

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Oct 6

Date: Sat, 6 Oct 2018 18:31:30 -0400

Importance: Normal

Deborah Barfield Berry, “Brett Kavanaugh Confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice, Cementing Conservative Control of the Nation’s Highest Court,” [USA Today](#)

“The Senate voted Saturday to confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court justice, solidifying conservative control of the highest court in the land for years to come and ending a bitter battle over his nomination.”

Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “Senate Confirms Kavanaugh to Supreme Court, Ending a Clash with Lasting Fallout,” [New York Times](#)

“The vote, almost entirely along party lines, was 50 to 48, with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska — the lone Republican to break with her party — voting ‘present’ instead of ‘no’ to accommodate a colleague who could not attend and would have voted ‘yes.’ Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia was the lone Democrat to support Judge Kavanaugh.”

Jordan Fabian, “Trump Says Kavanaugh Will Be Sworn in Saturday,” [The Hill](#)

“‘I applaud and congratulate the U.S. Senate for confirming our GREAT NOMINEE, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, to the United States Supreme Court. Later today, I will sign his Commission of Appointment, and he will be officially sworn in. Very exciting!’ Trump tweeted.”

United States Supreme Court, [Press Release](#)

“The Honorable Brett M. Kavanaugh will be sworn in as the 102nd Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on October 6, 2018. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., will administer the Constitutional Oath and retired Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy will administer the Judicial Oath in a private ceremony later today in the Justices’ Conference Room at the Supreme Court. Both oaths will be administered so that he can begin to participate in the work of the Court immediately. A formal investiture ceremony will take place at a special sitting of the Court in the Courtroom at a later date.”

John Podhoretz, “Kavanaugh: The Surprise Ending,” [Commentary](#)

“[H]ow did this happen? The answer is: Kavanaugh happened. In his unprecedented speech following Ford’s testimony, Kavanaugh not only blasted the process but made no pretense when it came to those who had manipulated it—liberal groups, people angry with Donald Trump, people wanting to take revenge for the Clintons. The speech electrified the right. There is no other word for it. . . .For Republicans and conservatives

with a long memory, this was not just about Kavanaugh. It was about Bob Bork, and the near destruction of Clarence Thomas, and the illegitimate prosecution of Reagan Labor Secretary Ray Donovan . . . It was about the politics of personal destruction.”

Alexander Bolton, “Protestors Gather on Capitol Hill Ahead of Kavanaugh Vote,” [The Hill](#)

“Protesters holding signs saying ‘Shame,’ ‘Rage,’ ‘Kava nope’ and ‘Vote no!’ massed in front of the Supreme Court.”

President Donald Trump, on [Twitter](#)

“Women for Kavanaugh, and many others who support this very good man, are gathering all over Capitol Hill in preparation for a 3-5 P.M. VOTE. It is a beautiful thing to see - and they are not paid professional protesters who are handed expensive signs. Big day for America!”

Catie Edmonson, “What They’re Saying About Kavanaugh on the Senate Floor,” [New York Times](#)

“[A] series of Democrats and a couple of Republicans made remarks on the Senate floor through Friday night and into Saturday morning. The Democrats spoke out against what they called a ‘sham’ investigation into allegations of sexual assault and misconduct against the judge, and in support of the flood of sexual assault survivors who have reached out to their offices. The Republicans defended Judge Kavanaugh, saying he had been unfairly attacked and praising his record as a judge.”

Elana Schor, “A GOP ‘Disaster’ Averted: The Final Harrowing Hours of Kavanaugh’s Confirmation,” [Politico](#)

“Lee’s friendship with Jeff Flake, another conservative senator from a neighboring western state, put him in an optimal position to assuage the mercurial Arizonan after he orchestrated a new FBI inquiry into misconduct claims against the judge. That’s how Lee and Flake found themselves holed up for much of Thursday in the secure basement room where senators view the nation’s most sensitive secrets, poring over the FBI’s report.”

Jordain Carney, “Senate Set for Rare All-Night Session Ahead of Kavanaugh Vote,” [The Hill](#)

“The Senate is expected to stay in session all night Friday as senators brace for a final vote Saturday afternoon on Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.”

Lukas Mikelionis, “Activists Target Susan Collins After She Seals Kavanaugh Vote, Call for Harassment,” [Fox News](#)

“Activists’ efforts to convince lawmakers to oppose Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh descended into calls for public harassment and accusations of being a ‘rape apologist’ after the judge gathered enough votes to get confirmed on Saturday.”

Benjamin Wallace-Wells, “The Aftermath of the Senate’s Final Kavanaugh Vote,” [The New Yorker](#)

“Moments after Collins’s speech ended, a Web site raising funds to challenge her in 2020 received so much traffic that it crashed, while collecting more than two million dollars in donations. Sara Gideon, the Democratic speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, suggested on Twitter that she might run; so, too, did Susan Rice, President Barack Obama’s national-security adviser.”

Emma Green, “Susan Collins Gambles With The Future Of Roe V. Wade,” [The Atlantic](#)

“[Sen. Collins] may truly believe that a Justice Kavanaugh would not vote to abridge abortion rights, or she may be covering her bases with her largely pro-choice constituency in Maine. But her bet on Kavanaugh will almost surely be tested in short order as advocacy groups continue to push abortion-related cases toward the high court.”

Paul LeBlanc, “George W. Bush Made Several Calls Reassuring Collins About Kavanaugh,” [CNN Politics](#)

“One US president spoke with Sen. Susan Collins several times ahead of her announcement Friday that she would support Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court — and he’s been out of office for nearly a decade.”

Alexander Bolton, “How Kavanaugh Got the Votes,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Republicans say they saw Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) from the start as the key to confirming Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court and worked together as a team to cajole her when appropriate, but also to give her space to make her own decision. In the end, the strategy paid off.”

Jordain Carney, “Murkowski Says She Opposes Kavanaugh’s Nomination, But Will Vote ‘Present,’” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said Friday evening that she opposed Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, becoming the only Republican senator to come out against President Trump’s nominee. . . . But Murkowski said that in the final tally she would ask that her vote be recorded as ‘present,’ saying she was doing it as a courtesy to Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), who is slated to attend his daughter’s wedding back home on Saturday.”

Niels Lesniewski, “Brett Kavanaugh to Be Rare Beneficiary of Senate Paired Voting,” [Roll Call](#)

“Murkowski now intends to vote ‘present’ to offset the absence of Republican Sen. Steve Daines, who will be in Montana to attend to his daughter’s wedding. ‘It will not change the outcome of the vote, but I do hope that it reminds us that we can take very small, very small, steps to be gracious with one another and maybe those small, gracious steps can lead to more,’ Murkowski said.”

Philip Rucker, “Trump Says GOP Sen. Murkowski ‘Will Never Recover’ For Voting ‘No’ On Kavanaugh,” [Washington Post](#)

“In a brief telephone interview with *The Washington Post*, Trump said voters in Alaska ‘will never forgive’ Murkowski for voting against confirming Kavanaugh, and he forecast her defeat in a Republican primary should she run for reelection in 2022.

‘I think she will never recover from this,’ Trump said. ‘I think the people from Alaska will never forgive her for what she did.’”

Justin Wise, “Kagan Warns that Supreme Court May Not Have a Swing Vote Anymore,” [The Hill](#)

“Associate Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan said Friday she fears the high court may lack a justice going forward who would serve as a swing-vote on cases, speaking hours after President Trump’s second nominee Brett Kavanaugh secured enough votes to be confirmed.”

Olivia Gazis, “Kagan, Sotomayor Say Supreme Court Must Steer Clear of Politics to Protect Legitimacy,” [CBS News](#)

“On the eve of a Senate vote likely to result in the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, two of the three sitting female justices said the court must guard its own reputation for being impartial, neutral and fair. Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor shared concerns that widespread polarization in the country’s political environment could affect public perceptions of the court’s legitimacy.”

Alexander Bolton, “McConnell: Kavanaugh Win ‘A Shot of Adrenaline’ for GOP Midterm Chances,” [The Hill](#)

“McConnell told *The Hill* he spoke with his top political advisers on Friday who said the bitter fight over Kavanaugh, and what he has called a ‘shameless smear campaign’ by Democrats, has revved up the GOP base in red states. ‘Our base is on fire,’ he said, while predicting that expected votes against Kavanaugh by Democratic Sens. Joe Donnelly (Ind.), Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.), Claire McCaskill (Mo.), and Jon Tester (Mont.) will come back to bite them next month when they are up for reelection in states won by President Trump in 2016.”

Allen Guelzo, “Kavanaugh May Be the Democrats’ Waterloo,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“This process has inflicted real damage to Judge Kavanaugh and Ms. Ford—enough to make any intelligent citizen wonder if it would ever be worth entering public service. But the most immediate casualty is likely to be the much-hyped November blue wave. If a vote for a Democratic majority in the Senate is a vote for the tactics of Sen. Feinstein, or for the boorish behavior of Sens. Blumenthal, Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, then that vote may not materialize at all.”

Heather Higgins, “Democrats Just Killed the Blue Wave,” [The Hill](#)

“Democrats underestimate how completely terrifying this spectacle appears to ordinary people. Here is a man who volunteers in a homeless shelter and coaches girls’ basketball and has more female clerks than any other federal judge; and he is being destroyed on accusation alone. How could an ordinary person, without powerful friends, survive such an onslaught?”

Justin Wise, “Key Lawmaker Promises Investigation Into Kavanaugh If Dems Retake House,” [The Hill](#)

“The top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee says Democrats plan to open an investigation into Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh if they take back control of the House this fall.”

Niall Stange, “The Memo: GOP to Win Kavanaugh Fight But Dems Vow Midterm Revenge,” [The Hill](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh is set to be confirmed to the Supreme Court on Saturday, notching a big victory for President Trump and the Republican Party — but one that carries sizable complications.”

Aaron Blake, “Did Michael Avenatti Help Doom the Case Against Brett Kavanaugh?,” [Washington Post](#)

“By the end of the confirmation battle, the Swetnick allegation became a key GOP talking point — alleged proof positive that, while allegations such as Ford’s could perhaps be taken seriously, this was at least in part a political effort using frivolous and ridiculous charges. That a man with eyes for the 2020 Democratic nomination was behind them made that argument easier to make.”

Christopher Cadelago, “How Trump Saved Kavanaugh,” [Politico](#)

“[A]s Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court appeared to be crumbling under the weight of sexual assault accusations, President Donald Trump had already become convinced that abandoning the judge would come at too great a cost to his administration and his party’s chances in the midterm elections.”

Philip Rucker, “‘Willing to Go to the Mat’: How Trump and Republicans Carried Kavanaugh to the Cusp of Confirmation,” [Washington Post](#)

“Again and again, President Trump was instructed not to do it. A cadre of advisers, confidants and lawmakers all urged him — implored him, really — not to personally attack the women who had accused Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexual assault. So he did it anyway.”

Jordyn Phelps, “White House Says Brett Kavanaugh’s ‘Emotional’ Testimony Shouldn’t Be Held Against Him,” [ABC News](#)

“A White House spokesman defended the ‘emotional’ Senate testimony of Brett Kavanaugh, who is poised to be confirmed Saturday to the Supreme Court, saying the nominee will be a fair and evenhanded justice.”

Carol Leonnig, “D.C. Circuit Sent Complaints About Kavanaugh’s Testimony to Chief Justice Roberts,” [Washington Post](#)

“[Judge Henderson] had dismissed other complaints against Kavanaugh as frivolous, but she concluded that some were substantive enough that they should not be handled by Kavanaugh’s fellow judges in the D.C. Circuit. In a statement Saturday, Henderson acknowledged the complaints and said they centered on statements Kavanaugh made during his Senate confirmation hearings.”

John Bowden, “Ford Lawyers Blast ‘Numerous False Claims’ About FBI Investigation Ahead of Kavanaugh Confirmation Vote,” [The Hill](#)

“Lawyers for Christine Blasey Ford, the first woman to publicly accuse Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, blasted senators on Friday for ‘false’ claims about the days-long FBI investigation into the allegations ahead of Friday’s cloture vote.”

Louis Casiano, “Claim of ‘Thorough’ FBI Probe of Kavanaugh Is ‘Absurd,’ Says Friend of Ford Who Wasn’t Interviewed,” [Fox News](#)

“Lawyers for Christine Blasey Ford released a statement Friday from a friend of Ford’s who says he is a corroborating witness to Ford’s sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh — and criticized the FBI for not interviewing him. In a sworn statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Keith Kogler wrote that Ford told him in 2016, while they were watching their kids play together, that a federal court judge in Washington, D.C., had sexually assaulted her when they were in high school.”

John Bowden, “Kavanaugh Accuser Deborah Ramirez Says Senators Are ‘Deliberately Ignoring’ His Behavior,” [The Hill](#)

“‘Thirty-five years ago, the other students in the room chose to laugh and look the other way as sexual violence was perpetrated on me by Brett Kavanaugh,’ the statement reads. ‘As I watch many of the senators speak and vote on the floor of the Senate I feel like I’m right back at Yale where half the room is laughing and looking the other way.’”

Sophie Tatum, “Ford’s Sister-in-Law: Manchin and Collins Created an ‘Alternate Reality’ to Support Kavanaugh,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford’s sister-in-law said Sens. Joe Manchin and Susan Collins were trying to have it both ways when the senators said they believed Ford was sexually assaulted but not by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

John Bowden, “GOP Senator: Kavanaugh ‘Won’t Feel Like a Winner’ After Confirmation,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) lamented Friday that neither Brett Kavanaugh nor Christine Blasey Ford, the woman accusing the Supreme Court nominee of sexual assault, would feel like ‘winners’ following his bitter

confirmation battle.”

Dan Balz, “The Kavanaugh Battle Only Magnified the Nation’s Divisions and May Leave Lasting Scars,” [Washington Post](#)

“If college-educated women are angry at the treatment of Ford, that will help Democratic House challengers in suburban districts held by Republicans and increase the odds of Democrats picking up more than the 23 seats they need for a majority. If Trump’s loyalists are suddenly energized, that could hurt red-state Democrats, which could help the GOP avoid losing control of the Senate. Republicans might even end up with an enhanced majority. The Supreme Court could feel the effects over a longer period of time, now that it has been caught up in the political maelstrom. The court may be political in the broadest sense, but it is supposed to be seen as impartial, deliberative and, most of all, nonpartisan. That gloss has faded due to a series of events in recent years, but the Kavanaugh confirmation makes the problem far more acute.”

Adam Liptak, “Confirming Kavanaugh: A Triumph for Conservatives, but a Blow to the Court’s Image,” [New York Times](#)

“Judge Kavanaugh’s own testimony, laced with fiery attacks on Democrats, also undermined public confidence in the court, said Stephen Gillers, a law professor at New York University. ‘It pulled the cloak off the Wizard of Oz,’ he said. ‘The court has a mystique all its own. Kavanaugh’s behavior at the latest confirmation hearing shattered that mystique. It’s going to be hard for the court to come back from that.’”

Jonathan Turley, “The Winners and Losers of the Supreme Court Confirmation,” [The Hill](#)

“Once the ‘most deliberative body in the world,’ the Senate has finally reached its apocalyptic moment of total political war without judgment. Kavanaugh and his chief accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, are both faces of the horror of a process designed to release people from any consideration of fairness or empathy, to leash the primordial instincts of voters. That, perhaps, will forever change our confirmation process.”

Alexander Burns, “Bitter Tenor of Senate Reflects a Nation at Odds with Itself,” [New York Times](#)

“To the right and left alike, Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination appears less like a final spasm of division — a sobering trauma, followed by calm resolution — than an event that deepens the national mood of turbulence. The country is gripped by a climate of division and distrust rivaled by few other moments in the recent past.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Oct 5

Date: Fri, 5 Oct 2018 20:39:39 -0400

Importance: Normal

Stephen Collinson, “Kavanaugh Has the Votes To Be Confirmed to Supreme Court After Collins, Manchin Commit,” [CNN](#)

“The final Senate vote is expected Saturday.”

Eliana Plott, “It All Came Down to Susan Collins,” [The Atlantic](#)

“After fellow Republican holdout Lisa Murkowski stunned many in her party by voting ‘no’ in Friday morning’s procedural vote, aides anxiously awaited Collins’s call. ‘Mr. President, I will vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh,’ Collins said at the end of her lengthy floor speech. In it, she described why she felt Kavanaugh’s judicial record was well within the legal mainstream, and why a sexual assault allegation leveled against Kavanaugh by Christine Blasey Ford, in the final analysis, was not credible and disqualifying.”

Burgess Everett & Elana Schor, “Collins Backs Kavanaugh, All But Assuring Confirmation,” [Politico](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh secured the 50 votes he needs to be confirmed to the Supreme Court, as Maine GOP Sen. Susan Collins announced she would support him. ‘I do not believe that these charges can fairly prevent Judge Kavanaugh from serving on the court,’ Collins said of accusations against Kavanaugh. ‘I will vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh.’”

Laura Barron Lopez, “Joe Manchin Breaks With Democrats, Declares Support For Brett Kavanaugh,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin split with his party Friday, vowing to support Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court. The stunning break with his fellow Senate Democrats comes after weeks of indecision by Manchin. Hours after reviewing an FBI report on sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh, Manchin voted to advance the nomination. But Manchin remained mum on his final decision until he knew where all of his colleagues stood.”

Alexander Bolton, “Flake to Vote ‘Yes’ on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), who delayed Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination in dramatic fashion last week, announced Friday that he would vote to confirm him. Flake made his position known after a procedural vote on Friday morning.”

Jesse Paul, “Cory Gardner Will Vote ‘Yes’ Saturday On Nomination Of Judge Brett Kavanaugh,” [Colorado Sun](#)

“No evidence was found by the FBI to corroborate the allegations made against him or to make me change the support I announced for him in July.”

Tal Axelrod, “Avenatti Pushes Back After Collins Blasts Client’s Allegations In Senate Floor Speech,” [The Hill](#)

““@SenatorCollins is channeling Donald Trump. Entirely disingenuous and shameful. Where was she when Judge Garland could not even get an up or down vote? This is all about her post-office job opportunities on K street. We shall never forget. Not in Nov. Not in 2020. Not ever.””

John Bowden, “George H.W. Bush Salutes Collins After Speech Supporting Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Former President George H.W. Bush praised Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) on Friday after she delivered a roughly 45-minute speech on the Senate floor in support of Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court. Bush saluted Collins’s ‘political courage and class’ after the key GOP senator told her colleagues that allegations of sexual assault levied at Kavanaugh by three women did not rise to the standard of evidence needed for her to vote against the nominee.”

The Editorial Board, “Thank You, Susan Collins,” [National Review](#)

“We are not prone to praising Susan Collins. But we are delighted to make an exception for her impressive speech on the Senate floor this afternoon explaining why she’ll vote ‘yes’ on Brett Kavanaugh. A process that has often been disgusting—exposing the bottomless bad faith of Senate Democrats and the hysterical partisanship of much of the mainstream media—reached the beginning of the end with a careful, thoughtful, and persuasive presentation by Senator Collins.”

Adam Shaw, “Senate votes to advance Kavanaugh nomination, setting up final vote for Saturday,” [Fox News](#)

“The Senate voted Friday to end debate on Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, setting the stage for a final vote in the chamber Saturday evening -- where the White House now believes it has the votes to confirm Kavanaugh. The vote to invoke cloture was 51-49.”

Tucker Higgins, “Facing Pressure At Home, Democrat Manchin And Republican Murkowski Buck Their Party Lines In Procedural Vote On Kavanaugh Confirmation,” [CNBC](#)

“Two key senators, one Democrat and one Republican, voted against their parties on Friday in a dramatic showdown on the floor of the Senate over the question of whether to advance Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh to a confirmation vote this weekend.”

Jordain Cairney, “Kavanaugh ‘Good Man’ But Maybe ‘Not The Right Man For The Court,’” [The Hill](#)

““I believe that Brett Kavanaugh is a good man. I believe he is a good man, it just may be that in my view he’s not the right man for the court at this time,’ Murkowski told reporters. Her comments come shortly after the Senate voted 51-49 to end debate on Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, setting up a final vote to confirm him on Saturday. Murkowski did not specifically say she would vote against confirming Kavanaugh, but Sen. John Thune (S.D.), the No. 3 GOP senator, said he does not expect her to flip her vote.”

Griffin Connolly, “Will Any Senator Have A McCain ‘Maverick’ Moment, Turn On Kavanaugh?,” [Roll Call](#)

Democrats need to retain every member in their ranks and recruit another Republican to successfully keep Kavanaugh off the bench. GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska joined 46 Democrats and two independents who caucus with them in opposition to limiting debate on Kavanaugh’s confirmation.”

Jordain Carney, “Gianforte Offers GOP Senator Plane To Return For Kavanaugh Vote,” [The Hill](#)

“My good friend and colleague, Greg Gianforte, has come to save the day. If I need to be in two places at once to walk my daughter down the aisle on her wedding day and to be the final vote to put Judge Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court, he’s offered me use of his plane,” Daines said in a statement on Friday. . . Senators voted 51-49 to end debate on Kavanaugh’s nomination. If every senator votes the same on Saturday, Republicans wouldn’t need Daines.”

Quin Hillyer, “Lisa Murkowski Should ‘Pair No’ With Steve Daines’s ‘Paired Yes,’” [National Review](#)

“Republican Steve Daines of Montana, a strong supporter of Kavanaugh, will be walking his daughter down the aisle on Saturday. Word is that he has said he will find a way to get back to Washington if his vote is absolutely needed for Kavanaugh to pass — but he should not need to be worrying about that. He, his daughter, and his family should be able to enjoy the daughter’s big day . . . Murkowski should therefore offer to ‘pair no’ with Daines’s ‘paired yes,’ so the vote margin will be the same as if both were there — but so Daines will be able to remain in Montana. Note: A paired vote is absolutely not the same as voting ‘present,’ which is tantamount to a no vote because it pushes up the total votes needed for a simple majority. Instead, it is literally not a vote at all, as if both senators are absent.”

“American Bar Association Reopens Kavanaugh Evaluation,” [PBS News Hour](#)

“The American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary said Friday it’s revisiting its evaluation based on ‘new information of a material nature regarding temperament.’ It said it was unlikely the process will conclude before the Senate votes on Kavanaugh’s nomination. Friday’s letter says the original ‘well-qualified’ rating stands, for now.”

Heidi Pryzbyla, “The Battle Over Accusations Goes On As Kavanaugh Nomination Advances,” [NBC News](#)

“As Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, closed out his executive summary of allegations of sexual misconduct against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, his staff called a former roommate of Deborah Ramirez, the Yale classmate who has accused Kavanaugh of exposing himself to her. Jen Klaus, the former roommate, told NBC News that committee staff members called her at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, put her on speakerphone and asked about Ramirez’s drinking habits, whether there was a Yale student known for dropping his pants and the party culture at Yale. She says they suggested the allegation was a case of mistaken identity.”

Erin Kelly, “GOP releases summary of FBI report on Kavanaugh: ‘No corroboration of the allegations,’” [USA Today](#)

“The FBI investigation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh found ‘no corroboration of the allegations’ of sexual misconduct against him. That conclusion was part of an executive summary of the report released by Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, late Thursday night.”

Erica King, “‘You Can’t Find What You Don’t Look For’: Democrat Coons On FBI’s Kavanaugh Investigation,” [ABC News](#)

“Coons, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said his office has heard from many ‘additional corroborating witnesses’ the FBI never interviewed but are now taking their accounts to the news media. ‘I would agree that the materials that I read did not provide direct corroboration, but there were a dozen, two dozen other witnesses who were not interviewed,’ Coons said. ‘I am not blaming the FBI,’ Coons added.”

Josh Gerstein, “Judge Won’t Speed Merkley Bid For Kavanaugh Docs,” [Politico](#)

“A federal judge has rejected a Democratic senator’s bid to force disclosure of more details about Brett Kavanaugh’s work before the Senate votes on his nomination to the Supreme Court.”

Elana Schor, “Ford Would Have Ruled Out Much-Scrutinized Kavanaugh Calendar Date, Her Team Says,” [Politico](#)

“The July 1, 1982 entry has come under heightened scrutiny as the Senate considers Ford’s allegation against Kavanaugh, based largely on a gathering on that date that the judge listed in his calendars. . . But a member of Ford’s team said the California-based professor — who was not interviewed by the FBI for its inquiry — ‘would have told them that she never considered July 1 as a possible date, because of some of the people listed on his calendar who she knew well and would have remembered.’”

Charles Cooke, “Dr. Ford Continues to Keep Her ‘Evidence’ Secret,” [National Review](#)

“Chuck Grassley has again asked Dr. Ford and her lawyers to ‘turn over the therapy notes, polygraph materials, and communications with the Washington Post that Dr. Ford has relied upon as evidence.’ And he is right to do so. For an accuser to rely upon evidence that is not made available to the accused is extraordinary. For that accuser to refuse to comply with a request from the person in charge of a process that she herself initiated is even more so.”

Tal Axelrod, “Ford Friend Has Said She Was Pressured To Revisit Kavanaugh Statement: Report,” [The Hill](#)

“Leland Keyser, a friend of Christine Blasey Ford, told FBI investigators she was pressured by Ford’s allies to reconsider her initial statement that she was unaware of evidence supporting Ford’s claims of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh, people familiar with the matter told *The Wall Street Journal*.”

Nick Reisman, “Gillibrand: More Investigations Of Kavanaugh Possible If Dems Win Congress,” [NY State of Politics](#)

“‘If we do have the opportunity to have a different house leadership or a different Senate leadership, I wouldn’t be surprised if there were at least some investigations,’ Gillibrand said after speaking to a gathering of the New York chapter of the NAACP in Albany when asked if Kavanaugh could face impeachment.”

Adam Liptak, “Former Justice John Paul Stevens Says Kavanaugh Is Not Fit For Supreme Court,” [New York Times](#)

“In an unusual rebuke from a former member of the Supreme Court, Justice John Paul Stevens said on Thursday that Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh was not qualified to sit on the court. Justice Stevens said he came to the conclusion reluctantly, changing his mind about Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination after the second round of the judge’s confirmation hearings last week.”

Joan Biskupic, “Partisanship Questions Threaten To Shadow Kavanaugh On The Court,” [CNN](#)

“[Retired Justice John Paul] Stevens told a Florida audience that there was ‘merit’ to the criticism that Kavanaugh has ‘demonstrated a potential bias involving enough potential litigants before the court that he would not be able to perform his full responsibilities.’”

Justin Wise, “Hundreds of Female Alaska Attorneys Call on Murkowski, Sullivan To Vote ‘No’ On Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Hundreds of female attorneys urged on Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) to vote against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. More than 350 attorneys made the request in a joint letter sent to the Republican senators, according to the *Daily News-Miner*.”

Justin Wise, “Kavanaugh’s Former Classmates, ‘Drinking Buddies’ Call On Senate To Vote ‘No’ On Confirmation,” [The Hill](#)

“The former classmates of Kavanaugh’s— Charles Ludington, Lynne Brookes and Elizabeth Swisher — wrote in an op-ed for The Washington Post on Thursday that they spoke out publicly because of what they felt like were dishonest statements from Kavanaugh during a Fox News interview and during his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week.”

Joel Ebert, “As Key Kavanaugh Vote In U.S. Senate Begins, Bredesen Says He Supports Nominee,” [The Tennessean](#)

“After months of avoiding answering whether he would vote to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Phil Bredesen bucked his party Friday, saying in a statement he supports the judge’s confirmation moments before a key vote in the U.S. Senate began.”

Philip Wegmann, “Planned Parenthood Pulls Its Knives Out, Threatens Pro-Kavanaugh Senators,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Voting the wrong way could be bad for your health. That’s the message Planned Parenthood sent to centrist Republicans and red-state Democrats considering the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. It was a barely veiled threat delivered from the twitter account of the lobbying arm of the nation’s largest abortion provider:

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Senators vote NO on #Kavanaugh
Or else we’re coming for you
#NationalPoetryDay #StopKavanaugh
— Planned Parenthood Action (@PPact) October 4, 2018”

The Editorial Board, “End the Farce and Confirm Kavanaugh,” [New York Post](#)

“After getting precisely what they’d asked for, an FBI investigation into the allegations against Brett Kavanaugh, Democrats are . . . whining that the probe was insufficient.”

The Editorial Board, “Kavanaugh And The Senate’s Honor,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“The judge is a distinguished nominee. The charges against him are uncorroborated.”

Khorri Atkinson, “Washington Post Editorial Board Urges Senators To Vote Against Kavanaugh,” [Axios](#)

“The Washington Post editorial board on Thursday urged the U.S. Senate to vote against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh — a move the publication has not made against a high court nominee since 1987.”

Judge Brett Kavanaugh, “I Am an Independent, Impartial Judge,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“I was very emotional last Thursday, more so than I have ever been. I might have been too emotional at times. I know that my tone was sharp, and I said a few things I should not have said. I hope everyone can understand that I was there as a son, husband and dad. I testified with five people foremost in my mind: my mom, my dad, my wife, and most of all my daughters.”

Chris Cilliza, “How Brett Kavanaugh Tried To Solve His Anger Issue,” [CNN](#)

“Lots -- and lots -- of people rolled their eyes at Kavanaugh’s last-minute attempt to reframe his anger. Some Republicans fretted that it made him look desperate. (Sidebar: He is desperate. His entire career is on the line today!) But Kavanaugh -- and his White House backers -- couldn’t care less about any of that. This op-ed wasn’t aimed at any sort of broad audience. It was aimed at three senators: Flake, Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).”

Stephen Collinson, “As Vote Looms, Kavanaugh Makes Final Argument,” [CNN](#)

“It was not clear whether Kavanaugh’s unorthodox move was motivated by concern that his nomination was in trouble, or whether it was an early attempt to mitigate the political toll of his confirmation fight in the expectation that he will shortly take a seat on the Supreme Court that could cement a conservative majority for many years. Several White House sources said that the op-ed was Kavanaugh’s own idea and was intended to show he could rise above the partisan fury that has consumed his nomination.”

NTK Staff, “Only a Handful of Anti-Kavanaugh Protestors Show Up at Protest,” [NTK Network](#)

“An anti-Kavanaugh protest fizzled out on Friday, as only a few dozen people showed up outside the U.S. Capitol to protest Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation on Friday.”

Lukas Mikelionis, “Kavanaugh Protest Group Pleads For Grassroots Donations Despite Receiving Millions From Liberal Foundations,” [Fox News](#)

“A protest group accosting Republican lawmakers over their support for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh claim they are a money-stricken grassroots organization despite taking money from activist billionaires and may potentially be shirking the law with their promotion of civil disobedience.”

Jordan Fabian, “Trump: Anti-Kavanaugh Protestors Are ‘Paid Professionals,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘The very rude elevator screamers are paid professionals only looking to make Senators look bad. Don’t fall for it!’ he tweeted.”

Eliana Plott, “Mitch McConnell’s Legacy Is Riding On Kavanaugh’s Confirmation,” [The Atlantic](#)

“The Kentucky Republican became Senate majority leader with an aim to reshape the federal courts and secure a reliably conservative fifth vote on the Supreme Court for decades.”

Matthew Choi, “Orrin Hatch Tells Female Protestors to ‘Grow Up,’” [Politico](#)

“Sen. Orrin Hatch told female protesters demanding to speak with him about sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh to ‘grow up’ as he boarded an elevator on Thursday. Video of the Utah Republican and Senate Judiciary Committee member waving off the female protesters circulated quickly online.”

Kathryn Watson, “Sen. Durbin On Kavanaugh: I’ll Never Forget The ‘Fire In His Eyes,’” [CBS News](#)

“Sen. Dick Durbin said Friday that he will never forget the ‘fire’ in Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s eyes during last week’s dramatic hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

David Drucker, “The Kavanaugh Effect: GOP Runs Hard Against His Tormenter Feinstein,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“Republicans are wielding a new liberal bogeyman on the campaign trail to get out the vote and fend off Democrats in the midterm elections: Dianne Feinstein, the senior Democratic senator from California.”

Ben Terris, “Why Is Lindsey Graham Acting Like This?,” [Washington Post](#)

“He’s proud to be the kid whose parents never graduated from high school who’s helping get the prep-school jock on the Supreme Court. Just as he’s proud to be the retired Air Force colonel helping advise the real estate tycoon on matters of national security.”

Jim Geraghty, “Democrats, It’s Time to Recognize That Your Kavanaugh Playbook Didn’t Work,” [National Review](#)

“The protesters constantly interrupting the hearing did not work. Going over Kavanaugh’s high-school yearbooks as if they were something from The Da Vinci Code and trying to ascribe some sinister meanings to teenage slang such as ‘boof’ and ‘Devil’s Triangle’ did not work. Trying to make Kavanaugh sound like the Bluto Blutarsky of Yale University did not work. Suggesting that Kavanaugh is some sort of threat to girls on basketball teams did not work. Portraying his daughter praying for forgiveness for her father in an editorial cartoon did not work.”

Matthew Scully, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Moment of Greatness,” [National Review](#)

“[H]earing his opening statement to the Judiciary Committee last week, it seemed to me that no draft we speechwriters ever submitted had the inspiration of those words, composed by Brett under such awful pressure. A few possible adjustments came to mind as I listened, but any editing would only have diminished the raw perfection and utter sincerity of what he said and how he said it. If there is ever a course in rhetoric offering instruction on How to Face Down a Cruel and Sanctimonious Mob, that opening statement belongs high on the syllabus.”

Perry Bacon Jr., “Republicans Rescued Kavanaugh’s Nomination By Making It About #MeToo,” [FiveThirtyEight](#)

“[P]rominent conservatives have not pushed for his confirmation by hyping up his potential to push jurisprudence to the right, such as by limiting abortion. Instead, GOP leaders, including President Trump, have waged what amounts to an aggressive anti-#MeToo campaign in Kavanaugh’s defense, not only rejecting the charge that he behaved improperly but more broadly arguing that men in America are in peril.”

Kimberley Strassel, “Kavanaugh: An Easy Vote,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“This is not hard. Democrats and the media have worked ceaselessly to create the impression that Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation vote is the toughest the Senate will ever take. It isn’t. Not even close.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Oct 4

Date: Thu, 4 Oct 2018 19:29:56 -0400

Importance: Normal

Amber Phillips, “The Senate has the FBI report on Kavanaugh. Here’s what senators on the fence are likely mulling.” [Washington Post](#)

“The ball is back in the Senate’s court on whether to put Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court. Senators will spend the next few days reviewing the results of the FBI investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against him.”

* * *

John Bowden, “White House: 10 individuals were contacted in FBI Kavanaugh investigation,” [The Hill](#)

“Ten people were contacted by the FBI over the course of a week for the supplementary investigation into Brett Kavanaugh, the White House said Thursday. Deputy press secretary Raj Shah said on CNN’s ‘New Day’ that the White House could offer few details about the report, which is confidential, but said that 10 individuals were contacted by the bureau after an initial list of four names were provided by the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Rebecca Ballhaus, “White House Finds No Support in FBI Report for Claims Against Kavanaugh,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“The White House has found no corroboration of the allegations of sexual misconduct against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh after examining interview reports from the FBI’s latest probe into the judge’s background, according to people familiar with the matter.”

* * *

John Bowden, “White House ‘fully confident’ Kavanaugh will be confirmed,” [The Hill](#)

““This is the last addition to the most comprehensive review of a Supreme Court nominee in history, which includes extensive hearings, multiple committee interviews, over 1,200 questions for the record and over a half million pages of documents,’ [Raj] Shah said. ‘[T]he White House is fully confident the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.’”

* * *

Phil Mattingly, “The single copy of the FBI’s Kavanaugh report is behind closed doors. Here’s what senators have to do to see it,” [CNN](#)

“Judiciary Committee Republican staff got the first look at the FBI’s findings starting at 8 a.m. ET. At 9 a.m. ET, Democrats took over the room. Control of the room is scheduled to rotate, every other hour, for the rest of Thursday with most, if not all, of the 51-senator GOP conference is expected to file into the room at 10 a.m.”

* * *

Todd Ruger, “Senators All Agree: Latest FBI Kavanaugh Probe Provides Little New,” [Roll Call](#)

“Senate Democrats and Republicans agreed Thursday on one thing about the FBI’s one-week supplemental background investigation into Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh — there wasn’t much new information there.”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “Grassley: No corroboration of Kavanaugh accusers allegations in FBI report,” [The Hill](#)

““This investigation found no hint of misconduct . . . I’ll be voting to confirm Judge Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Clare Foran, et al., “Two key undecided senators say Kavanaugh FBI investigation ‘very thorough,’” [CNN](#)

“Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said Thursday that the FBI probe into allegations of sexual assault and inappropriate sexual behavior against Kavanaugh seems to be ‘very thorough’ and said she would read the findings in full later in the day. . . . Flake said later Thursday morning that he agreed with Collins’ pronouncement that the investigation was thorough.”

* * *

Amber Philips, “Another big Mitch McConnell Supreme Court gamble looks set to pay off,” [Washington Post](#)

“Kavanaugh’s confirmation is still not certain, but we have evidence Thursday that senators on the fence are leaning toward voting for him after getting the FBI to spend a few days looking into the allegations.”

* * *

John Wagner and Seung Min Kim, “Key Republicans signal satisfaction with FBI report, increasing confirmation odds for Kavanaugh,” [Washington Post](#)

“Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), who requested the investigation, told reporters that ‘we’ve seen no additional corroborating information.’”

* * *

John Bowden, “Chris Coons: If I were to guess, Kavanaugh will be ‘narrowly confirmed,’” [The Hill](#)

““I think this will be a very close vote. It hangs by a few undecided Democrats and Republicans. I haven’t read this report yet, [but] if I were to just guess today, he would be narrowly confirmed,’ Coons told the Fox News hosts.”

* * *

Nicole Gaudiano and Eliza Collins, “Kavanaugh compromise: Chris Coons, Republican whisperer, is ‘in the middle of everything,’” [USA Today](#)

“[I]t’s no surprise to those who know Coons that he was in the middle of the Senate’s singular bipartisan moment during the spectacle that has been Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation hearing.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Senate Dems slam ‘incomplete,’ ‘limited’ FBI report,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Judiciary Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) spoke with reporters after getting briefed on the FBI’s report, which senators say is about 50 pages and includes interviews or statements from 10 individuals. ‘We had many fears that this was a very limited process that would constrain the FBI from getting the facts. . . . Those fears have been realized,’ Schumer told reporters on Thursday.”

“‘I disagree . . . with Sen. Grassley’s statement that there was no hint of misconduct,’ [Schumer] told reporters. He did not respond to follow-up questions asking what he meant or what lead him to that conclusion.”

* * *

Arit John, “Ford’s Lawyers Call Kavanaugh Probe a ‘Stain’ on the FBI,” [Bloomberg](#)

“‘The ‘investigation’ conducted over the past five days is a stain on the process, on the FBI and on our American ideal of justice,’ lawyers Debra Katz, Lisa Banks and Michael Bromwich wrote in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray.”

* * *

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, on [Twitter](#)

“I will be voting against confirming U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. . . . Our actions right now are a poignant signal to young girls and women across our country. I will continue to stand up for them.”

* * *

Greg Sargent, “Here’s a list of people the FBI did NOT interview. Okay with this, Flake and Collins?” [Washington Post](#)

“[A] lot of new reporting has now emerged that starkly illustrates just how much about the new allegations was not investigated by the FBI. It’s important to note that this probably was not a failing on the FBI’s part but rather was the result of restrictions the White House placed on the probe, a process that itself remains shrouded in disingenuous rhetorical games.”

