

FINAL EDITION

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## Bidding farewell to POLITICO's newspaper

*For 19 years, the tabloid covered American politics, from the hope and change of Obama to Trump's MAGA*

**BY JOHN F. HARRIS**

**I**n your hands is a piece of POLITICO history: Nineteen years after this publication first announced our arrival on Capitol Hill, this is the last issue of our print edition.

We are proud of every one of those hundreds of editions, which cumulatively capture a history of nonstop upheaval and disruption in American politics. That's especially true of recent years, when both the journalistic content and visual quality of the paper have never been higher.

Yet POLITICO has always been driven by a zeal to meet our audience where it is. Even on Capitol Hill,

which historically has tended to be a traditional publishing market, the audience is oriented around phones, inboxes and events. The publishing logic of the print platform has diminished. With immense satisfaction about the achievements over 19 years, it is time to move on.

Forgive me, however, a brief excursion into the past. In the early years, POLITICO lived with a paradox. Our ambition was to prove that great journalism could prosper in the digital age. Yet our efforts were supported, overwhelmingly, by revenue produced by the print edition. Skeptics sometimes blew smoke in our face: POLITICO's supposed success as a media pioneer was an illusion, and

we didn't really represent publishing innovation at all.

After a few years, this reliance on traditional print display advertising abated. In recent years, this vehicle has produced a low single-digit percentage of the publication's total revenue. For maybe a decade or so, people often asked about the future of the paper. Our answer was always the same: It's not a sentimental decision. We will publish it as long as readers and advertisers find it essential.

As I type these words, I recognize that answer had a trace of self-delusion. This moment is indeed infused with sentiment. I am enough of a traditionalist that I loved our

### THROUGH THE YEARS

POLITICO's newspaper gave a glimpse into how politics have evolved. **PAGE 10**

print edition, and I have the same lump in my throat that I might at a child's college graduation. The news and publishing professionals who produce this daily achievement — led by the indefatigable Bill Kuchman — of course remain at POLITICO, dedicated to serving the audience. I hope our Capitol Hill readers especially will join me in celebrating this illustrious 19-year run.

*John F. Harris is founding editor and global editor-in-chief of POLITICO.*

FRANCIS CHUNG/POLITICO

### WH asks US oil industry to return to Venezuela

The administration's outreach to the industry, previously unreported, is the latest sign the WH is dreaming of a post-Maduro future for Venezuela.

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### Jack Smith on the Hill

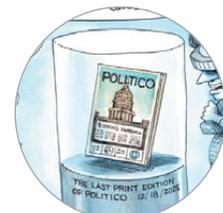
Former special counsel makes his case in closed-door deposition.

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### GOP pushes mail-in voting for midterms in defiance of Trump

Fearing a turnout slump, Republicans are promoting mail voting to keep Trump's supporters engaged — even as he tries to end the practice.

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### Matt Wuerker

The cartoonist's daily take on the world of politics.

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