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Oil in the age of coronavirus: a U.S. shale bust like no other



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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# House passes \$3 trillion coronavirus aid bill opposed by Trump



FILE PHOTO: Police officers wearing face masks guard the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, U.S., May 14, 2020. REUTERS/Erin Scott

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. House of Representatives on Friday narrowly approved a \$3 trillion bill crafted by Democrats to provide more aid for battling the coronavirus and stimulating a faltering economy rocked by the pandemic.

By a vote of 208-199 Democrats won passage of a bill that Republican leaders, who control the Senate, have vowed to block despite some Republican support for provisions aimed at helping state and local governments.

Republican President Donald Trump has promised a veto if it were to reach his desk.

However, the Democrats' measure could trigger a new round of negotiations with congressional Republicans and Trump, who have been talking about the need for new business liability protections in the age of coronavirus or additional tax cuts. Democrats oppose both of those ideas.

Following the vote, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer announced that May 27-28 would be set aside for voting on some sort of coronavirus-related bill if one is ready by

then.

He provided no details on the contents of such a bill.

The U.S. economy has suffered a devastating blow from the coronavirus outbreak. Some 36.5 million people - or more than one in five workers - in the United States have filed for unemployment since the crisis began.

The 1,800-page relief bill passed on Friday, called the Heroes Act, would extend to all corners of the U.S. economy. It includes \$500 billion in aid to struggling state governments, another round of direct payments to individuals and families to help stimulate the economy, and hazard pay for healthcare workers and others on the front line of the pandemic.

"Many of them have risked their lives to save lives and many of them may lose their jobs" as state and local government revenues plummet during the crisis, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said during a day-long debate.

The No. 2 Republican, Steve Scalise, urged the House to defeat the huge bill, calling it a "socialist giveaway" and blaming China, where the coronavirus emerged late last year, for the suffering brought by the pandemic.

Passage of the bill came as the United States has recorded more than 85,000 deaths from COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus. The number of U.S. coronavirus cases and deaths far outpace any other country.

Meanwhile, U.S. Capitol officials announced that tourists and other visitors will not be allowed into the massive complex until June 9, instead of the previously announced May 16.

Since March, Congress and the Trump administration have collaborated on four coronavirus bills totaling about \$3 billion, passing them with overwhelming bipartisan support.

This fifth bill, however, failed to attract Republican backing in the House except for Representative Peter King of New York, an epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak.

### HEATED DEBATE

As Democrats and Republicans sparred over the bill and its cost, the rhetoric sometimes became rancorous. Democratic Representative Tim Ryan rattled off the destructive impact of a pandemic that has left millions unemployed, families unable to pay their rents and food banks struggling to meet growing demands.



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## China asks United States to stop 'unreasonable suppression' of Huawei

BEIJING/HONG KONG (Reuters) - China's foreign ministry said on Saturday the United States needed to stop the "unreasonable suppression" of Chinese companies like Huawei, and a Chinese newspaper said the government was ready to retaliate against Washington.

The Trump administration on Friday moved to block global chip supplies to blacklisted telecoms equipment company Huawei Technologies [HWT.UL], spurring fears of Chinese retaliation and hammering shares of U.S. producers of chipmaking equipment.

China will firmly defend its companies' legal rights, the foreign ministry said in a statement in response to Reuters' questions on whether Beijing would take retaliatory measures against the United States.

China's Global Times newspaper on Saturday quoted a source close to the Chinese government as saying that Beijing was ready to take a series of countermeasures against the United States, such as putting U.S. companies on an "unreliable entity list" and imposing restrictions on U.S. companies such as Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Cisco Systems Inc (CSCO.O) and Qualcomm Inc (QCOM.O).

The newspaper, published by the People's Daily, the official newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party, said the source also mentioned halting the purchase of Boeing Co (BA.N) airplanes.

"China will take forceful countermeasures to protect its



FILE PHOTO: A Huawei company logo is pictured at the Shenzhen International Airport in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China July 22, 2019. REUTERS/Aly Song/File Photo

own legitimate rights" if the United States moves forward with the plan to change rules and bar essential suppliers of chips, including Taiwan-based TSMC, from selling chips to Huawei, the Global Times quoted the source as saying. Tensions between the world's two largest economies have spiked in recent weeks, with

officials on both sides suggesting a hard-won deal that defused a bitter 18-month trade war could be abandoned months after it was signed in January.