* * *

Jane Meyer and Ronan Farrow, “The F.B.I. Probe Ignored Testimonies from Former Classmates of Kavanaugh,” [The New Yorker](#)

“Frustrated potential witnesses who have been unable to speak with the F.B.I agents conducting the investigation into sexual-assault allegations against Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, have been resorting to sending statements, unsolicited, to the Bureau and to senators, in hopes that they would be seen before the inquiry concluded.”

* * *

John McCormack, “How Jeff Flake’s One-Week Delay Helped Clear Brett Kavanaugh’s Name,” [The Weekly Standard](#)

“In the week since the Ford-Kavanaugh hearings, no one has been able to disprove Ford’s nearly unfalsifiable allegation, but the extra week has very clearly helped Kavanaugh clear his name.”

* * *

Z. Byron Wolf, “Inside the Judiciary GOP’s strategy to undermine Kavanaugh’s accusers,” [CNN](#)

“With the swing Supreme Court seat hanging in the balance, both sides of the debate have engaged in some psychological warfare, but Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee have elevated the sowing of doubt about Ford and two other women who have made claims against Kavanaugh to an art form.”

* * *

Peter Baker, “In Risky Shift, Trump and G.O.P. Directly Assail Christine Blasey Ford,” [New York Times](#)

“The president’s scathing and derisive impression of Dr. Blasey, who has accused Judge Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when they were teenagers, came at the same time his Republican allies stepped up their efforts to challenge her veracity. Seizing on a sworn statement from a former boyfriend, Republicans suggested that she had not been fully truthful in her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week.”

* * *

Maureen Groppe and Christal Hayes, “Truth about Kavanaugh accusations hard to find as both sides hurl salacious details,” [USA Today](#)

“The Senate has been called the world’s greatest deliberative body, the saucer to cool the tea brewed by their more hot-headed colleagues in the House. But the upper chamber – where the average age is north of 60 – has been less of a genteel tea party and more of a barroom brawl as the fight over Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has gotten increasingly nasty with salacious claims being hurled by both sides.”

* * *

Ian Shapira, “Celebrating kegs and insulting girls: Inside Mark Judge’s 1980s Georgetown Prep underground paper,” [Washington Post](#)

“The Unknown Hoya, an underground newspaper at Georgetown Preparatory School in the early 1980s, prided itself on its coverage of the crude.”

* * *

Marc Fisher, “The rise and the reckoning: Inside Brett Kavanaugh’s circles of influence,” [Washington Post](#)

“The story of President Trump’s embattled choice for the Supreme Court is a classic Washington tale of a young man who grew up surrounded by people in high places, keenly aware of protecting his image.”

* * *

Rich Lowry, “No, Kavanaugh Didn’t Lie,” [Politico](#)

“The emphasis this week of Kavanaugh’s opponents on his drinking isn’t a sign of strength, but of desperation and weakness. On lying under oath, they have nothing.”

* * *

Samuel Chamberlain, “Kavanaugh’s prep school friends say ‘Devil’s Triangle’ was a drinking game,” [Fox News](#)

“Four high school classmates of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh have claimed that the phrase ‘Devil’s Triangle’ in Kavanaugh’s yearbook is a drinking game and not a reference to sexual activity, as has been claimed by some opponents of Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Alexandra DeSanctis, “Kavanaugh’s Lifelong Female Friends Defend His Character,” [National Review](#)

“Six of Brett Kavanaugh’s close friends testify to his character, integrity, and kindness.”

* * *

Matt Ford, “Retired Justice John Paul Stevens: Brett Kavanaugh isn’t qualified for the Supreme Court.” [The New Republic](#)

“The Palm Beach Post’s Lulu Ramadan reported that Stevens told a small crowd at an event in Florida that the beleaguered Supreme Court nominee had disqualified himself with his performance at last week’s Senate hearing.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “The Never Conservatives,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Donald Trump didn’t help Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation with his crude mockery of Christine Blasey Ford on Tuesday night in Tennessee, but then this Supreme Court moshpit isn’t about this President. The left’s all-out assault on the judge is clarifying because it shows that the ‘resistance’ is really about anything and everything conservative in America. Mr. Trump is its foil to regain power.”

* * *

Jim Geraghty, “‘Innocent until Proven Guilty’ Is a Pretty Darn Good Hill to Die On,” [National Review](#)

“If anything’s ever been worth losing a Senate seat over, or risking the loss of cushy gigs after retiring from the Senate, this is it. If we who believe in the necessity of the presumption of innocence, due process, and the need for incontrovertible evidence win this fight, we will have done something important and lasting — pushing back powerfully against a hysteria that wants to weaponize accusations to destroy people regardless of their guilt or innocence.”

* * *

Bret Stephens, “For Once, I’m Grateful for Trump,” [New York Times](#)

“I’m grateful because Trump has not backed down in the face of the slipperiness, hypocrisy and dangerous standard-setting deployed by opponents of Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Alexandra DeSanctis, “The Senate Should Do What Americans Want: Confirm Brett Kavanaugh,” [National Review](#)

“According to a recent Harvard CAPS/Harris Poll, 61 percent of Americans say they want Kavanaugh confirmed in the absence of corroborating evidence. No corroborating evidence has been found after weeks of digging, including by the FBI, as the Democrats demanded. There is no legitimate reason for the Senate not to confirm him immediately.”

* * *

Sohrab Amari, “Democrats’ Kavanaugh assassination is reuniting the right,” [New York Post](#)

“Whatever disputes we have on our own side, the thinking on the right now goes, we have to set them aside and stop a politics of personal destruction, fueled by a moral panic and an uncritical mainstream media that sees itself as an adjunct of the anti-Trump resistance.”

* * *

Karl Rove, “How Kavanaugh Could Help the GOP,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“If the FBI finds no further evidence, Republicans benefit in the midterms.”

* * *

Nate Silver, “Is Kavanaugh Helping Republicans’ Midterm Chances?” [FiveThirtyEight](#)

“Republicans have gained in our Senate forecast; elsewhere, it’s less clear.”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Hundreds of ‘Stop Kavanaugh’ vigils held across US,” [The Hill](#)

“Progressive and women’s groups coordinated 300 candlelit vigils that took place across the U.S. on Wednesday night to demonstrate opposition to President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Caroline Simon and John Bacon, “Kavanaugh protesters brace for home stretch in Supreme Court struggle,” [USA Today](#)

“Rallies were planned across the nation Thursday in what could be a last gasp protest of the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the nation's highest court.”

* * *

John Culhane, “What Happens if a Democratic House Votes to Impeach Kavanaugh?” [Politico](#)

“The course of such a proceeding has the potential to be so perilous and unpredictable that wavering Republican senators should consider that possibility before casting their votes to put Kavanaugh on the court in the first place. Facts that come to light in impeachment could come back to haunt senators who vote to support him.”

* * *

Brett Molina, “Ben Sasse: I encouraged Trump to nominate a woman for Supreme Court,” [USA Today](#)

“Nebraska Republican Ben Sasse gave an impassioned speech to his fellow senators on Wednesday, talking about #MeToo, sexual assault and the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Oct 3

Date: Wed, 3 Oct 2018 18:14:26 -0400

Importance: Normal

Sen. Orrin Hatch, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Righteous Anger,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“That Judge Kavanaugh had the temerity to defend himself vigorously is now being counted as a strike against him. Over and over we hear him described as ‘angry,’ ‘belligerent’ or ‘partisan,’ followed by the claim that his conduct at the hearing shows that he lacks a judicial temperament. Even ‘Saturday Night Live’ got in on the action. You’ve got to be kidding me. Do the people making this argument really expect a man who until five seconds ago had an unblemished reputation to sit passively while his reputation is viciously and permanently destroyed? While he is accused of the most horrific and obscene acts imaginable? Judge Kavanaugh’s critics seem to be aghast that he is a human being who is unwilling to take slander lying down.”

* * *

Chad Pergram (Fox News), on [Twitter](#)

“Manchin on Kavanaugh: I’m looking at the gentleman as an adult from 22 to 53. 31 years of official service. I’m looking at him as a father, as a person in the community . . . I mean I’m just looking at the human side of it also I think every aspect has to be looked at.”

* * *

Alan He and Kathryn Watson, “Republican senators say FBI report on Kavanaugh likely coming Wednesday,” [CBS News](#)

“Republican senators told reporters Wednesday they believe the FBI’s report on its findings from its background investigation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh will be completed sometime Wednesday.”

* * *

Leigh Ann Caldwell and Heidi Przybyla, “Dozens of potential sources of information have not been contacted by the FBI in Kavanaugh investigation,” [NBC News](#)

“With the investigation winding down, multiple individuals who have tried to contact the bureau have not heard back.”

* * *

Norman L. Eisen, et al., “Here Are the 30 People the FBI Needs to Interview in its Kavanaugh Investigation,” [Just Security](#)

“There are 30 witnesses who are known and who must, at a minimum, be included in any serious FBI inquiry of ‘current credible allegations against the nominee,’ as requested by the Senate Judiciary Committee. We make that judgment as a former White House official (Eisen), a former counsel to congressional committees (Amerling) that reviewed the results of FBI background investigations, and a former FBI agent trained to conduct them (Rangappa).”

* * *

Chris Strohm and Shannon Pettypiece, “FBI Lacks White House Approval to Talk to Kavanaugh and Ford, Sources Say,” [Bloomberg](#)

“Instead, the White House has indicated to the FBI that testimony from Kavanaugh and Ford, who has accused him of attempting to rape her when they were in high school, before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week is sufficient, said the people, who asked to not be identified discussing the sensitive matter.”

* * *

Michael Burke, “Flake: I wouldn’t be troubled if FBI didn’t talk to Ford,” [The Hill](#)

“‘We have a statement of Dr. Ford and then we have hours of testimony, so, frankly, when we talked about an FBI investigation, it was to follow up leads that might corroborate her account,’ he said. ‘So I’m not troubled by that as much as if we came back and found out that the FBI only followed a couple of leads or interviewed just a couple of people. So I’m anxious to hear back from the FBI,’ Flake added.”

* * *

Andrew C. McCarthy, “Democrats’ Complaints about the FBI Investigation Are Absurd,” [National Review](#)

“The Democrats’ demand, while disingenuous, is completely rational — they are trying to delay the vote until after the midterms, in hopes that they win a Senate majority, which would doom Kavanaugh’s nomination. Therefore, they push for anything that accomplishes any delay, especially if it sets up opportunities to push for more delay. On that score, a reopened background check is perfect: In essence, it is an information-gathering exercise, and there will never be enough information to satisfy the Delay Democrats; there will always be more areas to explore, more witnesses to question, more yearbooks to probe, more college beer parties to examine.”

* * *

Seung Min Kim, “Many senators want at least parts of FBI report on Kavanaugh released,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘I personally think that would be a good idea,’ Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Tex.) said Tuesday of releasing a summary of the report. ‘In this instance, I don’t know how you can accuse somebody of the terrible things that Judge Kavanaugh has been accused of and have people satisfied without some sort of summary of what the FBI found.’”

* * *

Eliza Collins and David Jackson, “Republicans plan careful steps to protect secrecy of FBI report on Brett Kavanaugh,” [USA Today](#)

“Republicans are planning a careful choreography for the results of the FBI’s background probe into Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, including sending only a single copy to Capitol Hill that will be housed in a safe.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “McConnell rejects request for briefing on FBI’s Kavanaugh report,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Wednesday rejected a request to have the FBI brief all senators on its report on sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Rebecca Shabad, “McConnell denounces Kavanaugh ‘feeding frenzy,’ doubles down on vote this week,” [NBC News](#)

“‘I think it’s safe to say the national spectacle the professional left has created around Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation process has now reached some kind of fever pitch,’ the Kentucky Republican said in remarks on the Senate floor. ‘It has been 17 days since Dr. Ford’s confidential correspondence was leaked to the press. Seventeen days of a feeding frenzy on Judge Kavanaugh and his family unlike anything we have seen in recent memory,’ he said.”

* * *

Gregg Re and John Roberts, “Christine Blasey Ford ex-boyfriend says she helped friend prep for potential polygraph; Grassley sounds alarm,” [Fox News](#)

“In a written declaration released Tuesday and obtained by Fox News, an ex-boyfriend of Christine Blasey Ford, the California professor accusing Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, directly contradicts her testimony under oath last week that she had never helped anyone prepare for a polygraph examination.”

* * *

Peter Baker, “Christine Blasey Ford’s Credibility Under New Attack by Senate Republicans,” [New York Times](#)

“Ms. McLean, a former F.B.I. agent, denied the assertion on Wednesday. ‘I have never had Christine Blasey Ford, or anybody else, prepare me, or provide any other type of assistance whatsoever in connection with any polygraph exam I have taken at any time,’ she said in a statement. Dr. Blasey’s camp also rejected the account. ‘She stands by her testimony,’ a member of her legal team said in a statement.”

* * *

Cameron Cawthorne, “Grassley Calls on Ford’s Lawyers to Hand Over Polygraph Material, Cites Her Ex-Boyfriend’s Signed Statement,” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Chuck Grassley (R., Iowa) on Tuesday sent a letter to Ford’s lawyers renewing his request for ‘all audio or video recordings produced during the course of Mr. Hanafin’s polygraph examination of Dr. Ford as well as all polygraph charts and other data that Mr. Hanafin relied upon in preparing his report.’ Grassley said they he made these requests before and after last Thursday’s hearing, but he has yet to receive them.”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “Ford attorneys offer notes from therapy in exchange for FBI interview,” [The Hill](#)

“Attorneys for Christine Blasey Ford told Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) on Wednesday that they would be willing to turn over certain documents he requested to the FBI if the bureau agrees to interview her as part of its investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Allie Malloy, et al., “Trump mocks Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony, tells people to ‘think of your son,’” [CNN](#)

“Before the crowd Tuesday night in Southaven, Mississippi, Trump imitated Ford during her testimony, mocking her for not knowing the answers to questions such as how she had gotten to the high school party where she says Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her.”

* * *

Shannon pierce, “Trump Bets Kavanaugh Fight Will Fire Up GOP Voters,” [Bloomberg](#)

“President Donald Trump is gambling that unflinching support for his imperiled Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, will drive Republican voters to the polls in November and save his party’s control of Congress.”

* * *

Matthew Choi, “Jeff Flake: Trump’s mockery of Kavanaugh accuser is ‘appalling,’” [Politico](#)

“‘To discuss something this sensitive at a political rally, it’s just not right,’ Flake told NBC’s ‘Today’ show. ‘I wish he hadn’t have done it. I just say it’s kind of appalling.’”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Collins: Trump’s comments on Ford are ‘plain wrong,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘The president’s comments were just plain wrong,’ Collins told reporters who were camped outside of an unrelated Senate Aging Committee hearing, which Collins oversees.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Murkowski: Trump mockery of Ford ‘unacceptable,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘I am taking everything into account. I think the president’s comments yesterday mocking Dr. Ford were wholly inappropriate and in my view unacceptable,’ Murkowski told reporters, asked how Trump’s comments would impact her vote.”

* * *

Siobhan Hughes and Jim Carlton, “Kavanaugh Vote to Test Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s Independent Streak,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“In an interview Tuesday with Alaska Public Media, Ms. Murkowski called the volume of constituent feedback unprecedented. ‘All of the voice-mail boxes are literally filled within the first hour,’ she said. ‘We’ve hired additional staff to do nothing more than sort through the volume of calls that have come in overnight.’”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Grassley pleads for end to personal attacks against Kavanaugh, Ford,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) on Wednesday issued a plea for people to stop personally attacking Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, who has accused the Supreme Court nominee of sexual assault.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Kavanaugh Has Already Failed the Test of Temperament,” [Bloomberg](#)

“Whatever happened in 1982, he has shown himself unfit for the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Jonah Goldberg, “The Left Is Viewing Kavanaugh Allegorically, Not Realistically,” [National Review](#)

“Could [Kavanaugh] not also feel entitled to some measure of fair play? Before these allegations surfaced, Senator Cory Booker (D., N.J.) insisted that Kavanaugh’s nomination was ‘evil.’ Since then, Kavanaugh has been accused of orchestrating gang rapes. And yet we’re supposed to believe his anger derives not from such accusations but from some abstract idea of white-male powerlessness?”

* * *

Matt Ferner, “More Than 500 Law Professors Condemn Kavanaugh For ‘Lack Of Judicial Temperament,’” [Huffington Post](#)

“The letter is signed by many high-profile law professors, including eight from Yale Law School, where Kavanaugh obtained his law degree. The letter remains open for additional signatures through Thursday, when it will be presented to the Senate.”

* * *

Michael Burke, “Two former Yale classmates withdraw support for Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Michael Proctor and Mark Osler wrote in a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and ranking member Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) that they can no longer support Kavanaugh's confirmation because of the ‘nature’ of his testimony in front of the committee last week while addressing accusations of sexual misconduct.”

* * *

John Bowden, “Three former Kavanaugh clerks tell Senate they are ‘deeply troubled’ by allegations,” [The Hill](#)

“In a letter to the Judiciary panel reported by HuffPost on Tuesday, former clerks Will Dreher, Bridget Fahey and Rakim Brooks said that an expanded FBI investigation into allegations from Christine Blasey Ford and two other women is merited. ‘We write to clarify that, like many Americans, we have been deeply troubled by those allegations and the events surrounding them and were encouraged by the initiation of a formal FBI investigation,’ the three wrote in their letter.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Weatherman Says Swetnick Confessed to Enjoying Group Sex,” [National Review](#)

“A Washington, D.C., weatherman, who claims to have been romantically involved with Julie Swetnick, said in a sworn statement provided to the Judiciary Committee this week that she confessed to enjoying group sex.”

* * *

David French, “As the Gang-Rape Claims against Kavanaugh Fall Apart, Will Anyone Rethink His Approach?” [National Review](#)

“While we should dismiss Swetnick’s claims as lacking credibility, we cannot allow this incident to disappear from public consciousness. The furious response to those who questioned Swetnick’s claims, and the credulousness that led even Senator Dianne Feinstein to ask about them at a Senate hearing says something disturbing about the extent to which ‘believe women’ — combined with partisan hatred so intense that we’re willing to believe the worst about our opponents — can sometimes morph into ‘believe anything.’”

* * *

Brooke Singman, “Avenatti emerges with new sworn allegations against Kavanaugh, amid questions over 1st client,” [Fox News](#)

“As new questions emerge about his first client’s salacious accusations against Brett Kavanaugh, Democratic lawyer Michael Avenatti has produced another sworn statement from a second woman claiming the Supreme Court nominee, while in high school, would ‘spike’ the ‘punch’ at house parties and be ‘inappropriate’ toward women. Avenatti, who also serves as adult film star Stormy Daniels’ attorney, tweeted the statement from his newest client, whose name and address is redacted, early Wednesday.”

* * *

Molly Hooper, “Corker predicts Kavanaugh will be confirmed, says Dems ‘overplayed their hand,’” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Bob Corker, a Tennessee Republican who at times has been at odds with President Trump, told Hill.TV on Tuesday evening that he is confident Senate Republicans will have enough votes to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh by ‘no later than Saturday.’”

* * *

Kate Kelly and David Enrich, “Kavanaugh’s 1983 Letter Offers Inside Look at High School Clique,” [New York Times](#)

“In a 1983 letter, a copy of which was reviewed by The New York Times, the young Judge Kavanaugh warned his friends of the danger of eviction from an Ocean City, Md., condo. In a neatly written postscript, he added: Whoever arrived first at the condo should ‘warn the neighbors that we’re loud, obnoxious drunks with prolific pukers among us. Advise them to go about 30 miles. . . .’”

* * *

Joseph Curl, “The Democrats’ Case Against Kavanaugh Is Falling Apart Fast,” [Washington Times](#)

“Gertrude Stein famously said, ‘There is no there there.’ That was in 1937, but it applies today to the Kavanaugh case. And the Democrats know it.”

* * *

Brooke Singman, “Cory Booker: Ditch Kavanaugh, whether he’s ‘innocent or guilty,’” [Fox News](#)

“‘Ultimately—not whether he innocent or guilty, this is not a trial—have enough questions have been raised that we should not move on to another candidate?’ Booker, a potential 2020 presidential candidate, said on Capitol Hill Tuesday. ‘Move on to another candidate.’ Republicans seized on the remarks, with GOP Chairwoman

Ronna McDaniel tweeting that it shows ‘Senate Democrats finally admit that they don’t even care about getting to the truth.’”

* * *

Justin Wise, “Graham: Klobuchar owes Kavanaugh an apology for being part of a ‘smear campaign,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘This is the one that bothers me the most. [Kavanaugh] apologized to Amy Klobuchar for snapping at her. What would you do if you were accused of all these things, had your life ruined?’ Graham asked on Fox News, referencing the exchange between Kavanaugh and Klobuchar last week as he testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Jonah Goldberg, “You Idiot Reporters Are Making It Worse,” [National Review](#)

“You might also consider why millions of people *love it* when Trump says you are the enemy of the people: It’s because of how you are behaving *right now*. You’re letting the mask slip in Nielsen-monitored 15-minute blocks of virtue-signaling partisanship. You’re burning credibility at such a rate, you won’t have enough to get back to base when this is all over.”

* * *

Gregory Krieg, “This is the GOP’s strategy to save Kavanaugh,” [CNN](#)

“Deflect. Discredit. Discombobulate. The Republican playbook for combating the sexual misconduct allegations against Judge Brett Kavanaugh is becoming easier to read by the hour — with a script pulled in part from their strategy to undermine the probe into Russian election meddling.”

* * *

Peter Nicholas, “The Man Behind the Brett Kavanaugh Strategy: Don McGahn,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford had just told senators that he sexually assaulted her when they were teens, and White House aides worried her account was compelling. Sitting with Judge Kavanaugh and his wife, Mr. McGahn told him he shouldn’t hold back: When facing the senators he should show his emotions and true feelings about accusations that he said are false, the people said.”

* * *

Nicholas Fandos, “Kavanaugh Proceedings Drive a Senate Once Governed by Decorum Into Rancor,” [New York Times](#)

“The nomination of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court has exposed just how far the Senate has drifted from the rules of decorum that once elevated senatorial prerogative over party, leaving behind the kind of smash-mouth partisan politics that have long dominated the unruly House.”

* * *

Jim Geraghty, “How the Kavanaugh Fight Will Shape Our Politics,” [National Review](#)

“You no doubt recall that during the 2012 presidential campaign, then-Senate majority leader Harry M. Reid accused Mitt Romney of having not paid any taxes over the past decade. It wasn’t true; Romney released tax

returns showing that it wasn't true. In 2015, CNN's Dana Bash pressed him about telling a blatant lie, Reid responded, 'Romney didn't win, did he?' That is the only lesson anyone in politics is going to take from everything surrounding the Kavanaugh confirmation."

* * *

Chuck Todd, et al., "Here's how the Brett Kavanaugh fight has shifted key Senate races," [NBC News](#)

"So while most polls conducted after Thursday show more Americans and voters now opposing Kavanaugh's confirmation than supporting it, GOP surveys we've seen from the red states (like North Dakota and West Virginia) find majorities in support of Kavanaugh. And that matters when looking at the 2018 Senate playing field."

* * *

Tim Reid, "In North Dakota, Kavanaugh debate tests Democratic wave - and #MeToo," [Reuters](#)

"If Heidi Heitkamp votes no, I think it's really going to hurt her here,' said Mary Fox, 53, a Trump voter shopping at a Target store in downtown Fargo, the state's most populous city. Fox's opinion was echoed in interviews with a dozen women voters in Fargo and in several recent polls that found a majority of voters across the state support Kavanaugh."

* * *

Peter Doocy, "Kavanaugh confirmation battle galvanizes Montana's Republican voters, could swing Senate race," [Fox News](#)

"Republicans facing a blue wave might have found a new way to whip up their base – at least for the next few days, thanks to Brett Kavanaugh."

* * *

John Bowden, "Poll: Kavanaugh opposition increases 4 points since hearings," [The Hill](#)

"The latest seven-day average of the Reuters/Ipsos survey of U.S. adults showed 41 percent of respondents opposed Kavanaugh's nomination, while 33 percent supported it and 26 percent said they did not know."

* * *

Burgess Everett, "GOP senators use Kavanaugh to beat back primary challengers in 2020," [Politico](#)

"The lawmakers know that one way to fend off a Trump-fueled primary challenge is to back the Supreme Court nominee."

* * *

Katherine Tully-McManus, "Tensions Over Kavanaugh Drive Senate Into Tightened Security," [Roll Call](#)

"On Tuesday, Judiciary Republicans John Kennedy of Louisiana and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina were protected by uniformed Capitol Police. Graham was also accompanied by Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms James Morhard, one of the top law enforcement officials on Capitol Hill. Last week, teams of uniformed officers were moving alongside Jeff Flake of Arizona and Judiciary Chairman Charles E. Grassley of Iowa."

* * *

Avery Anapol, “Graham says he’d hold Supreme Court seat open if there is a vacancy in last year of Trump’s term,” [The Hill](#)

“The remarks came after an audience booed and jeered at him as he defended Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. ‘This may make you feel better, but I really don’t care,’ Graham said. ‘If an opening comes in the last year of President Trump’s term, and the primary process has started, we’ll wait until the next election.’”

* * *

Josh Gerstein, “Merkley makes last-ditch court bid for Kavanaugh documents,” [Politico](#)

“Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) is asking a federal court for an immediate order requiring disclosure of more details about withheld records of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s service as a White House attorney under President George W. Bush.”

* * *

Aidan F. Ryan, “Bacow Says Kavanaugh Chose to Leave Harvard Law School On His Own,” [The Harvard Crimson](#)

“Facing mounting pressure to leave his post as a visiting lecturer at Harvard Law School amid allegations of sexual assault, Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh decided on his own not to return to teach at the school this winter, University President Lawrence S. Bacow confirmed Tuesday.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips -- Oct 2

Date: Tue, 2 Oct 2018 19:00:10 -0400

Importance: Normal

Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Michael D. Shear, “F.B.I. to Complete Inquiry Wednesday with Vote Coming This Week,” [The New York Times](#)

“The F.B.I. is expected to complete its investigation into allegations of sexual assault against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh and deliver the results to the Senate as early as Wednesday, and Republican leaders said Tuesday that they expect to vote on the nomination this week.”

* * *

Justin Wise, “FBI Investigation into Kavanaugh May Conclude as Soon as Late Tuesday: Report,” [The Hill](#)

“The FBI’s investigation into sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh could conclude as soon as Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.”

* * *

Devlin Barrett et al., “White House Agrees to Expand Kavanaugh Probe Slightly as McConnell Signals Vote Is Imminent,” [The Washington Post](#)

“The White House has given the FBI permission to expand its probe of Brett M. Kavanaugh at least slightly, according to two people familiar with the matter, after facing a barrage of criticism over the weekend about the constricted investigation.”

* * *

Julia Ainsley and Geoff Bennett, “FBI Has No Current Plans to Interview Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, Source Says,” [NBC News](#)

“A source tells NBC News that the White House believes her testimony at last week’s Senate hearing is sufficient.”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “FBI Concludes Interview of Mark Judge,” [The Hill](#)

“The FBI has concluded its interview with Brett Kavanaugh’s friend Mark Judge as part of its investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against the Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Frank Thorp V, “How a Kavanaugh Senate Vote Could Play Out this Week,” [NBC News](#)

“For the Senate to hold a final vote on Kavanaugh’s nomination by the end of this week, the GOP leader would need to start a procedural process on the Senate floor within the next day or two.”

* * *

Elana Schor and Burgess Everett, “Grassley: FBI Report on Kavanaugh Likely Won’t Be Released,” [Politico](#)

“All senators, however, will have a chance to review it in a secure setting.”

* * *

Doina Chiacu, “Top Senate Democrat Wants FBI Briefing on Kavanaugh Probe Before Vote,” [Reuters](#)

“Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer on Tuesday called for the FBI to brief senators on its investigation of sexual misconduct allegations against Brett Kavanaugh at least 24 hours before a vote on the U.S. Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

John Bresnahan and Burgess Everett, “McConnell Tweaks Strategy for Kavanaugh Confirmation,” [Politico](#)

“As the FBI rushes to finish an investigation into sexual abuse allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is concentrating all his efforts on the ‘Gang of Three.’”

* * *

Clare Foran and Manu Raju, “Murkowski Plans to ‘Wait and See’ FBI Probe Before Deciding on Kavanaugh,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a key swing vote on Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, on Tuesday expressed confidence that the FBI is conducting a thorough investigation into allegations against the nominee and indicated that she plans to ‘wait and see’ what the review finds before making any judgment.”

* * *

Arlette Saenz and Daniella Diaz, “Flake Says His Kavanaugh Vote Depends on FBI Probe Results,” [CNN Politics](#)

“One of the key Republican senators undecided on whether to support Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is standing by his call to see the results of an FBI investigation before making a decision, despite Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s commitment to holding a vote this week.”

* * *

Scott Thistle, “Sen. Collins Calls for FBI to Investigate 3rd Woman’s Accusation in Broader Kavanaugh Probe,” [Press Herald](#)

“The Maine Republican says FBI investigators should start with the 4 witnesses named in Thursday’s hearing but pursue ‘appropriate’ leads.”

* * *

Kendall Karson, “Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse ‘Satisfied’ with FBI Investigation of Kavanaugh Allegation,” [ABC News](#)

“A top Democratic senator signaled Tuesday his satisfaction with the White House’s latest approach to the FBI background investigation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh that President Donald Trump approved last week.”

* * *

“FBI Dreads New Political Storm over Brett Kavanaugh Inquiry,” [CBS News](#)

“The FBI intends to meet its one-week deadline, even with the expanded scope of the inquiry, but it’s working under a lot of pressure. There’s dread at the FBI that this will be a political storm once again, reports CBS News correspondent Jeff Pegues. The agency is not commenting publicly, perhaps because it is a political minefield for them just as the Russia investigation has been.”

* * *

Rudy Mehrbani, “The White House Still Has No Idea How to Vet Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Arbitrary deadlines and external pressure are just the latest problems with a bad process.”

* * *

Kate Snow, “Kavanaugh Accuser Julie Swetnick Speaks Out on Sexual Abuse Allegations,” [NBC News](#)

“NBC News was unable to independently corroborate Swetnick’s claims and has not spoken with anyone who says they saw Swetnick at parties with Brett Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh has said he does not know Swetnick and has called her claims a farce. Swetnick provided NBC News with the names of four friends who she said went to the parties with her. One is deceased, while two others did not respond to requests for comment. A fourth told NBC News he didn’t remember Swetnick.”

* * *

Kevin Breuninger, “Kavanaugh Accuser Julie Swetnick Alleges He Was ‘Very Aggressive,’ But Her Latest Interview Raises New Questions,” [CNBC News](#)

“[P]arts of Swetnick’s account in the face-to-face interview appear to deviate from her affidavit.”

* * *

Jim Geraghty, “Swetnick Walks Back Her Initial Sworn Statement,” [National Review](#)

“Should we be mad that MSNBC interviewed Kavanaugh accuser Julie Swetnick and put her on camera, considering the implausibility of her claims? Or should we be pleasantly surprised that MSNBC pointed out all of the ways that her story doesn’t add up?”

* * *

John Wagner, “Avenatti Suggests His Presidential Ambitions a Factor in Whether FBI Will Interview His Client,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Michael Avenatti, the attorney for one of Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh’s accusers, suggested Tuesday that President Trump and Senate Republicans have refused to let her be interviewed by the FBI because they are fearful of Avenatti’s 2020 presidential ambitions.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Swetnick’s Ex-Boyfriend Claims She Threatened to Kill Their Unborn Child,” [National Review](#)

“Julie Swetnick’s former boyfriend Richard Vineccy told Fox News on Monday that she threatened to kill their unborn child after he discontinued their relationship.”

* * *

Aryssa Damron, “MSNBC Legal Analyst: Swetnick’s Allegation Against Kavanaugh Is ‘Not Credible’ and ‘Should Go Away,’” [The Washington Free Beacon](#)

“MSNBC legal analyst Cynthia Alksene, a former federal prosecutor who has been critical of Kavanaugh throughout his confirmation process, said she thinks the ‘not credible’ allegations made against him by Julie Swetnick ‘should go away.’”

* * *

Megan Keller, “GOP Senator Suggests Criminal Referral for Third Kavanaugh Accuser’s ‘Apparently False Affidavit,’” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) said Tuesday that one of the women accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct should be referred to the FBI and Department of Justice (DOJ) for sending what he said was a false affidavit.”

* * *

Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, and Carrie Dann, “Kavanaugh’s Testimony Is Starting to Look More and More Problematic,” [NBC News](#)

“Two reports last night — from NBC News [text messages] and the *New York Times* [ice throwing] — appear to contradict some of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee from last week.”

* * *

Heidi Przybyla and Leigh Ann Caldwell, “Text Messages Suggest Kavanaugh Wanted to Refute Accuser’s Claim Before It Became Public,” [NBC News](#)

“In the days leading up to a public allegation that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh exposed himself to a college classmate, the judge and his team were communicating behind the scenes with friends to refute the claim, according to text messages obtained by NBC News.”

* * *

Charles C.W. Cooke, “Another Shoddy ‘Perjury’ Claim,” [National Review](#)

“NBC [suggests](#) that Judge Kavanaugh may have lied in his Senate testimony when he said that he had not ‘discussed or heard discussion about the incident matching the description given by Ms. Ramirez to the *New*

Yorker’ before it was published on September 23. As usual, this allegation seems to be the product of some choice sophistry.”

* * *

Emily Bazelon and Ben Protess, “Kavanaugh Was Questioned by Police After Bar Fight in 1985,” [The New York Times](#)

“As an undergraduate student at Yale, Brett M. Kavanaugh was involved in an altercation at a local bar during which he was accused of throwing ice on another patron, according to a police report.”

* * *

Majlie de Puy Kamp and Maegan Vazquez, “Kavanaugh Friend Chris Dudley Was Arrested in 1985 Bar Incident, Police Report Shows,” [CNN Politics](#)

“A 1985 altercation in a Connecticut bar that allegedly involved Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh led to the arrest of one of his close friends at Yale, a copy of an unredacted police report on the incident provided to CNN Tuesday shows. In the New Haven, Connecticut, police department report, a man named Dom Cozzolino said Kavanaugh had thrown ice on him and Kavanaugh’s friend Chris Dudley had thrown a glass that hit him in the ear.”

* * *

Becket Adams, “New York Times’ Dud of a Kavanaugh Bombshell Co-Authored by Admitted Anti-Kavanaugh Partisan,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“As if the New York Times’ ‘bombshell’ report that Brett Kavanaugh allegedly threw ice at a bar patron during an altercation in 1985 wasn’t ridiculous enough already, it turns out one of the story’s authors is an outright anti-Kavanaugh partisan.”

* * *

Andrew Kugle, “Hirono: Kavanaugh Throwing Ice at Someone in College Is ‘Very Relevant,’ Reason FBI Must Investigate,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#)

“Sen. Maize Hirono (D., Hawaii) said on Tuesday that a story about Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh throwing ice at someone’s face while he was in college shows why the FBI must conduct an investigation into his behavior.”

* * *

Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “A New Front in the Kavanaugh Wars: Temperament and Honesty,” [The New York Times](#)

“Democratic efforts to highlight sexual assault charges that are more than 30 years old have been dismissed by supporters of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh as the dredgings of ancient history. But the judge’s response to those accusations has raised new issues that go to the core of who President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee is right now: his truthfulness, his partisanship and his temperament.”

* * *

Alan Fram, Eric Tucker, and Lisa Mascaro, “McConnell: Democrats Are Aiming ‘Mud and Muck’ at Kavanaugh,” [AP News](#)

“Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell accused Democrats on Tuesday of opening ‘the flood gates of mud and muck’ against Brett Kavanaugh as Republicans sought to portray efforts to derail the Supreme Court nominee over accusations of sexual assault in the 1980s as ‘the politics of personal destruction.’”

* * *

Richard Cowan and Lisa Lambert, “Key U.S. Senator Concerned About Kavanaugh’s ‘Partisan’ Tone,” [Reuters](#)

“As the FBI completed interviews with four people as part of its one-week investigation into the allegations against Kavanaugh, moderate Republican Senator Jeff Flake said he was worried about the conservative federal appeals court judge’s performance before the Senate Judiciary Committee last Thursday. ‘I was very troubled by the tone of the remarks. . . . The interaction with the members was sharp and partisan, and that concerns me,’ Flake said.”

* * *

Emily Tillet, “Hillary Clinton on Brett Kavanaugh: ‘There’s a Lot to Be Concerned About,’” [CBS News](#)

“Former Secretary of State and 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton says that Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s behavior during his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee into allegations of sexual assault was ‘quite out of bounds’ for a Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Justin Wise, “Schumer: ‘Kavanaugh’s Testimony Was Better Suited for Fox News than a Confirmation Hearing,’” [The Hill](#)

“Schumer said that type of testimony was in line with his ‘long history of working for the most partisan legal causes.’”

* * *

“Kavanaugh Is Unfit for Supreme Court,” [Bangor Daily News](#)

“Further review is not necessary to conclude that Kavanaugh is unfit for the Supreme Court. His performance before the Judiciary Committee last week confirmed that. Generally, we, like Collins, believe presidents have broad leeway in their appointments and initially we felt that Kavanaugh met this broad standard. No more.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “More Half-Truths in Brett Kavanaugh’s Denials?,” [The Washington Post](#)

“A new report from NBC is the latest to suggest inconsistencies and half-truths — if not outright false statements.”

* * *

John F. Harris, “Brett Kavanaugh Is Lying. So Are You.,” [Politico](#)

“Whether it’s 2018 or 1998, in American politics, truth is inseparable from politics.”

* * *

Jennifer Rubin, “Not Everyone Belongs on the Supreme Court,” [The Washington Post](#)

“His critics do not expect Kavanaugh, despite his religious education, to turn the other cheek and absorb attacks without response. However, he could have shown emotion without claiming he was the victim of a partisan plot, without nasty retorts to Democratic senators, without threats and without calling Democrats’ conduct an ‘embarrassment.’”

* * *

Monica Crowley, “The Supreme Hypocrisy of Democrats’ Kavanaugh Strategy,” [The Hill](#)

“Not only was [Ted] Kennedy never held accountable for his long reign of terror against women, he was continually re-elected, lionized as a leftist icon and granted a state funeral. The Left justifies endless scrutiny of Kavanaugh by arguing that a lifetime appointment requires it, but Kennedy and others enjoyed de facto lifetime appointments, both in office and out via enduring influence.”

* * *

David B. Rivkin Jr. and Kristi Remington, “Kavanaugh’s Foes Politicize the FBI,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“Their demands amount to a criminal probe. That would destroy the judicial confirmation process.”

* * *

Post Editorial Board, “Brett Kavanaugh’s ‘Job Interview’ — From Hell,” [New York Post](#)

“When was the last time you heard any Democrat mention Brett Kavanaugh’s adult behavior in the 31 years since he graduated from Yale?”

* * *

William McGurn, “Destroying Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“As malignant as were the campaigns against Supreme Court nominees Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas, even they didn’t face accusations as vile and unrelenting as the unsubstantiated charges against Brett Kavanaugh. Adding to the injustice is that the frenzy surrounding his nomination isn’t really about him. It’s about *Roe v. Wade*.”

* * *

Tamara Keith, “President Trump, Brett Kavanaugh and Beer,” [NPR](#)

“Drinking beer became such a theme in last week’s Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that *Saturday Night Live* spoofed Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s many references to drinking beer with his friends. But there are serious questions underlying all the focus on beer: whether Kavanaugh was fully forthcoming in his testimony and what his behavior was like when drunk.”

