Friday, October 16, 2026

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

TOP STORY

FOREIGN POLICY / ENERGY / CAMPAIGN POSITIONING NEW

Bipartisan Senate Coalition Demands Trump Rescind Russian Diesel Deal — Coons Signs Letter While Making Partisan Attacks on CNN

Coons was one of 12 senators (six Democrats, six Republicans including McConnell, Cornyn, Collins, Murkowski, and Tillis) who signed an October 13 letter urging President Trump to rescind a deal allowing Russian diesel imports. The letter argues the deal will have 'a negligible impact on fuel prices' while funding Russia's war effort. However, in separate CNN appearances on October 9 and 14, Coons dropped the bipartisan tone entirely — telling CNN that Americans are 'sick and tired of Trump's corruption' and that Trump is 'desperate to do anything to help improve his standing' ahead of midterms. This dual posture — bipartisan senator on paper, partisan attacker on camera — is a documented pattern.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports American energy independence as a core platform plank (per his Energy & Environment platform) and believes lower energy costs come from expanding domestic production, not from managing which foreign dictators we buy fuel from. Dr. Katz can acknowledge the bipartisan letter as reasonable while noting that Coons' simultaneous partisan CNN rhetoric reveals his real priority is political positioning, not solving the energy cost crisis for Delaware families.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons signs a bipartisan letter on Monday, then attacks the President on CNN the same week — which version of Coons do Delaware voters get?
- The real path to lower fuel costs is American energy independence — more domestic production, not choosing between Russian diesel and OPEC oil (per Katz Energy & Environment platform)
- Dr. Katz supports nuclear energy development, including the ADVANCE Act, as part of a long-term strategy to make America energy self-sufficient
- After 16 years in the Senate, Coons still hasn't delivered energy cost relief for Delaware — median home energy costs continue to rise
- A physician understands root causes: the disease is energy dependence, and Coons keeps treating symptoms

SOURCES: NPR · Roll Call · CNN Transcript (Oct. 9)

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DEFENSE / UKRAINE / OVERSIGHT NEW

Coons Signs Shaheen Letter Demanding Pentagon IG Investigate Ukraine's Loss of Starshield/Starlink Intelligence Data

On October 15, Coons signed a bipartisan letter led by Sen. Shaheen (D-NH) demanding the Pentagon Inspector General investigate whether U.S. officials played a role in Ukraine losing access to Starlink/Starshield intelligence-sharing capabilities. Four Republicans also signed: Tillis, Collins, Murkowski, and Cornyn. The Hill reported this on October 16, and CNN's analysis piece frames it as part of a broader 'Ukraine showdown' between Congress and the White House. This represents Coons using his Defense Appropriations perch to challenge executive authority on military aid decisions.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense and Commander-in-Chief authority (per his Veterans and defense platform). While oversight of military operations is legitimate, Coons' pattern of using defense oversight to undermine executive branch military decisions — especially during an active conflict — raises questions about whether he prioritizes congressional prerogatives over operational effectiveness and the President's constitutional role as Commander-in-Chief.

• TALKING POINTS

- Congressional oversight of defense is important, but Coons consistently uses it to second-guess the Commander-in-Chief rather than strengthen military readiness
- Dr. Katz supports robust defense oversight that enhances operational capability — not oversight weaponized for partisan advantage
- Coons chairs no defense committee but signs every letter — what has he actually delivered for Dover AFB and Delaware's military community?
- The Starshield issue involves classified intelligence-sharing decisions that should be handled through proper channels, not political press releases 18 days before an election

SOURCES: The Hill · CNN · The Hill (alt) ↑ INDEX

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS / FY2027 BUDGET UPDATED

FY2027 Defense Appropriations — Day 16 Past Fiscal Year Start; No Final Bill Enacted

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 bears direct responsibility for the Senate minority's role in any delay.

Dover AFB, home to the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings and the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, operates under continuing budget uncertainty. Staff should confirm whether a continuing resolution is in effect and its expiration date.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and strong defense (per his Economy & Cost of Living and Veterans platforms). Coons is the senior Democrat on Defense Appropriations and has been in the Senate for 16 years — yet the government still cannot pass a defense budget on time, creating uncertainty for Dover AFB personnel and Delaware's military families.

