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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Schumer vows vote on Biden's \$1.75 trillion bill despite Manchin's rejection



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), with Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), speaks to reporters

WASHINGTON, Dec 20 (Reuters) - The U.S. Senate will vote early next year on President Joe Biden's sweeping \$1.75 trillion policy bill as well as on voting rights, the chamber's top Democrat said on Monday, despite conservative Democratic Senator Joe Manchin's opposition.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer unveiled plans for both votes on Monday, the day after Manchin -- who has stood as a roadblock to many Biden policies in the evenly divided chamber -- said in a television interview that he would not vote for the "Build Back Better" bill, dealing it a potentially fatal blow.

"The Senate will, in fact, consider the Build Back Better Act, very early in the new year so that every Member of this body has the opportunity to make their position known on the Senate floor, not just on television," Schumer wrote in a letter to colleagues.

Democrats need all of their members on board to pass legislation in the Senate. Biden and party leaders negotiated with Manchin for months to satisfy his concerns, but the West

Virginia senator said on Monday that those talks were doomed to fail.

"I knew where they were and I knew what they could and could not do," he said in a radio interview. "I knew that we could not change, it was never going to change."

U.S. stocks fell on Monday, weighed by the news as well as fears about the Omicron variant of COVID-19, while Goldman Sachs trimmed its quarterly GDP forecasts for 2022 on the assumption that the plan would not become law. The Build Back Better plan aims to expand the social safety net and tackle climate change. Many Democrats have said the bill is essential to the party's chances in the Nov. 8, 2022, midterm elections.

A vote would force Manchin to publicly record his objection to the bill ahead of the elections, in which Democrats seek to keep control of the Senate as well as the House of Representatives.

Manchin's comments prompted an angry response from the White House on Sunday, and White House spokeswoman Jen

Psaki said the administration would find a way to advance the legislation.



It was not immediately clear how or if lawmakers could salvage the full bill or whether parts of it could be adopted.

"We are going to vote on a revised version of the House-passed Build Back Better Act -- and we will keep voting on it until we get something done," Schumer wrote.

A VOTE ON VOTING RIGHTS

Manchin won re-election in 2018 in a deeply conservative state that twice voted for Donald Trump. The senator has

raised objections to elements of the bill intended to fight climate change, which are opposed by the coal and natural gas industries that are economic drivers in his home state.

Manchin founded the private coal brokerage Enersystems in 1988 and still owns a big stake in the company, which his son currently runs.

Manchin has also balked at changing procedural rules to advance voting rights legislation without Republican support.

Schumer said the Senate would consider voting rights legislation in January, and Democrats would weigh whether to change those rules.

Progressive Democrats, who agreed to support an infrastructure bill in return for a vote on Build Back Better, expressed anger on Monday.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called Manchin's reversal "an egregious breach" of Biden's trust.

"We really need to start creating an environment of pressure," she said on MSNBC. "Make it tough."

Elements of the social policy plan -- such as universal preschool, an enhanced child-care tax credit and larger health-care subsidies -- are popular with voters, polling shows.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

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Model Of The New Chinese American Couple

It was really a great pleasure to attend Guangyi and Cynthia's wedding party which took place at the five-star Houston Blossom Hotel. It was a beautiful set up and the Chinese food was delicious and all the guests had a wonderful time.

Both parents, Chairman Chen and Mr. Zhang and their families were so happy and the new couple were well-educated in America

U.S. Congressman Al Green and President David Leebron and First Lady of Rice University Ping Su also were among the guests and all of them gave a very great blessing to the newlyweds.

The groom was graduated from Rice University and his wife got her degree from Texas A&M University and both of them were very outstanding students.

I also sent them my congratulation message: " May the marriage of this couple be blessed with faith, joy and love. We wish the couple a world of happiness and love, and may all their dreams come true."



As a present, I gave them a book which I wrote titled, "A View Of The World From Harvard." I hope they will learn from some of my writing

We are so proud that this outstanding young and smart and well-educated Chinese American couple will be a part of our community.

Today we are facing many challenges in our society. We need new blood and a young generation to continue fighting for our rights and our future.

This great country belongs to all of us. We are here and adopt America as our own home.