* * *

Alexandra DeSanctis, “Yale Classmates Try and Fail to Show that Kavanaugh Lied About Drinking,” [National Review](#)

“In the wake of Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee last Thursday, the media have doubled down on efforts to turn up evidence of untoward behavior in high school and college — as if doing so will bolster Christine Blasey Ford’s sexual-assault allegations against him. Abetting them in their quest over the weekend were two of Kavanaugh’s classmates from his time at Yale, both of whom asserted without evidence that Kavanaugh had lied about his drinking habits.”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Ex-Kavanaugh Classmates Claim He Did Not Drink Excessively,” [The Hill](#)

“The White House released the statements from Dan Murphy and Chris Dudley, Kavanaugh’s former suitemate and classmate respectively, countering a growing number of Kavanaugh’s old Yale University classmates who have publicly accused the judge of mischaracterizing his past drinking.”

* * *

The Editors, “The Perjury Farce,” [National Review](#)

“Taking advantage of the pause forced by Jeff Flake’s change of heart last week, opponents of Brett Kavanaugh have shifted their focus from the original charge of sexual assault to the allegation that he repeatedly perjured himself before the Senate Judiciary Committee. It’s certainly true that Kavan[a]ugh tried to minimize the least admirable aspects of his adolescence — understandably, given the withering fire he was under and the basic irrelevance of the matters under discussion — but there is no evidence he lied.”

* * *

Paul Sperry, “Renovation Records Undercut Ford’s Exit-Door Account,” [Real Clear Investigations](#)

“Real estate and other records undercut a key part of Christine Blasey Ford’s account of why she finally came forward with charges of attempted rape against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh after some 30 years.”

* * *

Carrie Severino, “Reviewing the Inconsistencies in Ford’s Testimony,” [National Review](#)

“The takeaway from Thursday’s Senate Judiciary Committee hearing is the striking number of inconsistencies and gaps that emerged from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony.”

* * *

Matthew Choi, “Kavanaugh Won’t Teach Harvard Law Class Next Year,” [Politico](#)

“Catherine Claypoole, associate dean and dean for academic and faculty affairs, told students in an email on Monday night that Kavanaugh had notified the school that he would not be able to teach his course, ‘The Supreme Court Since 2005,’ as scheduled next semester.”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Harvard Students File Complaints to Prevent Kavanaugh from Teaching at Law School,” [The Hill](#)

“Undergraduate students at Harvard University filed Title IX complaints against Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh this past week in an effort to prevent him from teaching any more classes at Harvard Law

School.”

* * *

Brian Schwartz, “Conservative Money Groups Pressure Red-State Senate Democrats to Support Brett Kavanaugh’s Confirmation to the Supreme Court,” [CNBC News](#)

“Heritage Action, a conservative policy advocacy organization, has unleashed its grassroots team in recent days to push vulnerable red-state Democratic senators to back Kavanaugh despite an FBI background probe into allegations of sexual misconduct while he was in high school and college. Republican strategists say the controversy over Kavanaugh has boosted the GOP base's enthusiasm ahead of the midterm elections.”

* * *

Aris Folley, “Graham: Trump Should Re-Nominate Kavanaugh If His Nomination Fails,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) on Monday said President Trump should re-nominate Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court if his nomination fails in the Senate in the wake of multiple sexual assault allegations brought against him.”

* * *

Greg Sargent, “Republicans Have a Strategy to Save Kavanaugh. It Exposes Trumpism at Its Worst.,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Graham argued that if Kavanaugh goes down, President Trump should renominate him, and push for another vote by barnstorming in states that Trump won. In other words, Trump should whip his voters into a rage over the profound injustice of such an outcome.”

* * *

John Wagner, “Trump Says It’s a ‘Very Scary Time’ for Young Men Who Can Be Falsely Accused of Bad Behavior,” [The Washington Post](#)

“‘It’s a very scary time for young men in America when you can be guilty of something you may not be guilty of,’ Trump told reporters as he departed the White House. ‘You could be somebody that was perfect your entire life, and somebody could accuse of something. . . . That’s one of the very bad things that’s taking place now.’”

* * *

Robert Donachie, “Republicans Face Loss of Congress If Kavanaugh Nomination Fails,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Both GOP and Democratic strategists believe that voters will punish Republicans if Kavanaugh is not confirmed, blaming them for having little to show for controlling the White House and both houses of Congress for nearly two years.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “POLL: Majority of Those Familiar with the Case Support Kavanaugh Confirmation,” [National Review](#)

“After hearing the testimony of Kavanaugh and Ford during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Thursday, 37 percent of the 1,330 surveyed, registered voters supported Kavanaugh’s confirmation. That figure rose to 57 percent after respondents were told that Ford’s story remains uncorroborated, according to a Harvard/CAPS Harris poll conducted over the weekend. . . . The proportion of respondents supporting Kavanaugh’s confirmation increased further, to 60 percent, in the hypothetical event that the allegations remain uncorroborated following the ongoing, one-week FBI probe ordered on Friday by President Trump at the behest of Republican leadership.”

* * *

Associated Press, “9 Charged in Kavanaugh Protest Outside Democratic Senator’s Office,” [Chicago Tribune](#)

“Police say nine women who refused to leave a West Virginia senator’s office during a protest over Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh have been charged with trespassing.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Feinstein Hits Back at GOP: I Didn’t Leak Ford Letter,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) is hitting back at GOP senators, insisting she and her staff did not leak a letter detailing the first assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Alex Swoyer, “Two Ethics Complaints Filed Against Judge Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Times](#)

“A Democratic activist has filed ethics complaints against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh at the federal circuit court where he currently sits, accusing him of perjury and engaging in conduct unbecoming of a judge during his Supreme Court confirmation battle.”

* * *

Al Weaver, “Pelosi Downplays Kavanaugh Impeachment: ‘That Would Not Be My Plan,’” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday she does not plan to impeach Judge Brett Kavanaugh if he is confirmed to the Supreme Court or if he remains at the Court of Appeals if House Democrats win back the House in the midterm elections.”

* * *

Gregory Korte, “Even If Kavanaugh Confirmed to Supreme Court, Fight over Sex Assault Allegations Unlikely to End,” [USA Today](#)

“The battle over Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court is unlikely to end with his confirmation vote.”

* * *

Tessa Berenson, “How This Brutal Confirmation Process Could Shape Brett Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court Justice,” [Time](#)

“Even if Brett Kavanaugh is confirmed as a Supreme Court justice, he will carry scars from the brutal process to get him there.”

* * *

Victor Davis Hanson, “Fallout from the Kavanaugh Hearings: A Permanent Cloud?,” [National Review](#)

“After the trial by fire, he could prove to be one of the most fearless, principled justices on the Court.”

* * *

Stephanie Mencimer, “John Roberts Has Tried to Keep the Supreme Court Above the Partisan Fray. Kavanaugh Could Undo All That.,” [Mother Jones](#)

“Confirming Kavanaugh would deal ‘a significant blow to the perceived legitimacy and integrity of the court.’”

* * *

David Whitley, “Commentary: If Applying Brett Kavanaugh Logic, Thurgood Marshall Unfit for Supreme Court,” [Orlando Sentinel](#)

“[S]omewhere in judicial heaven, Thurgood Marshall must be thankful he was born in 1908 and not 1968, and he didn’t live to see cynical politics forever stain his beloved U.S. Supreme Court.”

* * *

Ryan Bort, “Lindsey Graham . . . Why?,” [Rolling Stone](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s most ardent defender has logged on.”

* * *

Erik Wemple, “Tally: Kavanaugh Is Closing In on Clarence Thomas’ Nightly News Coverage Mark,” [The Washington Post](#)

“The nightly newscasts of the three major networks — NBC, CBS, ABC — clocked in with 397 minutes of coverage, a number that vastly outpaced any modern confirmation controversy . . . until Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh came along. As of last Friday evening, his nomination had secured 329 minutes, and that was before all the suspense over the extended FBI background check that has dominated the news since late last week.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Oct 1

Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2018 19:14:22 -0400

Importance: Normal

Jack Crowe, “American Bar Association Backs Kavanaugh Despite Previous Letter to the Contrary,” [National Review](#)

“The American Bar Association (ABA) has clarified its position regarding the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, explaining in a Friday letter that a previous letter urging the Senate to delay his confirmation had not been reviewed by the relevant committee prior to its release. ‘The Committee conducts non-partisan, non-ideological, and confidential peer review of federal judicial nominees. The ABA’s rating for Judge Kavanaugh is not affected by Mr. [Robert] Carlson’s letter,’ committee chairman Paul Mosley wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Natalie Andrews and Kristina Peterson, “Kavanaugh Fight in State of Uncertainty,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“The fight over Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh was in limbo Monday as Majority Leader Mitch McConnell planned a vote by week’s end but uncertainty lingered over whether the scope of a renewed FBI probe would be enough to convince wavering lawmakers to support the nominee.”

* * *

Dustin Volz, at al., “Scope of FBI’s Kavanaugh Probe Reignites Tensions,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“The one-week-at-most inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, brokered as a last-minute deal Friday between Republican Sen. Jeff Flake and Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, was intended to satisfy concerns that allegations against Judge Kavanaugh weren’t being fully vetted before the full Senate took up his nomination. But early signs that the FBI probe would be on a short leash inflamed Democratic criticism that President Trump and fellow Republicans weren’t out to explore fully the allegations, while the White House, Senate and FBI all appeared to shift responsibility for the scope of the probe elsewhere.”

* * *

Michael D. Shear and Robin Pogrebin, “Democrats Denounce Limits on F.B.I.’s Kavanaugh Inquiry as a ‘Farce,’” [New York Times](#)

“Senator Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat who is also on the committee, described what she said was micromanaging from the White House: ‘You can’t interview this person, you can’t look at this time period, you can only look at these people from one side of the street from when they were growing up.’ ‘I mean, come on,’ she said on CNN’s ‘State of the Union.’”

* * *

Jane Mayer and Ronan Farrow, “The Confusion Surrounding the F.B.I.’s Renewed Investigation of Brett Kavanaugh,” [The New Yorker](#)

“With a one-week deadline looming over the investigation, some who say they have information relevant to the F.B.I.’s probe are suspicious that the investigation will amount to what one of Kavanaugh’s former Yale classmates called a ‘whitewash.’”

* * *

Alex Swoyer, “Senate Democrats Request FBI Probe Three Separate Allegations Against Kavanaugh,” [Washington Times](#)

“Nine of the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee sent the letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray and White House Counsel Don McGahn, saying allegations by Christine Blasey Ford, Deborah Ramirez and Julie Swetnick must all be pursued to the fullest. . . . Sen. Chris Coons, Delaware Democrat, did not sign the letter with his colleagues. His office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.”

* * *

Kate Sullivan, “McConnell attacks credibility of Kavanaugh accuser Julie Swetnick,” [CNN](#)

“In a statement released Sunday, McConnell highlighted a lawsuit brought against Julie Swetnick 18 years ago by a company she briefly worked for at the time called WebTrends Corporation. The lawsuit was dismissed shortly after it was filed in late 2000, the court documents show. A passage from the complaint obtained by CNN reads, ‘Shortly after becoming employed with WebTrends, a co-worker reported to WebTrends’ human resources department that Swetnick had engaged in unwelcome, sexually offensive conduct. Rather than accept responsibility for her actions, Swetnick made false and retaliatory allegations that other co-workers had engaged in inappropriate conduct toward her.’”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “Trump wants ‘comprehensive’ but ‘quick’ FBI investigation on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“‘I think the FBI should do what they have to do to get to the answer,’ Trump told reporters during a press conference announcing a new trade deal with Mexico and Canada. ‘Now with that being said, I’d like it go quickly,’ he continued. ‘And the reason I’d like it to go quickly — very simple, so simple — because it’s unfair to (Kavanaugh) at this point.’”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Flake: Kavanaugh investigation ‘no good’ if it ‘just gives us more cover,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘We certainly want the FBI to do a real investigation and we are working to make sure that that happens,’ Flake said at the Forbes “30 under 30: summit, noting that he’s talking with colleagues and the White House counsel’s office.”

* * *

Manu Raju (CNN), on [Twitter](#)

“Susan Collins on whether she’s satisfied with scope of FBI investigation into Kavanaugh: ‘I am confident that the FBI will follow up on any leads that result from the interviews.’”

* * *

Dana Bash, et al., “Key GOP senators make clear to White House that they want ‘real’ investigation on Kavanaugh,” [CNN](#)

“Key Republican senators have called the White House over the past 24 hours to make clear that they expect a fulsome investigation as the FBI reviews allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, CNN has learned. Following questions about the scope and extent of the FBI investigation, a White House official also told CNN that the White House has made it clear to the FBI that agents are not limited in their expanded background search.”

* * *

Peter Baker and Michael S. Schmidt, “White House Tells F.B.I. to Interview Anyone Necessary for Kavanaugh Inquiry,” [New York Times](#)

“The White House has authorized the F.B.I. to expand its abbreviated investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh by interviewing anyone it deems necessary as long as the review is finished by the end of the week, two people briefed on the matter said on Monday.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Schumer: FBI Should Brief Senate Before Final Kavanaugh Vote,” [The Hill](#)

“Spokesmen for Schumer didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment about whether he was calling for a closed-door all-members briefing before a final vote.”

* * *

Chris Cillizza, “Why Brett Kavanaugh can feel ‘cautiously optimistic’ about the FBI investigation,” [CNN](#)

Josh Campbell (former FBI agent): “I say ‘cautiously optimistic’ because this investigation is not a deep dive into all of the recent serious allegations surrounding the judge’s past. As with all subjects of FBI investigation, there remains a presumption of innocence absent some enlightening revelation. So long as the White House keeps the FBI on a tight leash and limited only to a very narrow focus, the findings are likely to only result in a he-said/she-said involving Ms. Ford’s allegations of sexual assault.”

* * *

Burgess Everett, on [Twitter](#)

“McConnell on Kavanaugh: ‘We’ll be voting this week.’”

* * *

Anthony Salvanto, et al., “Brett Kavanaugh, Christine Blasey Ford hearing spurs more division - CBS News Poll,” [CBS News](#)

“The net shift in sentiment over the week has been toward opposition. Today 37 percent of Americans do not think the Senate should confirm (up from 30 percent opposed last week) and 35 percent think the Senate should confirm (up from 32 percent last week) as partisan sentiments have hardened. Democratic opposition has gone from 60 percent to 68 percent, and Republican support has gone from 69 percent to 75 percent. Independents are more closely divided and slightly more in favor of confirmation than opposed.”

* * *

Steven Shephard, “Poll: Kavanaugh opinion hardens along partisan lines,” [Politico](#)

“A new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll — conducted last Friday and Saturday, after the Thursday hearing — shows 40 percent of voters say he shouldn’t be confirmed to the high court. That’s compared to just 37 percent who want the Senate to confirm him. More than one-in-five voters, 23 percent, are undecided.”

* * *

Annie Karnie, “‘This is march or die’: Kavanaugh urged to hit back hard,” [Politico](#)

“Judge Brett Kavanaugh is being advised by allies to mount an aggressive and proactive campaign to win over the swing-vote senators who will determine whether he is confirmed to the Supreme Court, even as the FBI undertakes a weeklong investigation of sexual assault allegations against him. One White House official said Sunday that no new television appearances were currently planned for Kavanaugh, but that ‘anything to further his case will be done with senators and with the FBI’ and that the possibility of appearances later in the week had not been ruled out.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Feinstein’s ‘Temperament’ Gambit,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Mr. Kavanaugh is fighting for his professional life, has been accused of being a violent drunk and gang rapist, and he is supposed to respond like he’s at a Supreme Court oral argument on the separation of powers? Under this Feinstein-Biskupic standard, Democrats are allowed to say anything to ruin a nominee and then disqualify that nominee because he fights back rather than withdraws.”

* * *

Gerald F. Seib, “How Much Politics in a Supreme Court Justice?” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“[A]fter one of the most dramatic days of Senate testimony in recent times last week, the nomination now also is clouded by charges that Mr. Kavanaugh, in emotionally defending himself, showed that he is both too political in background, and lacking the kind of even-tempered demeanor expected of judges. The sexual-assault accusation is being sorted out—at least to some extent—by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Yet the other assertions are, in some ways, even harder to resolve, because they go to a broader question without a clear answer: What kind of person does the country want as a Supreme Court justice?”

* * *

Ariane de Vogue, “Outside counsel tells Republican senators ‘reasonable prosecutor’ would not bring Ford case against Kavanaugh,” [CNN](#)

“‘In the legal context, here is my bottom line: A “he said, she said” case is incredibly difficult to prove. But this case is even weaker than that,’ she wrote. ‘Dr. Ford identified other witnesses to the event, and those witnesses either refuted her allegations or failed to corroborate them. For the reasons discussed below, I do not think that a reasonable prosecutor would bring this case based on the evidence before the Committee. Nor do I believe that this evidence is sufficient to satisfy the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard.’”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Rachell Mitchell Explains Why She Wouldn’t Prosecute Kavanaugh in Memo to Senate Republicans,” [National Review](#)

“Rachell Mitchell, the Arizona prosecutor tapped by Senate Republicans to question Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, explained in a memo why she wouldn’t bring criminal charges against the Supreme Court nominee if she were examining the sexual assault allegations levied against him in her role as a prosecutor.”

* * *

Nicole Gaudiano, “Sens. Flake and Coons discuss drama that led to call for FBI probe: ‘It was quite a moment,’” [USA Today](#)

“In their first interview together since reaching that remarkable compromise, the two senators described on how they agreed on a limited, week-long FBI probe. Coons and Flake met in a tiny hallway outside the Senate meeting, and as other members of the committee got involved in the discussions, the two squeezed into ‘literally a phone booth that we can barely fit in’ to continue discussions with another senator, Coons said. ‘It was quite a moment,’ Flake said.”

* * *

Kate Sullivan, “Flake says if FBI investigation finds Kavanaugh lied, nomination is over,” [CNN](#)

“‘If Kavanaugh is shown to have lied to the committee, nomination’s over?’ Scott Pelley of CBS’s ‘60 Minutes’ asked Flake, an Arizona Republican, and Coons, a Delaware Democrat, who are friends. ‘Oh yes,’ Flake said, nodding. Coons added, ‘I would think so.’”

* * *

Carl Hulse, “How Jeff Flake May Have Saved Republicans From Themselves,” [New York Times](#)

“Provided the new investigation doesn’t turn up damaging information, the inquiry could ultimately make it easier for uncertain Republicans to back Judge Kavanaugh as soon as this week. It could also temper the perception that Republicans were much more interested in getting Judge Kavanaugh onto the court as quickly as they could rather than determining the validity of sexual misconduct accusations against him. ‘It is reassuring to the public,’ Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican and an ally of Mr. Flake, said in an interview. ‘It shows that Republicans want to make sure that we have all the facts to make an informed decision.’”

* * *

Griff Connolly, “Protesters Gather for Jeff Flake’s Speeches in Boston, New Hampshire,” [Roll Call](#)

“The Arizona Republican is scheduled to speak in Boston at the Forbes Under 30 Summit before heading to St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, for another speech. Hundreds of anti-Kavanaugh protesters are preparing to greet him at the events, The Boston Globe reported. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh will be among the protesters in Boston.”

* * *

Byron York, “In Kavanaugh Fight, Democrats Move Goalposts Far, Far Away,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“Ask any casual observer what the Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court confirmation fight is about, and the answer will be the allegation that at a high-school party 36 years ago, when Kavanaugh was 17, he drunkenly forced then-15-year-old Christine Ford onto a bed, tried to undress her, and, when she tried to scream, covered her mouth with his hand. That is now old news. In the last 48 hours, immediately after Senate Republicans and President Trump agreed to Democratic demands that the FBI investigate the 1982 incident, the Kavanaugh goalposts have moved dramatically. Now, a key issue is Kavanaugh’s teenage drinking, and whether he testified truthfully to Congress about the amount of beer he consumed in high school and college more than three decades ago, and the effect it had on him.”

* * *

“Chad Ludington’s Statement on Kavanaugh’s Drinking and Senate Testimony,” [New York Times](#)

“Chad Ludington, a Yale classmate of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh’s who said he often drank with him, issued a statement on Sunday saying the Supreme Court nominee was not truthful about his drinking in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week.”

* * *

Rich Lowry, “The ‘Kavanaugh Denied Excessive Drinking’ Canard,” [National Review](#)

“I think Kavanaugh could have had a more buttoned-up answer on his adolescent drinking, and he clearly tried to minimize it and change the subject when it came up (understandably, given the inquisitorial atmosphere). But he didn’t deny drinking or even drinking to excess.”

* * *

Nathan J. Robinson, “How We Know Kavanaugh Is Lying,” [Current Affairs](#)

“I want to show you, clearly and definitively, how Brett Kavanaugh has lied to you and lied to the Senate. I cannot prove that he committed sexual assault when he was 17, and I hesitate to draw conclusions about what happened for a few minutes in a house in Maryland in the summer of 1982. But I can prove quite easily that Kavanaugh’s teary-eyed ‘good, innocent man indignant at being wrongfully accused’ schtick was a facade. What may have looked like a strong defense was in fact a very, very weak and implausible one.”

* * *

Jonathan Chait, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Lies Are Catching Up With Him,” [New York Magazine](#)

“The issue of Kavanaugh’s lying is one his conservative defenders have only barely begun to acknowledge. It is probably the central weakness in his candidacy at the moment. Kavanaugh wrote his opening statement the night before his testimony. It was intended to rally his party with red-meat partisan rhetoric, and lead directly to a rapid vote in a flourish of tribalistic emotion. It was *not* intended to survive a week of close factual scrutiny by the media or potentially the FBI.”

* * *

Sahil Kapur and John McCormick, “Kavanaugh Battle Expands Historic Gender Gap Before Election,” [Bloomberg](#)

“The battle over Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination is driving a wedge deeper into an already wide political chasm between men and women, leading to what could be an unprecedented gender gap in the 2018 midterm election vote.”

* * *

Jay Cost, “In the Kavanaugh Hearings, Democrats Break Norms to Gain Power,” [National Review](#)

“In this case, norms are being cast aside left and right because the balance of authority of the Supreme Court is at stake in the Kavanaugh nomination. Put bluntly: *This is all about power*. Remember that when, after all this settles down, our media and political betters regain their composure and begin lecturing us once more about norms.”

* * *

Bob Bauer, “All The Rules Are Changing,” [The Atlantic](#)

“The Senate is abdicating its responsibilities, and the norms meant to undergird a Supreme Court appointment are falling apart.”

* * *

Jennifer Rubin, “Reckless Republicans aren’t giving any thought to tomorrow,” [Washington Post](#)

“Republicans cannot be *entirely* blind to the risk of post-confirmation discoveries. However, in their Scarlett O’Hara mind-set (‘Oh I can’t think about this now! I’ll go crazy if I do! I’ll think about it tomorrow’), they cannot bear to consider what happens the day after the midterms. Right now they can only consider short-term perils — huge humiliation if Kavanaugh fails, a lost opportunity to fill the seat before January (when a Democratic majority might conceivably take over) and a triumph for the members of the imaginary, vast left-wing conspiracy who they say whipped this whole thing up. (Again, in O’Hara’s words: ‘I can’t let him go. I can’t.’)”

* * *

Nial Ferguson, “Christine Blasey Ford’s memories aren’t enough,” [Boston Globe](#)

“Having watched Ford testify, I have little doubt that she believes the truth of what she said. But as an historian who has spent many long hours interviewing people about past events, including in some cases highly personal matters, I do not regard that as good enough to destroy the reputation of a distinguished judge.”

* * *

Sharyl Atkinson, “Kavanaugh case opens door to dangerous range of accusations,” [The Hill](#)

“It doesn’t matter where you stand on the Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court nomination. In the larger picture, our politicians have set a precedent that only promises to deliver much more tumult to our future political landscape: Any sexual-misconduct accuser must receive a congressional hearing upon demand, no matter when the allegation is raised, how long ago the alleged incident occurred, or whether it’s supported by evidence.”

* * *

Philip Klein, “Why It Could Be Brett Kavanaugh Or Bust For Republicans,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“If Democrats win the Senate, however, they would presumably seek revenge for Merrick Garland and hold the seat open through the rest of Trump’s first term. Therefore, Republicans would have to confirm a nominee during the ‘lame duck’ session between the Nov. 6th election and when the new Senate is sworn into office in early January. This, to me, would be a lot more difficult than it sounds.”

* * *

Kerry Pickett, “West Virginia Voters Pressure Manchin To Vote For Kavanaugh,” [The Daily Caller](#)

“At the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival parade in Milton on Sunday, the senator marched alongside voters who asked him one after the other if he planned on voting or urged him to vote for Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Burgess Everett, “ACLU Spending More Than \$1M To Oppose Kavanaugh,” [Politico](#)

“The American Civil Liberties Union is jumping into the Supreme Court ad wars, spending just over \$1 million to stop Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination this week. The ACLU is targeting mostly Republicans in a buy spread across four states: Deb Fischer of Nebraska, Cory Gardner of Colorado, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Dan Sullivan of Alaska. The campaign is also focusing on Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.”

* * *

Gregory Krieg, “ACLU TV ads compare Kavanaugh to Bill Clinton, Bill Cosby,” [CNN](#)

“In the first five seconds of the Colorado ad, which addresses GOP Sen. Cory Gardner, viewers will see images of mainstream media figures like Charlie Rose and Matt Lauer, who lost their jobs over alleged sexual misconduct, Harvey Weinstein, the film executive facing multiple sexual assault charges and former President Bill Clinton, on camera in 1998, denying ‘sexual relations’ with Monica Lewinsky. Bill Cosby follows, also denying the accusations against him, before Kavanaugh appears, doing the same on Capitol Hill during last week’s hearing.”

* * *

Emily Witt, “How the Kavanaugh Protests Reached the National Stage,” [The New Yorker](#)

“Activists have been roaming the halls of the Senate office buildings since August 1st, protesting against Brett Kavanaugh and seeking to confront senators with personal stories and questions about the nominee.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 30

Date: Sun, 30 Sep 2018 20:19:57 -0400

Importance: Normal

Alan M. Dershowitz, “This Is No Mere ‘Job Interview,’” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“Even in the court of public opinion, basic fairness should preclude conviction without clear evidence.”

* * *

Quint Forgy, “Senators Digging In for Last Stand in Kavanaugh Confirmation Fight,” [Politico](#)

“The parties are battling over the scope of a new FBI investigation that could have monumental consequences for the government.”

* * *

Mike DeBonis, “Administration Says White House Is Not Limiting FBI Probe of Kavanaugh But Is Against ‘Fishing Expedition,’” [The Washington Post](#)

“The White House has not placed any limits on the FBI investigation into claims of sexual assault leveled against Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh but is also opposed an open-ended ‘fishing expedition’ that could take a broader look at Kavanaugh’s credibility, two Trump administration officials said Sunday.”

* * *

Eli Watkins, Jeff Zeleny, and Josh Campbell, “FBI’s Kavanaugh Investigation Narrow in Scope,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Following the agreement for the FBI to investigate Kavanaugh, the focus has moved to how the probe will be handled, its ultimate findings and whether it will put to rest fears about a lack of due diligence over the nominee for the nation’s highest court.”

* * *

Randy Woods, “Key Democrats Question Scope of FBI Probe into Brett Kavanaugh,” [Bloomberg](#)

“Democrats on the House and Senate judiciary panels are questioning the scope of an FBI investigation into Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, saying a limited inquiry could taint his appointment and open the door for future probes.”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “White House Defends FBI Investigation into Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“The White House on Sunday sought to dispel Democratic criticism and media reports suggesting it is directing the FBI investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Supreme Court nominee Brett

Kavanaugh. White House officials also expressed confidence that the investigation would clear Kavanaugh's name, but maintained the FBI is managing the details of the probe."

* * *

Brett Samuels, "Trump: FBI Investigation into Kavanaugh Will 'Never Be Enough' for Democrats," [The Hill](#)

"Just starting to hear the Democrats, who are only thinking Obstruct and Delay, are starting to put out the word that the "time" and "scope" of FBI looking into Judge Kavanaugh and witnesses is not enough,' Trump wrote on Twitter."

* * *

Emily Rice, "Manchin: FBI Probe Will 'Put an End' to Kavanaugh Questions," [Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#)

"Manchin visited with hundreds of residents while walking through the street fair, answering questions about everything from health care to coal mines. But one question stood out, asked over and over again by people from all walks of life: How will the senator vote concerning Kavanaugh's appointment to the Supreme Court? Manchin assured each constituent that he would vote according to the facts found by the FBI investigation into Kavanaugh's accusers' claims."

* * *

Anne Gearan and Aaron Blake, "In West Virginia, Trump Turns Kavanaugh Nomination Fight into Partisan Rallying Cry," [The Washington Post](#)

"President Trump on Saturday night turned the fight over the nomination of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court into a midterm election rallying cry, denouncing 'the ruthless and outrageous tactics of the Democrat Party.'"

* * *

Michael Kunzelman, Michael Biesecker, and Marth Mendoza, "3rd Kavanaugh Accuser Has History of Legal Disputes," [AP News](#)

"Julie Swetnick, one of the women who has publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct, has an extensive history of involvement in legal disputes, including a lawsuit in which an ex-employer accused her of falsifying her college and work history on her job application."

* * *

Amy Gardner and Mike DeBonis, "Partisan Rage over Kavanaugh Allegations Erupts into Midterm Campaigns," [The Washington Post](#)

"The emotional battle over sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh burst into the midterm elections after a dramatic week of wrenching testimony and raw partisan rage on Capitol Hill, tossing an explosive and sensitive issue into the final weeks of the closely fought campaign for control of Congress."

* * *

Devan Cole, "Kellyanne Conway Says Support Remains High for Kavanaugh Amid Sexual Assault Allegations," [CNN Politics](#)

“Kellyanne Conway said Sunday that support for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh remains strong despite allegations of sexual assault and misconduct against him that have prompted the reopening of his FBI background check and a delay in his Senate confirmation vote.”

* * *

Osita Nwanevu, “With Brett Kavanaugh, as with Donald Trump, Conservatives Defend a Tainted Nominee,” [The New Yorker](#)

“On Thursday morning, Brett Kavanaugh was a dead man walking. At midday, he sat before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing a wreck. But that evening he left the hearing again a viable nominee. The Democrats, who seemed more interested in building the case for an F.B.I. investigation than landing finishing blows with their lines of questioning, left him mostly unscathed.”

* * *

Betsy Klein, “Trump Says Kavanaugh ‘Suffered, the Meanness, the Anger’ of the Democratic Party,” [CNN Politics](#)

“President Donald Trump praised his Supreme Court pick Brett Kavanaugh on Saturday night, tying a vote for the nominee to combating the Democratic party's tactics.”

* * *

Alex Seitz-Wald and Benjy Sarlin, “Predictions of a ‘Kavanaugh Wave’ in November. But for Democrats or GOP?,” [NBC News](#)

“The dramatic daylong testimony focused attention on the troubles facing Trump’s nominee and the possible political fallout.”

* * *

Jeremy W. Peters and Susan Chira, “Kavanaugh Borrows from Trump’s Playbook on White Male Anger,” [The New York Times](#)

“Tony Gardner, a 60-year-old retired pipe fitter from Robbinsdale, Minn., flipped on Fox News on Thursday to watch Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh indignantly defend himself against an accusation of sexual assault from decades ago. If anything, Mr. Gardner said, Judge Kavanaugh was ‘too timid’ in trying to refute the claims and fight back against senators examining his fitness for the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Devan Cole, “Klobuchar: I Was ‘Really Stunned’ by Kavanaugh’s Behavior at Hearing,” [CNN Politics](#)

“‘I was really stunned by how he acted at that hearing. This is basically a job interview for the highest court of the land,’ Klobuchar told CNN ‘State of the Union’ anchor Jake Tapper.”

* * *

David Sherfinski, “Dems Say Kavanaugh Should Recuse from Cases Involving Party: ‘He Revealed Himself as a Partisan,’” [The Washington Times](#)

“Democrats on Sunday said that if Judge Brett Kavanaugh is confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court, he should recuse himself from cases involving congressional Democrats because of his ‘partisan’ performance during last week’s Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.”

* * *

Quint Forgey, “Graham Defends Kavanaugh’s Testimony: ‘He Was Hit by a Truck,’” [Politico](#)

“Sen. Lindsey Graham on Sunday defended Brett Kavanaugh’s combative testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, which opponents of the federal judge have deemed unduly partisan and not befitting a Supreme Court justice. ‘The temperament I saw was a man who was innocent — who was rightly offended by being destroyed for a political purpose,’ Graham said during an interview on ABC’s ‘This Week,’ adding that Kavanaugh ‘was hit by a truck’ after several women emerged over the past month to accuse him of various episodes of sexual misconduct.”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Flake: Kavanaugh Initially Sounded Like Someone Who Had Been ‘Unjustly Accused,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘When I heard him, I heard someone who I hope I would sound like, if I had been unjustly accused,’ Flake told CBS’s ‘60 Minutes’ when asked about Kavanaugh’s judicial temperament.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Feinstein’s ‘Temperament’ Gambit,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“The intervention by American Bar Association President and Hillary Clinton supporter Robert Carlson against Brett Kavanaugh turns out to be even worse than we reported on Saturday. Now, exploiting the latest delay in a Senate confirmation vote, Democrats and liberals like Mr. Carlson are pressuring the ABA’s Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary to reopen its evaluation of Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Adam Edelman, “Graham Wants Another Investigation—Into How Democrats Handled Ford’s Accusations,” [NBC News](#)

“‘We’re going to do a wholesale and full-scale investigation of what I think was a despicable process,’ Graham, of South Carolina, said on ABC’s ‘This Week.’”

* * *

Emily Tillett, “Tom Cotton Claims Christine Blasey Ford Has Been ‘Victimized by Democrats,’” [CBS News](#)

“Arkansas Republican Sen. Tom Cotton claims that Christine Blasey Ford, who gave dramatic testimony alleging Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her, has been ‘victimized by Democrats’ on the Judiciary Committee, who he said have ‘turned the advise and consent process into a search and destroy mission.’”

* * *

Jacqueline Klimas, “Cotton: Feinstein to Be Investigated over Leaked Letter from Ford,” [Politico](#)

“Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s office will be investigated to determine if it leaked a confidential letter from one of Brett Kavanaugh’s accusers, Sen. Tom Cotton said Sunday.”

* * *

Michael Burke, “Nadler Raises Possibility of House Investigation of Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) on Sunday said the House would investigate Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh if he’s confirmed to the court and the Democrats take back the majority.”

* * *

Veronica Stracqualursi, “Senate Judiciary Committee Refers False Kavanaugh Allegation to FBI, DOJ for Criminal Investigation,” [CNN Politics](#)

“The Senate Judiciary Committee has referred an individual who made ‘materially false statements’ alleging misconduct by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh to the FBI and Justice Department for a criminal investigation.”

* * *

Alexandra Desantis, “Leland Keyser’s New Letter Tells Us Nothing New,” [National Review](#)

“Late last night, an attorney for Leland Keyser sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding Christine Blasey Ford’s sexual-assault allegation against Judge Brett Kavanaugh. In the letter, he reiterated Keyser’s initial statement, made under penalty of felony, in which she said she has never met Kavanaugh and has no recollection that the party Ford describes ever occurred.”

* * *

Jeffrey Cimmino, “USA Today Revises Column Which Argued Kavanaugh Should Stay Off Basketball Courts When Kids Are Around,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#)

“*USA Today* has revised a column which argued Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh should refrain from going on basketball courts when kids are around. The piece was widely criticized on social media.”

* * *

Andrew Chung, “Overshadowed by Kavanaugh Drama, New Supreme Court Term Looms,” [Reuters](#)

“The U.S. Supreme Court begins its new term on Monday in an awkward position, down one justice as the fierce fight unfolds in the Senate over confirmation of President Donald Trump’s nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to a lifetime job as a justice.”

* * *

Dave Itzkoff, “‘S.N.L.’ Has Matt Damon Play Brett Kavanaugh in Season Premiere,” [The New York Times](#)

“For its first opening sketch, ‘S.N.L.’ brought in Matt Damon to play Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh in a recreation of Thursday’s contentious testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 29

Date: Sat, 29 Sep 2018 17:38:13 -0400

Importance: Normal

Adam Goldman and Rebecca R. Ruiz, “How the F.B.I. Will Investigate the Kavanaugh Accusations,” [New York Times](#)

“The renewed F.B.I. background check of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh over allegations of sexual assault will be relatively limited, relying on voluntary interviews and document production. Former prosecutors said that because it is not a criminal investigation, F.B.I. agents will not be able to get search warrants or grand jury subpoenas compelling witnesses to testify or hand over documents. Witnesses and others can refuse to cooperate, though talking to an F.B.I. agent is often a powerful motivator to tell the truth.”

* * *

Julia Jacobo and Jack Date, “FBI background investigation into Kavanaugh is ‘uncharted territory,’ expert says,” [ABC News](#)

“Now, the FBI is likely ‘organizing their resources to ensure that every field office and every agent is available to conduct’ the investigation within a week, said ABC News contributor and former FBI Special Agent in Charge Steve Gomez.”

* * *

Quint Forgy, “Second Kavanaugh accuser cooperating in FBI probe,” [Politico](#)

“Deborah Ramirez, who earlier this week accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct during their time at Yale University in the 1980s, is cooperating with the FBI in its probe of the Supreme Court nominee, Ramirez’s lawyer said Saturday.”

* * *

Ken Dilanian, “White House limits scope of the FBI’s investigation into the allegations against Brett Kavanaugh,” [NBC News](#)

“The FBI has not been permitted to investigate the claims of Julie Swetnick, a White House official confirmed to NBC News.”

* * *

Josh Gerstein, “FBI probe could further wound Kavanaugh,” [Politico](#)

“A re-opened FBI probe into Brett Kavanaugh’s background and whether he engaged in sexual misconduct is a longshot to turn up definitive proof, but could still unearth damaging information about the embattled Supreme Court nominee or his accusers.”

* * *

Alex Leary and Sioban Hughes, “Expansion of FBI Probe Draws Focus on Kavanaugh’s High School Associates,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“The FBI investigation into the sexual-assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh could hinge on a calendar entry he wrote decades ago, and a small group of people at a house party where Christine Blasey Ford says she was attacked. The sudden turn of events Friday intensified the spotlight on Mark Judge, a Georgetown Preparatory School classmate of Judge Kavanaugh’s whom Dr. Ford says was in the room at the time of the alleged attack in the early 1980s outside Washington.”

* * *

Peter Maass and Akela Lacy, “Here Are 5 Questions the FBI Should Ask Mark Judge about Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Intercept](#)

“Judge has stated in two letters to the Senate committee that he does not recall an event of the sort that Ford has described, but that is hardly the end of the story, as far as the FBI should be concerned. Here are some of the questions the FBI should ask him.”

* * *

Ariane de Vogue, “Christine Blasey Ford’s friend is not refuting Ford’s allegation, will cooperate with FBI, lawyer says,” [CNN](#)

“Leland Ingham Keyser, a friend of the woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault when they were at a party in high school, does not refute the veracity of the allegation, although she does not remember the alleged incident, her lawyer said in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Rowan Scarborough, “Blasey Ford’s Best Friend To Tell FBI She Has No Knowledge Of Kavanaugh Or Party,” [Washington Times](#)

“Leland Keyser stood to be the perfect witness for Christine Blasey Ford by confirming critical events that would bolster her charges against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. But she wasn’t.”