• TALKING POINTS

- Day 16 of the new fiscal year and no defense budget — Coons is the top Democrat on Defense Appropriations and still can't get it done
- Dover AFB families deserve budget certainty, not Washington dysfunction
- Dr. Katz believes fiscal responsibility means passing budgets on time, not governing by continuing resolution
- After 16 years, what exactly has Coons' seniority on Appropriations delivered for Delaware's defense community?

SOURCES: Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov ↑ INDEX

DEFENSE / AI / TECHNOLOGY

S. 4707 — Responsible AI Defense Act of 2026 Remains in Armed Services Committee; Day 130

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. Now at approximately Day 130. This bill has shown no movement since introduction, raising questions about whether it was introduced for substantive legislative purposes or for positioning purposes ahead of the election.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports leveraging technology for national defense but believes legislation should move through the process, not languish for optics. Coons' pattern of introducing defense and AI bills that never receive hearings or cosponsors suggests a focus on press releases over policy results — a contrast with Dr. Katz's record of actually passing legislation in the Delaware State Senate.

• TALKING POINTS

- 130 days, zero cosponsors, zero hearings — is Coons legislating or issuing press releases?

- Dr. Katz passed real legislation in the Delaware State Senate, including DHIN restructuring and lobby reform (Katz SB 141) — he knows the difference between introducing a bill and passing one
- AI in defense is too important for political positioning — it needs serious bipartisan work, not messaging bills

SOURCES: 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 funding announcements for Dover AFB have been identified this week. Staff should monitor for any MILCON earmarks or project announcements tied to the FY2027 process.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports sustaining a robust military force (per his Veterans platform) and believes Dover AFB is essential to Delaware's economy and national defense. Coons' failure to secure and publicize specific MILCON projects for Dover this close to an election suggests either a lack of deliverables or a strategic decision to keep them quiet.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dover AFB is Delaware's largest employer and a national security asset — it deserves a senator who fights publicly for its modernization
- What specific military construction projects has Coons delivered for Dover AFB in FY2027?
- Dr. Katz believes supporting the military means more than signing letters — it means delivering resources to bases like Dover

SOURCES: Dover AFB (official) · Appropriations Committee

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RECENT LEGISLATION

EDUCATION / CIVICS / BIPARTISAN UPDATED

S. 5676 — Strengthening Civics Education Act — Coons-Cornyn Bipartisan Bill Promoted; Day 16 in HELP Committee

Coons and Sen. Cornyn (R-TX) issued a press release around October 14 promoting S. 5676, which authorizes Department of Education grants for civics and history education programs. The bill was introduced September 30 and referred to the HELP Committee. No hearing date or

additional cosponsors have been reported. Coons stated 'Civic engagement lies at the heart of our democratic process.' This is part of Coons' pre-election strategy of highlighting bipartisan co-sponsorships.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz believes the U.S. education system has failed to ensure universal access to high-quality education for every child (per his Education platform). While civics education is valuable, Coons' approach of creating new federal grant programs adds bureaucracy rather than empowering states and local districts. Dr. Katz's education platform emphasizes early childhood development and workforce preparation — foundational investments that yield better outcomes than Washington-administered grant competitions.

• TALKING POINTS

- Civics education matters, but does Delaware need another federal grant program or does it need schools that actually prepare kids for life?
- Dr. Katz's education platform focuses on early childhood development and workforce readiness — foundational investments, not federal bureaucracy
- Coons introduces bipartisan bills before elections that never move — it's a pattern voters should recognize
- As a physician trained in pediatric critical care, Dr. Katz understands child development and believes education reform starts with getting the fundamentals right

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

CRITICAL MINERALS / ENERGY / BIPARTISAN

S. 5637 — STRATA Act of 2026: Bipartisan Critical Minerals Bill with Sen. Sheehy (R-MT) — Day 16 in Foreign Relations Committee

S. 5637, co-introduced by Coons and Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT) on September 30, aims to strengthen U.S. and allied critical-minerals supply chains through new mining and refining technology. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. No hearing date or additional cosponsors reported. Now at Day 16 with no committee action. This aligns with Coons' broader positioning on supply chain security and technology competition with China.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports energy independence and leveraging private sector innovation for strategic advantage (per his Energy & Environment platform). Critical minerals are essential for defense and energy technology, but Coons' approach consistently defaults to new federal programs rather than reducing regulatory barriers that prevent domestic mining and refining. Dr. Katz believes American energy policy should start with unleashing American producers.