In addition to the move on Huawei, the U.S. Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which oversees billions in

federal retirement dollars, this week also said it would indefinitely delay plans to invest in some Chinese companies that are under scrutiny in Washington.

*Stay Safe!*

# BUSINESS

*Wash Your Hands!*

## More And More Americans Want To Trade The Ballot Box For The Mailbox This November



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Americans are feeling somewhat less certain about voting during a pandemic. With less than six months and counting until Election Day, Americans are starting to imagine what voting for president might look like under coronavirus. There is high bipartisan support for requiring mail-in ballots for the general election. Partisanship is only somewhat seeping into this issue, making a minority (29%) of Republicans less likely to support voting by mail because of the coronavirus. Campaigns have swapped rallies and sweeping speeches for Zoom calls and podcasts, turning an already historic presidential election year on its head, as candidates and voters grapple with how to manage a major election amid a pandemic. Looking beyond some of the awkward phases of campaigning, what will decision day 2020 look like come November? Right now, many Americans are hoping to trade the ballot box for mailboxes

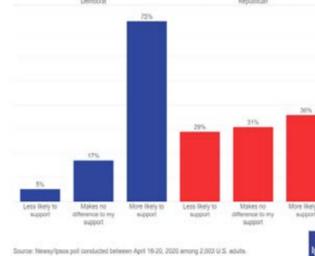
as mail-in voting becomes more desirable than congregating in large, often cramped in-person polling stations. Reuters/Ipsos polling from the beginning of April finds that 72% of Americans are in favor of requiring mail-in ballots for the general election, while a sizeable minority (42%) would favor postponing the election to a specific date in the future – an unprecedented move.



While there are partisan divides here, the large majority on both sides support mail in ballots with about eight in ten Democrats supporting the initiative, and 43% strongly supporting it. While about 65% of Republicans favor that measure, only about 28% strongly support it.

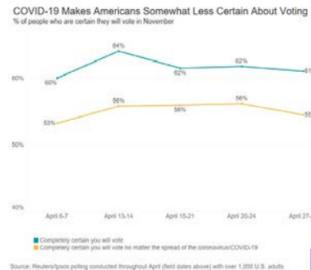
These results are consistent with findings pre-coronavirus. Polling that Ipsos conducted with C-SPAN back in September found that mail-in ballots enjoyed wide bipartisan support then too, with six in ten U.S. adults backing reforming the voting process in this way. Though Americans favor mail-in voting now, the contours of that support may change if the issue becomes more polarized during a heated presidential election. Only about one in five (21%) people voted by mail in the last presidential election, according to the Census. A non-issue for most Americans, voting methods are getting a political spin during the pandemic by figures, like the President, who incorrectly claims voting by mail is prone to fraud. Republicans say they have lost the most trust in the initiative so far. A News/Ipsos poll from the middle of April found that three in ten Republicans are less likely to support mail-in initiatives because of the coronavirus.

Republicans Less Likely to Support Voting by Mail Due to Coronavirus



So far, Wisconsin was the first test case for voting during a pandemic. At the beginning of April, 80% of ballots cast in Wisconsin were absentee compared to just 10% of people voting absentee in the 2016 presidential primary. Ohio followed suit last week wrapping up absentee-only primary and state elections. New York courts ruled today that the state elections at the end of June can't be cancelled. While states have some flexibility legislating how to run elections, Election Day is a not something they can easily move. Reuters/Ipsos polling found that, if the coronavirus were still spreading in

November people were less certain about voting. About 55% of people said that they would certainly vote in November, regardless of coronavirus, a number that changed very little throughout April. Vote certainty drops by about six to eight points when respondents are presented with the possibility of coronavirus still spreading in November, something that holds up by party as well.