* * *

Morgan Gstalter, “Kavanaugh 1982 calendar entry could be examined in FBI investigation,” [The Hill](#)

“The 1982 calendar that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee could be scrutinized by the FBI during its investigation into sexual assault allegations against him. A July 1, 1982 entry on Kavanaugh’s calendar could face key questions from the FBI as they look into Ford’s allegations, The Washington Post reported Friday.”

* * *

John McCormack, “Was Blasey Ford at a July 1, 1982 Party with Kavanaugh?” [The Weekly Standard](#)

“A Democratic senator draws scrutiny to the July 1 event, but the location doesn’t appear to match Ford’s description and a partygoer doesn’t recall her ever being there.”

* * *

Louis Casiano, “Maryland authorities say they’ll investigate Kavanaugh – if a victim files a complaint,” [Fox News](#)

“But Manger and McCarthy noted that prosecution was unlikely in Maryland because authorities would have to apply the law that existed at the time of the offense, not the law that exists now, Baltimore’s FOX 45 News reported. ‘For example, in 1982, assault and attempted rape were both misdemeanors and subject to a one-year statute of limitations,’ they wrote.”

* * *

Meg Kinnard, “Many women line up in support of Kavanaugh,” [AP News](#)

“As the Senate is divided on President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court pick, so too are women across the country. Female voices have echoed throughout the U.S. Senate this week demanding male senators justify their support for Brett Kavanaugh’s U.S. Supreme Court nomination despite an allegation of high school sexual assault. But other women have spent hours calling Senate offices in support of Kavanaugh, condemning what they saw as an anti-Republican ploy that’s damaged not only Kavanaugh’s reputation and livelihood but also his accuser’s.”

* * *

Matt Shuham, “In ‘Rare Exception,’ ACLU Opposes Kavanaugh Confirmation,” [Talking Points Memo](#)

“The ACLU doesn’t normally endorse or oppose individual candidates or nominees. It made a ‘rare exception’ Saturday, in its president’s words, announcing its opposition to Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation.”

* * *

Bret Stephens, “Believability Is the Road to National Ruin,” [New York Times](#)

“Bottom line, I came away from the hearings feeling no more confident than I had the day before of who was being truthful. It was high drama but it was also a wash. What happened Thursday should not prevent Kavanaugh’s confirmation. Senators are within their rights to vote against the nomination out of philosophical differences. But to vote on the basis of a belief in things unseen and unproved is a road to national ruin.”

* * *

John Bowden, “Poll shows split views on Kavanaugh, Ford after dramatic hearing,” [The Hill](#)

“According to the YouGov survey, 41 percent of Americans said that they ‘definitely’ or ‘probably’ believe the testimony of Ford, who has accused Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her at a house gathering when the two were in high school in the early 1980s. A slightly lower percentage of respondents, 35 percent, said that they ‘definitely’ or ‘probably’ believe Kavanaugh’s testimony, in which he vehemently denied the claims against himself while rebuking Democratic members of the Senate panel for not pushing for a hearing sooner.”

* * *

Mike McIntire, “At Times, Kavanaugh’s Defense Misleads or Veers Off Point,” [New York Times](#)

“The New York Times fact-checked his testimony, comparing his statements against the recollections of former classmates and acquaintances from his youth, as well as records from his time working in the administration of George W. Bush. The combative nominee was compelled to answer questions he clearly found embarrassing or

offensive. What emerges is the image of a skilled lawyer who, when pressed on difficult subjects, sometimes crafted responses that were misleading, disputed or off point.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “Here’s where Kavanaugh’s sworn testimony was misleading or wrong,” [Washington Post](#)

“Over the course of his testimony, though, Kavanaugh offered several answers to questions that stretched or misrepresented the truth. Here are those responses — and some for which he’s incorrectly been accused of having been untruthful — in chronological order.”

* * *

Burgess Everett, et al., “Scenes from Jeff Flake’s Supreme Court rebellion,” [Politico](#)

“The Arizona Republican’s head-snapping moves Friday left Washington in shock and Brett Kavanaugh in renewed jeopardy.”

* * *

McKay Coppins, “Jeff Flake Explains Himself,” [The Atlantic](#)

“And then there was [Democratic Senator] Chris Coons making an impassioned plea for a one-week extension to have an FBI investigation. And you know, if it was anybody else I wouldn’t have taken it as seriously. But I know Chris. We’ve traveled together a lot. We’ve sat down with Robert Mugabe. We’ve been chased by elephants, literally, in Mozambique. We trust each other. And I thought, if we could actually get something like what he was asking for—an investigation limited in time, limited in scope—we could maybe bring a little unity.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Another Kavanaugh Flakeout,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Democrats must be secretly delighted, not that they’ll admit it. A couple of GOP Senators fell on Friday for their ruse of seeking an FBI investigation of an assault accusation against Brett Kavanaugh, and now this Supreme Court nomination ordeal will continue for at least another week. Who knows what new dirt against the judge they can throw on the Senate wall?”

* * *

Andrew C. McCarthy, “Republicans Should Not Have Delayed the Kavanaugh Vote,” [National Review](#)

“[T]he only plan Republicans seem to have had was not to offend anyone by asking questions that were, you know, about the subject matter of the hearing that the whole country was watching. A witness can seem awfully credible if she’s not asked about the incredible aspects of her story. And — *voila!*— the Democrats have their next delay and can proclaim that Senate Republicans found the allegations so credible that President Trump had to call in the FBI to investigate. Nice job.”

* * *

Mary Clare Jalonick and Thomas Beaumont, “How Sen. Flake brought the Senate back from the brink,” [AP News](#)

“The tension in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing room was almost unbearable in the hours and minutes before Sen. Jeff Flake announced that he wanted a limited FBI investigation of the sexual assault claims against

Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. The committee, and the Senate, seemed to be careening toward bedlam.”

* * *

Alexandra DeSanctis, “The Democrats Have Always Wanted to Destroy Kavanaugh,” [National Review](#)

“Unfortunately for Flake, Senate Democrats are never going to accept anything short of tarnishing Kavanaugh’s name forever and blocking him from the Supreme Court. That was obviously the case long before there was any whiff of allegations against him, and it will remain true regardless of what the FBI does or doesn’t turn up.”

* * *

Eli Rosenberg, “Anthony Kennedy’s response to the bitter fight over his Supreme Court seat? No comment.” [Washington Post](#)

“Kennedy spoke to the students and judges at the federal courthouse during a Constitution Day event Friday in the state’s capital, his hometown, but declined to comment on the embattled nominee, Brett M. Kavanaugh, who was chosen by President Trump to replace him. . . . ‘No, we’ve decided carefully not to comment,’ Kennedy said, according to the Sacramento Bee, while touring a library at the courthouse that was named after him.”

* * *

Jonah Goldberg, “The Moral-Panic Phase,” [National Review](#)

“[O]n Thursday, nearly every conservative and Republican was respectful towards Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, finding her testimony moving and credible. But when Brett Kavanaugh spoke, also movingly and credibly, the instantaneous response from much of the liberal and Democratic chorus was ‘Ermahgod! Raaaaapist!’ or ‘How dare he be angry!’ or ‘You can’t have a partisan madman like this on the Court!’”

* * *

Roger Cohen, “An Injudicious Man, Unfit for the Supreme Court,” [New York Times](#)

“This was a job interview, not a criminal trial. Kavanaugh, in his fury and pathos, failed the test.”

* * *

Frank Bruni, “Brett Kavanaugh Loves His Beer,” [New York Times](#)

“The Supreme Court nominee paired a frothy beverage with identity politics.”

* * *

Mark Sherman and Jessica Gresko, “Nominee’s attack on Democrats poses risk to Supreme Court,” [AP News](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s angry denunciation of Senate Democrats at his confirmation hearing could reinforce views of the Supreme Court as a political institution at a time of stark partisan division and when the court already is sharply split between liberals and conservatives.”

* * *

Judith Donath, “The Secret to Brett Kavanaugh’s Specific Appeal,” [The Atlantic](#)

“The nominee’s transgressions, far from marking him as unfit, signal to his supporters that he is trustworthy—he is one of them.”

* * *

Jonathan D. Salant, “Cory Booker said Kavanaugh supporters are ‘complicit in evil.’ He regrets that now.” [NJ.com](#)

“‘I’ve been exuberant in my beliefs and I’ve learned lot through this process,’ Booker said when it was his turn to speak during Friday’s Senate Judiciary Committee meeting to consider Kavanaugh’s nomination. ‘Some of my comments have been referenced numerous times and I know that I have not been as precise and allowed my comments to be mischaracterized.’”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Call for FBI probe draws attention to association’s past Kavanaugh concerns,” [The Hill](#)

“The American Bar Association’s (ABA) statement this week during a crucial point in Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination is drawing attention to another time the group weighed in late in his judicial confirmation process.”

* * *

Elizabeth Bernstein, “The Complex Reasons Sexual Assaults Go Unreported,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Victims often fear they won’t be believed, or will be blamed themselves, says a psychologist who has long studied the issue.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 28

Date: Fri, 28 Sep 2018 19:28:30 -0400

Importance: Normal

Laura Litvan et al., “Trump Orders Kavanaugh FBI Probe After Senate Delays Confirmation Vote,” [Bloomberg](#)

“President Donald Trump ordered an FBI investigation into sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh after a request by Senate Republicans, a new roadblock for a nominee the GOP had hoped to muscle through the chamber within days.”

* * *

Eric Bradner et al., “Republicans Agree to FBI Probe into Kavanaugh, Senate Vote Delay,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation was suddenly thrown into doubt Friday as Senate Republicans called for a one-week delay so that the FBI can investigate sexual assault allegations facing President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Tucker Higgins, “Three Key Senators Call for FBI Probe of Kavanaugh Allegations as Panel Advances Nomination,” [CNBC](#)

“Republican Sens. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as well as West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin, said that they supported delaying a floor vote in order to allow the FBI to conduct a weeklong investigation.”

* * *

Dan Manga and Kevin Breuniger, “Kavanaugh Friend Mark Judge: ‘I Will Cooperate’ with FBI Probe of Sex Assault Claims,” [CNBC](#)

“A lawyer for Mark Judge, the high school buddy of embattled Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, told CNBC that Judge ‘will answer any and all questions posed to him’ by the FBI about serious sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Jim Geraghty, “A Week’s Delay and a Supplemental Investigation Changes . . . What?,” [National Review](#)

“Flake no doubt believes he’s doing the right thing, that he’s helping restore a bipartisan consensus and faith in the confirmation process, and that he’s helping Kavanaugh resolve the accusations that have been thrown at him. We will see. Many on the right suspect that Democrats are not acting in good faith, and that in the coming days, we will see more implausible, evidence-free accusations such as that of Michael Avenatti’s client, more *Da Vinci Code*–level interpretations of Kavanaugh’s high-school yearbook, and more Democratic lawmakers making furious denunciations of the nominee as not merely a judge they disagree with but a dangerous menace to society.”

* * *

Marjorie Miller and Jocelyn Noveck, “1 Hearing, 2 Witnesses, Vastly Different Takeaways,” [AP News](#)

“It was one hearing, with just two witnesses. But, in an era of political polarization and yawning cultural divides, Americans came away having heard very different things.”

* * *

Robert Barnes, Seung Min Kim, and Elise Viebeck, “Charges and Denials Fuel an Emotional Hearing as Kavanaugh Nomination Hangs in the Balance,” [The Washington Post](#)

“The most consequential Supreme Court opening in a generation gave rise to the most bitter Senate hearing in memory Thursday, as California professor Christine Blasey Ford accused Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when both were teenagers and Kavanaugh angrily assailed Democrats for pushing what he said were false charges to ‘blow me up and take me down.’”

* * *

Ashley Parker, Josh Dawsey, and Philip Rucker, “For Trump and White House, Kavanaugh Hearing Was a Suspenseful Drama in Two Acts,” [The Washington Post](#)

“From the vantage point of President Trump and the White House, the fate of Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh unspooled Thursday like a play in two acts.”

* * *

Julie Hirschfeld Davis, “With Caffeine and Determination, Christine Blasey Ford Relives Her Trauma,” [The New York Times](#)

“She was terrified. She did not want to be there. She was badly in need of caffeine.”

* * *

Ginger Gibson and Julia Harte, “In #MeToo Era, Ford Lauded on Left and Right as Honest and Brave,” [Reuters](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford began her testimony in front of a Senate committee by saying she was ‘terrified,’ and at times she looked it.”

* * *

Brian Bennett, “White House Says Brett Kavanaugh’s Testimony Was ‘Nothing Short of Spectacular,’” [Time](#)

“White House officials and allies to President Donald Trump were bolstered by Brett Kavanaugh’s defiant and at times angry opening statement Thursday afternoon. ‘I thought it was nothing short of spectacular — powerful,’ White House spokesman Raj Shah told TIME in a telephone interview during a break in the hearing.”

* * *

Paul Kane, “Silent No More, Senate’s Angry Republican Men Roar to Kavanaugh’s Defense,” [The Washington Post](#)

“For almost seven hours Republicans sat silent, allowing an outside counsel to ask questions out of fear that they would look angry and insensitive toward a woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexual assault decades ago. Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) changed all that late Thursday afternoon. Waving his arms and pointing fingers at Democrats, Graham accused them of a character assassination of Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Cheyenne Haslett, “5 Key Takeaways from the Ford-Kavanaugh Hearing,” [ABC News](#)

“Ten days after the allegations that rocked Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s path to confirmation first arose, Christine Blasey Ford came before the Senate Judiciary Committee — and the country — for a day filled with emotional testimony, first from her, and then from the man she’s accused of sexually assaulting her more than three decades ago when they were both in high school.”

* * *

Jordain Carney and Emily Birnbaum, “Five Takeaways on Kavanaugh and Ford’s Testimony,” [The Hill](#)

“Ford’s testimony was so powerful and so good, commentators said Kavanaugh really needed to deliver. He did with a forceful denial notable for its passion and indignation.”

* * *

Marc Fisher, “Behind Kavanaugh Fight, a National Struggle over Trust, Identity and Sex Roles,” [The Washington Post](#)

“The subject was supposed to be the selection of a new justice on the Supreme Court. Instead Thursday’s showdown on Capitol Hill was a raw, scorched-earth confrontation across the nation’s most emotionally wrenching divides. This was men against women, right against left, a cascade of recriminations, explosions of anger, hours of tears and sobs.”

* * *

Dan Balz, “A Day of Explosive Testimony Results in a Partisan Brawl,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Whatever anyone intended, Thursday’s hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee devolved into the worst of Washington. It was a partisan brawl on steroids that will leave the country more deeply divided than before. It ended as many had feared it would, a she-said, he-said moment that left senators with no easy out on the question of whether to confirm Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Trump Not Considering Other Supreme Court Nominees,” [The Hill](#)

“President Trump declared Tuesday he is not considering replacements for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh as sexual misconduct allegations continue to throw his confirmation process into tumult. When asked by reporters in the Oval Office Friday if Trump had considered a replacement, he replied, “Not even a little bit.””

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “Corker Announces Support for Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) announced Thursday that he will vote for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, after the judge testified in response to allegations of sexual assault.”

* * *

S.A. Miller, “Dem Sens. Donnelly, Tester Announce ‘No’ Vote on Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Times](#)

“Two red-state Democratic senators in tough re-election battles announced Friday they will vote against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, putting them on record opposing President Trump on a major issue just weeks before Election Day.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Jones to Vote Against Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Red-state Democratic Sen. Doug Jones (Ala.) announced Thursday night that he will oppose Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination.”

* * *

Morgan Gstalter, “Bill Nelson to Vote ‘No’ on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) on Friday announced he would vote against Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Paul Bedard, “Kavanaugh Vote Hangs Over West Virginia’s Manchin,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Just a day before President Trump makes his record seventh trip to West Virginia, a new poll shows big support to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court next week, and pressure on Sen. Joe Manchin to back him. The survey showed that 58 percent of West Virginia voters want Kavanaugh confirmed. Just 28 percent said no.”

* * *

Susan Chira, “As Senator Collins Weighs Vote, Maine Women Size Up Blasey and Kavanaugh,” [The New York Times](#)

“By the end of Thursday’s testimony, the women gathered in a co-working office space in downtown Bangor were about evenly divided on whether Senator Collins should vote yes or no on Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination. Whatever the senator decides will be crucial: She is one of a handful of Republicans whose vote on Judge Kavanaugh is an open question and will determine his fate.”

* * *

Kevin Breuninger, “Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein Attacks Brett Kavanaugh’s Temperament After His ‘Belligerent’ Testimony,” [CNBC](#)

“A day later, Sen. Dianne Feinstein rips into Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s testimony, which she describes as ‘aggressive and belligerent.’”

* * *

Austin Ramzy and Christine Hauser, “American Bar Association and Yale Law School Urge F.B.I. Inquiry into Kavanaugh,” [The New York Times](#)

“The American Bar Association called Thursday evening for postponing a vote on Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court until sexual assault and misconduct allegations made by Christine Blasey Ford and others are investigated by the F.B.I. The dean of Yale Law School, Judge Kavanaugh’s alma mater, echoed the A.B.A.’s call.”

* * *

Avi Selk, “The American Bar Association Had Concerns About Kavanaugh 12 Years Ago. Republicans Dismissed Those, Too.,” [The Washington Post](#)

“History repeated itself. At least it had a spell of deja vu when the American Bar Association released an extraordinary statement at a crucial moment that raised concerns about Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh’s nomination to a powerful judicial position — just as it had done 12 years earlier.”

* * *

“The Latest: Bush Advocating for Kavanaugh with Senators,” [Tampa Bay Times](#)

“Former President George W. Bush has been advocating for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh with wavering senators in recent days.”

* * *

Christal Hayes, “Religious Magazine Rescinds Endorsement of Brett Kavanaugh After Sexual Assault Testimony,” [USA Today](#)

“A religious magazine rescinded its endorsement of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh Thursday after hearing emotional testimony from a woman accusing him of sexual assault.”

* * *

Brooke Singman, “Kavanaugh Threatened Anew with Impeachment as Supreme Court Vote Nears,” [Fox News](#)

“Democrats renewed threats to impeach Judge Brett Kavanaugh should he be confirmed to the high court, as Republicans moved forward with a series of votes heading into the weekend.”

* * *

Janie Velencia and Dhrumil Mehta, “Do Republican Women Support Kavanaugh?,” [FiveThirtyEight](#)

“[E]arlier this week, a Politico/Morning Consult poll conducted before Thursday’s hearing reported an 18-point drop in net approval among Republican women.”

* * *

Dan Morse and Erin Cox, “Why Maryland Police Aren’t Investigating the Kavanaugh Allegations,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) has called for a ‘full investigation’ into allegations that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted Christine Blasey Ford 36 years ago, when both were teenagers. But neither Maryland State Police, who report to Hogan, nor police in Montgomery County, the Washington suburb where the assault allegedly occurred, are likely to launch such a probe.”

* * *

Ronan Farrow and Jane Mayer, “E-mails Show that Republican Senate Staff Stymied a Kavanaugh Accuser’s Effort to Give Testimony,” [The New Yorker](#)

“On Wednesday, several conservative-media outlets published leaks of some of the e-mail correspondence between Ramirez’s team and Republican committee staffers, which appeared to back up Grassley’s characterization. But a fuller copy of the e-mail correspondence between Ramirez’s legal team and Republican and Democratic Senate staffers shows that a Republican aide declined to proceed with telephone calls and instead repeatedly demanded that Ramirez produce additional evidence in written form. Only then could any conversation about her testimony proceed. The exchange culminated in a breakdown of communication between the two sides, as Republican and Democratic staffers traded accusations of stonewalling.”

* * *

Max Greenwood, “DNC Chair: Kavanaugh Hearing ‘Vivid Illustration of Why’ Dems Need to Retake the Senate,” [The Hill](#)

“Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Tom Perez pointed to the partisan brawl at a Senate hearing over Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh as evidence for why voters should elect Democrats to the Senate in November.”

* * *

Elaina Plott, “Senate Republicans Are More Emboldened than Ever to Confirm Kavanaugh,” [The Atlantic](#)

“The mood in GOP circles was glum during Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony. But by Thursday’s end, lawmakers were confident enough to quickly schedule a vote.”

* * *

Jonathan V. Last, “Six Takeaways from the Ford-Kavanaugh Hearings,” [The Weekly Standard](#)

“The hearings were a credibility contest, a Rorschach test, and as such, served mostly to reinforce people’s priors. But no impartial observer could emerge from Thursday with total certainty that one of the parties was representing the perfectly-true course of events.”

* * *

Marc A. Thiessen, “Brett Kavanaugh Fights Back,” [The Washington Post](#)

“As the father of two daughters, I want them to live in a world where they are treated with respect and never experience sexual abuse — and if they ever do, they are taken seriously. As the father of two sons, I want them to live in a world where their lives and reputations cannot be destroyed by allegations without corroboration. Thursday’s hearing did not add an iota of corroboration to Christine Blasey Ford’s allegations against Brett M. Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Victor Davis Hanson, “Kavanaugh’s Testimony Was His Joseph N. Welch Moment,” [National Review](#)

“Just when pundits were declaring Kavanaugh’s obituary, he appeared resolute, fiery, and presented an outraged denial that essentially put the entire Democratic effort at destroying him on trial.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “Here’s Where Kavanaugh’s Sworn Testimony Was Misleading or Wrong,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Over the course of his testimony, . . . Kavanaugh offered several answers to questions that stretched or misrepresented the truth.”

* * *

Chris Mills Rodrigo, “Kavanaugh Incorrectly Claims He Could Legally Drink as a High School Senior,” [The Hill](#)

“Throughout his nomination process for the Supreme Court Brett Kavanaugh has frequently said that he could legally drink beer during his senior year at Georgetown Prep in Maryland. However, the state’s drinking age was raised to 21 at the end of his junior year when he was still 17, meaning that it was actually never legal for him while in high school, according to an Associated Press report.”

* * *

John W. Schoen, “Why Popular Opinion Doesn’t Count in the Senate’s Kavanaugh Confirmation Vote,” [CNBC](#)

“[W]hen it comes to matters before the Senate, popular opinion doesn’t count. By design, the founders gave states with small populations the same weight as big states in the deliberative body. Proportional representation was left to the House.”

* * *

Deanna Paul, “Unlike Kavanaugh, Christine Blasey Ford Was a Prosecutor’s Dream Witness,” [The Washington Post](#)

“No trial lawyer wants to call a defiant or dispassionate witness to the stand, much like U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh came across as he faced the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. But Christine Blasey Ford was a prosecutor’s dream witness.”

* * *

Emily Jashinsky, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Testimony Leaves Senators with a Clear Choice,” [The Federalist](#)

“Although she stumbled at times, Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony before the Senate on Thursday probably marked a net benefit for her cause. But Brett Kavanaugh’s testimony boosted his own cause by leaps and bounds.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Lindsey Graham Says Stop,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“The GOP Senator calls out Democrats for their ‘despicable’ tactics.”

* * *

David French, “After Kavanaugh’s Stand, Republicans Abandon Him at Their Peril,” [National Review](#)

“[E]ven when you express your anger, it must be expressed with reason, and in a hearing that reason has to be laden with evidence. That’s what Kavanaugh did. He countered Ford’s accusation with his own denial, but he went well beyond he said/she said. He constantly reminded the committee that Dr. Ford’s named witnesses could not place him at the party. He went through calendars showing that it was improbable that he would have been at the party that Dr. Ford described. He showed time and again that there was no corroborating evidence supporting Dr. Ford’s allegations. This was powerful. This was true.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Why Brett Kavanaugh Wasn’t Believable,” [The New York Times](#)

“What a study in contrasts: Where Christine Blasey Ford was calm and dignified, Brett Kavanaugh was volatile and belligerent; where she was eager to respond fully to every questioner, and kept worrying whether she was being ‘helpful’ enough, he was openly contemptuous of several senators; most important, where she was credible and unshakable at every point in her testimony, he was at some points evasive, and some of his answers strained credulity.”

* * *

Rich Lowry, “Brett Kavanaugh *Should* Be Angry,” [National Review](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh may have saved his Supreme Court confirmation with one of the most memorable statements in modern congressional history.”

* * *

Victor Davis Hanson, “Empathy, Accuracy, and Credibility,” [National Review](#)

“It is considered taboo even to suggest that an emphatic Professor Ford at times was inexact and inconsistent in her prior written and current Senate testimonies. But the result of her sometimes-moving account still remains that she seems to have little recollection of how her still-private therapist’s notes or versions of notes ended up in the hands of the *Washington Post* and were to be used as corroborating evidence — even though they at times seem to have contradicted elements of versions of her allegations.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 27

Date: Thu, 27 Sep 2018 21:32:32 -0400

Importance: Normal

The Editorial Board, “Confirm Brett Kavanaugh,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Thursday’s Senate hearing on Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination was an embarrassment that should have never happened. Judge Kavanaugh was right to call the confirmation process a ‘disgrace’ in his passionate self-defense, and whatever one thinks of Christine Blasey Ford’s assault accusation, she offered no corroboration or new supporting evidence.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “The Senate can’t vote on Kavanaugh now,” [Washington Post](#)

“Predictably, and as a practical matter, [the hearing] left the Judiciary Committee, the powerful emotions of the day notwithstanding, in about the same place it started. Ms. Ford presented a credible accusation of sexual misconduct from their teenage years. Mr. Kavanaugh offered a forceful denial. The logical next step would be to take the time to see if an investigation can bolster either contention. Yet Republicans on the committee seemed more aggrieved by the Democrats’ delay in forwarding Ms. Ford’s allegation than interested in getting to the bottom of it.”

* * *

Eric Bradner and MJ Lee, “Brett Kavanaugh declares innocence as hearing turns into partisan brawl,” [CNN](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford told senators she was ‘100%’ certain Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh called the claim part of a ‘calculated and orchestrated political hit’ designed to keep him off the Supreme Court. And an extraordinary Senate Judiciary Committee turned into a bitter, partisan brawl on national television late Thursday afternoon.”

* * *

Rebecca Morin and Nolan D. McCaskill, “‘You’ll never get me to quit’: Key moments from Brett Kavanaugh’s testimony,” [Politico](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is trying to end what he calls a ‘smear’ campaign, while Christine Blasey Ford says it’s her civic duty to share her account of the decades-old sexual assault that she says has ‘haunted’ her as an adult.”

* * *

Chris Cillizza, “9 takeaways from the Brett Kavanaugh-Christine Blasey Ford hearings,” [CNN](#)

“[S]everal moments and themes have already stood out. Below you’ll find a contemporaneous set of takeaways that I think are worth taking note of as I watch the hearings live. Again, these takeaways are in the order of the actual hearing.”

* * *

Olivia Paschal and Madeleine Carlisle, “The 16 Most Striking Moments From the Kavanaugh Hearing,” [The Atlantic](#)

“In a historic hearing, the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned Christine Blasey Ford about her sexual-assault allegation against the Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Valerie Bauerlein, et al., “Senate, Nation Transfixed by Ford’s and Kavanaugh’s Testimony,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Across the country, Americans stopped their routines to watch the hearing.”

* * *

Robert Barnes and Seung Min Kim, “In emotional testimony, Ford says she is ‘100 percent’ certain that Kavanaugh assaulted her,” [Washington Post](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford emotionally recounted for a rapt Senate committee Thursday her memory of Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh sexually assaulting her at a summer gathering of teenagers in 1982. The details of Ford’s account are by now familiar, but her nationally televised testimony — and her vehement denial that she could be confused about Kavanaugh’s identity — rocked a hearing that will determine Kavanaugh’s ambition to join the Supreme Court.”

* * *

“How Americans Across the Country Are Reacting to Christine Blasey Ford’s Testimony,” [New York Times](#)

“Across the country, Americans tuned their televisions Thursday to the live footage of two lives, and two stories, brought together in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.”

* * *

Laura Barron-Cohen, “Undecided Senate Democrats Say Christine Blasey Ford’s Testimony Is ‘Credible,’” [Washington Examiner](#)

“Democratic Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana and John Tester of Montana said Ford’s testimony was credible Thursday when asked by reporters a few hours into the hearing. Donnelly and Tester are both in tough re-election races in states that went for President Trump in 2016. The two have yet to indicate how they plan to vote on Kavanaugh’s nomination.”

* * *

Alex Pappas, “Visibly angry Kavanaugh denies assault allegations, says process has ‘become a national disgrace,’” [Fox News](#)

“A visibly angry Brett Kavanaugh adamantly denied the accusations that he sexually assaulted Christine Blasey Ford, telling senators Thursday his name has been ‘totally and permanently destroyed by vicious and false additional accusations’ while blasting the process as a ‘national disgrace’ and a ‘circus.’”

* * *

Seung Min Kim, et al., “Kavanaugh hearing: Supreme Court nominee calls confirmation process ‘national disgrace,’” [Washington Post](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh angrily denied allegations of sexual misconduct and called his confirmation process a ‘national disgrace’ during testimony before a Senate committee Thursday.”

* * *

Ledyard King, “In fight of his political life, Brett Kavanaugh goes off-script and gets emotional,” [USA Today](#)

“Defiant and emotional, Brett Kavanaugh shed the demeanor of a federal judge and assumed the pose of a street boxer fighting for his reputation and his one shot at a seat on the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Kevin Whitelaw, “Kavanaugh’s Sharp Criticism of Democrats Is Unusual for a Nominee,” [Bloomberg](#)

“Watching a nominee for the Supreme Court go full-tilt at a political party, accusing its members of orchestrating a political hit, is unprecedented. Kavanaugh accused Democrats of executing a ‘calculated and orchestrated political hit.’”

* * *

“The Latest: Kavanaugh apologizes for response to Klobuchar,” [AP News](#)

“Klobuchar said Kavanaugh wrote in testimony that he sometimes had too many drinks. Klobuchar asked whether he ever drank so much that he couldn’t remember what happened or part of what happened the night before. Kavanaugh answered ‘no.’ In a back-and-forth, he added, ‘Have you?’ and followed up a second time. Klobuchar said: ‘I have no drinking problem, Judge.’ Kavanaugh responded: ‘Nor do I.’ After returning from a break, he apologized for asking her that question.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “Brett Kavanaugh’s modern-day ‘high-tech lynching’ speech, annotated,” [Washington Post](#)

“While Thomas’s statement was brief, Kavanaugh’s was lengthy, detailed, and passionately delivered. It also took pains to decry not just the process, but Democrats’ role in it, specifically. Below is the full text, with our annotations in yellow.”

* * *

Justin Sink and Jennifer Jacobs, “Kavanaugh’s Fiery Denial Gives Republicans Cover to Vote Yes,” [Bloomberg](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s passionate denial of allegations of sexual misconduct may have convinced Republicans who want to vote ‘yes’ to put him on the Supreme Court that they can overlook his accuser’s credible and moving testimony.”

* * *

Lydia Wheeler, “Kavanaugh, Ford didn’t watch each other’s Senate testimony,” [The Hill](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, did not tune into each other's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.”

* * *

Jennifer Jacobs, “Trump Standing Behind Kavanaugh, Sources Say,” [Bloomberg](#)

“Trump thought Kavanaugh’s angry and emotional opening statement to the committee was strong, the people said. Within the White House, the consensus is that the nominee showed passion and honesty.”

* * *

Daniel Lippman, “Bush standing by his support of Kavanaugh,” [Politico](#)

“Former President George W. Bush is standing by Brett Kavanaugh even after Christine Blasey Ford delivered powerful public testimony detailing sexual assault allegations against the Supreme Court nominee. Asked if Bush still supported his former White House aide’s nomination to the high court, Freddy Ford, Bush’s chief of staff, told POLITICO on Thursday afternoon: ‘Yes, he does.’”

* * *

Matt Richardson, “Trump praises Kavanaugh after hearing, adds, ‘Democrats’ search and destroy strategy is disgraceful,” [Fox News](#)

“Judge Kavanaugh showed America exactly why I nominated him,’ the president tweeted minutes after the hearing concluded. ‘His testimony was powerful, honest, and riveting. Democrats’ search and destroy strategy is disgraceful and this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct, and resist. The Senate must vote!’”

* * *

Ed O’Keefe, “Senate Judiciary Committee to vote on Kavanaugh nomination Friday, lawmakers say,” [CBS News](#)

“Following hours of exhausting testimony, Republicans huddled Thursday night to chart the path forward on Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court. Two senators who emerged from the closed-door meeting said the Judiciary Committee will hold a vote on Friday as scheduled. The full Senate could vote as early as Monday.”

* * *

Herb Jackson, “Brett Kavanaugh: How quickly could he be confirmed to the Supreme Court?” [USA Today](#)

“The Senate could confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court as soon as Tuesday if he clears the Judiciary Committee on Friday and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is ready – meaning he has the votes.”

* * *

John T. Bennett, “Kavanaugh: ‘All In’ for FBI Investigation of Sexual Misconduct Allegations,” [Roll Call](#)

“‘Senator, I’ll do whatever the committee wants. I wanted a hearing the next day,’ he said of claims made by the first accuser, Christine Blasey Ford. ‘Instead, 10 days passed.’ ‘I’m all in — immediately,’ he said of a federal

investigation that the White House would have to order, but has so far opted against doing.”

* * *

Matthew Haag and Rebecca R. Ruiz, “Mark Judge’s Name Keeps Coming Up. Here’s What We Know.” [New York Times](#)

“He and Mr. Judge were close friends at Georgetown Preparatory School in Maryland. In their 1983 yearbook, a photo of football players in pads and uniform showed them grinning side by side in the second row. The yearbook page of Mr. Judge mentions that he was a member of the club ‘100 KEGS or Bust’ and includes the quotation, ‘Certain women should be struck regularly, like gongs.’”

* * *

Veronica Stracqualursi, “Kavanaugh backers seize on Ford’s fear of flying in bid to discredit story,” [CNN](#)

“The argument goes like this: Ford, who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, has told friends that the alleged encounter has left her feeling uncomfortable – even struggling – when she is in enclosed spaces without an ‘escape route’ or more than one exit door, such as an airplane. The fear of flying has been cited as a reason why Ford didn’t testify sooner about the allegations. But the California professor still manages to travel for work and vacations, as Rachel Mitchell, the counsel representing Republicans at Thursday’s hearing, pointed out.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “Mark Judge’s book validates Christine Blasey Ford’s timeline of the alleged Kavanaugh assault,” [Washington Post](#)

“She described having seen Kavanaugh’s classmate Mark Judge — who she alleges was in the room when the attack occurred — shortly after the alleged incident. ‘I did see Mark Judge once at the Potomac Village Safeway after the time of the attack,’ she said To Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Ford offered some ways in which the time frame of Judge’s employment might be ascertained by the committee: perhaps ‘through employment records or the IRS or anything,’ she said. There’s a better source, as it turns out: Judge’s book, ‘Wasted: Tales of a Gen X Drunk,’ published in 1997.”

* * *

Emily Zauzmer, “Brett Kavanaugh Describes His Drinking Habits in Hearing: ‘Sometimes I Had Too Many Beers,’” [People](#)

“In his fiery testimony in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh described his drinking habits while denying that he has ever committed sexual assault.”

* * *

Osita Nwanevu, “Rachel Mitchell’s Underwhelming Questioning in the Kavanaugh-Ford Hearing,” [New Yorker](#)

“It’s hard to imagine that anything coming out of Rachel Mitchell’s questioning will put a dent in Christine Blasey Ford’s credibility. The questions have focussed on minutiae, and the format doesn’t allow Mitchell to finish a line of thought.”

* * *

Nidhi Prakash and Lissandra Villa, “Senate Republicans Still Think Outside Counsel Was A Good Idea, Even If Her Five-Minute Segments Were Awkward,” [Buzzfeed News](#)

“Republicans ceded their time to outside counsel to question Christine Blasey Ford and Brett Kavanaugh, rather than having 11 male senators do it.”

* * *

David A. Graham, “Lindsey Graham’s Furious Defense of Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Atlantic](#)

“The Trump critic-turned-ally called the confirmation process an ‘unethical sham’ as tempers rose in the Senate Judiciary Committee”

* * *

Greg Sargent, “Lindsey Graham’s meltdown gives away the GOP game on Kavanaugh,” [Washington Post](#)

“My guess is that the Republican game going into this was for Mitchell to make as few waves as possible, because they expect that Kavanaugh will be able to deny the allegations with sufficient conviction to allow the handful of wavering GOP senators to decide they have just enough cover to confirm him, on the idea that at its core, this is fundamentally unresolvable. Given that expectation, it was fine for Mitchell not to go hard at Ford to undermine her credibility, because at the end of the day, all that matters to keep those undecideds in the fold is for them to be able to say they have no grounds for saying that Kavanaugh was *less* credible than Ford was.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “Chuck Grassley’s heavy-handed stewardship of a very delicate hearing,” [Washington Post](#)

“Rather than being cautious and measured and avoiding overreach, Grassley has set about controlling the hearing and even hitting back at Democrats in ways that occasionally seemed unhelpful.”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Feinstein denies that Ford letter came from her office,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) rebuked conservative claims she or her staff held onto a confidential letter from Christine Blasey Ford against Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh and leaked it to disrupt his confirmation process.”

* * *

Jesus Rodriguez, “Judiciary Republicans’ personal information published during Kavanaugh hearing,” [Politico](#)

“The personal information of several Republican senators who sit on the Senate Judiciary Committee was published online in the middle of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s testimony before the panel Thursday. The information — including home addresses, phone numbers, and personal email addresses — appeared on the Wikipedia pages of Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee of Utah, and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.”

* * *

Nicole Gaudiano and Deborah Barfield Berry, “Kavanaugh hearing: Students skip school to witness ‘a real historic moment,’” [USA Today](#)

“University of Maryland senior Bailey Dinman’s button says, ‘Believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford & Deborah Ramirez.’ The message on Liberty University freshman Christina Perez’s T-shirt: ‘Women for Kavanaugh.’ They were among the many young people who came to Capitol Hill Thursday to get a firsthand look at the historic hearing with Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Ford, who accused him of sexual assault. Ramirez, another accuser, did not testify. Kavanaugh has denied all allegations against him.”

* * *

Kasie Hunt, et al., “Senate probed new allegation of misconduct against Kavanaugh,” [NBC News](#)

“The anonymous complaint that was sent to Republican Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, claimed that Kavanaugh physically assaulted a woman he socialized with in the Washington, D.C., area in 1998 while he was inebriated.”

* * *

Jordain Carny, “Kavanaugh questioned about Rhode Island sexual assault allegation,” [The Hill](#)

“Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse’s (R.I.) office received a phone call on Tuesday morning ‘making allegations concerning a rape on a boat in August of 1985,’ according to transcripts of a call between committee staff and Kavanaugh released on Wednesday.”

* * *

Eli Watkins, “Kavanaugh denies two additional accusations to Senate Judiciary Committee,” [CNN](#)

“Kavanaugh denied an allegation that he assaulted a woman he was dating in 1998 while working for independent counsel Ken Starr that investigators said stemmed from an anonymous complaint sent to Colorado GOP Sen. Cory Gardner. . . . Kavanaugh then was asked about, and categorically denied, an allegation made by a Rhode Island man – whose name was redacted from the transcript – raised in a call to Rhode Island Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse’s office ‘concerning a rape on a boat in August of 1985.’”

* * *

Rowan Scarborough, “Kavanaugh’s Ex-Girlfriend Refutes Mother’s Anonymous Accusations Sent To Senate,” [Washington Times](#)

Judge Dabney Friedrich: “I dated Brett Kavanaugh in 1998. To the extent the attached letter is referring to me as the “friend [who] was dating him,” the allegations it makes are both offensive and absurd. At no time did Brett ever shove me against a wall, including in an “aggressive and sexual” manner. When we dated, Brett always treated me with the utmost respect, and we remain friends to this day. I have never observed (nor am I aware of) Brett acting in a physically inappropriate or aggressive manner toward anyone.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Fifth Kavanaugh Accuser Recants,” [National Review](#)

“A Rhode Island man who accused Brett Kavanaugh of raping a ‘close associate of his’ on a boat in 1985 recanted just hours after the claims were made public Wednesday.”