• TALKING POINTS

- Critical minerals independence is a national security imperative — Dr. Katz supports reducing regulatory barriers to domestic mining and refining
- Coons talks about supply chain security but votes against domestic energy production that would reduce dependence on foreign sources
- Dr. Katz's Energy & Environment platform calls for integrating private sector knowledge, resources, and technology to address these challenges

SOURCES: Congress.gov

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FOREIGN POLICY / ISRAEL / SANCTIONS UPDATED

S. 5476 — Settlement Sanctions Bill — Day 23 in Banking Committee; New Press Activity Oct. 14

Coons led 19 Senate Democrats on S. 5476, which would impose sanctions on foreign persons facilitating Israeli settlement construction in the E1 area of the West Bank. A new press push occurred around October 14, with the headline 'Slotkin, Coons, Colleagues Introduce Bill to Sanction Israeli Settlements in the West Bank' appearing on official Senate sources. This appears to be renewed promotion of the same bill introduced September 23. The bill has been in the Banking Committee for 23 days with no hearing scheduled. Staff should verify whether the October 14 activity represents a new companion bill or renewed messaging on the existing bill.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong alliances, including with Israel, and believes foreign policy should be guided by American national security interests rather than election-year positioning. Coons' well-documented shift on Israel — from longtime ally to leading sanctions efforts against settlement construction — represents the kind of political repositioning that undermines American credibility with allies.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons spent years as one of Israel's strongest Senate allies — now he's leading sanctions bills against Israeli settlements weeks before an election
- Dr. Katz believes American foreign policy credibility depends on consistency, not on shifting with political winds
- Is this about Middle East peace or about Democratic primary politics? Coons' timing speaks for itself
- Allies need to trust that American commitments won't change every election cycle

SOURCES: Congress.gov · Jewish Insider

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TECHNOLOGY / AI REGULATION

S. 5471 — AI Systems Transparency Act — Day 23 in Commerce Committee

S. 5471, the AI Systems Transparency Act cosponsored by Coons, remains in the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee with no hearing date or additional cosponsors reported. Now at Day 23. This is one of at least four AI-related bills Coons has introduced or cosponsored in this Congress (S. 4707, S. 4591, S. 5307, S. 5471), none of which have advanced beyond initial committee referral.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports innovation and private sector-led technology development (per his Economy & Cost of Living platform, which calls for incentivizing private sector investment in research and innovation). Coons' approach to AI is to introduce multiple regulatory bills that never move — creating uncertainty for innovators without actually establishing clear rules. Four AI bills introduced, zero advanced.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has introduced four AI bills this Congress — none have had a hearing or gained cosponsors
- AI policy needs serious bipartisan work, not a portfolio of messaging bills
- Dr. Katz believes in incentivizing private sector innovation, not burying emerging technology under preemptive regulation
- Delaware's tech sector needs regulatory clarity, not legislative theater

SOURCES: Congress.gov

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IMMIGRATION / AFGHANISTAN

S. 5308 — Afghanistan TPS Act of 2026 — Day 71 in Judiciary Committee

S. 5308, which would extend or establish Temporary Protected Status for Afghan nationals, remains in the Judiciary Committee with no hearing scheduled. Now at approximately Day 71. No new cosponsors or committee action reported.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement. Expanding TPS categories creates de facto permanent immigration pathways without congressional authorization of permanent status. Coons' support for this bill is consistent with his broader pattern of opposing immigration enforcement measures while supporting expansions of protected status categories.