To make elections fair, reliable, and trustworthy given the uncertainty coronavirus poses to American voting infrastructure, the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice recommends outfitting polling stations to accommodate CDC protocols for social distancing; expand early voting; role out a universal vote-by-mail option; modify voter registration and preparation stations, including online registration; and educate voters on these changes to prevent manipulation from bad actors. Outside of non-partisan groups emphasizing the importance of secure voting at such a vulnerable and tense moment for many Americans, people on both sides of the aisle are taking up that mantle as well. Many Democratic lawmakers have come out in support of vote-by-mail operations. Though some partisan gaps linger, Republican Governor Mike DeWine of Ohio rolled out an entire absentee election last week while the Republicans for the Rule of Law debuted a \$1 million ad buy on Fox News to encourage support for voting by mail. At a time when most Americans view everyday chores like going to the grocery store as a high risk, taking steps that make voting safe is essential during this crisis, though partisanship could still get in the

way. (Courtesy <https://www.ipsos.com/>)



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# Editor's Choice



People eat their iftar meal provided by a group of volunteers in a damaged neighborhood in Atarib, Aleppo countryside, Syria, May 7, 2020. REUTERS/Khalil Ashawi



Supporters of the Georgia NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) protest after the death of Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man who was gunned down while jogging in the small coastal town of Brunswick, Georgia, in...MORE



A woman runs past the upside down house along the seafront in Brighton, Britain. REUTERS/Toby Melville



A patient recovering from coronavirus waves as he is taken to a regular hospital room after spending more than fifty days in the intensive care unit of the Infanta Sofia University hospital in Madrid, Spain. REUTERS/Susana Vera



Gavin Roberts wears his father's police hat as he looks at the flag-draped casket of his father, Glen Ridge Police Department officer Charles Roberts, at his funeral service, after the 45-year-old father of three died of coronavirus in Glen Ridge,...



Enclosures are set to ensure social distancing rules on a deserted beach as Belgium began easing lockdown restrictions amid the coronavirus outbreak, in Knokke-Heist, Belgium. REUTERS/Francois Lenoir



Migrant workers hold a bedsheet to protect themselves from the sun on a highway as they walk towards their home state of Uttar Pradesh, during an extended nationwide lockdown, on the outskirts of New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis



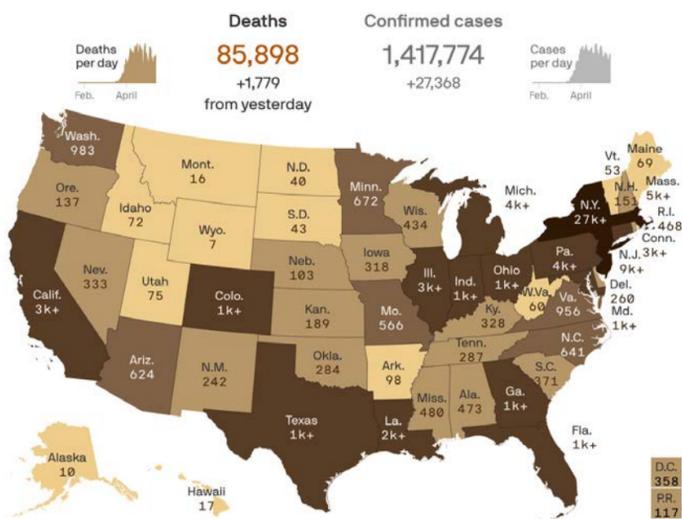
U.S. President Donald Trump tours medical equipment distributor Owens & Minor in Allentown, Pennsylvania. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

latest news

U.S. Coronavirus Update

COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

As of May 14, 2020, 11pm EDT



The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins; Map: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios. This graphic includes "probable deaths" that New York City began reporting on April 14.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The number of novel coronavirus cases in the U.S. has grown from one on Jan. 21 to more than 312,000 by early Sunday, per Johns Hopkins. Roughly three-quarters of the American population is on lockdown, with social distancing measures and other orders in place across the country. Here's how Americans are coping with the massive upheaval the outbreak has brought, in photos. The CDC posted six new one-page tools on Thursday that advise businesses, restaurants and bars, schools, camps, child care centers and mass transit systems on how to safely reopen during the coronavirus pandemic. The big picture: More than 85,500

people have died from the virus and over 1.4 million have tested positive in the U.S. Over 246,000 Americans have recovered and more than 10.3 million tests have been conducted as of Thursday.



Lauryn Morley, a lower school substitute teacher for the Washington

Waldorf School in Bethesda, Maryland, works from her home in Arlington, Virginia. (Photo/AFP via Getty Images) What's happening: Top vaccine doctor Rick Bright spoke in front of a House subcommittee Thursday on "critical steps" the Trump administration failed to take early on, including securing viral samples from China and ramping up production of the country's stockpile of medical supplies.

