibiting lobbyists from performing government duties — he has a genuine clean-government record. The Kao donations are a reminder of the Washington fundraising culture Coons participates in. Dr. Katz believes in transparency and small-donor campaigns. Staff should use this carefully — the money went to charity, so the contrast is about the system, not personal corruption.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons took $18,700 from a family whose patriarch is now in prison for illegal campaign contributions.
- He gave the money to charity — but only after the donor was convicted. That's reactive, not proactive.
- Dr. Katz passed lobby reform in Delaware — he doesn't just talk about clean government, he legislates it.
- Washington's fundraising culture is broken — Dr. Katz believes in the kind of transparency he actually passed into law.

SOURCES: WHYY

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

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