• TALKING POINTS

- TPS was meant to be temporary — Coons keeps trying to make it permanent without honest legislation
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and orderly legal immigration, not backdoor amnesty through status extensions
- 71 days in committee with no hearing — even Coons' own party isn't prioritizing this bill

SOURCES: Congress.gov

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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 38 in Judiciary), S. 4011 (Tropical Forest Protection Reauthorization, ~Day 155), S. 4707 (AI Defense Act, ~Day 130), S. 5186 (ASSET Act, ~Day 78 in Finance), S. 5307 (AI Immigration Talent Act, ~Day 71 in Judiciary), S. 5313 (Quantum-GUARD Act, ~Day 71 in Energy). None have received hearings, floor votes, or additional cosponsors since introduction.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has a record of passing legislation in the Delaware State Senate — including DHIN restructuring, term limits (SB 61), lobby reform (SB 141), live-streaming of Senate proceedings (SR 14), and the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway (SB 241). Coons introduces bills that die in committee; Dr. Katz introduces bills that become law. After 16 years, Coons' legislative batting average should be higher.

• TALKING POINTS

- Six Coons bills tracked this cycle — zero hearings, zero cosponsors gained, zero floor votes
- Dr. Katz passed term limits, lobby reform, government transparency, and environmental protection legislation in the Delaware State Senate
- There's a difference between being a senator and being an effective senator
- Delawareans deserve a senator who gets results, not press releases
- Coons' bills aren't even getting hearings from his own party's committee chairs — that tells you everything

SOURCES: Congress.gov

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APPROPRIATIONS & DELAWARE FUNDING

VETERANS / FEDERAL FUNDING / DELAWARE NEW

Coons Celebrates $626,870 VA Grant for Delaware Veteran Suicide Prevention Services

On October 13, Coons announced that the Mental Health Association in Delaware received $626,870 — Delaware's first grant from the VA's SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Program. Coons credited his bill with Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and report language he secured in the FY2026 military construction/VA funding bill. This is a concrete, bipartisan deliverable that Coons will use in closing-weeks messaging. The SSG Fox program connects veterans at risk of suicide with local community resources.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports robust veterans' healthcare and has called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware (per his Veterans platform). Katz can acknowledge this grant as a positive step while pivoting: $626,870 is important but insufficient when Kent and Sussex County veterans still lack accessible, advanced medical care. Dr. Katz's platform calls for comprehensive VA services in southern Delaware — not one-off grants, but a permanent facility.

• TALKING POINTS

- Veteran suicide prevention is a priority we all share — but one grant doesn't fix the systemic gap in VA care for southern Delaware
- Dr. Katz has called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware — Kent and Sussex County veterans shouldn't have to drive to Wilmington or Philadelphia for care
- As a physician, Dr. Katz understands that mental health integration requires permanent infrastructure, not grant-cycle funding
- Where is the VA facility Coons should have delivered after 16 years in the Senate?

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov

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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 authority. Additionally, confirm the status of Delaware-specific earmarks and community project funding that Coons submitted for FY2027. This is critical context for appropriations-related messaging.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and believes the federal government should pass budgets on time (per his Economy & Cost of Living platform).

The persistent failure to complete the appropriations process on schedule — despite Coons' senior position on the Appropriations Committee — reflects the dysfunction Dr. Katz has pledged to confront.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons sits on the Appropriations Committee and still can't deliver a budget on time
- Governing by continuing resolution means Delaware's priorities get put on hold
- Dr. Katz believes fiscal responsibility starts with doing the basic job of government — passing a budget

SOURCES: Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov ↑ INDEX

COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE / FEDERAL FUNDING

[STAFF VERIFY] Coons Seeks $30 Million for Delaware Beach Replenishment — Funding Status Unknown

Coons toured storm damage in Dewey Beach on October 5 following a nor'easter and is seeking $30 million for Delaware beach replenishment through the Army Corps of Engineers. No confirmation of whether this funding has been secured, included in any appropriations vehicle, or remains at the request stage. Staff should verify the current status and whether any appropriations vehicle includes this funding.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports infrastructure investment through public-private partnerships (per his Economy & Cost of Living platform). Beach replenishment is important for Delaware's coastal economy, but Coons' approach of seeking emergency federal funds after every storm rather than building long-term resilience reflects reactive governance. Dr. Katz believes in modernizing infrastructure proactively.