* * *

David W. Chen, “Yale Boasted About Kavanaugh; Now Comes ‘a Moment of Reckoning,’” [New York Times](#)

“Students and faculty members from Yale Law School packed the campus’s largest church on Tuesday for a hastily arranged town hall, where they spoke about the sexual assault allegations swirling around the Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, a 1990 graduate of the school.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 26

Date: Wed, 26 Sep 2018 19:18:43 -0400

Importance: Normal

Steve Eder et al., “Third Woman Accuses Brett Kavanaugh of Sexual Misconduct,” [New York Times](#)

“The allegation came from Julie Swetnick, 55, who like Judge Kavanaugh, 53, grew up in the Washington suburbs. In a statement posted on Twitter by her lawyer, Ms. Swetnick said she observed the future Supreme Court nominee at parties where women were verbally abused, inappropriately touched and ‘gang raped.’”

* * *

Burgess Everett, “Kavanaugh calls new accusation ‘from the Twilight Zone,’” [Politico](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh on Wednesday denied a third allegation of sexual misconduct against him as ‘ridiculous and from the Twilight Zone’ as his Supreme Court nomination continued to wobble despite GOP vows to press ahead to a vote within days. . . . Several Republicans said Wednesday that they wanted to study Swetnick’s affidavit before commenting on how it might affect Kavanaugh’s nomination. But the GOP’s No. 2 leader indicated it would not alter the party’s plans for confirmation — and cast doubt on the credibility of the third woman’s statements.”

* * *

Brian Bennett, “Kavanaugh Denied Gang-Rape Allegation Under Oath Behind Closed Doors Tuesday,” [Time](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh testified behind closed doors and under oath on Tuesday about allegations that he was present at parties in the 1980s where women were targeted and gang-raped, according to an email obtained by TIME describing the testimony. Speaking under penalty of felony to Judiciary Committee investigators, Kavanaugh denied the allegations.”

* * *

Joe Simonson, “Exclusive: Mark Judge ‘Vehemently Denies’ Latest Round Of Sexual Assault Allegations From Avenatti’s Client, Won’t Testify Publicly,” The [Daily Caller](#)

“Mark is not speaking publicly until the Kavanaugh confirmation proceeding is concluded,’ Judge’s attorney, Barbara Van Gelder, told TheDCNF before adding that ‘He vehemently denies Ms. Swetnick’s allegations.’”

* * *

Frank Thorp V and Adam Edelman, “Democrats want Kavanaugh’s nomination withdrawn after third sexual misconduct allegation,” [NBC News](#)

“In a letter, all 10 Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee called on Trump to either withdraw Kavanaugh from consideration, or order an FBI investigation ‘into all allegations.’”

* * *

Christopher Cadelago and Nancy Cook, “White House stays in Kavanaugh’s corner after latest accusation,” [Politico](#)

“One source said the White House warned Senate Republicans that if Kavanaugh goes down, the Supreme Court could remain stuck at eight judges for months.”

* * *

Jennifer Jacobs (Bloomberg), on [Twitter](#)

“NEW White House statement: ‘In under six hours today, over 60 men women who attended Georgetown Prep or sister schools that knew Brett Kavanaugh well during his time in high school signed a letter to directly refute the allegations released earlier today by Michael Avenatti.’”

* * *

Sunlen Serfat et al., “Senate Judiciary chairman: No delay to Kavanaugh hearing despite new allegations,” [CNN](#)

“Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said that Thursday’s hearing with Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford would go forward as planned even as new allegations surfaced against President Donald Trump’s embattled Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Phil Mattingly and Manu Raju, “Collins privately raises concerns about new allegations, lack of subpoena for Kavanaugh friend,” [CNN](#)

“Sen. Susan Collins, who could determine whether Brett Kavanaugh gets a lifetime seat on the Supreme Court, raised serious concerns at a private meeting about the newest allegations of inappropriate behavior against the nominee -- and questioned why the Senate Judiciary Committee had not subpoenaed a close friend of the federal judge. Multiple sources familiar with the private Wednesday meeting told CNN that Collins appeared unnerved by the latest allegation, citing in particular that it was a sworn statement sent to the panel, which carries with it the possibility of perjury for lying to Congress.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Avenatti Dodges on Kavanaugh Sexual-Assault Accusation,” [National Review](#)

“Appearing on *The View* Wednesday, Michael Avenatti refused to answer when asked if his client, Julie Swetnick, had been sexually assaulted by Brett Kavanaugh, moments after he went public with Swetnick’s claims that the Supreme Court nominee was ‘present’ during her gang rape.”

* * *

Michael E. Miller, et al., “Who is Julie Swetnick, the third Kavanaugh accuser?” [Washington Post](#)

“Julie Swetnick, who Wednesday became the third woman to accuse Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct, is an experienced web developer in the Washington area who has held multiple security clearances for her work on government-related networks.”

* * *

Chuck Ross, “Who Is Julie Swetnick, The Avenatti Client Accusing Kavanaugh Of Attending Gang Rape Parties?” [The Daily Caller](#)

“Swetnick also claims to have a security clearance with the IRS despite having recently had a \$40,000 judgement against her for unpaid taxes. She settled a \$40,303 IRS judgement on March 23 of this year, according to a public records search. Maryland court records show a \$62,821 tax lien filed against her on Oct. 2, 2015. Swetnick has also been involved in civil cases in Maryland and Oregon. In November 2000, she was sued by Webtrends, a web company in Portland that Swetnick worked for from December 1999 through August 2000. It is not clear how the case was decided or what Swetnick allegedly said to defame the company.”

* * *

Veronica Stracqualursi and Ariane de Vogue, “Kavanaugh accuser Deborah Ramirez has ‘no agenda’ and is ‘willing to cooperate,’ attorney writes,” [CNN](#)

“The letter from her attorney reiterated her request to the committee for the FBI to investigate the alleged incident, arguing that it would ‘allow a credible, efficient, and professional development of the facts – free from partisanship.’”

* * *

Stephanie Saul, et al., “In a Culture of Privilege and Alcohol at Yale, Her World Converged With Kavanaugh’s,” [New York Times](#)

“Last week, more than 30 years after they graduated from Yale, Deborah Ramirez contacted her old friend James Roche. Something bad had happened to her during a night of drinking in the residence hall their freshman year, she said, and she wondered if he recalled her mentioning it at the time. Mr. Roche, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, said he had no knowledge of the episode that Ms. Ramirez was trying to piece together, with her memory faded by the years and clouded by that night’s alcohol use. Days later, in a New Yorker story, Ms. Ramirez alleged that Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, exposed himself to her at a dorm party.”

* * *

Kristina Peterson, et al., “As Blockbuster Hearing Looms, Battle Lines Are Drawn,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford and Supreme Court Nominee Brett Kavanaugh to testify before Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.”

* * *

Nicholas Fandos, “Brett Kavanaugh Regrets Some Choices in High School, but Again Denies Sexual Assault,” [New York Times](#)

“‘I drank beer with my friends, usually on weekends. Sometimes I had too many. In retrospect, I said and did things in high school that make me cringe now,’ Mr. Kavanaugh, President Trump’s second Supreme Court nominee, will tell the committee, according to prepared remarks released by the committee on Wednesday. ‘But that’s not why we are here today. What I’ve been accused of is far more serious than juvenile misbehavior.’ He then reiterated that ‘I never did anything remotely resembling’ what the woman, Christine Blasey Ford, describes.”

* * *

Tara Golshan, “Read: Brett Kavanaugh’s written testimony denying all allegations of sexual misconduct,” [Vox](#)

“‘I said and did things in high school that make me cringe now’ — but not sexual assault, Kavanaugh writes.”

* * *

Eli Watkins, “Ford’s Senate testimony: ‘Brett’s assault on me drastically altered my life,’” [CNN](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford will tell the Senate that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s sexual assault on her in their high school years stayed with her for her whole life, according to prepared testimony for Thursday’s hearing.”

* * *

Kate Grise, “Ford, Kavanaugh seek to bolster cases with new documents,” [CNN](#)

“Lawyers for Christine Blasey Ford, the woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, have sent the Senate Judiciary Committee sworn and signed declarations from four people who say they have known of her allegation well before it became public. Meanwhile, Kavanaugh’s lawyers have sent the committee pages from his 1982 calendar to bolster his claim that he wasn’t at the house party where Ford alleges the assault took place.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “Kavanaugh’s 1982 calendar, annotated,” [Washington Post](#)

“We transcribed each month’s entries and have annotated them to add context and information. (Click yellow-highlighted text to read more.) The bold annotations are those that appear in boxes on the calendar.”

* * *

Gregg Re, “Kavanaugh accuser Christine Ford releases results of polygraph test, but key detail appears to contradict past statements,” [Fox News](#)

“In the handwritten statement, Ford writes that ‘there were 4 boys and a couple of girls’ at the party. But in Ford’s letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., in July, Ford gave a different tally, writing that the gathering ‘included me and 4 others.’”

* * *

Sean Sullivan et al., “Arizona prosecutor Rachel Mitchell is GOP choice to question Kavanaugh and accuser at hearing,” [Washington Post](#)

“Republican senators have selected Arizona prosecutor Rachel Mitchell to question Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh and the woman who has accused the Supreme Court nominee of sexually assaulting her when they were teenagers, a top senator announced Tuesday. Mitchell is the chief of the special victims division of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, which deals with sexual assault cases, among others. A registered Republican, Mitchell has worked for in the county attorney’s office for 26 years.”

* * *

“Kavanaugh, Ford and the Makings of a Where-Were-You Moment,” [AP News](#)

“Could it be, years from now, that you will remember where you were and what you were doing when Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford came to Washington to relive their conflicting high school memories? Are

we on the verge of one of those moments — like, for those old enough, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated? Or when the space shuttle Challenger exploded? Or the twin towers fell?”

* * *

Peter Baker and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “A Hearing’s Test: Blasey Must Seem Credible. Kavanaugh Must Defend but Not Attack.” [New York Times](#)

“President Trump has some advice for Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh as he prepares for Thursday’s climactic Senate hearing to confront sexual misconduct allegations: Be more aggressive, show more outrage, push back more. In other words, be more like Mr. Trump. But what works for Mr. Trump might not work for Judge Kavanaugh. His challenge is not to look like he is attacking his accusers.”

* * *

Jennifer Rubin, “Christine Blasey Ford can control Thursday’s hearing,” [Washington Post](#)

“[T]he stage is Ford’s. She is the star. The camera is on her. She can talk as long as she wants and say anything she wants — what, will committee chairman Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) interrupt and gavel her out of order? Democrats can only pray for such stupidity.”

* * *

Marianne Levine and Andrew Restuccia, “Frat boy vs. choir boy: Dueling versions of Kavanaugh raise credibility questions,” [Politico](#)

“Critics of the Supreme Court nominee say that he has offered different accounts of his youth that put his honesty in question.”

* * *

Emily Jane Fox, “‘I Was Ashamed’: After Ford’s Accusation, A Generation Of Holton-Arms Alumnae Wrestle With Their Own Truths—Together,” [Vanity Fair](#)

“Seven Holton alums recently shared their experiences of sexual assault with me. Many had not spoken of the incidents since they occurred in high school or shortly thereafter. All of them said that they had not widely shared their stories out of shame, embarrassment, and fear of backlash. And they all felt compelled to come forward now to support their fellow alum Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, and to change the culture of silence and misogyny they’ve experienced.”

* * *

Brent Kendall, “The Often-Rocky Climb to the Supreme Court,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“As the clash over Brett Kavanaugh underscores, few issues in modern times stir the Senate like a nomination to the Supreme Court. Here are some high—and low—points of the last 50 years.”

* * *

Deanna Paul, “Brett Kavanaugh has no good choices anymore,” [Washington Post](#)

“Kavanaugh is faced with two unattractive options: withdraw or testify at a high-profile hearing Thursday. He has pledged to do the latter, though either leaves his name tarnished.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Hit Pause on Brett Kavanaugh,” [New York Times](#)

“The integrity of the Supreme Court is at stake.”

* * *

Gerald F. Seib, “The New Kind of Fury Unleashed by the Kavanaugh Fight,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“The confirmation battle has concentrated all the recent political rage in one powder keg—and is moving the flame closer.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Democrats’ ‘investigation’ calls are just code for delay,” [New York Post](#)

“Democrats are still calling for an FBI investigation of the allegations against Brett Kavanaugh — as if their actual preferred investigators in the media hadn’t already failed in massive efforts to corroborate the claims.”

* * *

Mairead McArdle, “Flashback: Biden Says in Clarence Thomas Hearing That FBI Investigations Are Not Conclusive,” [National Review](#)

“Joe Biden has called for the FBI to look into the accusations of sexual assault against Brett Kavanaugh, but back in 1991 he sang a different tune to the Judiciary Committee as it grappled with Anita Hill’s allegations against Justice Clarence Thomas. ‘The next person that refers to an FBI report as being worth anything obviously doesn’t understand anything,’ Biden, then the Democratic chairman of the committee, said at the time. ‘FBI explicitly does not in this or any other case reach a conclusion. Period.’”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Kavanaugh Tactics Divide Democrats,” [The Hill](#)

“Asked about calls for Kavanaugh to withdraw, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) said that he believed Kavanaugh deserved to have the hearing on Thursday, which will give him a high-profile perch to defend himself.”

* * *

Ovetta Wiggins and Dan Morse, “Several Md. lawmakers call for Montgomery County investigation into sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh,” [Washington Post](#)

“Several Maryland lawmakers representing Montgomery County are calling on local law enforcement officials to investigate the sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh, arguing the state’s statute of limitations may not apply to some allegations.”

* * *

Ronald Brownstein, “The Controversy Over Kavanaugh Won’t End With a Vote,” [The Atlantic](#)

“Even if he’s confirmed to the Supreme Court, the battle over his nomination is virtually guaranteed to continue—and could have ramifications for 2020.”

* * *

“Georgetown Prep Statement,” [Georgetown Preparatory School](#)

“Certain individuals have recently presented themselves as representing the culture of Georgetown Prep authoritatively. They do not. The views they present may well represent their experience, but they do not represent our institutional or pedagogical goals, nor our efforts to implement those goals on behalf and out of a deep and abiding care for our students and their families, and for the larger culture in which they will work and live and raise their families. It is all too easy to paint malicious stereotypes about a group of people based on assumptions about their gender, ethnicity, or their station in life.”

* * *

Aidan F. Ryan, “Harvard Law School Refuses to Say Whether Kavanaugh Will Return to Teach in January,” [The Crimson](#)

“Last week, four Law School students demanded in a Harvard Law Record article that the school bar Kavanaugh from teaching until ‘a full and fair investigation is conducted’ into the allegations of sexual misconduct. On Monday, several hundred Harvard affiliates walked out of class to rally in support of the two women who have accused Kavanaugh of misbehavior.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Dem Senator Filing Lawsuit To Block Kavanaugh Vote,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) said Wednesday that he is filing a lawsuit to try to prevent the Senate from taking up Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination until his ‘full record’ is available.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 25

Date: Tue, 25 Sep 2018 20:14:51 -0400

Importance: Normal

Eli Watkins, “Senate Judiciary Committee sets Kavanaugh vote for Friday,” [CNN](#)

“The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled its vote on Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court for Friday morning at 9:30 am. The move would place the panel’s decision just a day after it is set to hear testimony from Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, a woman who has accused him of sexual assault during a party in their high school years.”

* * *

Paul McLeod, “Republicans Are Already Planning To Vote On Kavanaugh Next Week, Even Before The Hearing With His Accuser,” [Buzzfeed News](#)

“Senate Republicans are already laying the groundwork to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court by early next week, even though neither of the two women who have made allegations against him have yet testified before Congress. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Republican senators Tuesday to prepare to stay in DC throughout the weekend, which would fast-track the final vote on a once-safe nomination that has been blown off the rails in recent weeks by daily stories about Kavanaugh’s past.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “McConnell ‘confident we’re going to win’ on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“We’re going to be moving forward. I’m confident we’re going to win, confident that he’ll be confirmed in the very near future,’ McConnell told reporters.”

* * *

Gregg Re, “GOP senators defend Kavanaugh as exasperation mounts: ‘We’re in the Twilight Zone,’ Graham says,” [Fox News](#)

“Let’s bring it to a conclusion,’ added Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. ‘I think we ought to get it over with.’”

* * *

Burgess Everett and John Bresnahan, “GOP support for Kavanaugh wavers,” [Politico](#)

“Republicans signal they will wait to pass judgment on the Supreme Court nominee until hearing from him and an accuser later this week.”

* * *

Elana Schor and Mike Zapler, “Kavanaugh’s former ‘sherpa’ won’t commit to vote for him,” [Politico](#)

“‘I’m not making any comments on that until after Thursday,’ [Sen.] Kyl said Tuesday when asked about his vote. He was referring to Thursday’s Senate hearing featuring Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Kavanaugh of

sexually assaulting her at a party in high school decades ago.”

* * *

Nicholas Fandos, “Lisa Murkowski Delivers Message: Take Kavanaugh Accusations Seriously,” [New York Times](#)

“‘We are now in a place where it’s not about whether or not Judge Kavanaugh is qualified,’ Ms. Murkowski, a key swing Republican vote, said in an extended interview in the Capitol Monday night. ‘It is about whether or not a woman who has been a victim at some point in her life is to be believed.’”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Sarah Sanders: White House Would Be open to Ramirez Testifying on Thursday,” [National Review](#)

“White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Tuesday that the Trump administration would ‘be open to’ inviting Deborah Ramirez — the second woman to accuse Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault — to appear on Thursday on Capitol Hill alongside Kavanaugh and his first accuser, Christine Blasey Ford.”

* * *

Caitlin Collins and Betsy Klein, “Trump blasts second Kavanaugh accuser: ‘She admits she was drunk,’” [CNN](#)

“President Donald Trump sought to discredit one of the women accusing Judge Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct by saying she was ‘messed up’ and ‘drunk’ at the time of the alleged incident. He also said he believes Democrats are masterminding ‘a con game’ against his Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “Murkowski says Kavanaugh’s second accuser should testify,” [The Hill](#)

“‘How can I base the credibility based on just what I read from you all?’ she told reporters. ‘If there are allegations out there, Ms. Ramirez needs to be willing to come forward with them, just as Dr. Ford has been willing to come forward, albeit reluctantly and understandably so.’”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Feinstein: ‘I Have No Way of Knowing’ if Ford Will Show Up to Hearing,” [National Review](#)

“Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, said Tuesday that she ‘has no way of knowing’ if Christine Blasey Ford will appear Thursday to testify before the panel if outside legal counsel is present to question her.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “How in the world is Mark Judge not testifying?” [Washington Post](#)

“In two days, Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh and his accuser Christine Blasey Ford will testify in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The White House even said Tuesday that it is open to Kavanaugh’s second public accuser, Deborah Ramirez, appearing, too. But one person will be conspicuously missing, and it’s really difficult to understand why.”

* * *

William Cummings, “Kavanaugh classmate Mark Judge spotted hiding out at Delaware beach house by reporter,” [USA Today](#)

“A Washington Post reporter tracked down the man identified by Christine Blasey Ford as a witness to her alleged 1982 sexual assault by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. On Monday, the reporter found Judge holed up at a friend's house in Bethany Beach, Delaware. ‘How’d you find me?’ Judge asked the reporter, who noted a car in the driveway containing ‘piles of clothing, a collection of Superman comics and a package addressed to Judge at the Potomac home where he lived three years ago.’”

* * *

Charles C.W. Cooke, “Is This Hearing Going to Happen? Nobody Seems to Know,” [National Review](#)

“In fact, we don’t know whether it can happen. The hearing is supposed to begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday. That leaves fewer than 40 hours between now and the start of the proceedings. Last we heard, Dr. Ford says she won’t fly, which means that if she is still in California, she will have to get to Washington, D.C., by car or train (that will take around 42 hours) or by bus and train (that will take more than three days). Has she left yet?”

* * *

Jennifer Rubin, “Susan Collins at least can do this much,” [Washington Post](#)

“[I]f [Kavanaugh] doesn’t have the wisdom to pull back, get a full vetting and create some grounds for consensus, Collins can force him to do so by insisting on a full investigation. Surely, she can muster the courage to do just that – and save herself wrath from one side or the other, right?”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Avenatti denies being ‘duped’ by 4Chan user on Kavanaugh claims,” [The Hill](#)

“A 4Chan user posted earlier Tuesday that his girlfriend reached out to Avenatti on a burner phone, telling him that she had attended high school with Kavanaugh and had evidence that he trained other high school boys to gang rape girls at parties. The 4Chan user said his girlfriend then had Avenatti call a different burner phone over which they pretended to be another classmate of Kavanaugh’s who could confirm the entire story.”

* * *

Alex Swoyer, “GOP Will Use Female Lawyer To Lead Questioning At Kavanaugh Hearing,” [Washington Times](#)

“Republicans announced Tuesday they have hired a female lawyer to question Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, during Thursday’s major hearing — a move that Ms. Blasey Ford objects to. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said it’s ‘not uncommon’ for senators to rely on professional staffers to lead questioning at hearings, and pointed to the Watergate investigation as precedent.”

* * *

Kate Kelly and David Enrich, “Kavanaugh’s Yearbook Page Is ‘Horrible, Hurtful’ to a Woman It Named,” [New York Times](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s page in his high school yearbook offers a glimpse of the teenage years of the man who is now President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee: lots of football, plenty of drinking, parties at the beach. Among

the reminiscences about sports and booze is a mysterious entry: ‘Renate Alumnus.’”

* * *

Aris Folley, “Former friend of Kavanaugh slams ‘hurtful’ insinuation about her in his yearbook,” [The Hill](#)

“Renate Schroeder Dolphin, a woman who knew Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh during his teenage years, is denouncing a ‘horrible’ and ‘simply untrue’ insinuation after The New York Times found her referenced several times by name in his high school yearbook.”

* * *

Rich Lowry, “Did Brett Kavanaugh Kiss Renate Dolphin In High School? America Needs To Know,” [National Review](#)

“The piece is a sign that the case against Kavanaugh is transmogrifying from he is guilty of attempted rape to he was fratty in high school. The latter may well be true, but doesn’t tell us anything about the former and has nothing to do with his fitness to serve on the Supreme Court.”

* * *

David French, “On Fox, Brett Kavanaugh Mounts An Aggressive, Specific Defense,” [National Review](#)

“It’s to Kavanaugh’s credit that he’s not just trying to run out the clock. It’s obvious that he’s aggressively trying to clear his name — at least with anyone who still has an open mind. The next few days will be critical. Kavanaugh is a smart man. He’s smart enough to know that he’s created three immense targets for investigative reporters and hostile witnesses. But he’s also smart enough to know that when juries, judges, senators, and the public are determining a witness’s credibility, they don’t just look to demeanor and apparent sincerity, they also look for specifics. And Kavanaugh is getting very specific indeed.”

* * *

David A. Graham, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Unprecedented Fox News Interview,” [The Atlantic](#)

“Faced with sexual-assault allegations, the would-be justice has been more aggressive in fighting for his Supreme Court nomination than most of his predecessors.”

* * *

Chris Cillizza, “Brett Kavanaugh’s last line of defense,” [CNN](#)

“On Monday, just 72 hours from sitting in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee to respond to allegations of sexual assault from a California professor named Christine Blasey Ford, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh laid out a new line of defense: This isn’t even about me.”

* * *

Eugene Scott, “The virginity defense is a reminder of our ignorance about sexual violence,” [Washington Post](#)

“Kavanaugh has repeatedly denied the allegations, and the full truth of what exactly happened between him and his alleged victims may never be known. But it is important to understand that it is very possible that someone can abstain from sexual intercourse yet still commit a sexual assault.”

* * *

Carle Hulse, “Kavanaugh’s ‘Golden Résumé’ Turns Into a Lead Weight,” [New York Times](#)

“Now, with his confirmation in such jeopardy that he felt compelled to defend himself in a Fox News television interview on Monday, some of the glittery inside-the-Beltway aspects of his résumé that made him so appealing to his enthusiastic supporters are putting his ascension to the country’s top court in doubt.”

* * *

Benedict Carey and Jan Hoffman, “They Say Sexual Assault, Kavanaugh Says It Never Happened: Sifting Truth From Memory,” [New York Times](#)

“The biology of memory, while still far from worked out, helps to explain how vastly different accounts can emerge from a shared experience. Memory, by its nature and necessity, is selective, its details subject to revision and dissipation.”

* * *

John Verhovek, “Kavanaugh allegations put GOP candidates in an untenable bind as midterms approach,” [ABC News](#)

“[A]fter allegations of sexual assault against the nominee have surfaced, the political capital Republicans thought they could spend during Kavanaugh’s confirmation fight has evaporated, and the process has become yet another headache for the GOP as the final month of the campaign approaches.”

* * *

Margot Cleveland, “Vulnerable Democrats Face Kavanaugh Crisis: Vote For Decency Or Smears,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“Red-state Democrats will soon have a choice to make. But it is a much different one than they faced just a month ago: A ‘no’ vote on Kavanaugh now is not merely bucking the desires of their conservative electorate, but it is a ‘yes’ vote on vile character assassination. Donnelly, Tester, Heitkamp, and Manchin must now decide and publicly proclaim whether they are for decency, or smears.”

* * *

Nate Cohn, “Voters in Battleground Districts Are Divided on Kavanaugh,” [New York Times](#)

“Polling suggests that support for his Supreme Court nomination has eroded in the last week.”

* * *

Jenna Johnson and Robert Costa, “‘It’s the culture war on steroids.’ Kavanaugh fight takes on symbolism in divided era.” [Washington Post](#)

“The battle over the Supreme Court nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh has inflamed the culture wars, with conservatives casting their support for the nominee as a stand against the forces of political correctness and liberals striking back with a passionate mantra: ‘Believe women.’”

* * *

Lisa Boothe, “Judge Kavanaugh and the weaponization of #MeToo,” [The Hill](#)

“For far too long, women who brought forward allegations of sexual assault feared retribution and were not heard. But since the #MeToo movement started less than a year ago, we have seen an overcorrection in society that is dangerous and inarguably anti-men. And now Democrats are weaponizing that environment and the movement to railroad the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh in the name of politics.”

* * *

Jay Cost, “The Silver Lining of the Kavanaugh Debacle,” [National Review](#)

“I do not know what will happen with the Kavanaugh hearings this week, or even whether they will occur. But I do know that we live in a republic where these obscene trials in the court of public opinion are rarely determinative. And for that, I remain grateful.”

* * *

David French, “The Presumptions of Evil That Cloud the Kavanaugh Debate,” [National Review](#)

“Whether Kavanaugh is pro-life or pro-choice, a dudebro pig, a repressed nerd, or a ‘woke bae,’ the standard should be the same. The Senate should hear serious claims, accusers should bear the burden of proof, and those claims should be decided on the evidence. Any other standard turns the Littlefinger principle into national policy: We will presume the worst, and God knows the worst people can’t be allowed to win.”

* * *

Andrew Kugle, “Cotton: Democrats Undermine Due Process Norms With Kavanaugh Accusations,” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“‘The Democrats and the media have spent a lot of the last couple of years talking about undermining basic democratic norms – they should look in the mirror. Talk about undermining basic democratic norms of due process and the presumption of innocence,’ Cotton said.”

* * *

Caitlin Huey-Burns, “Evangelical leaders push hard for Kavanaugh confirmation,” [CBS News](#)

“[S]everal evangelical leaders dug in their heels, questioning the sourcing of new allegations and arguing that the confirmation process had morphed into a politicized character assassination. Their congregations are a critical voting bloc for Republicans, who are concerned that delaying or withdrawing Kavanaugh would further demoralize their base ahead of midterm elections that will determine the balance of power in Congress. And they are ramping up the pressure on GOP lawmakers to push Kavanaugh through.”

* * *

Elizabeth Dias, “Mormon Women’s Group Calls for Probe of Allegations Against Kavanaugh,” [New York Times](#)

“As turmoil grows over sexual misconduct allegations against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, casting doubts over his confirmation to the Supreme Court, a group of Mormon women is calling on senators to suspend his confirmation proceedings until a thorough investigation is completed.”

* * *

Brendan Pringle, “Yale Law School Classes Canceled To Help Anti-Brett Kavanaugh Protest,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“Dozens of Yale Law School students participated in a sit-in against Yale alumnus and Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Monday. The students demanded an investigation of recent sexual misconduct accusations facing the Supreme Court nominee after the New Yorker published a report alleging that Kavanaugh acted sexually inappropriate toward a fellow student at a party.”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Kavanaugh protesters chase Cruz out of restaurant,” [The Hill](#)

“Protesters opposed to Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh confronted Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and his wife at a restaurant in Washington, D.C., Monday evening, according to social media posts, demanding to know if he would vote for Kavanaugh’s confirmation.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 24

Date: Mon, 24 Sep 2018 19:49:11 -0400

Importance: Normal

John Bresnahan, et al., “Kavanaugh tells Senate he won’t withdraw,” [Politico](#)

“A defiant Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday afternoon that he ‘will not be intimidated into withdrawing’ his nomination amid sexual misconduct allegations. He also told Fox News in an interview set to broadcast in full Monday night that ‘I’ve never sexually assaulted anyone, in high school or otherwise.’”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Kavanaugh in tearful interview says ‘I’m not going anywhere,’” [The Hill](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, in a tearful interview on Monday, said he is ‘not going anywhere’ as two allegations of sexual misconduct roil his path to the high court. Kavanaugh added he will not be driven ‘out of this process’ in a Fox News Channel clip released on Monday.”

* * *

Rebecca Shabad, “Kavanaugh: ‘The truth is I’ve never sexually assaulted anyone,’” [NBC News](#)

“‘I am not questioning and have not questioned that perhaps Dr. Ford at some point in her life was sexually assaulted by someone at some place,’ he added. ‘But what I know is, I’ve never sexually assaulted anyone.’”

* * *

Elana Schor, “Ford to Grassley: ‘My fear will not hold me back from testifying,’” [Politico](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford told Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) in a personal letter penned Saturday that her sole motivation in bringing a sexual assault allegation against Brett Kavanaugh is ‘to tell the truth’ about what the Supreme Court nominee did.”

* * *

David Rutz, “Kavanaugh Denies Heavily Disputed Allegation of Sexual Misconduct in College: ‘Smear, Plain and Simple,’” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“‘This alleged event from 35 years ago did not happen,’ Kavanaugh wrote in a statement. ‘The people who knew me then know that this did not happen, and have said so. This is a smear, plain and simple. I look forward to testifying on Thursday about the truth, and defending my good name—and the reputation for character and integrity I have spent a lifetime building—against these last-minute allegations.’”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Feinstein calls for hold on Kavanaugh consideration,” [The Hill](#)

“Feinstein sent a letter to Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on Sunday night asking for ‘an immediate postponement of any further proceedings.’”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Collins: Second Kavanaugh Accuser Should Speak With Senate Panel Under Oath,” [The Hill](#)

“‘I believe that the committee investigators should reach out to Deborah Ramirez to question her under oath about what she is alleging happened,’ Collins told reporters, when asked what she made of the latest allegation against Kavanaugh. Asked if she believed Ramirez should appear at a Judiciary Committee hearing scheduled for Thursday, Collins added that she didn’t. ‘No because there hasn’t even been an interview of her yet and I think that needs to take place first,’ Collins said.”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Grassley: Dems ‘withheld information’ on new Kavanaugh allegation,” [The Hill](#)

“‘Yet again, Senate Democrats actively withheld information from the rest of the Committee only to drop information at politically opportune moments,’ the statement said, doubling down on his remarks that Democrats withheld the first allegation against Kavanaugh from Christine Blasey Ford, who went public last week. . . . ‘Of course, we will attempt to evaluate these new claims,’ the statement added.”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “White House pushes back on second Kavanaugh accuser,” [The Hill](#)

“Raj Shah, a White House spokesman, pointed to what he characterized as significant problems in the woman’s story, while the Republican National Committee (RNC), which works closely with President Trump, issued a memo highlighting ‘major holes’ in her story.”

* * *

Peter Baker and Eileen Sullivan, “Trump Stands by ‘Fantastic’ Kavanaugh as He Seeks G.O.P. Votes,” [New York Times](#)

“President Trump on Monday said the sexual misconduct allegations against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, which are slowing proceedings on his nomination to be the newest Supreme Court justice, could be one of the ‘single most unfair, unjust things to happen to a candidate for anything.’ The president said he continues to support Judge Kavanaugh, and dismissed the allegations about the judge’s conduct decades ago as ‘totally political.’”

* * *

Emily Tillett, “Kellyanne Conway says Brett Kavanaugh allegations feel like ‘a vast left-wing conspiracy,’” [CBS News](#)

“‘I know there’s pent-up demand for women to get their day, women who have been sexually harassed and sexually assaulted, and I personally am very aggrieved for all of them, but we cannot put decades of pent-up demand for women to feel whole on one man’s shoulders. What exactly is the standard for ruining one man’s life based on decades of allegations that have nothing to do with him?’ said Conway.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “McConnell promises Senate vote on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“I want to make it perfectly clear. . . . Judge Kavanaugh will be voted on here on the Senate floor. Up or down on the Senate floor. This fine nominee to the Supreme Court will receive a vote in the Senate in the near future,” McConnell said from the Senate floor on Monday. . . . He added that Democrats are trying to ‘smear’ Kavanaugh, arguing that their tactics are ‘despicable.’”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Graham blasts ‘wholesale character assassination’ of Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“What we are witnessing is the total collapse of the traditional confirmation process for a Supreme Court nominee. It is being replaced by a game of delay, deception, and wholesale character assassination,” Graham said in a string of tweets.”

* * *

Lydia Wheeler, “Avenatti: client who can back sexual assault claims against Kavanaugh prepared to take polygraph,” [The Hill](#)

“My client is prepared to undergo a polygraph examination in further substantiation of her claims provided Mr. Kavanaugh likewise agrees to undergo an examination,” he said in an email to Mike Davis, the Judiciary Committee’s chief counsel for nominations, which he shared on Twitter.”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Avenatti: New client will go public with Kavanaugh accusations by Wednesday,” [The Hill](#)

“Michael Avenatti, the lawyer who says he has ‘credible information’ about more sexual misconduct allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, said Monday that he expects his new client will appear for an on-camera interview within the next 48 hours. Avenatti told The Hill that he anticipates his client will go public with her accusation against Kavanaugh in a television interview within the next two days.”

* * *

Erin Kelly and Jessica Estepa, “Brett Kavanaugh: A timeline of allegations against the Supreme Court nominee,” [USA Today](#)

“Two women have come forward to accuse Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, throwing his nomination to the Supreme Court into jeopardy. Here’s how the events unfolded in recent months”

* * *

Charles C.W. Cooke, “On *The New Yorker*’s Grossly Irresponsible Story,” [National Review](#)

“Judge Kavanaugh labels *The New Yorker*’s report a ‘smear, plain and simple.’ He should be applauded for his restraint. I am struggling to remember reading a less responsible piece of ‘journalism’ in a major outlet.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “Breaking down the new Brett Kavanaugh sexual misconduct allegation,” [Washington Post](#)

“Ramirez’s accusation has the dual distinction of having more potential corroboration and less actual corroboration than Ford’s. Ford was able to produce a six-year-old therapist’s note recounting an allegation

similar to the one she made against Kavanaugh. She also reached out to The Washington Post before Kavanaugh was nominated but when he was on President Trump's shortlist. The first reported example of Ramirez mentioning this alleged incident occurred after Kavanaugh was nominated, and she appears to have been proactively seeking others to corroborate her story, with no success."

* * *

Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Nicholas Fandos, "Christine Blasey Ford Reaches Deal to Testify at Kavanaugh Hearing," [New York Times](#)

"The Times had interviewed several dozen people over the past week in an attempt to corroborate [Ms. Ramirez's] story, and could find no one with firsthand knowledge. Ms. Ramirez herself contacted former Yale classmates asking if they recalled the incident and told some of them that she could not be certain Mr. Kavanaugh was the one who exposed himself."

* * *

Deanna Paul, "The new Kavanaugh allegation is on precarious legal ground, former sex-crimes prosecutors say," [Washington Post](#)

"Former prosecutors said it's not surprising to see another woman come forward in such cases; it happens often. Yet by all accounts, the Ramirez narrative presents significantly more problems than Ford's, and without minimizing the gravity of the alleged conduct, experts also agree that the high school sexual assault that Ford describes is a more criminally serious offense than what could amount to indecent exposure by a young college student."

* * *

Ryan Saavedra, "10 Serious Problems With New Accusations Against Kavanaugh," [The Daily Wire](#)

"The New Yorker report and a subsequent report from The New York Times both raise multiple red flags about the credibility of the allegations. Here are 10 key points compiled from both reports that raise serious questions about the claims"

* * *

Becket Adams, "New Brett Kavanaugh accusation has a bunch of flaws, but Democrats already using it against him anyway," [Washington Examiner](#)

"The second allegation of sexual misconduct leveled against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is farcically flimsy. But that won't stop Democratic lawmakers from trying to use it to sink his confirmation, claiming there is now a pattern of abusive behavior."

* * *

Tara Golshan, "At least 600 Yale alumnae stand with new Kavanaugh accuser Deborah Ramirez in open letter," [Vox](#)

"The letter does not corroborate Ramirez's allegations; however, the signees write that they stand with Ramirez out of that 'shared experience' — and with 'all women who have faced sexual assault, not only at Yale, but across the country.'"

* * *

Jack Crowe, “New Kavanaugh Accuser Came Forward Because ‘Senate Democrats Came Looking,’” [National Review](#)

“‘[Ramirez] came forward because Senate Democrats came looking for this claim. She did not flag this. This came to the attention of people on the hill independently, and it has cornered her into an awkward position,’ Farrow, who detailed Ramirez’s allegation in a Sunday *New Yorker* article, told ABC’s George Stephanopolos on *Good Morning America*.”

* * *

Thomas Jipping, “Opposing Kavanaugh by ‘Whatever Means Necessary,’” [National Review](#)

“Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) is out to show us that he’s one politician who can keep a promise. On July 9, within minutes of President Trump’s announcement of Judge Brett Kavanaugh as his Supreme Court nominee, Schumer vowed to ‘oppose Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination with everything I have.’ When he said *everything*, he meant it.”

* * *

Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), “For Democrats, Kavanaugh nomination is about Donald Trump, not sexual misconduct,” [USA Today](#)

“Even before Kavanaugh was named, the left promised to fight any nominee Trump appointed for Supreme Court. Misconduct allegations are just an excuse.”

* * *

The Editors, “Fight for Kavanaugh,” [National Review](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh is an excellent jurist who has earned his sterling reputation over decades of public service. If his career is going to be ruined and his reputation besmirched, it should require clear and convincing evidence. We are willing to follow the facts wherever they lead, but so far, they lead only to the belief that this is a disgraceful episode that makes Borking look above-board and responsible by comparison.”

* * *

Akhil Amar, “AMAR: Second thoughts on Kavanaugh,” [Yale Daily News](#)

“[N]ow that serious accusations have arisen about his conduct in his teenage years, I believe that these accusations deserve the best and most professional investigation possible — even if that means a brief additional delay on the ultimate vote on Judge Kavanaugh, and even if that investigatory delay imperils his confirmation.”