"We need to have a plan in place now to make sure that we can not only fill that vaccine, make it, distribute it, but administer it in a fair and equitable plan," he said.

The latest: New findings from the U.S. Census Bureau paint a bleak and detailed picture of how coronavirus is hitting small businesses.

The Treasury announced new guidance on PPP loans Thursday, specifying that anybody borrowing less than \$2 million will simply be presumed to have needed the money.

Unemployment: Over 36 million people having filed jobless claims in two months.

President Trump is pushing for schools to reopen, despite Anthony Fauci's warning that the proposal is "not an acceptable answer."

America's K-12 is debating "Saturday school" and "summer school" options for students, while imposing a huge burden on teachers who will be on the front lines of getting kids back up to speed in the fall.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday he and Elon Musk have discussed moving Tesla moving its factory to his state, a day after Musk reopened the firm's California plant in defiance of virus restrictions, Reuters reports.



The Samaritan's Purse emergen-

cy field hospital for coronavirus patients in New York City's Central Park. (Photo/AFP via Getty

A new study finds more than 100,000 small businesses have permanently closed since the pandemic was declared in March.

The federal government reported a record monthly deficit of \$737.9 billion in April, the Treasury Department said Tuesday.

Nearly 40% of Americans are saving their government stimulus payment, a new survey of over 3,000 U.S. adults from CivicScience finds.

The White House announced Monday that all individuals must wear facial coverings in the West Wing. President Trump and Pence have declined to fully self-isolate after possible exposure to Miller.

Lockdown measures: Wisconsin's Supreme Court ruled against the state's stay-at-home order on Wednesday, arguing that the state health department exceeded its authority.

NIAID Director Anthony Fauci warned during Senate testimony Tuesday that "consequences could be really serious" for states and cities that reopen without meeting federal guidelines.

New York will ease some coronavirus-related restrictions and open "certain low risk businesses and recreational activities" statewide starting on Friday.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D) issued an executive order Tuesday to ease some stay-at-home restrictions, allowing restaurants to operate through delivery and shops to limit customer capacity to less than 50%. The changes went into effect at 5 p.m. on Friday.



Cellist performs on his front porch in Mount Rainier, Maryland, to help

people passing by and his neighbors cope with the outbreak.

Photo: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

Coronavirus modeler Christopher Murray projected on Sunday that more than 137,000 people in the U.S. may die from the virus by August following a surge of movement brought on by reopenings.

California moved ahead with plans to reopen retail businesses, like clothing and bookstores, for curbside service on Friday. Some beaches are also reopening soon with proper public health precautions.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said he'd allow the state's stay-at-home order to lapse, beginning "phase one" of its reopening plan.

West Virginia and Ohio's governors have each released plans to gradually reopen their state economies throughout May. (Courtesy axios.com)



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杜特爾特宣布馬尼拉實施

“改良性強化社區隔離”至5月31日

綜合報導 菲律賓總統發言人哈裏·洛克5月12日在虛擬新聞發布會上宣布，杜特爾特總統於11日晚批准了菲政府新發傳染病管理機構間工作隊(IATF-EID)第35號決議。根據該決定，菲律賓首都馬尼拉地區實施“改良性強化社區隔離”至5月31日；全菲將分區逐步降級社區隔離嚴格程度，恢復經濟。

據該決議，仍處於新冠肺炎病毒病感染高風險的地區的首都馬尼拉都會區、內湖省和宿務市，從5月16日到31日將實行“改良性強化社區隔離(MECQ)”，允許部分被選定的製造和加工工廠，可以有最多50%的勞動力恢復工作；允許生活必需品的服務，以及有限的運輸服務；但所有學校仍停課。

哈裏·洛克表示，這是介於

“強化性區隔離(ECQ)”與“壹般社區隔離(GCQ)”間的壹個過渡階段；IATF做出上述決定，是基於馬尼拉市長提出的將“強化性社區隔離”再延長15天的建議；預計壹個月後，全菲將全部過渡到GCQ。

該決議還宣布在8個新冠肺炎病毒病感染風險中等的地區，即卡加延谷、呂宋島中部、卡拉巴松、科迪勒拉行政區域、米沙鄺群島中部、宿務市、三寶顏半島、達沃區和卡拉加實施“壹般社區隔離(GCQ)”。另有八個低感染風險地區將不再實施隔離。