• TALKING POINTS

- Delaware's beaches are an economic lifeline — they need a long-term protection strategy, not emergency funding requests after every storm
- Dr. Katz supports public-private partnerships for infrastructure modernization that builds resilience before disasters strike
- Has Coons secured this $30 million or is it just another press release?

SOURCES: WDEL ↑ INDEX

SECURITY / DELAWARE / ELECTION OPERATIONS NEW

Suspicious Letters Sent to Coons' Office, Blunt Rochester's Office, and Delaware Department of Elections

CBS News reported on October 15 that suspicious letters were sent to at least six Democratic Senate offices, including Coons', as well as Sen. Blunt Rochester's office and the Delaware Department of Elections in Dover, which was evacuated. The FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service are investigating. A Coons spokesperson confirmed the office received a suspicious letter and is 'working with law enforcement.' This is an active federal investigation.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Campaign communications should express appropriate concern for the safety of all public servants and election workers without politicizing an active investigation. Dr. Katz supports law enforcement and first responders (per his First Responders platform) and the campaign should lead with that. Any statement should focus on condemning threats against election infrastructure and expressing confidence in law enforcement's ability to investigate.

• TALKING POINTS

- Threats against public servants and election officials are unacceptable — full stop
- Dr. Katz supports our first responders and law enforcement who are investigating these threats
- The safety and integrity of Delaware's elections must be protected — this is not a partisan issue
- Let law enforcement do their job without political interference or speculation

SOURCES: CBS News · WHYY

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BUSINESS CLIMATE / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE / DELAWARE ECONOMY UPDATED

ExxonMobil Texas Redomiciliation — Coons Enters Week Thirty-Six 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-sixth 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 proposing measures to protect Delaware's corporate franchise revenue, which funds a significant portion of the state budget. This silence is notable given that franchise fees represent Delaware's single largest general fund revenue source.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz understands business climate competition, having authored legislation to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax (SB 100) to attract and retain businesses. Coons' silence on Delaware's eroding corporate franchise position — the state's economic crown jewel — demonstrates a senator more focused on national media appearances than on protecting Delaware's core economic interests.

• TALKING POINTS

- Delaware's corporate franchise is the foundation of our state budget — and it's eroding on Coons' watch
- Dr. Katz authored SB 100 to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax and attract businesses — he understands economic competition between states
- Texas is actively recruiting companies away from Delaware incorporation, and Coons hasn't said a word about it in 36 weeks
- When your state's biggest revenue source is under threat, you don't stay silent — you fight for it

SOURCES: Delaware Division of Corporations

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE / ETHICS UPDATED

Coons Donor Ethics — WHYY Reports $18,700 from Imprisoned Contractor; Palantir Pledge After Criticism

Two documented campaign finance stories remain in play: WHYY reported (Sept. 26) that Coons received $18,700 from the family of Martin Kao, a defense contractor now in federal prison for illegal campaign contributions to another senator. Coons quietly donated $18,800 to Delaware charities without announcing the move. Separately, Spotlight Delaware reported (Aug. 25) that Coons pledged to stop taking Palantir contributions ($27,500 total) only after public criticism of the company's ICE and military contracts. Coons said 'The current campaign financing system stinks' — while benefiting from it.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz authored comprehensive lobby reform legislation in the Delaware State Senate (SB 141) and introduced bills prohibiting lobbyists from performing official government duties and prohibiting legislators from being employed by the state while in office (SB 217). His record demonstrates a commitment to government ethics that goes beyond words to actual legislation. Coons' pattern of quietly returning problematic donations only after press exposure suggests reactive ethics, not principled reform.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons took $18,700 from an imprisoned defense contractor's family and quietly donated it to charity without telling anyone — that's not transparency
- Coons pledged to stop taking Palantir money only after reporters asked about it — reactive, not principled
- Dr. Katz authored lobby reform (SB 141), lobbyist prohibition, and dual-employment ban legislation in the Delaware Senate — he walks the walk on ethics
- Coons says 'the system stinks' while raising $6.9 million from it — Dr. Katz believes in actually changing the system
- Dr. Katz also introduced live-streaming of the Delaware Senate (SR 14) — transparency isn't just a talking point for him