* * *

Jordan Fabian, “GOP launches counteroffensive on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“The White House and Senate Republicans launched an intense counterattack on behalf of Brett Kavanaugh on Monday, signaling they intend to go forward with a vote on his nomination to the Supreme Court despite new allegations of past sexual misconduct.”

* * *

Jonathan Chait, “Brett Kavanaugh Is Probably a Goner Now,” [New York Magazine](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s primary and most plausible defense against the charge that he sexually assaulted Christine Blasey Ford was that Brett Kavanaugh would never do such a thing. His life showed he was straitlaced and studious, respectful of women, and had a long trail of female acquaintances who could vouchsafe for his character. A new revelation by Jane Mayer and Ronan Farrow of *The New Yorker* explodes that defense.”

* * *

Jonathan Allen, “No-win situation for Senate Republicans imperils Kavanaugh,” [NBC News](#)

“As the Senate GOP wrestles with the increasingly complicated politics of Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, it’s getting even harder to envision him winning confirmation.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Collins: I don’t believe Kavanaugh will repeal Roe v. Wade,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) says she doesn’t believe Brett Kavanaugh will overturn a landmark abortion ruling if he’s confirmed to the Supreme Court. ‘Well first of all I do not believe he’s going to repeal Roe v. Wade,’ Collins told Showtime’s ‘The Circus,’ when asked about how she could potentially be ‘the vote’ that puts Kavanaugh on the court and leads to the landmark 1973 case being repealed. . . . Collins at the time of the interview told Showtime that she was ‘very close’ to making a decision.”

* * *

Lisa Mascaro, “Inside Democrats’ struggle with the Kavanaugh accusation,” [AP News](#)

“This account of how that long-private, deeply personal allegation exploded into public is based on a dozen interviews with senators, aides and others. Some asked for anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal details about the private discussions. Though many of those interviewed disagreed fiercely on motives involved, all aligned on one clear truth: The letter and the story it told was a powder keg.”

* * *

Matthew Pritchard, “Will Democrats Regret Weaponizing the Judiciary?” [Politico](#)

“Using the court system to stymie a president has backfired before.”

* * *

Gerald F. Seib, “Kavanaugh Controversy Adds to Public’s Crisis of Confidence,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“However it is resolved, the fierce debate over the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh now seems destined to add both the Senate confirmation process and the court itself to the growing list of institutions in which Americans are losing confidence.”

* * *

Alexandra Desantis, “The Kavanaugh Circus Could Destroy the Me Too Movement,” [National Review](#)

“Last night, though, Farrow and his colleague Jane Mayer did a huge disservice to the Me Too movement by publishing an incredibly thin sexual-abuse allegation against Brett Kavanaugh. That story, a prime example of how some media outlets and left-wing voices have mishandled the accusations against the judge, will likely create a climate in which fewer victims are believed, more innocent men suffer for crimes they didn’t commit, and neutral observers are more inclined to doubt claims of sexual assault.”

* * *

Michael Burke, “Police arrest 128 protesting Kavanaugh on Capitol Hill,” [The Hill](#)

“Capitol Police on Monday arrested 128 people who descended on Senate office buildings to protest Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and urge swing-vote senators to reject him.”

* * *

Michael Burke, “Celebrities, lawmakers wear black to support Kavanaugh’s accuser,” [The Hill](#)

“A range of celebrities and lawmakers on Monday voiced their support for a national #BelieveSurvivors walkout, which was organized in support of the woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her in the 1980s.”

* * *

“Yale law students protest Kavanaugh nomination,” [AP News](#)

“Dozens of students dressed in black staged a sit-in at Yale Law School on Monday to protest the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court and demand an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against him.”

* * *

Brent Kendall and Natalie Andrews, “Lawyer for Kavanaugh’s Accuser Faces Tough Scrutiny,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Debra Katz has long been a Washington fixture on sexual harassment cases and the #MeToo movement. But never has she faced anything like the scrutiny accompanying the Brett Kavanaugh case, with its far-reaching political, social, and legal stakes.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 23

Date: Sun, 23 Sep 2018 20:23:05 -0400

Importance: Normal

Nolan D. McCaskill and Elana Schor, “Kavanaugh accuser agrees to testify before Senate panel,” [Politico](#)

“The Senate Judiciary Committee on Sunday officially scheduled a Thursday-morning hearing for Christine Blasey Ford and Brett Kavanaugh to publicly testify about Ford’s sexual assault allegation against the Supreme Court nominee. Still, several central elements of the hearing remain unresolved after talks with the committee, according to Ford’s attorneys. . . . [N]o firm decision has been reached on whether Republicans would use staff attorneys to question Ford about her claim that Kavanaugh tried to force himself on her more than 30 years ago”

“The committee’s Republican staff told Ford’s lawyers on Sunday that the committee would decide which witnesses appear, who questions them and in what order. The GOP told Ford’s team that those terms were ‘non-negotiable,’ according to an email released by the committee. . . . Ford’s legal team [also] indicated willingness to give ground on another item the committee had insisted on, slating Ford to testify first even though she had asked that Kavanaugh go first.”

* * *

Christal Hayes, “Senate panel quietly investigating Kavanaugh assault claims amid testimony negotiations,” [USA Today](#)

“Throughout the week, the committee reached out to several people who might have information about a house party in 1982 where Ford, a 51-year-old college professor, says she was sexually assaulted by Kavanaugh, a source with knowledge of the investigation told USA TODAY, adding several people have offered statements to the committee.”

* * *

Ariane de Vogue, “Committee contacts Ford’s friend about party; ‘she has no recollection’ of it, lawyer says,” [CNN](#)

“CNN has learned that the committee has reached out to a longtime friend of Ford named Leland Ingham Keyser. . . . On Saturday night, her lawyer, Howard Walsh, released a statement to CNN and the Senate Judiciary Committee. ‘Simply put,’ Walsh said, ‘Ms. Keyser does not know Mr. Kavanaugh and she has no recollection of ever being at a party or gathering where he was present, with, or without, Dr. Ford.’”

“Ford’s lawyer Debra Katz said in response to Keyser’s attorney’s statement that it makes sense that Keyser wouldn’t remember, because Ford has said she did not share her allegations ‘publicly or with anyone for years.’”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Durbin: ‘No reason’ for people to remember Kavanaugh at party accuser describes,” [The Hill](#)

“‘It’s no surprise,” Durbin said on ABC’s ‘This Week’ when asked what he thought about the fact that none of the four people Ford says attended the party corroborated Ford’s story. He added that there is ‘no reason’ why someone would remember it if they ‘had no occurrence like the . . . one that was stated by Dr. Ford.’”

* * *

Peter Baker, “Kavanaugh to Give Senate Calendars From 1982 to Back Up Denial,” [New York Times](#)

“Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh has calendars from the summer of 1982 that he plans to hand over to the Senate Judiciary Committee that do not show a party consistent with the description of his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, according to someone working for his confirmation. The calendars do not disprove Dr. Blasey’s allegations, Judge Kavanaugh’s team acknowledged. He could have attended a party that he did not list. But his team will argue to the senators that the calendars provide no corroboration for her account”

* * *

Ronan Farrow and Jane Mayer, “Senate Democrats Investigate a New Allegation of Sexual Misconduct, from Brett Kavanaugh’s College Years,” [New Yorker Magazine](#)

“Deborah Ramirez, a Yale classmate of the Supreme Court nominee, has described a dormitory party gone awry and a drunken incident that she wants the F.B.I. to investigate.”

* * *

Seung Min Kim and Josh Dawsey, “‘Incredibly frustrated’: Inside the GOP effort to save Kavanaugh amid assault allegation,” [Washington Post](#)

“Just as he did several weeks ago to prepare for his confirmation hearings for the Supreme Court, Brett M. Kavanaugh was back inside a room at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building — again facing questioners readying him for a high-stakes appearance in the Senate. This time, the questions were much different.”

* * *

Karoun Demirjian, “As Hearing On Kavanaugh Assault Allegations Looms, Senators Seem Unwilling To Budge,” [Washington Post](#)

“Kavanaugh has repeatedly denied the charges and is expected to do the same on Thursday. But it is unclear whether either his or Ford’s testimony will sway most senators, some of whom said Sunday that there was little either person could say to change their minds about how to vote on his nomination.”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “Graham: Kavanaugh allegation has to be looked at ‘in terms of our legal system,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘What do you expect me to do? What am I supposed to do? Go ahead and ruin this guy’s life? I don’t know when it happened I don’t where it happened and everybody being named in regard to being there said it didn’t happen,’ Graham said when asked if he’s keeping an open mind about Kavanaugh’s nomination.”

* * *

Gregg Re, “Top Democrat cites Kavanaugh’s ‘outcome-driven’ legal philosophy as reason to deny him due process,” [Fox News](#)

“Sen. Mazie Hirono on Sunday suggested that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s ‘outcome-driven’ conservative judicial philosophy directly undermines the credibility of his denials that he sexually assaulted California professor Christine Ford at a house party more than three decades ago.”

* * *

Jennifer Rubin, “If Republicans don’t get answers, Democrats will in 2019,” [Washington Post](#)

“All of this points to the damage that may be done to the Supreme Court if Kavanaugh is seated through a rushed, incomplete and biased process. The potential for wrongdoing to be uncovered after Kavanaugh gets on the bench (either relating to the original alleged incident or to the confirmation process addressing Ford’s claim) is real. The injury to the court’s legitimacy would be substantial, and the embarrassment to the partisan hit-men involved in this cockamamie scheme would not be insignificant.”

* * *

Jonathan Martin, “Kavanaugh Was Supposed to Be a Midterm Boon for G.O.P. Not Anymore.” [New York Times](#)

“[I]n Missouri and other politically competitive battleground states, leaders in both parties are increasingly doubtful that Mr. Hawley and other Republicans can wield the Kavanaugh nomination as a cudgel without risking unpredictable repercussions in the midterm elections.”

* * *

Mike Lillis and Scott Wong, “Dems see Kavanaugh saga as playing to their advantage,” [The Hill](#)

“House Democrats increasingly see the controversy swirling around Brett Kavanaugh as a political boon just weeks ahead of the midterm elections — a saga they think will energize female voters already put off by President Trump and threatening to bring their frustrations to the polls.”

* * *

Justin Wise, “Poll: Opposition to Kavanaugh confirmation rises,” [The Hill](#)

“Public support for President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, has dropped considerably following sexual assault allegations brought against him, according to a new poll released by Fox News on Sunday. The survey found that 40 percent of respondents support his confirmation, a figure that represents a five-point decrease from a similar poll conducted in August. Meanwhile, 50 percent of respondents oppose Kavanaugh’s confirmation, up from 46 percent last month.”

* * *

Jennifer De Pinto, “Poll: Most Americans want hearings before Kavanaugh vote, stark partisan divides,” [CBS News](#)

“Nearly six in 10 Americans say a vote on Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court should wait until after more investigations and hearings are done. But most Republicans – 77 percent - would like to see a vote on Kavanaugh happen in the next few days.”

* * *

Jonathan Swan and Mike Allen, “The GOP’s great fear,” [Axios](#)

“Republicans at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue are edgy about yesterday’s tentative agreement for Christine Blasey Ford, Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser, to testify publicly before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.”

* * *

Ross Douthat, “The Burden of Proof for Kavanaugh,” [New York Times](#)

“[I]f Kavanaugh is actually innocent, there are really only two alternatives: Either Ford is a brazen liar, or some scenario of clouded or mistaken memory must be true. So to treat any version of the latter defense as simple confirmation of the nominee’s villainy is to close even the narrow door that Wittes (and I) would leave open for Kavanaugh’s potential exculpation. If you are being asked to prove a negative, you cannot be denied the opportunity to explain what you think that negative might look like.”

* * *

Megan McArdle, “Kavanaugh has a doppelganger — no, not that one,” [Washington Post](#)

“Kavanaugh isn’t the doppelganger of every prep-school predator or fraternity rapist. He isn’t a stand-in for every privileged white man who ever got away with something he shouldn’t have; he is not the distilled essence of the patriarchy. He’s an individual, not a stock character, one accused of a very specific act. In assessing whether Kavanaugh is guilty of that act, we of course consider his character. But we should not automatically ascribe to him the character of other white men, prep-school boys, high-school athletes, fraternity brothers, Catholics, pro-lifers, conservatives or lawyers we have known.”

* * *

Bret Stephens, “This I Believe About Blasey v. Kavanaugh,” [New York Times](#)

“I believe Blasey deserves to be fairly heard, not automatically believed.”

* * *

Paul Sperry, “How Feinstein is conspiring to destroy Kavanaugh,” [New York Post](#)

“Democrat leaders and their liberal aides, along with professional agitators, are all intermingled and conspiring together to achieve the same objective — in this case, to spike the confirmation of President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Liz Mundy, “I Rewatched Anita Hill’s Testimony. So Much Has Changed. So Much Hasn’t.” [Politico](#)

“Decades later—even after #MeToo—we are seeing again why it’s so hard for women to come forward.”

* * *

Will Bunch, “Kavanaugh-Blasey Ford showdown really about whether a woman can control her story, her body, her destiny,” [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

“[M]ore and more people, especially women, are seeing things for what they really are: An ancient patriarchy clinging to what it’s always done in the past: Control the narratives of women.”

* * *

Brian Pfannenstiel, “Republicans rally behind Chuck Grassley, Brett Kavanaugh at Faith and Freedom dinner in Des Moines,” [Des Moines Register](#)

“‘Sen. Grassley is the single person who stood between the constitution and judicial tyranny,’ said Steve Scheffler, president of the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition. Nearly 700 people attended the coalition’s dinner in Des Moines on Saturday night, hearing from a lineup of speakers that included Scheffler, Gov. Kim Reynolds, U.S. Rep. David Young, U.S. Rep. Steve King, U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst and Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Jeff Kaufmann. U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio also spoke.”

* * *

Melissa Korn, “Yale Law Professor Amy Chua Rejects Charge She Coached Female Students on How to Dress for Kavanaugh,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“‘Everything that is being said about the advice I give to students applying to Brett Kavanaugh—or any judge—is outrageous, 100% false, and the exact opposite of everything I have stood for and said for the last fifteen years,’ said Ms. Chua.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 22

Date: Sat, 22 Sep 2018 18:15:13 -0400

Importance: Normal

Rachel Chason and David Nakamura, “Trump praises Kavanaugh and says, ‘We have to fight for him,’” [Washington Post](#)

“President Trump on Friday continued his efforts to rally supporters behind Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh, calling him a ‘fantastic man’ who was born to be on the high court.”

* * *

Seth McLaughlin, “Kavanaugh A ‘Man Of Integrity,’ Pence Tells Values Voter Summit,” [Washington Times](#)

“Speaking at the Values Voters Summit, Mr. Pence said Mr. Kavanaugh has ‘impeccable credentials and a proven judicial philosophy’ and said he has established a ‘strong record of support for limited government, religious liberty and our Second Amendment.’”

* * *

Elana Schor and Burgess Everett, “Grassley extends deadline on Kavanaugh accuser’s decision to testify,” [Politico](#)

“Attorneys for Christine Blasey Ford sought an additional day to respond to Republicans over whether she’ll testify about her sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, calling a GOP-imposed Friday night deadline ‘arbitrary.’ In response, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley late Friday appeared to extend a previous 10 p.m. cutoff for Ford to reply to a GOP offer sent earlier in the day for her to appear on Wednesday to testify about her decades-old allegation against Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Roll Call Staff, “Game On: Grassley and Kavanaugh Accuser Continue to Play Chicken,” [Roll Call](#)

“When — or if — Chistine Blasey Ford will testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee about her claim that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her is very much up in the air. But a pattern has emerged. Deadlines come. Deadlines go. In the meantime, the debate over what happened — and the fate of Kavanaugh’s nomination — continues.”

* * *

Elaina Plott, “Christine Blasey Ford Weighs the Risks and Rewards of Testifying,” [The Atlantic](#)

“There’s almost no way the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault can adequately prepare for a high-pressure appearance Monday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Seung Min Kim, et al., “Lawyers for Christine Blasey Ford say she has accepted Senate Judiciary Committee’s request to testify against Kavanaugh,” [Washington Post](#)

“In an email sent to the committee at 2:17 p.m. Saturday, attorneys Debra Katz and Lisa Banks asked Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley’s (R-Iowa) staff to set up a phone conversation later Saturday to work out specifics.”

“The email doesn’t specifically say whether Ford has agreed to appear on Wednesday, but that was the most recent offer that Grassley had made to her attorneys. Yet Ford's legal team plans to continue to press for a Thursday hearing, according to a person familiar with the lawyers’ thinking.”

“Republicans working on Kavanaugh’s confirmation were promptly skeptical of the lawyers’ latest response. ‘This is an ask to continue “negotiations” without committing to anything,’ a senior White House official said. ‘It’s a clever way to push off the vote Monday without committing to appear Wednesday.’”

* * *

Marcia Coyle, “Veteran Prosecutor Michael Bromwich Joins Kavanaugh Accuser’s Legal Team,” [National Law Journal](#)

“Bromwich announced his resignation from Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Untereiner & Sauber to join Christine Blasey Ford’s legal team.”

* * *

James Pindell, “In N.H., Collins says Kavanaugh vote should be delayed, to allow accuser to testify,” [Boston Globe](#)

“Collins said [on Friday night] that ‘if Professor Ford says she is not ready on Monday then to me we should say fine Wednesday or Thursday.’ In response to a question she said she would never hire someone credibly accused of sexual assault, ‘if it’s credible, of course not. But what we need to find out here is – we don’t know enough yet so I can’t reach that conclusion In the end I have to be able to look in the mirror and say what I thought was right.”

* * *

Daniella Diaz, “Murkowski says she’s waiting until Ford testifies before she decides on Kavanaugh,” [CNN](#)

“‘What I have to do next week, assuming that the hearing moves forward, which I am truly hoping it does, that is the end, hopefully, of this vetting process that I have been engaged in,’ she said here Friday. ‘That’s when I will make my determination in regards to Judge Kavanaugh.’”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Doug Jones to McConnell: Don’t ‘plow right through’ with Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) slammed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) for comments he made regarding Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “G.O.P. Leaders Can’t Even Fake Respect for Christine Blasey Ford,” [New York Times](#)

“They are struggling to pretend they will fairly weigh her accusations against Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Jessica Contrera, et al., “Kavanaugh accuser Christine Blasey Ford moved 3,000 miles to reinvent her life. It wasn’t far enough.” [Washington Post](#)

“When Donald Trump won his upset presidential victory in 2016, Christine Blasey Ford’s thoughts quickly turned to a name most Americans had never heard of but one that had unsettled her for years: Brett M. Kavanaugh. . . . ‘She was like, “I can’t deal with this. If he becomes the nominee, then I’m moving to another country. I cannot live in this country if he’s in the Supreme Court,” her husband said. ‘She wanted out.’”

* * *

Marc Fisher and Perry Stein, “‘100 Kegs or Bust’: Kavanaugh friend, Mark Judge, has spent years writing about high school debauchery,” [Washington Post](#)

“A review of books, articles and blog posts by Judge — a freelance writer who has shifted among jobs at a record store, substitute teaching, housesitting and most recently at a liquor store — describes an ’80s private-school party scene in which heavy drinking and sexual encounters were standard fare.”

* * *

Peter Maass, “Mark Judge’s Memoir About Brett Kavanaugh’s High School Portrays a Culture of Aggression and Excessive Drinking,” [The Intercept](#)

“Mark Judge graduated from Catholic University, he attended the rehearsal dinner for a close friend’s wedding in Washington, D.C. The dinner was in a private room above an Irish bar, and as soon as Judge arrived, he downed a shot of bourbon — and another and another. The next thing he knew, it was the morning and he was in a friend’s house. He woke up in his disheveled suit from the night before. His head ached, and he could barely open his eyes.”

* * *

Marianne Levine and Burgess Everett, “GOP aide working on Kavanaugh confirmation resigns amid past harassment claim,” [Politico](#)

“Garrett Ventry, a Senate Judiciary Committee spokesperson brought on to help shepherd Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, has resigned amid a past allegation of sexual harassment, a committee spokesperson confirmed.”

* * *

Andrea G. Bottner, “I stand with Brett Kavanaugh,” [Fox News](#)

“Who do you believe in a he said-she said situation? For me, in this case, it’s easy. I stand with Brett Kavanaugh. I believe him, because I know him as a fantastic basketball coach, a mainstay at Sunday mass, a gentleman in social situations, an involved parent, and a good neighbor. I have watched him proudly guide my daughter’s basketball team through fantastic wins and heartbreaking losses, always exuding good sportsmanship. I have socialized with him and his wife through the years and always enjoy seeing their family.”

* * *

Tunku Varadarajan, “In the Eye of the Kavanaugh Storm,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, talks about the prospects of confirmation, the effort to give the accuser a hearing, and the #MeToo movement.”

* * *

Andrew C. McCarthy, “Grassley’s Kangaroo Court,” [National Review](#)

“He must not let Democrats delay the Judiciary Committee’s hearing or turn it into even more of a farce.”

* * *

Sarah Binder, “4 reasons why the Kavanaugh hearings have become a stalled tropical storm,” [Washington Post](#)

“All eyes — at least in Washington — are on the battle over confirming Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. Sexual assault allegations against him have stalled his nomination in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it waits like a stalled tropical storm, unable to reach the floor for a confirmation vote.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “The Presumption of Guilt,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“We don’t doubt that Ms. Ford believes what she claims. But the set of facts she currently provides wouldn’t pass even the ‘preponderance of evidence’—or 50.01% evidence of guilt—test that prevails today on college campuses. If this is the extent of her evidence and it is allowed to defeat a Supreme Court nominee, a charge of sexual assault will become a killer political weapon regardless of facts. And the new American standard of due process will be the presumption of guilt.”

* * *

George F. Will, “The Supreme Court was America’s least damaged institution — until now,” [Washington Post](#)

“This debacle du jour dramatizes how the court’s stature is hostage to the degrading confirmation process, which has become a maelstrom of insincerities. The justices who emerge from it suffer subtractions from the dignity that gives their decisions momentum for respect.”

* * *

Alexander Burns, et al., “Trump Galvanized a Movement of Women. Kavanaugh Is Testing It.” [New York Times](#)

“[I]f Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination was freighted with import for women, the battle over his confirmation has swelled into an event of titanic consequence in the country’s evolution on matters of gender and women’s equality.”

* * *

Janie Valencia and Perry Bacon Jr., “Kavanaugh May Be Getting More Unpopular,” [FiveThirtyEight](#)

“Averaging all the before-and-after results we have, Kavanaugh’s net support declined by about 4 percentage points. But that’s a small enough shift that we can’t rule out the chance that it’s simply statistical noise.”

* * *

Free Beacon Staff, “It’s Not Just The President Democrats Will Try To Impeach, It’s His Nominees As Well,” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“Democrats have continued to say they won't give up on Kavanaugh’s allegations, going so far as to say if he is appointed to the Supreme Court they will try to impeach him.”

* * *

Eugene Scott, “Amid Kavanaugh allegations, some evangelical leaders focus more on the courts,” [Washington Post](#)

“The number of conversations about sexual violence in conservative Christian communities has been expanding as the #MeToo movement has grown in prominence. But some evangelical leaders’ responses to the allegations facing Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh have reminded women who are concerned about the issue that many conservative Christians are not completely ready to put alleged victims at the center of their conversations on sexual assault.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 21

Date: Fri, 21 Sep 2018 20:25:22 -0400

Importance: Normal

Jordain Carney, “McConnell: Kavanaugh will be on Supreme Court ‘in very near future,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘You’ve watched the fight, you’ve watched the tactics, but here’s what I want to tell you: In the very near future Judge Kavanaugh will be on the United States Supreme Court,’ McConnell said while speaking at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, D.C. He added that Trump has ‘nominated a stunningly successful individual’ and told conservatives not to get ‘rattled’ because Senate Republicans are going to ‘plow right through it.’”

* * *

Amber Phillips, “‘Kavanaugh will be on the U.S. Supreme Court’: McConnell just erased any doubt about Republicans’ intentions to hear Ford out,” [Washington Post](#)

“A big reason Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh’s accuser says she doesn’t want to testify in the Senate without first having her claims investigated by the FBI is she doesn’t think she’ll be treated objectively and fairly by politicians. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) just thoroughly justified Christine Blasey Ford’s concerns.”

* * *

Ashley Parker and David Nakamura, “At Las Vegas rally, Trump doubles down on his support for Kavanaugh,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘[T]he president focused his remarks on supporting Kavanaugh and said, ‘I think everything will be just fine.’ ‘I’m not saying anything about anybody else,’ Trump said, ‘but I want to tell you Brett Kavanaugh is one of the finest human beings you ever have the privilege of knowing or meeting. . . . We’ll have to let it play out, but I want to tell you: He is a fine, fine person.’”

* * *

Jonathan Allen and Lauren Egan, “On Kavanaugh hearing, Trump says Senate should ‘get on with it,’” [NBC News](#)

“‘I don’t think you can delay it any longer,’ Trump said in an interview with Fox’s Sean Hannity just before a campaign rally in Las Vegas. ‘They’ve delayed it a week, and they have to get on with it.’”

* * *

Eileen Sullivan, “Trump Says if Attack on Kavanaugh Accuser Was ‘as Bad as She Says,’ Charges Would Have Been Filed,” [New York Times](#)

“‘He asked her to produce contemporaneous law enforcement reports ‘so that we can learn date, time, and place!’”

* * *

Clare Foran, “Female friends defend Kavanaugh against sexual assault allegation,” [CNN](#)

“A group of women who identified themselves as friends and former colleagues of Brett Kavanaugh defended the embattled Supreme Court nominee who has been accused of sexual assault on Friday at a news conference in Washington. Standing behind a banner that spelled out the words #IStandWithBrett, the women who spoke shared personal stories about their experiences with Kavanaugh and argued that the allegation he now faces is inconsistent with the actions of the individual they know.”

* * *

Lauren Lee, “Women rally in support of Kavanaugh: ‘We know the man, we know his heart,’” [Fox News](#)

“Dozens of female colleagues, classmates and friends of Brett Kavanaugh rallied in support of the embattled Supreme Court nominee on Friday, saying they don’t believe the sexual assault allegation against him.”

* * *

Seung Min Kim, et al., “Kavanaugh Accuser Won’t Testify Monday But Open To Doing So Later Next Week,” [Washington Post](#)

“Late Thursday afternoon, Republican and Democratic staffers on the Judiciary Committee spoke on the phone with Katz to begin negotiations for a potential hearing next week. . . . The roughly 30-minute conversation also touched on the scope of the questions, and Katz raised concerns about the potential of an outside counsel coming in to question Ford, arguing that the scenario would be too much like a trial, according to the aide. Ford also does not want Kavanaugh in the hearing room when she testifies, Katz told the staffers, and requested that the nominee speak first.”

* * *

Stephen Collison, “Ford seeks to shift the balance of power in Kavanaugh drama,” [CNN](#)

“The requests being made by her team indicate that Ford is concerned for her safety if she agrees to an appearance that will be highly controversial and will be watched around the world. But it’s also clear that the California professor and her lawyers are concerned at the imbalance of power she would face as a single accuser taking on Kavanaugh and the committee’s Republican majority, as well as the structure and integrity of a hearing that in many ways appears stacked against her.”

* * *

Gabriella Muñoz, “Kellyanne Conway: Christine Blasey Ford’s stipulations more like ‘laundry list of demands,’” [Washington Times](#)

“Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said Friday the conditions California professor Christine Blasey Ford wants in order to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee was more like a ‘laundry list of demands.’”

* * *

Carrie Severino, “Anatomy of a Left-Wing Political Drive-By Hit Against a Supreme Court Nominee,” [National Review](#)

“Next, we hear about those terms, and they are in flagrant disregard of 800 years of the rule of law: The accuser gets to go second, so the accused can’t answer the actual charges against him. The accuser gets to pick her

questioners. And the accuser gets to call witnesses, whom nobody gets to find out about beforehand. This has never been about finding the truth.”

* * *

John Bowden, “Dershowitz: Kavanaugh accuser’s request is ‘anti-American,’” [The Hill](#)

“In an interview on ‘Fox & Friends,’ the Harvard law professor said Ford’s request for Kavanaugh to testify before her runs contrary to due process and the rule of law. ‘That is the most absurd, anti-due process, anti-American concept,’ Dershowitz said Friday, responding to host Steve Doocy’s description of Ford’s request.”

* * *

Alex Pappas, “Senate Republicans Make Counteroffer To Kavanaugh Accuser For Wednesday Hearing,” [Fox News](#)

“Senate Republicans on Friday extended a counteroffer to Christine Blasey Ford to testify on Capitol Hill next Wednesday, amid negotiations over whether Ford will elaborate on her allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in public. It was not immediately clear whether Ford would accept the offer. Fox News was told that the Republican senators want an answer ‘by the end of the day.’”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “Feinstein to GOP: Show some heart to Kavanaugh accuser,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, is calling on colleagues to ‘show some heart’ and wait until at least next Thursday to bring before the panel the woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault.”

* * *

Caitlin MacNeal, “Judiciary Dems Push Grassley To Bring In More Witnesses For Blasey Ford Hearing,” [Talking Points Memo](#)

“Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee sent a letter to chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) on Friday afternoon criticizing the way in which Republicans have handled Christine Blasey Ford’s sexual assault allegations. The Democrats asked Grassley to invite FBI officials to testify at a hearing with Blasey Ford and Kavanaugh, as well as the official who issued the polygraph test to Blasey Ford. They also pushed to hear publicly from any other identified witnesses and character witnesses for both Blasey Ford and Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Mikhael Smits, “Senate Judiciary Committee Contacts Fourth Person Said to Have Attended Party Where Alleged Kavanaugh Incident Occurred,” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“The Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday released new details of its investigation into the sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, revealing that staff have contacted a fourth person who may have attended the high school party where the alleged incident occurred.”

* * *

Nancy Cook, “White House plows ahead with Kavanaugh prep as Ford weighs testifying,” [Politico](#)

“For the past four days, former law clerks to Kavanaugh, White House lawyers and a handful of other aides have been prepping Kavanaugh for a potential public hearing next week and running through tough questions that could come up before the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Christal Hayes, “Kavanaugh Wants To Testify On Sexual Assault Allegations To ‘Clear My Name,’” [USA Today](#)

“Kavanaugh sent a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, accepting an invitation to appear Monday before the committee, adding he wants a hearing ‘as soon as possible, so that I can clear my name.’”

* * *

Michelle Goldberg, “We Need to Hear From Christine Blasey Ford,” [New York Times](#)

“Republicans are being unfair. I hope she testifies anyway.”

* * *

Michael Dresser, “Gov. Hogan rules out state police investigation of Kavanaugh allegations,” [Capital Gazette](#)

“‘The Maryland State Police will not be getting involved in this,’ he said. Hogan did not elaborate on his reasons.”

* * *

Tal Axelrod, “Dem vows to probe ‘why the FBI stood down’ on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) vowed Thursday that if Democrats take control of the House or Senate in November they would launch a probe into the FBI’s handling of sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Ed Whelan, on [Twitter](#)

“Dr. Ford may well have been the victim of a severe sexual assault by someone 36 years ago. Her allegations are so vague as to such basic matters as when and where that it is impossible for Judge Kavanaugh to *prove* his innocence. But there are compelling reasons to believe his categorical denial. Let’s look at one set of reasons. . . .”

* * *

Ed Whelan, on [Twitter](#)

“I made an appalling and inexcusable mistake of judgment in posting the tweet thread in a way that identified Kavanaugh’s Georgetown Prep classmate. I take full responsibility for that mistake, and I deeply apologize for it. I realize that does not undo the mistake.”

* * *

Greg Sargent, “A new twist in the Kavanaugh saga raises some very unpleasant questions,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘Staff on the Judiciary Committee were floored by Whelan’s tweets last night,’ one senior Senate Democratic aide told me. ‘It’s obviously important to know if Kavanaugh took part in the creation of the conspiracy theory.’”

* * *

Robert Costa and Elise Viebeck, “Kavanaugh ally says he did not communicate with White House or Supreme Court nominee about theory of another attacker,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘I have not communicated at all with [White House counsel] Don McGahn or anyone at the White House, or Judge Kavanaugh, about the topic of the Twitter thread,’ Whelan said when reached by phone.”

* * *

Philip Wegmann, “Ed Whelan Just Showed What Brett Kavanaugh’s Defense Will Look Like — And Metaphorically Set Himself On Fire,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“In a court of law, Whelan’s theory about an alternate culprit would be perfectly appropriate. If there’s a second person who might have committed the crime, then it creates doubt about the defendant’s guilt. But when you’re writing outside a courtroom, you need to be a little more careful, lest you be sued. Journalistic principles would dictate double-checking, seeking multiple sources, and reaching out for comment at the very least. So far, he’s given no sign that he did any of these things.”

* * *

Mark Joseph Stern, “Is Ed Whelan’s Conspiracy the Best the GOP Has?” [Slate](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination is in dire straits.”

* * *

Alex Griswold, “Brett Kavanaugh Has Been Found Guilty Until Proven Innocent,” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“What it boils down to is the evidence Brett Kavanaugh attempted a rape is that Blasey Ford said he did, and the evidence he did not is that he says he did not. It’s the classic ‘he-said, she-said’ situation that frustrates those of us who like nice, clean answers to tricky questions. But to many partisans the issue has been settled: Kavanaugh is guilty, and the burden of proof lies with him to prove that he is not.”

* * *

Benjamin Wittes, “Kavanaugh Bears the Burden of Proof,” [The Atlantic](#)

“The question isn’t whether he can win confirmation—it’s whether he can defend against the charge he faces in a manner that is both persuasive and honorable.”

* * *

Post Editorial Board, “Democrats will exploit Kavanaugh’s accuser all the way to Election Day,” [New York Post](#)

“Are Senate Democrats really interested in learning the truth about the high-school sex-assault accusation against Brett Kavanaugh? Or are they just scheming to exploit it in the fall campaign?”

* * *

Jonathan Bernstein, “Cut Your Losses on Kavanaugh, Republicans,” [Bloomberg](#)

“There are plenty of young, qualified judges who could take his place and save the country from an even uglier spectacle.”

* * *

Michael Brendan Dougherty, “Yes, Rejecting Kavanaugh Now Would Disgrace Him,” [National Review](#)

“No one is entitled to spend the remainder of his life in public authority. That’s true. Would being rejected by the Senate for the Supreme Court really be so bad for Brett Kavanaugh? In this context, yes.”

* * *

Laurie Kellman, “How it looks: Optics key in fight over Kavanaugh hearing,” [AP News](#)

“The hearing or hearings, if any, would have enormous stakes for Kavanaugh, Ford and their families. But Republicans have the toughest challenge in the Department of How It Looks.”

* * *

Juana Summers et al., “Kavanaugh allegation tests support of GOP women,” [AP News](#)

“For women like Jayne A. Cordes, the steady stream of investigations in Washington is exhausting. That’s why, when Christine Blasey Ford came forward to accuse Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her more than three decades ago, it struck Cordes as the latest example of the ceaseless — and needless — drama in the capital.”

* * *

James Hohmann, “The Daily 202: Conservatives divided over Kavanaugh allegations, mostly along gender lines,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘Conservatives can never advocate ignoring allegations of sexual assault or diminish the importance of protecting women from abuse,’ writes National Review staff writer Alexandra DeSanctis, who is in her mid-20s and two years out of college. ‘No moral society can overlook, downplay, or otherwise dismiss behavior as grave as what Ford alleges Kavanaugh did . . . To suggest otherwise is deeply perverse. . . . Prager’s argument in defense of Kavanaugh is destructive to the conservative movement. It is uniquely wounding to conservative women.’”

* * *

Kendall Karson, “Kavanaugh protests serve as flashpoints as #MeToo movement and politics collide,” [ABC News](#)

“[O]n Thursday, a wave of protesters descended on Capitol Hill — and into senators’ offices — to oppose Trump’s Supreme Court nominee. The protesters took to the halls of the Dirksen and Hart Senate office buildings, confronted key members of the Senate committee charged with hearing testimony from both the accused and the accuser, and share personal stories of sexual assault.”

* * *

Rebecca Morin, “Kellyanne Conway: Don’t conflate the #MeToo movement and Kavanaugh allegations,” [Politico](#)

“Counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway cautioned on Friday against conflating the sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh with the broader #MeToo movement, suggesting that the details of the former are too thin to be considered fact.”

* * *

Valerie Richardson, “‘Shut Up’: Democrats Fire Up Man-Bashing To Defeat Kavanaugh In ‘Defining’ #MeToo Moment,” [Washington Times](#)

“Vilifying half the population may sound like a risky campaign strategy, but Democratic man-bashing has soared as the party fights to beat back the Kavanaugh nomination and whip up support for the midterms.”

* * *

Nicholas Fandos, “Dianne Feinstein Rode One Court Fight to the Senate. Another Has Left Her Under Siege.” [New York Times](#)

“Ms. Feinstein, now the Judiciary Committee’s top Democrat, appears to finally have a chance to alter the course not just of a Supreme Court nomination but also a churning cultural conversation about women and sexual assault. But ‘change’ is proving to be very complicated.”

* * *

Joe Concha, “Media must set higher standard for reporting career-ending accusations,” [The Hill](#)

“If the events around Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford are any indication, the American news consumer — simply looking for facts presented in a nonpartisan manner — appears to be permanently screwed.”

* * *

Editorial, “For Kavanaugh fight, news media toss their standards in the trash,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“[W]ith a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court on the line and allegations of sexual assault rattling the nation’s capital, the truth *really* is more important now than on many other occasions. A substantial number of major news outlets are not rising to the occasion. Under pressure from not least the opposed forces of their ideological agenda on the one hand and the importance of the nomination on the other, they are losing their cool, abandoning standards, and showing bias more than usual.”

* * *

Susan Page, “Poll: Brett Kavanaugh faces unprecedented opposition to Supreme Court confirmation,” [USA Today](#)

“Amid allegations of sexual assault against Kavanaugh, those surveyed say by 40 percent-31 percent that the Senate shouldn’t vote to approve his nomination, the first time a plurality of Americans have opposed a Supreme Court nominee since polling on the issue began. Nonetheless, they also are inclined to believe he will, in the end, be confirmed: Just 11 percent predict he won’t; 45 percent said he will.”

* * *

Kate Zernike, “Many Voters Tend to Believe Christine Blasey Ford, Even if They Question Her Motive,”
[New York Times](#)

“In a series of interviews this week, voters [in Doylestown Pennsylvania] were inclined to believe Judge Kavanaugh’s accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, now a research psychologist in California — though some questioned her motive for coming forward more than three decades later, and whether allegations about his behavior as a teenager should be counted against him.”

* * *

Jessica Gresko, “For Kavanaugh, path forward could be like Clarence Thomas,” [AP News](#)

“When Clarence Thomas arrived at the Supreme Court in 1991 after a bruising confirmation hearing in which his former employee Anita Hill accused him of sexual harassment, fellow justice Byron White said something that stuck with him. ‘It doesn’t matter how you got here. All that matters now is what you do here,’ Thomas recounted in his 2007 memoir, ‘My Grandfather’s Son.’ That view could be tested again if lawmakers confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, who is facing allegations by college professor Christine Blasey Ford that he sexually assaulted her when both were in high school.”

* * *

Hugh T. Ferguson, “Biden: Kavanaugh accuser ‘should not have to go through what Anita Hill went through,’” [Politico](#)

“‘She should not have to go through what Anita Hill went through,’ the former vice president told NBC’s ‘Today’ show. ‘And some of the questions she was asked and the way the right went after her on national television and question her integrity and question her, not just her honesty, questioned her behavior. I mean, that’s just not appropriate. You shouldn’t have to be twice put through the same exact thing.’”