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Editor's Choice



Officers visit the casket of corrections officer Robert Daniel which lies open at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, Kentucky. Officer Daniel was killed on December 10 while directing workers and inmates under his care to safety following a devastating outbreak of tornadoes that ripped through several U.S. states. REUTERS/Cheney Orr



People wearing Santa Claus outfits take part in a charity race to collect funds to help victims of the Cumbre Vieja volcano eruption, in Madrid, Spain. REUTERS/Juan Medina



Tiger Woods of the U.S. embraces his son Charlie on the 18th green during the second round of the PNC Championship at the The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Orlando, Florida. REUTERS/Joe Skipper



Cars wait in line at a COVID-19 drive-through testing site at Tropical Park, in Miami, Florida. REUTERS/Marco Bello



The aerobatic demonstration team of the Italian Air Force, Frece Tricolori, perform at the FIS Ski World Cup in Alta Badia, Italy. REUTERS/Alessandro Garofalo



Aerial view of a fallen tree in a graveyard after a devastating outbreak of tornadoes ripped through several U.S. states, in Mayfield, Kentucky. REUTERS/Cheney Orr

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Total Vaccination Numbers Are Up As Cities Announce Strict Vaccine Mandates



Quick Look

Total vaccination numbers up as cities announce vaccine mandates. Total vaccination numbers are at the highest they have been in more than a month as more cities have begun mandating them.

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

Total vaccination numbers in the U.S. are at the highest they have been in more than a month as companies, organizations and, most recently, cities have begun announcing vaccine mandates. At the same time, Covid cases have also climbed around the country, driven by the highly contagious delta variant.

White House chief of staff Ronald Klain said in a post on Twitter Friday that Covid vaccinations had reached their highest 24-hour total since before July 4, with 918,000 doses administered and 576,000 newly vaccinated, up from 821,000 and 565,000 respectively last Friday.



Vaccinations are on the rise as cities — on the heels of major companies and other organizations — implement stricter vaccination rules.

New Orleans announced Thursday that effective Aug. 16 it would require proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test for indoor dining, bars, gyms, indoor entertainment and large outdoor events.

And San Francisco Mayor London Breed also announced Thursday that the city will be requiring proof of vaccination for patrons and employees of restaurants, bars, theaters, gyms and large events.



“We know that for our city to bounce back from the pandemic and thrive, we need to use the best method we have to fight Covid-19 and that’s vaccines,” Breed said in a statement.

The two announcements, some of the first in the country, followed the lead of New York City after it announced this month that it would require proof of vaccination for leisure indoor activities at restaurants, gyms and performances, becoming the first major city in the United States to do so.

will begin in mid-August during a transition period before it will be fully enforced beginning the week of Sept. 13.

“It is time for people to see vaccinations as literally necessary to living a good, full and healthy life,” he said at the time.

As cities have begun announcing vaccine mandates, more than a dozen large corporate employers have recently done the same.



Passengers ride a tour bus as they resumed service on Aug. 3, 2021 in San Francisco. The city suspended tour bus services at the start of the pandemic.

The administration has already mandated vaccinations for health care and nursing home workers for the Veterans Affairs administration, while the Department of Defense said this week it would require members of the military to be vaccinated by mid-September.

Related

New ‘MU’ COVID Variant Now Found In 49 U.S. States

Since being discovered in Colombia in January, the mu variant of COVID-19 has spread to nearly four dozen countries and has made its presence known in Hawaii and Alaska.

ected in 49 states and the District of Columbia, according to Newsweek.

California has reported the highest number of the latest variant with 384. A total of 167 of those cases were found in Los Angeles County.

“The identification of variants like mu, and the spreading of variants across the globe, highlights the need for L.A. County residents to continue to take measures to protect themselves and others,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of LA County Public Health, in a statement.



Blood specimen collection tubes are seen in the laboratory of Bellville Medical Center, in Bellville, Texas, September 1, 2021.

“This is what makes getting vaccinated and layering protections so important. These are actions that break the chain of transmission and limits COVID-19 proliferation that allows for the virus to mutate into something that could be more dangerous.”

On Aug. 30, the World Health Organization called the mu variant a variant of interest due to its ability to be more transmissible than any of the other strains of COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not yet made similar classifications about mu in the U.S.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that health officials were maintaining a “close eye” on the mu variant despite it being “not at all even close” to becoming the dominant COVID-19 strain in the U.S.

“Even though it has not in essence taken hold to any extent here we always pay attention to at all times variants,” Fauci said.

The U.S. saw its peak of mu variant cases in mid-July but case numbers involving that variant have been declining since, signaling either a weakening of the strain or indicating a worrisome future.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

U.S. Pandemics: Then And Now

(Editor’s Note: The Spanish flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic. Lasting from January 1918 to December 1920, it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world’s population at the time.



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