SOURCES: WHYY · Spotlight Delaware ↑ INDEX

VETERANS / HEALTHCARE / DELAWARE

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, including traumatic brain injury, PTSD, and complex rehabilitation. No new federal action has been announced on establishing a VA advanced medical facility in southern Delaware. The $626,870 suicide prevention grant announced this week (see Appropriations section) does not address the infrastructure gap.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's Veterans platform specifically calls for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware. As a physician who has spent over 40 years in healthcare, including pediatric critical care at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Dr. Katz understands that healthcare access requires permanent infrastructure, not piecemeal grant funding. Coons has been in the Senate for 16 years and has not delivered this facility.

• TALKING POINTS

- Kent and Sussex County veterans deserve a world-class VA medical facility — not a two-hour drive to Wilmington or Philadelphia
- Dr. Katz has specifically called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware — this is a campaign commitment grounded in his medical expertise
- 16 years in the Senate, senior position on Appropriations — and southern Delaware veterans still don't have advanced care
- A one-time $626,000 grant doesn't replace the permanent medical facility these veterans need and deserve

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov

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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. Delaware's outmigration trends and cost-of-living pressures remain relevant campaign context, particularly as median home prices surged 53% from 2018-2023.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's Homeownership platform documents that Delaware median sales prices surged from $221,100 in 2018 to $339,400 in 2023 — a 53% increase. Dr. Katz supports tax incentives and discounted interest rates for first-time homebuyers, increasing affordable housing supply, and zoning reforms. Coons has offered no comparable housing affordability plan for Delaware.

• TALKING POINTS

- Home prices in Delaware up 53% in five years — where is Coons' plan for housing affordability?
- Dr. Katz supports first-time homebuyer tax incentives, affordable housing supply increases, and zoning reform
- Young Delawareans can't afford to stay — that's a failure of leadership

SOURCES: Census Bureau

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FOREIGN POLICY & DIPLOMACY

FOREIGN POLICY / ISRAEL / CAMPAIGN POSITIONING UPDATED

Coons' Israel Shift Continues — Settlement Sanctions Bill Gets Second Push as Foreign Relations Chair Positioning Persists

Coons' evolving position on Israel continued this week with a renewed press push on S. 5476 (settlement sanctions) around October 14. Combined with his October 7 anniversary statements calling for 'reexamining' the U.S.-Israel relationship, this represents a sustained strategic repositioning. Coons appears to be positioning himself for a potential Foreign Relations Committee chairmanship (or ranking membership) by aligning with the progressive wing of the Democratic caucus on Middle East policy. This is now a multi-week documented pattern across Politico, Bloomberg, Jewish Insider, and CNN.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong alliances and consistent foreign policy rooted in American security interests. Coons' shift on Israel — from decades as a pro-Israel Democrat to leading sanctions bills against Israeli settlements — is the kind of political repositioning that erodes American credibility. Dr. Katz believes foreign policy should be driven by national security, not by internal Democratic Party politics or committee chairmanship ambitions.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons was pro-Israel for 15 years — until it stopped being politically convenient within his party
- Allies watch when American senators change positions for political reasons — it weakens our credibility globally
- Dr. Katz believes America's foreign policy should be consistent and grounded in national security, not in jockeying for committee chairs
- Is Coons representing Delaware or auditioning for Foreign Relations chairman?