* * *

Stephen Rodrick, “I helped write a speech defending a vote for Clarence Thomas. I regret it still.”
[Washington Post](#)

“I can’t urge a young Senate aide to quit his dream job over the Kavanaugh allegations. I didn’t — at least not right away. But if you stay and write words you don’t believe in, it will haunt you. For how long? I’m at 26 years and still counting.”

* * *

Tom Vanden Brook, et al., “Kavanaugh’s prep school culture nurtures high achievers, fosters darker impulses, grads say,” [USA Today](#)

“Georgetown Prep, Kavanaugh’s private, all-boys school, also fostered much darker impulses that have persisted for decades. Students who attended the elite private school describe a world of rowdy parties, where a teen boy’s cool quotient was established by access to alcohol and drugs and his prowess with girls and sports.”

* * *

John Bowden, “Rep. Cummings: Will Kavanaugh take lie detector test and ask for FBI investigation?”
[The Hill](#)

“Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) on Thursday asked whether Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh would support a call from his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, for an FBI investigation and submit to a polygraph test.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Ford’s Attorneys Were Scheduled to Headline Democratic Fundraiser,” [National Review](#)

“The attorneys representing Christine Blasey Ford were scheduled to headline an October 1 fundraiser for Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin but canceled their appearance following a request for comment from CNN.”

* * *

Amber Athey, “Kavanaugh Accuser’s Lawyer Caught On Camera: ‘We Are Going To Resist,’” [The Daily Caller](#)

“Debra Katz, one of the attorneys representing Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser, attended a resistance rally against the president in 2017 and promised to ‘fight back.’”

* * *

Joan McCarter, “Keeping Kavanaugh off court more important to Maine, Alaska than re-electing Collins and Murkowski,” [Daily Kos](#)

“It’s politically safe, ultimately, for Murkowski to oppose this nomination. There’s some hints that she’s preparing to do just that, lining up backing and arguments to support her. In contrast, it’s getting more politically unsafe every day for Collins to support Kavanaugh, as she’s giving every appearance of intending.”

* * *

Elizabeth Landers, “Maine senator’s office among those deluged with Kavanaugh calls,” [CNN](#)

“As the nomination process of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court has reached a crescendo in the last week, some senators are feeling the heat over what their vote will be more than others.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Senate Democrats expand Kavanaugh documents lawsuit,” [The Hill](#)

“Democrats, led by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), said Friday that they would also use the lawsuit to compel the Department of Justice to comply with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on Kavanaugh documents. A lawsuit Democrats filed on Monday only sued the CIA and the National Archives to hand over the decades-old paperwork.”

* * *

Andrew M. Harris, “Democrats Say Justice Department Stonewalling on Kavanaugh Files,” [Bloomberg](#)

“In papers filed in Washington federal court overnight Friday, the senators said the Justice Department made ‘unfulfilled promises’ to work with them, but failed to produce a single document responsive to their Freedom of Information Act request made in August.”

* * *

Frank Miniter, “America needs Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court – Here’s why,” [Fox News](#)

“[M]any Democrats want to seat a judge who will interpret the Constitution the way they want – not the way the framers intended. And this is why it is important that the Senate confirm someone to the Supreme Court who will be faithful to the intent of the framers of the Constitution – and Judge Brett Kavanaugh is just such a person.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 20

Date: Thu, 20 Sep 2018 19:53:19 -0400

Importance: Normal

Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “Kavanaugh Accuser Opens Negotiations on Testimony Next Week,” [The New York Times](#)

“The woman who has accused Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexual assault has told the Senate Judiciary Committee, in an apparent bid to jump-start negotiations, that she ‘would be prepared to testify next week,’ so long as senators offer ‘terms that are fair and which ensure her safety,’ according to an email her lawyers sent to committee staff members.”

* * *

Burgess Everett and Elana Schor, “Kavanaugh Accuser Open to Testifying Next Week,” [Politico](#)

“While Katz’s note puts the burden on Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) to decide whether to accomodate [sic] her, Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination nonetheless appears back on track for the moment. The GOP is increasingly confident and Democrats decidedly alarmed that the Supreme Court nominee will be confirmed despite a sexual assault allegation against him.”

* * *

Kasie Hunt, Rebecca Shabad, and Peter Alexander, “Kavanaugh Preps for Senate Testimony on Assault Allegations,” [NBC News](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh was back at the White House complex Thursday, amid a week of visits that have included preparation for the possibility of additional Senate testimony, according to a person involved in the confirmation process. In a private session Tuesday, Kavanaugh was grilled by a small group of White House staff about his past, his dating life and his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford’s account of events from the early 1980s. Among the White House staffers participating were White House counsel Don McGahn, communications director Bill Shine, press secretary Sarah Sanders and deputy press secretary Raj Shah. The source said that Kavanaugh, who returned to the White House for a third consecutive day Thursday, is ‘determined and hopeful,’ and that it’s up to him how he’d like to present himself on Monday if the Senate Judiciary Committee moves forward with its scheduled hearing.”

* * *

Dan McLaughlin, “In Evaluating Credibility, the Signs Point in Brett Kavanaugh’s Favor,” [National Review](#)

“For my part, I think the Judiciary Committee should go forward on Monday and let Kavanaugh testify, even if he’s the only witness; his good name has been placed in the crosshairs, he’s the nominee, and he should have the opportunity to defend himself before the world. Even as a matter of pure politics, it would benefit Senate Republicans to do that to clear the air. If Blasey Ford testifies as well, the Judiciary Committee would be well within its rights to probe the many reasons for questioning the credibility of her story, and the Senate will be entirely justified in confirming Brett Kavanaugh if they end up hearing nothing more than we have seen so far.

And if Christine Blasey Ford refuses to show up for the hearing and stands only on statements that aren't under oath or to federal investigators, that would, and should, be the last straw."

* * *

Heather Wilhelm, "Brett Kavanaugh and the Therapy Mob," [National Review](#)

"Too many of his detractors mistake the man for their abstract mental mock-up of a 'privileged' preppy white male."

* * *

Editorial Board, "Slow Down, Senate Republicans. The FBI Should Investigate." [The Washington Post](#)

"If Mr. Kavanaugh is telling the truth when he denies any wrongdoing, he should welcome an orderly investigation into Ms. Ford's claims as the best chance he has to ascend to the Supreme Court without a cloud surrounding his confirmation."

* * *

Kristina Peterson and Brent Kendall, "Can the FBI Investigate the Kavanaugh Accusations?," [The Wall Street Journal](#)

"Lawmakers are dueling over how to address allegations of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, in particular who should appear at a Senate hearing and whether the FBI should examine the allegations."

* * *

Richard Wolf and Kevin Johnson, "Brett Kavanaugh: Could the FBI Resolve the Standoff over Sexual Assault Allegations?," [USA Today](#)

"Three former top officials at the FBI said Wednesday that scores of agents could be assigned and an investigation completed quickly that could shed light on both Ford's and Kavanaugh's credibility. Ford, in particular, would come under the microscope, Fuentes warned. She has provided few details of the alleged attack, including the date and location, while Kavanaugh has flatly denied it. Investigators might ask her peers at the time about her sex life, use of alcohol and other personal details, he said."

* * *

Alex Swoyer, "Sen. Gillibrand Tells Women to Watch GOP Handling of Kavanaugh Accuser," [The Washington Times](#)

"Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said Thursday that Brett Kavanaugh's accuser is being maltreated by Senate Republicans, and she urged women to watch the handling of her sexual assault claim. The New York Democrat said Republicans in the Senate don't want to get to the bottom of the allegation, which is why they have not attempted to force the FBI to investigate Christine Blasey Ford's allegation of a decades-old attempted assault at a high school party."

* * *

Megan Keller, "Dem Senator: Judiciary Committee Doing 'Railroad Job' Against Kavanaugh Accuser," [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) said Thursday that the Senate Judiciary Committee, led by Republicans, was railroading Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “What’s the Rush on the Kavanaugh Nomination? Probably What You Assume.” [The Washington Post](#)

“There’s some irony to the urgency being expressed by Republican members of the Senate pushing for a sooner-rather-than-later vote on the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh. After all, it was only two years ago that the Republican majority in the Senate ignored a nominee offered by President Barack Obama, citing the proximity of the 2016 election as a reason to hold off on considering Merrick Garland for the high court.”

* * *

Jim Geraghty, “To Testify, or Not to Testify, That Is the Question,” [National Review](#)

“Three days earlier, her lawyers were declaring publicly that she was ‘ready to go’ and willing to ‘do whatever is necessary.’ Somehow, within three days, the process became ‘a rush.’”

* * *

Rebecca Morin, “Rubio: Kavanaugh Vote Should Move Forward Even If Accuser Does Not Testify,” [Politico](#)

“Sen. Marco Rubio said Thursday that the California woman who has accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault should not be criticized if she does not testify on Monday, but he said the Senate must move forward with its consideration of the Supreme Court nominee regardless of her decision.”

* * *

Carrie Severino, “Derailing an Investigation,” [National Review](#)

“Senate Democrats aren’t pursuing the truth. They are pursuing chaos, mob rule, and the goal of blocking Judge Kavanaugh’s confirmation, even if it means wrongfully destroying his reputation in the process.”

* * *

Cokie Roberts, “Christine Blasey Ford Made Her Choice. Now She Needs to Tell Her Story to the Senate: COLUMN,” [ABC News](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford has either developed a case of cold feet or she’s playing footsie with the Democrats. Neither one of those options is useful if she wants to stop Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

The Editors, “If Kavanaugh’s Accuser Won’t Testify, the Senate Should Vote,” [National Review](#)

“Republicans should reject this transparent attempt to delay the confirmation. The invitation to Ford ought to stand for now, but if she does not agree to testify, the Senate should vote on Kavanaugh’s confirmation as expeditiously as possible.”

* * *

Post Editorial Board, “If Kavanaugh’s Accuser Won’t Testify Monday, Just Vote,” [New York Post](#)

“It turns out that Christine Blasey Ford actually isn’t ‘willing to do whatever it takes to get her story forth,’ after all.”

* * *

Matt Mackowiak, “Feinstein Owes It to All of Us to Answer Kavanaugh Queries,” [The Washington Times](#)

“Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat, needs to answer some basic questions. Were it not for her string of ridiculous decisions, the current firestorm would never have started.”

* * *

Daniel Henninger, “What Democrats Have Become,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh is a casualty of an anything-goes political resistance.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Politicizing the FBI,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“Democrats want to turn agents into judges of nominee character.”

* * *

Gregg Re, “Grassley Demands Feinstein Turn over Letter from Kavanaugh Accuser: ‘I Cannot Overstate How Disappointed I Am,’” [Fox News](#)

“Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley on Wednesday unloaded a torrent of criticism on Sen. Dianne Feinstein for her handling of the sexual assault accusations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, telling the ranking Democrat on the committee, ‘I cannot overstate how disappointed I am.’ Saying Feinstein ‘chose to sit on the allegations until a politically opportune moment,’ Grassley demanded she immediately turn over an unredacted copy of the letter from Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, that Feinstein received July 30.”

* * *

Alex Swoyer, “Judiciary Committee Eyes Independent Lawyer to Conduct Kavanaugh Questioning,” [The Washington Times](#)

“The Judiciary Committee is exploring having an independent lawyer question Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and his accuser Christine Blasey Ford, should she agree to testify on Capitol Hill next week. Having an outside lawyer do the questioning would avoid the spectacle of senators engaging in a testy back-and-forth with Ms. Blasey Ford, who has accused Judge Kavanaugh of an attempted sexual assault more than three decades ago.”

* * *

Maegan Vazquez, “Hawaii Senator Emerges as Key, Critical Voice in Vetting Kavanaugh,” [CNN Politics](#)

“As Brett Kavanaugh faces a sexual assault allegation that has rocked his nomination to be a Supreme Court justice, one Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee has emerged as an outspoken critic against how Republicans are handling the issue: Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono.”

* * *

Joan Biskupic, “Kavanaugh Case Shows How Little Has Changed for Judiciary Committee,” [CNN Politics](#)

“As the nation awaits the resolution of another woman confronting another Supreme Court nominee with sexual allegations from the past, another similarity has emerged: the credibility of the Senate vetting process may be shot. In 1991, after the Senate Judiciary Committee faltered in its initial handling of Anita Hill's sexual harassment complaint against Clarence Thomas, it reopened the confirmation hearings. The result was a spectacle of senators’ charges and cross-charges as they seemed locked in their partisan views without regard for the facts.”

* * *

Laura E. Gomez, “Connecting the Dots on Brett Kavanaugh,” [Los Angeles Times](#)

“I find myself doubting Kavanaugh’s truthfulness about what happened to Christine Blasey Ford because I doubt his veracity about something that has gotten lost in the latest news: His testimony during the confirmation hearings when asked about the sexual improprieties of one of his mentors, retired Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.”

* * *

Anna North, “What Kavanaugh Is Accused of Isn’t ‘Horseplay,’” [Vox](#)

“The problem with the ‘boys will be boys’ defense of the Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Sean Rossman and Cara Kelly, “Kavanaugh Allegations: Is What Someone Does at Age 17 Relevant?,” [USA Today](#)

“Experts said an assault such as the one alleged by Christine Blasey Ford falls clearly outside the lines of behavior that can be written off as youthful indiscretion.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “Republicans Have No Good Options on Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Republicans are searching for answers on what had been a surefire confirmation that would tip the Supreme Court their way, potentially for years to come.”

* * *

Jeremy W. Peters and Elizabeth Dias, “Evangelical Leaders Are Frustrated at G.O.P. Caution on Kavanaugh Allegation,” [The New York Times](#)

“Worried their chance to cement a conservative majority on the Supreme Court could slip away, a growing number of evangelical and anti-abortion leaders are expressing frustration that Senate Republicans and the White

House are not protecting Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh more forcefully from a sexual assault allegation and warning that conservative voters may stay home in November if his nomination falls apart.”

* * *

Nicole Gaudiano and Erin Kelly, “Kavanaugh Confirmation: Who Will Be the Winners and Losers in a Senate Hearing?,” [USA Today](#)

“There are political landmines everywhere as the Senate Judiciary Committee figures out what to do now that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh faces sexual assault allegations.”

* * *

Robert Costa, “Republicans Push to Confirm Kavanaugh Amid Fears It Will Come at a Political Cost,” [The Washington Post](#)

“President Trump and Senate Republicans on Wednesday took a hard line: full-speed ahead on Brett M. Kavanaugh’s nomination for the Supreme Court despite an allegation of sexual assault decades ago. But privately, discussions about the political fallout gripped the party, with Republican lawmakers and strategists unnerved by the charged, gender-infused debates that have upended this campaign season.”

* * *

Ed Rogers, “Democratic Senators in Red States Are in a Lose-Lose Situation,” [The Washington Post](#)

“The Kavanaugh confirmation vote could make the difference in determining who will control the Senate after the November elections. And it might be that red-state Democrats find themselves in a lose-lose situation.”

* * *

Scott Neuman, “Sen. Claire McCaskill: ‘I Will Vote No on Judge Kavanaugh,’” [NPR](#)

“Sen. Claire McCaskill says she will vote against Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court, but the Missouri Democrat, who is facing re-election in November, says it is not because of allegations of sexual misconduct swirling around the nominee.”

* * *

Seth McLaughlin, “Republican Candidates Blast Democrats’ ‘Ambush’ on Kavanaugh, Rally Around Trump Pick,” [The Washington Times](#)

“Republican candidates running for Senate in red states are rallying around Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh and the party leaders pushing for his confirmation on Capitol Hill, picking sides in what has turned into a politically poisonous debate.”

* * *

Ed Kilgore, “If Kavanaugh Goes Down, Will Republican Voters Be Discouraged or Enraged?,” [New York Magazine](#)

“The proximity of a high-stakes midterm election to the suddenly very turbulent Supreme Court confirmation fight over Brett Kavanaugh is entering everyone’s calculations in how to proceed.”

* * *

Burgess Everett and Elana Schor, “Grassley in Firing Line on Kavanaugh Assault Allegation,” [Politico](#)

“The curmudgeonly Iowa Republican’s legacy is at stake as he navigates both sides of the Supreme Court nomination chaos.”

John Wagner, “Two GOP Lawmakers Criticized for Tone-Deaf Comments About Kavanaugh Accuser,” [The Washington Post](#)

“A pair of Republican male lawmakers [Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) and Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.)] sought to fend off criticism Thursday for tone-deaf comments related to the sexual assault allegation against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, President Trump’s embattled nominee for the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Erin Kelly, “Congressman Mocks Senator About Threats She’s Received over Kavanaugh: ‘Boo Hoo,’” [USA Today](#)

“Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell mocked Republican Sen. Susan Collins on Twitter Thursday after Collins said her office received threats because she has not come out in opposition to Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Lukas Mikelionis, “Booker’s Push for Kavanaugh Vote Delay Called Out over His 1992 Column Detailing Teenage Groping,” [Fox News](#)

“New Jersey Democratic Sen. Cory Booker is facing accusations of hypocrisy over his calls to delay the confirmation vote of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh amid sexual misconduct allegations, as he once admitted groping a friend without her consent in high school.”

* * *

David Byler, “What Do the Polls Say About Brett Kavanaugh?,” [The Weekly Standard](#)

“Since [the allegations], multiple polls have been fielded and published. They paint a pretty murky picture of what’s going on.”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Public Opinion on Kavanaugh Little Changed After Sexual Assault Allegation,” [The Hill](#)

“Public opinion on Brett Kavanaugh has not changed significantly in the wake of a sexual assault allegation against the Supreme Court nominee. Three HuffPost/YouGov polls found that Kavanaugh’s approval rating hovered between 31 percent and 34 percent both before and after the accusation was made public on Sunday. A Reuters-Ipsos poll released Wednesday found that his approval rating was little changed, similar to a Morning Consult/Politico poll published Thursday.”

* * *

Mark Murray, “Poll: More Americans Oppose Kavanaugh Confirmation than Support It,” [NBC News](#)

“More American voters now oppose Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination than support it after he was accused of committing sexual assault while he was in high school, with opposition increasing 9 points since last month, according to a new national NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll.”

* * *

Benny Johnson, “Huffington Post Poll Shows Few Believe Kavanaugh’s Accuser Is Credible,” [The Daily Caller](#)

“The Huffington Post released new polling showing that the American public doesn’t generally believe Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser is credible. The same poll also showed that more men than women believe she is credible.”

* * *

Tony Mauro, “Female Clerks Stand by Kavanaugh Despite Assault Allegation,” [The National Law Journal](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s former women law clerks who were willing to discuss the fast-moving controversy surrounding his Supreme Court nomination still support him as he prepares to defend himself before the Senate Judiciary Committee from an accusation of sexual misconduct.”

* * *

Justin Walker on [Fox News](#)

“Without reservation and without hesitation, I believe in Judge Kavanaugh’s word. There are certainly men I know, men I’ve worked with, whose denials I might not believe, but I’ve known Judge Kavanaugh for ten years. And I trust him. . . . If he says he didn’t do this, I believe Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Theodoric Meyer, “Republicans on K Street Rally to Kavanaugh’s Defense,” [Politico](#)

“In the hours after Christine Blasey Ford came forward as the woman who had accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her while they were teenagers, a small group of Republican women in Washington began talking and emailing about how to help out their compatriot. The women, many of whom worked alongside Kavanaugh in George W. Bush’s White House and are now lobbyists or consultants, thought the news coverage of the accusations was unfair.”

* * *

Jennifer Peltz and Michael Kunzelman, “Women Supporting Kavanaugh Find Themselves in Storm’s Center,” [AP](#)

“It started as a series of phone calls among old high-school friends and ended up embroiling 65 women in the firestorm over a sexual assault allegation that could shape the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Avery Anapol, “Kavanaugh Accuser’s Family Writes Letter of Support,” [The Hill](#)

“Members of Christine Blasey Ford’s family have penned an open letter of support for Ford following her accusation of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh becoming public.”

* * *

Avery Anapol, “Celebrities Rally Behind Kavanaugh Accuser in Video: ‘We Believe You,’” [The Hill](#)

“A number of Hollywood stars have come to the defense of Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her at a high school party in the 1980s. The video, produced by the progressive group MoveOn, features ‘women from all walks of life,’ including actresses America Ferrera, Julianne Moore and Gabrielle Union.”

* * *

Domenico Montanaro, “Kavanaugh Accuser’s Classmate: ‘That It Happened or Not, I Have No Idea,” [NPR](#)

“A former classmate of Christine Blasey Ford tells NPR that she does not know if an alleged sexual assault by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh took place as she first suggested on social media. ‘That it happened or not, I have no idea,’ Cristina King Miranda told NPR’s Nina Totenberg. ‘I can’t say that it did or didn’t.’ That’s different from what Miranda wrote Wednesday in a now-deleted Facebook post that stated definitively, ‘The incident DID happen, many of us heard about it in school.’”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Anti-Kavanaugh Demonstrators Share Stories of Sexual Assault on Capitol Hill,” [The Hill](#)

“Protesters demonstrating against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Capitol Hill are sharing their stories of sexual assault. Dozens of demonstrators are setting up camp outside of lawmakers’ offices, where they take turns offering their personal experiences with sexual abuse.”

* * *

Kaitlan Collins, “Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford Receiving Death Threats,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Both Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, the professor who has accused of him of sexual assault as a teenager, have received a slew of death threats in recent days, CNN has learned. Citing an internal law enforcement report that details threats to the protectee, a senior administration official told CNN Thursday that the number of death threats made against Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh and his family have increased since Ford’s allegations came to light. The official said there are several current threats against the Kavanaughs that law enforcement deems credible, while several others have been opened and closed since he was nominated.”

* * *

Emily Peck, “Brett Kavanaugh Liked Female Clerks Who Looked a ‘Certain Way,’ Yale Student Was Told,” [Huffington Post](#)

“Yale professor and ‘Tiger Mom’ Amy Chua, who’s a Kavanaugh cheerleader, told the young woman to look ‘outgoing.’”

* * *

Brooke Singman, “Yale Law Professor Denies Claim that Kavanaugh Only Had Clerks that ‘Looked Like Models,’” [Fox News](#)

“The Yale Law professor accused of saying Judge Brett Kavanaugh only had law clerks who ‘looked like models’ blasted the claim, saying the Supreme Court nominee’s only ‘litmus test’ when hiring is ‘excellence.’”

* * *

Alex Pappas, “Dem Sen. Baldwin Announces, then Cancels Fundraiser with Kavanaugh Accuser’s Lawyers,” [Fox News](#)

“Wisconsin Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin’s campaign on Thursday invited supporters to a fundraiser next month with the two attorneys representing Kavanaugh accuser Christine Blasey Ford, according to an invitation obtained by Fox News—only to abruptly cancel those plans after they became public.”

* * *

Annie Karni, “Kavanaugh Accuser Leans on Democratic Operative for Advice,” [Politico](#)

“Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when they were both teenagers, is being advised by Democratic operative Ricki Seidman. Seidman, a senior principal at TSD Communications, worked as Joe Biden’s communications director during the 2008 general election campaign, after he was named Barack Obama’s running mate. In 2009, according to her online biography, she helped the White House manage the confirmation of Obama’s Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor.”

* * *

Eliana Johnson, “Kavanaugh Saga Sets Washington Rumor Mill on Fire,” [Politico](#)

“Activists, reporters and White House officials are consumed with a barrage of rumors, hearsay and tantalizing tips about a Supreme Court nominee and his accuser.”

* * *

Herb Jackson, “Will Cory Booker Be Punished for Breaking Senate Rules by Releasing Kavanaugh Emails?,” [NorthJersey.com](#)

“Sen. Cory Booker was mocked by critics for daring his colleagues to ‘bring it’ and try to expel him for releasing emails that Republicans on the Judiciary Committee had deemed confidential during Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation hearings. But that mocking, mostly about his invocation of the rebellious Roman slave Spartacus, may be the only penalty Booker faces.”

* * *

Lydia Wheeler, “Controversy over Kavanaugh Could Weigh on Roberts Court,” [The Hill](#)

“The political fury surrounding Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation process could prompt the Supreme Court to hold off on tackling high-profile cases on issues like abortion and affirmative action in its upcoming term, according to legal experts who say Chief Justice John Roberts may want to take steps to depoliticize the court.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 19

Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2018 20:06:56 -0400

Importance: Normal

Daniella Diaz, Manu Raju, and Sunlen Serfaty, “Grassley Writes Kavanaugh Accuser to Explain Why Senate, Not the FBI, Should Investigate Her Claims,” [CNN Politics](#)

““We are doing everything that we can to make Dr. Ford comfortable to coming before the committee in an open session or a closed session, or a public or a private interview,” the Iowa Republican told reporters on Capitol Hill Wednesday. ‘That’s four different ways she can choose to come. So, I’m not worried about anything other than just focusing for the next few days on encouraging her to come.’”

* * *

John T. Bennett, “Grassley Says Monday Hearing Not Likely Without Kavanaugh Accuser,” [Roll Call](#)

“Asked about Ford saying she wouldn’t appear on Monday, the chairman indicated it would not go on without the accuser present because the nominee would not know the full scope of allegations against him. Any decision to cancel that session, Grassley said, will be made at the ‘last’ possible minute.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Grassley Willing to Send Staff to California to Speak with Kavanaugh Accuser,” [The Hill](#)

““We’re going to continue to try to hear from Dr. Ford in any format she’s comfortable [with] open session/closed session/private staff interviews/public staff interviews [because] her information is very important. We’ve provided an opportunity for her to put her story fwd on Monday,” Grassley tweeted.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “GOP Mulls Having Outside Counsel Question Kavanaugh, Ford,” [The Hill](#)

“Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are weighing bringing in an outside lawyer to question Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and the woman accusing him of sexual assault.”

* * *

Roberta Rampton and Tim Ahmann, “Trump Says It Is Up to Senate How to Handle Accusation Against Court Nominee,” [Reuters](#)

“President Donald Trump said on Wednesday it was up to the U.S. Senate how to handle a sexual assault allegation brought by a woman against his Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

John Wagner and Seung Min Kim, “Trump Says Alleged Assault by Kavanaugh Is ‘Very Hard for Me to Imagine,” [The Washington Post](#)

“President Trump offered a robust defense of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh on Wednesday, saying it was ‘very hard for me to imagine anything happened’ with the woman who has accused the Supreme Court nominee of sexually assaulting her when both were teenagers.”

* * *

Natalie Andrews, Kristina Peterson, and Siobhan Hughes, “Republicans Plan to Push Ahead on Kavanaugh Confirmation,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“Republicans pushed ahead Wednesday with their efforts to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh while continuing to seek the testimony of the woman who accused him sexual assault, after rejecting her attorneys’ call for an investigation of the allegations before she would appear.”

* * *

William Cummings, “GOP Senator Who Called for Kavanaugh Delay: ‘Let’s Vote’ If Ford Not at Monday Hearing,” [USA Today](#)

“Two Republican senators who this week said they would be hesitant to proceed with a vote on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh until they had a chance to hear from a woman accusing him of sexual assault are strongly encouraging the accuser to appear at a scheduled hearing next week.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Collins: Kavanaugh Accuser Should ‘Reconsider,’ Testify on Monday,” [The Hill](#)

“‘I hope that Dr. Ford will reconsider and testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday,’ Collins said in a tweet, referring to Christine Blasey Ford. She added that it is her understanding that the Judiciary Committee ‘has offered to hold either a public or a private session, whichever would make [Ford] more comfortable.’”

* * *

Senator Collins as Reported by Frank Thorp V, [Twitter](#)

“In Maine radio interview, [@SenatorCollins](#) says of Dr Ford: ‘much to my surprise it now appears she’s turning down all 3 options even though her attorney said earlier this week that she would come testify.’ ‘I just don’t understand why the hearing shouldn’t go forth,’ she says.”

* * *

Sen. Orrin Hatch, “Kavanaugh Hearing Is No One’s First Choice, but What Democrat Tactics Hath Wrought,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Democrats should be held responsible for circumventing the very process that protects people like Ford. Their decision to reveal this allegation at the most politically damaging moment reeks of opportunism. Grassley has a strong history of protecting whistleblowers and maintaining confidentiality. Democrats could have worked with him; they chose not to. Instead of raising this issue at the public hearing or in the closed session—which is the usual venue for these kinds of questions—Democrats went straight to the media, knowing full well that the leak would publicly reveal Ford’s identity. They also knew that Kavanaugh’s reputation would be forever tarnished by this allegation, even if it proved to be false. Their reckless behavior will do lasting damage to Dr. Ford, to Judge Kavanaugh, and to the public trust.”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Graham: Kavanaugh FBI Investigation Request About Delaying Process Until Midterms,” [The Hill](#)

“‘Requiring an FBI investigation of a 36 year old allegation (without specific references to time or location) before Professor Ford will appear before the Judiciary Committee is not about finding the truth, but delaying the process till after the midterm elections,’ Graham wrote Wednesday over twitter.”

* * *

John Bowden, “Graham Calls Handling of Kavanaugh Allegations ‘a Drive-By Shooting,’” [The Hill](#)

“South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham (R) criticized Democrats on Tuesday over their handling of the sexual misconduct allegation levied at Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee.”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “Republicans Seem to Have the Votes to Move Forward with Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Republicans haven’t officially made the decision to press forward with federal judge Brett M. Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, but they appear likely to have the votes to do so. Three key GOP senators have fallen in line with the arguments put forward by their colleagues. They said that Christine Blasey Ford has been given a chance to share the story of her accusation against Kavanaugh in a hearing setting, and encouraged her to testify — even without the FBI investigation she says must come first.”

* * *

Leigh Ann Caldwell, “Democrats Warn that Republicans Are Creating Another Anita Hill Moment,” [NBC News](#)

“The rush to hold a Monday hearing on Kavanaugh is ‘unfair’ to his accuser, Democrats charge.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, McCaskill to oppose Kavanaugh nomination, [The Hill](#)

“Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) said on Wednesday night that she will oppose Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.”

* * *

John T. Bennett, “Schumer Backs Kavanaugh Accuser’s Call for FBI Investigation,” [Roll Call](#)

“Senate Minority Leader [Charles E. Schumer](#) is backing a call by Christine Blasey Ford, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser, for a FBI investigation into her contention that the nominee sexually assaulted her 36 years ago.”

* * *

Maegan Vazquez, “Mazie Hirono: Kavanaugh Accuser Is Hesitating to Testify Because She’s Afraid of a GOP ‘Railroad Job,’” [CNN Politics](#)

“Hawaii Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono said Wednesday that there should be some attempt to corroborate an allegation of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh before the Senate Judiciary Committee hears from the woman who is accusing him.”

* * *

* * *

Joe Concha, “Mika Brzezinski: What’s GOP ‘Supposed to Do Except Demand a Vote’ on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

“MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski on Wednesday said Republicans should be expected to demand a vote on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh after his accuser on Tuesday, in a shift, said she would not testify on her charges against him until the FBI completed an investigation on the claims.”

* * *

Post Editorial Board, “Democrats Don’t Want a Fair Kavanaugh Hearing — They Want a Circus,” [New York Post](#)

“Democrats on Tuesday proved they’re not out to carefully consider Christine Blasey Ford’s accusation against Judge Brett Kavanaugh. They just want to use it as the pretext to keep the circus running for weeks.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “Schumer’s FBI Ploy,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“The Democratic demand for a bureau probe is one more delaying tactic.”

* * *

Jonathan Turley, “Ford Has No Right to Set Conditions for Kavanaugh Testimony,” [The Hill](#)

“Ford’s demand is, to put it simply, out of line, both with her prior statements and with congressional precedent. It is not that the FBI has not investigated such allegations; it did so with Clarence Thomas. However, there is no precedent for a quid pro quo demand for testimony by a witness. Individuals can certainly refuse to testify, yet conditioning testimony on a criminal investigation by a federal agency is well beyond the province of any witness.”

* * *

Pete Williams and Ken Dilanian, “Can the FBI Investigate the Allegation Against Brett Kavanaugh?” [NBC News](#)

“In fact, the FBI could certainly investigate Ford’s claim, but only if the White House asks the bureau to do so. She has no authority to request it. Neither does the Senate.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “Why a Federal Investigation of the Kavanaugh Allegation Is Far from Impossible,” [The Washington Post](#)

“It’s rare that American history provides as neat a precedent as the confirmation process for Justice Clarence Thomas provides for the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh to join him on the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Thiru Vignarajah, “Kavanaugh’s Accuser Deserves a Fair Criminal Investigation,” [The Washington Post](#)

“California professor Christine Blasey Ford has not accused Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh of ‘youthful indiscretions,’ ‘rough horseplay’ or ‘misconduct,’ as some have benignly characterized it; she accused him of serious, jarring crimes. Her courage to come forward deserves more than empty theater ahead of a preordained confirmation. It warrants a fair-minded criminal investigation by Maryland prosecutors.”

* * *

John Wagner, “Anita Hill Urges Senators to ‘Push the Pause Button’ on Kavanaugh Hearing, Says FBI Should Investigate,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Anita Hill urged senators Wednesday to ‘push the pause button’ on plans to hold a hearing next week on allegations against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh of sexual assault decades ago. She said the FBI should be allowed to investigate, as his accuser has requested.”

* * *

Joe Perticone, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Confirmation Odds Could Get a Boost If His Accuser Refuses to Testify,” [Business Insider](#)

“Republicans on the fence about supporting Kavanaugh say they would be disappointed if Ford does not testify and fully expect the committee to move on in that case.”

* * *

Danny Cevallos, “Kavanaugh Isn’t on Trial. But Senate Republicans Could Help His Confirmation By Acting Like He Is,” [NBC News](#)

“Senate Republicans may have a chance to salvage Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court — if they follow precedent and conduct Monday’s planned hearing as if it were a criminal prosecution.”

* * *

Penny Nance, “Kavanaugh, Too? Christine Blasey Ford’s Account Is Missing Key Details of Assault,” [USA Today](#)

“Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, doesn’t know when or where the attack against her occurred. We should listen to her, but we should also ask questions.”

* * *

Burgess Everett and Elana Schor, “When 11 Men Interrogate: GOP Tries to Head Off Kavanaugh Debacle,” [Politico](#)

“To head off the potentially bad optics of older white men questioning a woman about alleged sexual assault, Republicans are considering having an independent outside lawyer question Christine Blasey Ford alongside senators.”

* * *

James Varney, “Senate ‘Worst Possible Venue’ to Find Kavanaugh Truth, Experts Say: ‘It’s a Disaster to All Parties,’” [The Washington Times](#)

“Senators hope to get a chance next week to hear personally from both Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh and his accuser, but even then experts predict they will struggle to cut through the he-said-she-said nature of the sexual assault allegation.”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Hillary Clinton: FBI Investigation into Kavanaugh Could Be Done Quickly,” [The Hill](#)

“Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that an FBI investigation into the sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh wouldn’t take long.”

* * *

Eli Watkins, “Doug Jones: Senate Should Compel Kavanaugh’s Friend to Testify,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Sen. Doug Jones said on Tuesday that the Senate Judiciary Committee should demand testimony from Mark Judge, who has denied witnessing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh assaulting Christine Blasey Ford decades ago.”

* * *

Gregg Re, “Feinstein Blames GOP After Kavanaugh Accuser Says Mum, Admits ‘I Can’t Say Everything’s Truthful,’” [Fox News](#)

“Senate Judiciary Committee ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein on Tuesday blamed Republicans for failing to get in touch with Brett Kavanaugh accuser Christine Blasey Ford ahead of a planned hearing on Monday, even as GOP leaders said they’ve made repeated attempts to reach out, and accused Feinstein of refusing to help. Feinstein, who has vouched for Ford’s credibility, also admitted she could not verify that Ford’s allegations were entirely true.”

* * *

Sean Sullivan, “‘Why Didn’t She Bring It Up?’: Feinstein Under Scrutiny for Handling of Allegations Against Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Twenty-six years after she won a Senate seat in the ‘Year of the Woman,’ Dianne Feinstein stands as a central figure in deciding the fate of Brett M. Kavanaugh, whose Supreme Court nomination is in jeopardy after a woman accused him of sexually assaulting her when they were in high school. Feinstein has been a lightning rod for loud criticism from President Trump and quieter frustration from some fellow Democrats after she disclosed she received a letter in July from the woman that she did not share with Senate colleagues and federal law enforcement until last week.”

* * *

Jonah Goldberg, “Feinstein’s Inexcusable Handling of the Kavanaugh Accusation,” [National Review](#)

“One thing can be known for sure: Dianne Feinstein has behaved outrageously.”

* * *

Griffin Connolly, “Rep. Eshoo Reveals Her First Conversation with Kavanaugh Accuser,” [Roll Call](#)

“California Democrat met with Christine Blasey Ford over July 4th weekend.”

* * *

Avery Miller, “Congresswoman, First to Talk to Kavanaugh Accuser, Calls Her ‘Honest Person’” [ABC News](#)

“Rep. Anna Eshoo, the California Democrat who was first approached by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser over the summer, describes Christine Blasey Ford as a ‘gentle, honest person who may change people’s minds.’”

* * *

Ellie Kaufman, “Kavanaugh Accuser’s Classmates Send Letter of Support to Congress,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Twenty-four women who attended the Holton-Arms School with Christine Blasey Ford have signed and sent a letter of support for her to Congress.”

* * *

Garance Burke and Martha Mendoza, “Kavanaugh’s Accuser Struggled to Come Forward, Friends Say,” [AP](#)

“Her studies first brought her West, but for Christine Margaret Blasey Ford, the move to California proved a way to leave behind what had gone wrong in her teenage years in the patrician suburbs of Washington, D.C.”

* * *

Elise Viebeck, “Kavanaugh’s Accuser Thought Her Life Would Be Upended. She Was Right.” [The Washington Post](#)

“Within hours of coming forward, Ford faced attacks on her privacy and credibility, confirming the fears she had expressed about what would happen if she went public and echoing the backlash faced by other accusers in the #MeToo era.”

* * *

John Bowden, “Kavanaugh Accuser Forced Out of Her Home over Threats, Lawyers Say,” [The Hill](#)

“The woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault has been forced out of her home due to death threats, her lawyers said Tuesday.”

* * *

Ken Dilanian, Brandy Zadrozny, and Ben Popken, “Accuser’s Schoolmate Says She Recalls Hearing of Alleged Kavanaugh Incident,” [NBC News](#)

“A former schoolmate of Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser wrote a Facebook post saying she recalls hearing about the alleged assault involving Kavanaugh, though she says she has no first-hand information to corroborate the accuser’s claims.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Classmate of Kavanaugh Accuser Backtracks After Guilty Claim Goes Viral,” [National Review](#)

“Several journalists challenged Miranda’s claim that the assault was discussed in school, citing Ford’s claim that she believed the attack ‘occurred in the summer of 1982.’ Ford also told the *Washington Post* that she told no one of the alleged assault for some 30 years before eventually telling her therapist in 2012.”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Kavanaugh’s Former Classmate Denies Being at Party in Sexual Assault Allegation,” [The Hill](#)

“A lawyer for Patrick J. Smyth, a former classmate of Kavanaugh, sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, according to CNN, after Smyth was identified as a ‘PJ,’ who attended the party where the alleged assault happened, according to CNN. ‘I am issuing this statement today to make it clear to all involved that I have no knowledge of the party in question,’ Smyth said in a statement. . . . ‘Personally speaking, I have known Brett Kavanaugh since high school and I know him to be a person of great integrity, a great friend, and I have never witnessed any improper conduct by Brett Kavanaugh towards women,’ Smyth said.”