據悉，馬尼拉都會區、內湖省和宿務市實施MECQ期間允許的行業名單，將在稍後公布。

3月12日，杜特爾特宣布菲公共衛生警報級別升至最高

的紅色2級，3月15日-4月14日對首都馬尼拉進行“社區限制性隔離”政策。

3月16日，杜特爾特通電視直播向全菲民眾宣布3月17日零點起至4月13日零點，在呂宋島(含首都馬尼拉地區)，實施13條“強化性社區隔離”措施，除獲取基本生活物品外，所有家庭實施嚴格的居家隔離；執法人員負責實施有關隔離措施。

4月14日，菲政府宣布呂宋島“強化性社區隔離”政策延期至4月30日。

4月29日，總統發言人洛克表示，在大馬尼拉等8個地區“強化性社區隔離”延長至5月15日。

截至當地時間5月12日16時，菲律賓累計確診病例11350例，累計死亡751人，康復2106人。



印尼新冠肺炎確診近1.5萬例 中國軍機運送捐贈物資抵達

綜合報導 印尼政府應對新冠肺炎疫情事務發言人尤裏安托12日下午通報，該國當天新增新冠肺炎確診病例484例，累計確診14749例。其中治愈3063例、死亡1007例。

當天下午，壹架中國軍用運輸機



搭載由中國國防部捐贈給印尼國防部和印尼國軍的抗“疫”物資飛抵印尼首都雅加達蘇加諾-哈達國際機場。

印尼國防部長普拉博沃、中國駐印尼大使尚干、中國駐印尼大使館國防武官周堅等與印尼國防部、國軍官員出席捐贈物資交接儀式。

尚干致辭說，中國抗擊新冠肺炎疫情期間，印尼總統佐科、國防部長普拉博沃及其他有關領導人與印尼民眾壹道以多種形式對中國抗擊疫情提供了寶貴支持，中國政府對此表示感激。目前，中國政府控制疫情的不懈努力已經取得了良好局面，中國人民的

生活和經濟活動正逐步恢復正常。與此同時，中國正積極通過多種方式與國際社會開展抗擊疫情合作。希望此次中國國防部向印尼國防部、國軍捐贈的抗疫物資能夠助力印尼早日戰勝疫情。

普拉博沃代表印尼政府和印尼國防部對中國政府和中國國防部派遣軍用運輸機向印尼運送抗疫物資表示誠摯感謝，認為此舉體現了印尼與中國之間的密切關係。他表示，新冠肺炎疫情已成為國際社會共同面臨的挑戰，中國政府成功控制了本國疫情，同時還積極向包括印尼在內的友好國家提供各類援助，展現了中國對各國抗擊疫情的堅定支持。

普拉博沃說，印尼視中國為親密朋友和友好夥伴。表示有信心與中國壹道共同戰勝疫情，並期待與中國攜手致力於實現地區和平穩定發展和繁榮。

日本政府決定解除39縣緊急狀態 東京大阪等8地暫不解除

綜合報導 日本政府決定，在該國39個縣提前解除緊急狀態，東京大阪等8個都道府縣暫未被列入解除名單。

據報道，日本政府根據近壹兩周的感染情況，決定針對該國39個縣提前解除緊急狀態，這其中還包括茨城、石川、岐阜、愛知和福岡5個“特定警戒都道府縣”地區。

報道稱，日本政府將在計劃於14日召開的“政府諮詢委員會”上，就上述決定征求傳染病和經濟相關專家的意見，並在新冠疫情對策本部正式宣布。

不過，此次提前解除緊急狀態的名單

中，並不包含東京都、大阪府和北海道等8個都道府縣，原因是這些地區每天依舊有相當數量的新增感染者。對於這8地的解除時間，日本政府計劃在21日再次進行討論。

日本首相安倍晉三4月7日宣布東京都等7個都府縣進入緊急狀態，並在4月16日將適用範圍擴大至日本全國，同時將東京都、大阪府等13個感染情況較為嚴重的地區指定為“特定警戒都道府縣”。5月4日，鑒於疫情並未得到明顯控制，安倍宣布延長緊急狀態至5月31日。