SOURCES: Jewish Insider · Congress.gov

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JUDICIARY / DELAWARE / ETHICS UPDATED

Coons and Blunt Rochester Ethics Complaint Against Third Circuit Judge Mascott — Week Two

WHYY reported on October 13 on the ethics complaint Coons and Sen. Blunt Rochester filed against Third Circuit Judge Jennifer Mascott, a Trump appointee who holds Delaware's seat on the court. The complaint alleges Mascott remained involved in her late husband's PR firm, Aderfo, after joining the bench and pushed it in a partisan direction, based on an August Politico report. When Mascott was nominated, the senators said 'Her key qualification appears to be that she works in President Trump's White House Counsel's Office.' This is primarily a base-mobilization move targeting a Trump judge.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports judicial integrity and ethical conduct by all public servants, but notes that filing ethics complaints against judges 18 days before an election — based on months-old reporting — is more about campaign messaging than judicial accountability. Coons' comprehensive lobby reform record is nonexistent at the federal level; Dr. Katz authored SB 141 on lobby reform and conflict-of-interest prohibitions in the Delaware State Senate.

• TALKING POINTS

- If Coons was genuinely concerned about Judge Mascott's ethics, why did he wait until October of an election year to file the complaint?
- Dr. Katz authored real ethics legislation in the Delaware State Senate — SB 141 on lobby reform and conflict of interest
- Coons files ethics complaints against Trump judges for campaign material — Dr. Katz believes in systemic ethics reform that applies to everyone

SOURCES: WHYY · Coons.senate.gov

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FOREIGN POLICY / MEDIA / CAMPAIGN POSITIONING NEW

Coons on CNN — Partisan Attacks on Trump Undercut Bipartisan Image on Ukraine/Russia

In CNN appearances on October 9 and October 14, Coons made overtly partisan statements: Americans are 'sick and tired of Trump's corruption' (Oct. 9) and Trump is 'desperate to do anything to help improve his standing' (Oct. 14). These statements were made in the context of Ukraine/Russia policy discussions — the same issue where Coons simultaneously signed bipartisan letters with Republican senators. The contrast between his bipartisan Senate activity and his partisan media appearances is now documented across multiple outlets and dates.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz believes that real bipartisanship means treating colleagues with respect in public and private — not signing bipartisan letters in Washington and then attacking the President on national TV. Coons' dual approach undermines the trust needed for actual bipartisan legislating, which is the dysfunction Dr. Katz has pledged to confront (per his Economy & Cost of Living platform emphasis on unity and collaboration).

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons signs bipartisan letters on Monday and attacks the President on CNN by Thursday — that's not bipartisanship, that's political theater
- Dr. Katz believes in genuine collaboration — the kind that built his record of passed legislation in the Delaware Senate
- Delaware voters should ask: which Coons is real — the bipartisan senator or the partisan CNN pundit?
- Dr. Katz's platform calls for fostering collaboration to enact legislation — not performative unity for press releases

SOURCES: CNN Transcript (Oct. 9) · CNN

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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 border security funding. No significant new developments this week, but the pattern holds: the Democratic caucus uses the appropriations process to limit enforcement resources rather than fund them. Coons, as a senior Appropriations Committee member, is directly positioned to influence these funding decisions and has consistently aligned with caucus leadership on limiting ICE funding and enforcement authority.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Coons has the power to fund or defund border security and immigration enforcement — and he consistently chooses to restrict enforcement resources. Dr. Katz believes that properly funding ICE, CBP, and border infrastructure is a fundamental responsibility of government, not a bargaining chip for partisan appropriations fights.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons sits on Appropriations and uses that power to defund immigration enforcement — that's a choice, not an accident
- Dr. Katz supports strong ICE enforcement and believes border security funding should not be held hostage in partisan budget fights
- Delaware communities deserve public safety — and that starts with enforcing immigration law
- The Democratic caucus strategy is to starve enforcement agencies of resources — Coons is a willing participant

SOURCES: Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov ↑ INDEX

ELECTION INTEGRITY / IMMIGRATION UPDATED

SAVE America Act — Senate Democrats Continue to Block Voter Citizenship Verification

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. No Senate Democrat has indicated support. Coons has not made a

specific public statement on the SAVE Act but is expected to vote with his caucus against it. His recent letter demanding DHS Secretary Mullin halt voter verification efforts reinforces that he opposes the principle of citizenship verification in elections — making his position functionally clear even without a floor vote.

⚡ **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 opposing DHS voter verification efforts makes his position clear: he opposes even verifying citizenship for voter registration, which is out of step with common-sense election security.

• TALKING POINTS

- Only citizens should vote in American elections — why does Coons oppose verifying that basic fact?
- Dr. Katz supports the SAVE Act because election integrity is not partisan — it's foundational to democracy
- Coons wrote a letter demanding DHS stop verifying voter citizenship — that tells you everything about his priorities
- The SAVE Act passed the House with bipartisan support — Senate Democrats like Coons are the ones blocking it
- Coons talks about civics education (S. 5676) while opposing the most basic civic requirement: that voters be citizens

SOURCES: Congress.gov · GovTrack

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2026 RACE CONTEXT

CAMPAIGN INTELLIGENCE UPDATED

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

Sen. Coons (D) is running for a fourth term (third full term) after winning nearly 80% in the primary. Dr. Mike Katz won the Republican primary on Sept. 15. Delaware is historically Solid Democratic. Coons has raised approximately $6.9 million vs. Katz's approximately $159,000 (pre-Q3 numbers — Q3 filings not yet identified). No public polling has been found on this race. Three write-in candidates have filed: John Shulli, Travis Jack Stevens, and William McVay. 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.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Strategic note for Katz team: Coons is well-funded and active on national security. Key vulnerabilities this week: (1) the debate-avoidance narrative — Coons has declined three debate/forum offers and only agreed to the Oct. 22 Rotary forum; (2) the bipartisan-vs-partisan hypocrisy documented in his CNN appearances vs. bipartisan letters; (3) donor ethics stories gaining traction; (4) legislative effectiveness — zero bills advancing; (5) the Oct. 22 Rotary forum is likely the only joint appearance before Nov. 3 — preparation is paramount.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has declined three debate offers and only agreed to one Rotary Club forum — voters deserve more
- Dr. Katz will hold a town hall at UD's Trabant Center on Oct. 19 — showing up is the first job of a public servant
- The Oct. 22 Rotary forum may be the only time voters see both candidates side by side — Katz team should prepare aggressively
- Fundraising gap is real but debate performance and earned media can close attention gaps
- Write-in candidates (Shulli, Stevens, McVay) could split conservative votes — monitor closely

SOURCES: Delaware LIVE News (Rotary forum) · Delaware LIVE News (UD debate) · WHYY · WDEL

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CAMPAIGN / DEBATES NEW

Debate Watch: Coons Declines Third Debate Offer; Oct. 22 Rotary Forum Confirmed as Likely Only Joint Appearance

Delaware LIVE reported on October 14 that Coons declined a student-organized debate at the University of Delaware proposed jointly by the College Democrats and College Republicans. Katz accepted. The College Republicans alleged that Coons campaign manager Matt Schoonmaker reprimanded students who inquired about the debate (not independently confirmed). Separately, WDEL confirmed Coons declined its offer of a debate on WDEL/CoastTV. The only confirmed joint appearance is the Rotary Club of Wilmington forum on October 22, moderated by Jake Owens of Spotlight Delaware. This means Coons has declined debate offers from UD students, WDEL, and state party leaders while agreeing only to a noon Rotary Club forum with member-submitted questions — the lowest-visibility format available.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has accepted every debate invitation and has publicly called on both party chairs to organize a televised debate. Coons' pattern of declining debates is inconsistent with someone who claims to champion civics education (S. 5676) and

democratic engagement. Dr. Katz believes elected leaders have an obligation to face voters and opponents in open forums — a position rooted in his support for government transparency, demonstrated by his live-streaming legislation (SR 14) in the Delaware State Senate.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons introduces a civics education bill but won't participate in the most basic civic exercise — a debate
- Three debate offers declined: UD students, WDEL, and state party chairs — who is Coons avoiding?
- Dr. Katz accepted every invitation and called for a televised debate — transparency isn't optional
- Dr. Katz authored live-streaming of the Delaware State Senate (SR 14) — he believes voters deserve to see their leaders in action
- Katz town hall at UD Trabant Center on Oct. 19 at 7 PM — showing up is step one

SOURCES: Delaware LIVE News (UD debate) · Delaware LIVE News (Rotary forum) · WDEL · Delaware LIVE News (Sept. debate call) ↑ INDEX

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

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