* * *

Justin Wise, “Poll: Opposition to Kavanaugh Rises,” [The Hill](#)

“The survey, which partially took place before news broke of a sexual assault allegation against Kavanaugh, found that 36 percent of respondents did not support the Senate confirming Trump’s second high court pick. The figure represents a 6-point increase from a similar poll conducted last month. Meanwhile, 31 percent of Americans said they supported Kavanaugh’s appointment to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Stephanie Akin, “Women and Men Disagree on Kavanaugh After Sexual Assault Allegation,” [Roll Call](#)

“Forty percent of male respondents to an Economist/YouGov poll had a somewhat or very favorable opinion of Kavanaugh versus just 26 percent of women.”

* * *

Kate Zernike, “On Kavanaugh, a Changed America Debates an Explosive Charge,” [The New York Times](#)

“A very different United States is now deep into a debate over how long-ago allegations involving teenagers and alcohol should be regarded and treated in the confirmation process of the accused, Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, in his nomination to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Chris Cillizza, “Republicans Just Made a Giant Gamble on Brett Kavanaugh,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Lost amid the ‘will she or won’t she’ questions is the fact that what Grassley — almost certainly in coordination with the White House — is doing represents an absolutely massive political gamble: Amid the cultural upheaval of the #MeToo moment and with an election looming in less than seven weeks’ time, Republicans are daring a woman alleging sexual assault against a nominee for the country’s highest court to either put up or shut up.”

* * *

Eliana Johnson, Burgess Everett, and John Bresnahan, “Kavanaugh Crisis Bonds Trump with Wary GOP,” [Politico](#)

“The president has often crossed signals and outright clashed with congressional Republicans and conservative activists, but the fight to save his Supreme Court nominee has them working in unusual unison.”

* * *

Brandon Conrads, “Trump: I Hope Voters Pay Attention to Dem Tactics Amid Kavanaugh Fight,” [The Hill](#)

“‘The Supreme Court is one of the main reasons I got elected President. I hope Republican Voters, and others, are watching, and studying, the Democrats Playbook,’ Trump tweeted.”

* * *

Z. Byron Wolf, “6 Possible Kavanaugh Scenarios, Including a Supreme Court Vacancy Until 2021,” [CNN Politics](#)

“An allegation of a sexual assault and a take-it-or-leave-it offer to the accuser to testify ASAP have opened a new partisan divide and thrown the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, which had seemed to be on a glide path, into chaos.”

* * *

Jonathan Martin, “For Red-State Democrats, Accusation Against Kavanaugh Scrambles Midterm Calculus,” [The New York Times](#)

“The sexual assault accusation against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh hasn’t just upended what was expected to be his relatively easy Senate confirmation to the Supreme Court. The allegation has also scrambled the political calculations for 10 Democratic senators running for re-election in states won by President Trump, particularly three moderate Democrats who had been weighing a yes vote.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Progressive Group Targets Collins, Murkowski After Kavanaugh Allegation,” [The Hill](#)

“The Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCCC) is going up with new ads targeting two key GOP swing votes following a sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.”

* * *

Evan Real, “John Legend Stars in Ad Opposing Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court Confirmation,” [The Hollywood Reporter](#)

“In the minute-long spot, the singer calls out Kavanaugh’s ‘troubling views,’ insisting he’s ‘unfit for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court.’”

* * *

Quinta Jurecic, “The Wrong Question for Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Atlantic](#)

“Everyone wants to know: Did he do it? But there’s more people should be asking.”

* * *

Ross Douthat, “The Kavanaugh Accusation Is Dangerous for the Pro-Life Movement,” [The New York Times](#)

“Repealing *Roe* will be a hollow victory if the anti-abortion cause is hitched to a party that’s seen as anti-woman.”

* * *

Kimberly Ross, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Accuser Gets All the Attention, While Keith Ellison’s Gets None,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“While the mainstream media is focused on what comes next in the ongoing D.C. drama, Democrats remain suspiciously quiet concerning allegations about Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn.”

* * *

Becket Adams, “CNN, MSNBC, Politico, Elizabeth Warren Push Dishonestly Edited Video of Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Had any of the high-profile figures sharing and commenting on the edited video Tuesday bothered to investigate what Kavanaugh *actually* said, they would’ve found that he was clearly telling a joke.”

* * *

David Von Drehle, “The Least-Bad Solution to the Kavanaugh Dilemma,” [The Washington Post](#)

“He says it didn’t happen; she says it did. You can be sure that Kavanaugh’s opponents will spare no effort in their search for another accuser to tip this balance. But if things remain as they are, the hearing will probably end without proof one way or the other.”

* * *

Ed Kilgore, “Meet Brett Kavanaugh’s Alleged Accomplice, Mark Judge,” [New York Magazine](#)

“Judge has matured since his days at Georgetown Prep: from an admitted alcoholic to a sort-of-conservative Catholic man-boy who still has some sexual and gender issues he is working out. Unfortunately for himself and for Kavanaugh, he’s working them out in public as a writer. And he is thus not the most convincing witness to Kavanaugh’s moral purity then or now.”

* * *

Eugene Scott, “Has ‘Drive-By Shooting’ Replaced ‘High-Tech Lynching’?” [The Washington Post](#)

“Sen. Lindsey O. Graham used a violent metaphor Tuesday to express sympathy for Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh in a way that recalled the metaphor used the last time Americans found themselves witnessing a Supreme Court sexual misconduct scandal.”

* * *

Todd Ruger, “Kavanaugh Is Already Reshaping the Supreme Court,” [Roll Call](#)

“On the same day the Senate Judiciary Committee plans a televised hearing on a sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, the eight current members of the high court will meet behind closed doors to discuss which new cases to hear.”

* * *

Philip Bump, “Five Sitting Senators Voted on Clarence Thomas’s Nomination. Four Supported It.” [The Washington Post](#)

“It has been nearly 30 years since Hill faced a battery of questions about her allegations, yet some of the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee remain the same.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 18

Date: Tue, 18 Sep 2018 19:30:01 -0400

Importance: Normal

John Wagner, et al., “Trump says Kavanaugh ‘doesn’t deserve’ what is happening after sexual assault allegations,” [Washington Post](#)

“President Trump said Tuesday that he feels ‘terribly’ for Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, his Supreme Court nominee who could face off in a high-stakes hearing next week with a woman who has accused him of sexually assaulting her when they were teenagers. ‘I feel so badly that he’s going through this,’ Trump said during a news conference at the White House. ‘This is not a man who deserves this.’”

* * *

Daniel Lippman, “Exclusive: Bush reaffirms support for Kavanaugh,” [Politico](#)

“Bush told POLITICO in a statement: ‘Laura and I have known and respected Brett Kavanaugh for decades, and we stand by our comments the night Judge Kavanaugh was nominated.’”

* * *

Richard Wolf, “Kavanaugh confirmation: GOP pushes ahead with showdown between nominee, accuser amid Democrats’ complaints,” [USA Today](#)

“Senate Republicans are pushing forward with plans for a showdown Monday between Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and a woman who accused him of sexual assault in high school, but Democrats want more time and testimony.”

* * *

Nolan D. McCaskill, “Partisan brawl erupts over Kavanaugh hearing,” [Politico](#)

“Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell expects the Judiciary Committee to give Christine Blasey Ford a fair hearing next week, but Democrats are already crying foul.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Senate panel formally postpones Kavanaugh vote,” [The Hill](#)

“Staffers for Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) sent out a notice that the Thursday business meeting had been canceled. The Senate is expected to leave town for the week on Tuesday.”

* * *

Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Nicholas Fandos, “Kavanaugh’s Accuser Has Yet to Confirm Appearance at Monday Hearings,” [New York Times](#)

“The woman who has accused President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee of sexual assault has so far failed to respond to requests from the Senate Judiciary Committee to testify at an extraordinary public hearing on Monday, raising doubts about whether she plans to attend — and whether the session would go on without her.”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “GOP offers to ban cameras from testimony of Kavanaugh accuser,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Republicans say they are willing to allow Christine Blasey Ford, the woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of a decades-old sexual assault charge, to testify in a closed session without the presence of television cameras if that makes her more comfortable appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday.”

* * *

David French, “Christine Blasey Ford Must Agree to Testify,” [National Review](#)

“If she doesn’t, the Judiciary Committee should vote as scheduled.”

* * *

Juliegrace Brufke, “House Dems push to delay Kavanaugh vote for investigation,” [The Hill](#)

“A group of 114 House Democrats signed onto a letter calling on Senate to delay their vote on the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court until a ‘thorough investigation’ is conducted into an allegation he committed an act of sexual assault decades ago.”

* * *

Julie Hirschfield David, “Trump Accuses Democrats of Using Sex Assault Allegation to Delay Kavanaugh’s Confirmation,” [New York Times](#)

“President Trump on Tuesday falsely charged that Democrats had sought to time a sexual assault allegation against his Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, to obstruct his confirmation, calling for a swift process for airing the accusation on Capitol Hill.”

* * *

Daniel Chaitin, “DOJ: Allegation Against Brett Kavanaugh ‘Does Not Involve Any Potential Federal Crime,’” [Washington Examiner](#)

“While the matter was referred to the FBI, the DOJ spokesperson said it is not the responsibility of the bureau to ‘make any judgment about the credibility or significance of any allegation.’”

* * *

Amber Phillips, “Are Republicans taking the Kavanaugh accusation seriously? It’s a fair question.” [Washington Post](#)

“Since Ford accused Kavanaugh in The Washington Post on Sunday of sexual assault when the two were in high school, Republicans have done four things to call into question their commitment to a fair investigation: 1. They have questioned Ford’s credibility, because she can’t remember every detail of a party that happened decades ago. . . . 2. They won’t compel a key alleged witness to testify. . . . 3. They have suggested that Ford can testify Monday or not at all. . . . 4. President Trump doesn’t seem to be taking her story seriously.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “#BrettToo?” [New York Times](#)

“The bottom line is that Brett Kavanaugh is up for a lifetime appointment to the highest court in the land, and there is now a credible accusation of sexual assault against him. The next steps are for the F.B.I. to interview Judge Kavanaugh, Dr. Blasey, Mr. Judge and possibly others about the accusations under oath, and for the Senate Judiciary Committee to hear from all parties, however long it takes. This is the only acceptable approach.”

* * *

Julia Prois Sulek, “Christine Blasey Ford feared an avalanche of attacks if she went public about Kavanaugh, friends say,” [The Mercury News](#)

“In an interview Monday with this news organization, [friend Rebecca] White said that Blasey Ford had told her about the alleged assault — without naming Kavanaugh — in late 2017 during the height of the #MeToo movement and long before Kavanaugh was a Supreme Court nominee. Last year, White had added her own #MeToo story about being raped as a teenager to a Facebook post. ‘She reached out to me afterward, supporting me and my story and that she had something happen to her when she was really young and that the guy was a federal judge,’ White said. ‘She said she had been assaulted. She said hers had been violent as well, physically scary, fighting for her life.’”

* * *

Amber Phillips, “What happens to Brett Kavanaugh now? Here are 3 scenarios.” [Washington Post](#)

“It’s anyone’s guess at this point where that will leave Kavanaugh. Here are three ways it could play out after their testimonies. . . . Scenario 1: The Senate proceeds as normal. . . . Scenario 2: Kavanaugh’s nomination gets paused until after the midterm elections. . . . Scenario 3: Kavanaugh drops out.”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “McConnell tamps down any talk of Kavanaugh withdrawal,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is privately warning GOP colleagues that there will be political fallout for the party if they fail to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, quashing any talking within his conference about pressuring Kavanaugh to drop out.”

* * *

Kristina Peterson, et al., “Senators Get Their Message Out Ahead of Brett Kavanaugh Hearing,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“[Republicans] have sought to call into question the timing of the accusation so soon before a scheduled vote on the judge, while serving as character witnesses for the judge and suggesting Dr. Ford may have misidentified her attacker. . . . Democrats, for their part, are suggesting Republicans aren’t committed to getting to the bottom of the allegation, citing their plans to call only Judge Kavanaugh and Dr. Ford for the hearing and not anyone else who may have been there, including the other individual she says was in the room at the time.”

* * *

Sen. Susan Collins, on [Twitter](#)

“I’m writing to the Chairman & RM of Judiciary Cmte respectfully recommending that at Monday’s hearing, counsel for Prof. Ford be allocated time to question Judge Kavanaugh & counsel for the Judge be granted equal time to question Prof. Ford, followed by questions from Senators. Such an approach would provide more continuity, elicit the most information & allow an in-depth examination of the allegations.”

* * *

William McGurn, “It’s Susan Collins’s Moment,” [Wall Street Journal](#)

“By all means let’s hear what Ms. Ford has to say. But let us hope Ms. Collins insists it not be at the expense of fairness to Judge Kavanaugh. Because right now the effort to put off his confirmation votes seems aimed at establishing an odious, new post-hearing precedent, whereby a single, inconclusive and uncorroborated #MeToo accusation can upend all Senate norms and leave a man with an otherwise sterling reputation twisting in the wind.”

* * *

Grace Segers, “How Brett Kavanaugh’s supporters are defending the allegations against him,” [CBS News](#)

“Kavanaugh’s supporters have been making several arguments in his defense. Some are suspicious of the timing. Although Sen. Dianne Feinstein was aware of Ford’s story in July, she did not attempt to delay the confirmation process until this month. . . . There are also gaps Ford admits exist in her account. . . . Others have excused Ford’s allegations by noting Kavanaugh’s youth at the time of his alleged behavior.”

* * *

Jeremy Diamond, et al, “White House plan to defend Kavanaugh relies heavily on women,” [CNN](#)

“The plan, the officials said, will rely heavily on women who will attest to Kavanaugh’s good character – including from his teenage years, during which he is alleged to have sexually assaulted Christine Blasey Ford.”

* * *

Frank Miles, “Kavanaugh defended by 2 former girlfriends amid sex-assault accusations,” [Fox News](#)

“Maura Kane and Maura Fitzgerald, two women who dated Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh when they were younger, spoke to Fox News on Monday night to vouch for his character.”

* * *

John Wagner, et al., “No. 2 Senate Republican Sharply Questions Credibility Of Kavanaugh Accuser,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘The problem is, Dr. Ford can’t remember when it was, where it was, or how it came to be,’ [Sen.] Cornyn told reporters at the Capitol late Tuesday morning. When asked whether he was questioning the accuser’s account — which Kavanaugh has repeatedly denied — Cornyn said, ‘There are some gaps there that need to be filled.’”

* * *

Burgess Everett and Josh Bresnahan, “McConnell works feverishly behind the scenes to save Kavanaugh,” [Politico](#)

“Holed up for nearly two hours in McConnell’s Senate office, [Republicans] devised a process to satisfy Kavanaugh’s defenders and appease Republicans uncomfortable with forging ahead until the nominee’s accuser,

Christine Blasey Ford, gets a full public hearing. The majority leader was calm and even-keeled throughout the session, making clear he's 100 percent behind Kavanaugh and never suggesting the party bail on the nomination, according to interviews with more than a half-dozen GOP senators close to McConnell. He and the party committed to following Senate and committee rules, noticing a hearing for Ford and Kavanaugh to appear in a week, rather than trying to change precedent and rush a hearing this week."

* * *

Mike Brest, "Sen. Lindsey Graham Questions Validity of Sexual Assault Allegations," [The Daily Caller](#)

"Republican Senator Lindsey Graham questioned the Democrats' motives in regards to the recent allegations of sexual misconduct surrounding Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Sean Hannity's show Monday night."

* * *

Joe Concha, "Ingraham: 'Reasonable' to think claim against Kavanaugh 'is all part of a political hit job,'" [The Hill](#)

"'[T]his was dropped less than a week before his committee vote, and as such, a lot of reasonable people can conclude that this is all part of a political hit job, a well-orchestrated, Alinskyite maneuver trying to cause damage to Kavanaugh, President Trump and the midterm for the Republicans.'"

* * *

Isaac Stanley-Becker, "Kavanaugh's accuser waited years to come forward. Does that undercut her claim?" [Washington Post](#)

"That issue of delayed reporting — and the legal complexities attached to it — could lie at the heart of the examination of an assault allegation leveled against Brett M. Kavanaugh, President Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court."

* * *

Jordain Carney, "Senate Democrats: Kavanaugh's classmate must testify," [The Hill](#)

"'Let's not rush the hearings,' Schumer said Tuesday on the Senate floor. 'Let's not repeat the mistake made in the Anita Hill hearings. Let's call the relevant witnesses, not just the two selected by Chairman Grassley who did not want to call the hearings to begin with.' Schumer added, 'How could we want to get the truth and not have Mr. Judge come to the hearings and be asked questions?'"

* * *

Laura Litvan, et al., "Senate Democrats Demand More Kavanaugh Witnesses for New Hearing," [Bloomberg](#)

"'Compare that to the 22 witnesses at the 1991 Anita Hill hearing and it's impossible to take this process seriously,' top Judiciary Committee Democrat Dianne Feinstein said in a statement Tuesday. She was referring to the confirmation hearing where Justice Clarence Thomas was accused of sexually harassing Hill when he was her supervisor at a federal agency."

* * *

Niels Lesniewski, “Mark Judge, Possible Witness to Alleged Brett Kavanaugh Sexual Assault, Does Not Want to Testify,” [Roll Call](#)

“‘I did not ask to be involved in this matter nor did anyone ask me to be involved,’ Judge said in a statement relayed to the committee by his lawyer. ‘In fact, I have no memory of this alleged incident. Brett Kavanaugh and I were friends in high school, but I do not recall the party described in Dr. Ford’s letter,’ he said. ‘More to the point, I never saw Brett act in the manner Dr. Ford describes.’”

* * *

Aaron Blake, “Lindsey Graham’s bizarre defense of not making Mark Judge testify,” [Washington Post](#)

“‘No reason to [speak to Judge],’ Graham responded. ‘He’s already said what he’s going to say. I want to hear from her, if she wants to speak, and I want to hear from him,’ meaning Kavanaugh. This — is not really how it works. Judge can deny Ford’s allegations all day long publicly and never be held legally accountable for his words. The only setting in which his denials must be accurate, at risk of jail time, is if he’s testifying — in a courtroom or to Congress. Getting him on the record and under oath would seem to be good as a matter of course *and* when it comes to bolstering Kavanaugh’s defense.’”

* * *

Melissa Quinn, “Don McGahn Targeted By Democrats To Answer Questions On Brett Kavanaugh Sexual Assault Allegation,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn, Doug Jones, D-Ala., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., have asked McGahn to answer more than a dozen questions regarding the allegation and a letter, signed by 65 women who knew Kavanaugh in high school, defending him.”

* * *

Jack Crowe, “Dem. Senator: ‘White House is Victimizing’ Kavanaugh Accuser,” [National Review](#)

“‘The White House is victimizing this person. She has no obligation to appear at a smearing. . . . I want to say to the men of this country: Shut up and just step up and do the right thing,’ [Sen.] Hirono told reporters during a press conference on Capitol Hill.”

* * *

Edward-Isaac Dove, “Hirono: Kavanaugh Is Fudging the Truth,” [Politico](#)

“The Hawaii senator believes Brett Kavanaugh’s accuser. And she thinks the court nominee was misleading in sworn testimony.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Blumenthal: Kavanaugh nomination should be withdrawn,” [The Hill](#)

“‘Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) said on Tuesday that Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination should be withdrawn, calling it a ‘stain’ on the Supreme Court. ‘I think the nomination should be withdrawn,’ Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told reporters. ‘He has raised serious doubts about his credibility in his testimony already.’”

* * *

Manu Raju, “Why Dianne Feinstein waited to take the Brett Kavanaugh allegations to the FBI,” [CNN](#)

“Feinstein waited until late last week to provide the letter to the FBI – only after a news report surfaced detailing the existence of the letter. Feinstein, aides said, wanted to protect the identity of the accuser, Christine Blasey Ford.”

* * *

Emily Tillett, “Sen. Kamala Harris says she believes Brett Kavanaugh accuser, says she has ‘nothing to gain,’” [CBS News](#)

“‘I think it’s going to be about, it comes down to credibility . . . and it’s going to about listening to what each party has to say, but I believe her,’ said Harris.”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “Dem rep who met with Kavanaugh accuser: ‘She wanted her truth to come out,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘I think that my constituent all along had a tug-of-war going on inside of her understanding what privacy brought to her, but also the risks of moving over into the public square,’ [Rep. Anna] Eshoo said on CNN’s ‘Outfront.’”

* * *

Philip Rucker, “Joe Biden: When a woman alleges sexual assault, presume she is telling the truth,” [Washington Post](#)

“Speaking generally, Biden added, ‘For a woman to come forward in the glaring lights of focus, nationally, you’ve got to start off with the presumption that at least the essence of what she’s talking about is real, whether or not she forgets facts, whether or not it’s been made worse or better over time. But nobody fails to understand that this is like jumping into a cauldron.’”

* * *

James Oliphant, “Assault claim against Trump court nominee eases pressure on vulnerable Democrats,” [Reuters](#)

“The claim that Kavanaugh assaulted a woman while in high school now gives those endangered Democrats an escape hatch. They can oppose the nominee without appearing to voters as if they are defying the president, strategists said.”

* * *

John McCormack, “Senators Not Sure How To Evaluate Accusation Against Kavanaugh,” [The Weekly Standard](#)

“[T]he senators weighing the claims can’t seem to articulate any objective standards or a burden of proof that must be met. Arizona Republican senator Jeff Flake said he would vote against Kavanaugh if he concludes the allegation is true. But he didn’t provide any specifics about how he would assess the veracity of the claim of assault from 1982, which Ford did not mention to anyone until 2012.”

* * *

Ben Schreckinger and Daniel Lippman, “Power elite of suburban Washington split over Kavanaugh allegations,” [Politico](#)

“Interviews with a dozen people who have lived or attended school or churches in Bethesda and surrounding towns, most of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity, paint a picture of a tight-knit community still focused on the parochial dimensions of the scandal. ‘What’s tragic is you have two well liked-families in this area,’ said a friend of Kavanaugh’s from the community.”

* * *

Andrew C. McCarthy, “Democrats, Kavanaugh, and ‘The End of Civilization,’” [National Review](#)

“If Democrats get away with what they are trying to do to Kavanaugh, the only decent people in politics will be decent progressives; people who reflect the broader range of opinion and civility in the country will not participate in or pay much mind to our politics because it is too savage. The cut-throat operators who do not believe in the Constitution, pluralism, and civility will be running the country, until they inevitably push too far and provoke ugly pushback.”

* * *

Rich Lowry, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Kafkaesque Nightmare,” [National Review](#)

“Even if he is completely innocent of the charge that he sexually assaulted a teenage girl at a high school party 35 years ago, he will be forever considered guilty of it by some portion of the public. This is not due process, or any kind of decent process at all, but how the Senate conducts its business, especially if you are a conservative jurist on the cusp of confirmation to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Jonathan Allen, “At next Kavanaugh hearing, the stakes are higher than a Supreme Court seat,” [NBC News](#)

“The ‘Me Too’ movement, President Donald Trump, the two political parties, ambitious lawmakers and the institution of the Senate — they’ve all got something big on the line.”

* * *

Jessica Taylor, “Battle For The Senate: Candidates In Key Races Respond To Kavanaugh Allegations,” [NPR](#)

“NPR sought out comment from every major candidate in competitive Senate contests being decided in November. In some of the tightest races there was a cautious tone.”

* * *

Michael Scherer, “Republicans fear reversals in November due to accusation against Supreme Court nominee,” [Washington Post](#)

“Republicans are bracing for political aftershocks from the sexual assault accusation against Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh, with some expressing fear that the coming investigation will refocus the nation’s attention on an issue that could drive up the Democratic vote in the midterm elections.”

* * *

Nia-Malika Henderson, “Women hold the key to Kavanaugh – and maybe control of Congress,” [CNN](#)

“The Republican Party is suddenly facing a tough map to retain control not only of the House, but also, increasingly, the Senate. Women are the reason.”

* * *

Patricia Murphy, “Kavanaugh’s Fate Lies in Women’s Hands — As It Should Be,” [Roll Call](#)

“The country needs to hear more from both of them in a process that is respectful and transparent for the next Supreme Court justice to have the credibility the job requires. Thanks to women in the Senate, that process is now moving forward. And like 1992, female voters will be waiting at the polls to render their own judgement about the way the Senate handled the Kavanaugh nomination and the accusations from a woman against him.”

* * *

Peter Baker and Carl Hulse, “Echoes of Anita Hill, but in a Different Era for Women,” [New York Times](#)

“Justice Thomas ultimately prevailed, and has been on the Supreme Court for more than a quarter of a century. But this time the battle takes place in a different era, at a moment when the #MeToo movement has brought down many powerful men over accusations of sexual misconduct that were once swept under the rug.”

* * *

Naomi Lim, “Mazie Hirono Says Democrats Ready To Keep Supreme Court Seat Vacant Through 2020 If Conditions Are Right,” [Washington Examiner](#)

“‘I think we’ve had those kinds of vacancies before, and we certainly had over a one-year vacancy with Merrick Garland,’ Hirono told the news outlet in a podcast aired Tuesday. ‘So, the world does not come to an end because we don’t fill all of the nominees.’”

* * *

Amanda Terkel and Ashely Feinberg, “Lisa Murkowski’s Brother Went To Brett Kavanaugh’s High School,” [Huffington Post](#)

“The senator may have more insight into the culture that Christine Blasey Ford has described.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 17

Date: Mon, 17 Sep 2018 22:36:02 -0400

Importance: Normal

Sheryl Gay Stolberg & Julie Hirschfeld Davis, “Hearing Set for Monday to Hear Kavanaugh and His Accuser,” [The New York Times](#)

“The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, under mounting pressure from senators of his own party, will call President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, and the woman who has accused him of sexual assault before the committee on Monday for extraordinary public hearings just weeks before the midterm elections.”

* * *

Brett Samuels, “White House Says Kavanaugh Ready to Testify over ‘False Allegation,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘Judge Kavanaugh looks forward to a hearing where he can clear his name of this false allegation. He stands ready to testify tomorrow if the Senate is ready to hear him,’ White House spokesman Raj Shah said in a statement.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Kavanaugh Tells GOP Senator He Didn’t Attend Party of Alleged Incident,” [The Hill](#)

“Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said Monday that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh denies attending an early 1980s party at the center of a sexual assault allegation against him. ‘The judge, who I know very, very well [and] is an honest man said this didn’t happen,’ Hatch said, adding that there is ‘some question’ about if Ford was ‘mixed up.’”

* * *

Ariane de Vogue & Eli Watkins, “Brett Kavanaugh Is Willing to Answer Questions on Allegations, Has Hired an Attorney,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh said Monday that he would be willing to speak with lawmakers to refute an allegation of physical and sexual assault by a woman who has come forward publicly with the accusation. . . . According to multiple sources, Kavanaugh has hired Beth Wilkinson, of the law firm Wilkinson Walsh and Eskovitz, to be his attorney.”

* * *

John Wagner & Seung Min Kim, “Kavanaugh Accuser Willing to Testify, Her Attorney Says; Judge Offers Fresh Denial,” [The Washington Post](#)

“An attorney for Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who said Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh assaulted her when the two were in high school, said Monday that Ford is willing to testify about the allegations before the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Bill Hutchinson, “Brett Kavanaugh Accuser Wants to Cooperate on Investigation but Not Be Part of ‘Bloodletting’: Attorney,” [ABC News](#)

“A California psychology professor who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her in high school wants to cooperate with federal lawmakers considering the nomination, but doesn’t want to be part of a Washington ‘bloodletting,’ her attorney said on ‘Good Morning America’ Monday.”

* * *

Julia Prodis Sulek, “#MeToo Spurred Christine Blasey Ford to Open Up About Alleged Attack Year Before Kavanaugh Nomination, Friends Say,” [East Bay Times](#)

“The fog was just lifting at Capitola beach one morning this July when Christine Blasey Ford confided in two friends that she was bracing herself for an avalanche of attacks and searching her memory for anyone, anything, that could validate her story that U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her in high school.”

* * *

Jeremy Diamond, “Trump Stands by Kavanaugh, Supports ‘a Full Process,’” [CNN Politics](#)

“President Donald Trump on Monday praised Judge Brett Kavanaugh as ‘one of the finest people that I’ve ever known’ in his first public comments since the Supreme Court nominee was publicly accused of sexual assault, and he criticized Democrats for not releasing information about the allegation sooner.

* * *

Josh Gerstein, Andrew Restucci & Daniel Lippman, “I Do Not Know this Woman’: Trump Allies Rally to Kavanaugh’s Defense,” [Politico](#)

“More than half a dozen current and former White House officials or people close to the president said that Trump will continue to stand behind Kavanaugh, even as they were increasingly resigned to the likelihood that the Senate Judiciary Committee will be compelled to examine the allegations in detail. . . . Kavanaugh’s defenders included some of the 65 high-school acquaintances who signed an open letter last week vouching for his character after the allegations were first reported. ‘I stand by the letter I signed. I do not know this woman,’ said Stephanie Conway McGill by email on Sunday, referring to Ford.”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Two Women Who Say They Dated Kavanaugh Issue Statement Defending Him,” [The Hill](#)

“Two women who say they dated Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and have known him since high school are vouching for his character following sexual misconduct allegations against him. The two women, who both say they knew Kavanaugh in high school, say the allegations against him do not sound like the man they knew.”

* * *

[Statements from Two Women Who Dated Brett Kavanaugh](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh and I have been good friends since high school. I dated him in college and he was and is nothing like the person who has been described. He always conducted himself honorably with me at all times when we were together. He was always a perfect gentleman, and I vouch for him completely.” –Maura Fitzgerald

“I’ve been friends with Brett Kavanaugh for over 35 years, and dated him during high school. In every situation where we were together he [was] always respectful, kind and thoughtful. The accusations leveled against him in no way represent the decent young man I knew. We remain good friends and I admire him as a husband, father and professional.” –Maura Kane

* * *

Julia Manchester, “Ken Starr Says ‘I Trust Brett Kavanaugh’ over Allegations that Are ‘So Wildly Out of Character,’” [The Hill](#)

“‘I’ve known him since 1994. I’ve worked alongside him – this is so wildly out of character – and I love that so many young women who had gone to high school with Brett [Kavanaugh] came forward and attested to his character so I trust Brett Kavanaugh and he has emphatically denied the charges,’ he continued.”

* * *

Alexander Bolton, “Grassley Agrees to Second Kavanaugh Hearing After GOP Members Revolt,” [The Hill](#)

“Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) agreed to schedule a second hearing on Brett Kavanaugh for next week after Republican members of his committee insisted on hearing from a woman who has accused her of sexual assault.”

* * *

John W. Schoen & Jacob Pramuk, “The Seven Republican and Democratic Senators Could Sink Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court Confirmation,” [CNBC News](#)

“A handful of senators from both major parties will play a critical role in determining whether Brett Kavanaugh joins the Supreme Court following a sexual assault accusation against the federal appellate judge.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Collins Wants Kavanaugh, Accuser to Testify,” [The Hill](#)

“‘Professor Ford and Judge Kavanaugh should both testify under oath before the Judiciary Committee,’ Collins said in a tweet on Monday.”

* * *

Tucker Higgins, “Sen. Susan Collins: If SCOTUS Nominee Brett Kavanaugh Lied, ‘That Would Be Disqualifying,’” [CNBC News](#)

“Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, told reporters on Monday that if Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh lied in denying that he sexually assaulted a woman at a high school party in the early 1980s that it would ‘obviously’ disqualify him from a seat on the nation’s highest court.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Collins Knocks Democrats over Handling of Kavanaugh Assault Allegation,” [The Hill](#)

“Collins asked if Democrats believed Ford, ‘why didn’t they surface this information earlier,’ and if they didn’t believe Ford, ‘why did they decide at the 11th hour to release it?’ ‘It is really not fair to either of them the way it is was handled,’ Collins said.”

* * *

Megan Keller, “Murkowski Echoes Calls for Kavanaugh, Accuser to Testify,” [The Hill](#)

““Despite the length of time since the alleged incident, Dr. Ford’s allegations should be heard and she must have an opportunity to present her story before the committee under oath, with Judge Kavanaugh having the opportunity to respond under oath as well,’ Murkowski said in a statement Monday.”

* * *

Elana Schor, “Flake’s Revenge? Trump Antagonist Holds Power over Supreme Court Pick,” [Politico](#)

“Trump drove the Arizona senator into retirement with his blistering criticism. Now the fate of the president’s high court nominee may be in Flake’s hands.”

* * *

Melissa Quinn, “Undecided Senate Democrats Want to Hear More Regarding Kavanaugh Sexual Assault Allegation,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., all said Monday they want to hear more regarding the allegation made by Christine Blasey Ford, a professor at Palo Alto University. The three represent states that support President Trump and all three voted for Neil Gorsuch’s nomination to the Supreme Court.”

* * *

Kevin Breuninger, “GOP Slams Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s Timing on Sexual Assault Allegations Against Trump Supreme Court Pick Brett Kavanaugh,” [CNBC News](#)

“Republicans are criticizing Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., for waiting to reveal explosive allegations against President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. Feinstein, the ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has come under fire by her opponents on Capitol Hill, who suggest she withheld potentially damaging information about Kavanaugh until after his confirmation hearings had wrapped in order to cripple his candidacy.”

* * *

The Editorial Board, “The #MeToo Kavanaugh Ambush,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“Experts know that human beings can come to believe firmly over the years that something happened when it never did or is based on partial truth. The Post reports that the therapist’s notes from 2012 say there were four male assailants, but Ms. Ford says that was a mistake. Ms. Ford also can’t recall in whose home the alleged assault took place, how she got there, or how she got home that evening. This is simply too distant and uncorroborated a story to warrant a new hearing or to delay a vote. We’ve heard from all three principals, and there are no other witnesses to call. The only purpose of another public hearing would be a political spectacle in which Democrats could wax indignant for the cameras while Mr. Kavanaugh repeated his denials.”

* * *

Chronicle Editorial Board, “Editorial: A Disturbing 11th-Hour Allegation Against Kavanaugh,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

“Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s treatment of a more than 3-decade-old sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh was unfair all around. It was unfair to Kavanaugh, unfair to his accuser and unfair to Feinstein’s colleagues—Democrats and Republicans alike—on the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

* * *

Emily Cadei, “Feinstein Was Right to Withhold Kavanaugh Letter, Accuser’s Attorney Says,” [McClatchy](#)

“California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has come under intense scrutiny for her handling of the letter that is now at the center of a storm over Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination. But an attorney for the letter’s author, Palo Alto University Professor Christine Blasey Ford, says the veteran Democratic lawmaker was right to keep the letter confidential for more than a month.”

* * *

Amber Phillips, “Why Are Accusations Against Kavanaugh Coming Out Now?” [The Washington Post](#)

“[S]omehow, Ford’s anonymity got blown, and it’s pretty clear that it was never her choice. That renders moot any attempt to argue that the accusation or the accuser herself is politically motivated.”

* * *

“Don’t Let Democrats Recreate the Anita Hill Circus for Kavanaugh,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Senate Democrats are not good-faith actors, and should not be taken seriously by Republican senators or by news media. . . . The week is young. Ford can be questioned Tuesday under oath by Judiciary Committee members. Kavanaugh can respond Wednesday or Thursday. If any intellectually honest senators still have worries, then the panel chairman can act accordingly. But the cries for delay from Schumer and Feinstein should be ignored.”

* * *

Chris Strohm & Shannon Pettypiece, “White House Hasn’t Asked FBI to Vet Kavanaugh Allegations, Sources Say,” [Bloomberg](#)

“The White House hasn’t asked the FBI to investigate the allegation that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted a woman when they were in high school, a request required for the bureau to take further action, according to two people familiar with the matter.”

* * *

Burgess Everett, “Judicial Crisis Network to Launch \$1.5M Pro-Kavanaugh Ad Campaign,” [Politico](#)

“Liberal and conservative groups are launching dueling ad campaigns as the Senate litigates Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court amid an allegation of sexual assault when he was in high school.”

* * *

Eddie Scarry, “Experts Doubt Claim of ‘Truthful’ Polygraph Result from Kavanaugh Accuser,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“Reports about the woman who claims Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her decades ago state that she took a polygraph test that deemed her to be ‘truthful.’ But experts interviewed by the *Washington Examiner* doubt the significance of that finding, and assert that such tests are unable to assess at all whether a person is lying or is truthful.”

* * *

Amber Phillips, “Now That His Accuser Has Spoken Out, Is Brett Kavanaugh’s Nomination in Danger?” [The Washington Post](#)

“Kavanaugh’s nomination could be in trouble, even with a Republican Senate that badly wants to put him on the court quickly. But the dam isn’t breaking yet.”

* * *

Perry Bacon Jr., “What Happens to Brett Kavanaugh’s Nomination Now,” [FiveThirtyEight](#)

“What happens next? Will President Trump and Senate Republicans stick with Kavanaugh? Right now, we have more questions than answers.”

* * *

Amanda Terkel and Arthur Delaney, “Alumnae of Christine Blasey Ford’s High School Circulate Letter of Support,” [Huffington Post](#)

“Ford’s allegations against Brett Kavanaugh are ‘all too consistent with stories we heard and lived while attending Holton,’ they wrote.”

* * *

Michael Brendan Dougherty, “Kavanaugh Too,” [National Review](#)

“The *Huffington Post* wrote an article on a group of alumnae of Ford’s high school — Holton-Arms, a private girls’ school in Bethesda — who are circulating a letter in support of Ford. They do not corroborate Ford’s story about Kavanaugh, but they say they believe her, writing that her story was ‘all too consistent with stories we heard and lived while attending Holton.’ That things like what is described in Ford’s letter ‘happened all the time’ is, I’m sure, true. That it’s ‘all too consistent with stories’ that people heard and their lived experience is also, I’m sure, true. But the questions is whether *Brett Kavanaugh* did something like this. Evidence that stuff like what he’s accused of happened to many people, or that prep-school guys like him always get away with things like this, is not evidence against Brett Kavanaugh. It is more like a cultural script in search of players to be cast in their respective roles later.”

* * *

“What Should the Senate Do with Brett Kavanaugh?” [Politico](#)

“Here’s what our panel of legal scholars thinks should happen next.”

* * *

Eugene Scott, “Revisiting Anita Hill in the Wake of the Kavanaugh Allegations,” [The Washington Post](#)

“For many Americans, the sexual assault allegations facing a Supreme Court nominee are ringing a bell.”

* * *

Paul Kane, “Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill Showdown Shadows Senate in Kavanaugh Nomination,” [The Washington Post](#)

“Not since the fall of 1991 has [the Senate Judiciary Committee] faced such a quandary, when Clarence Thomas’s confirmation turned into a political and societal Rorschach test for what constituted sexual harassment. So much has changed, yet so little has changed.”

* * *

Nina Totenberg, “From Anita Hill to Christine Blasey Ford, The Similarities and Differences,” [NPR](#)

“There are big differences and similarities in these two events.”

* * *

Grace Sparks, “Anita Hill’s Accusations Did Not Hurt Public Support for Clarence Thomas in ’91,” [CNN Politics](#)

“Those looking to how the public received Hill’s accusations against Thomas in hopes that Kavanaugh will still prevail may see a good sign in that the percentage of Americans supporting his nomination did not drop after Hill’s allegations and testimony.”

* * *

Janie Velencia, “Americans Didn’t Believe Anita Hill. How Will They Respond to Kavanaugh’s Accuser?” [FiveThirtyEight](#)

“We can’t really know how Americans will weigh the various factors involved in Kavanaugh’s case just yet, or if ultimately they’ll default to party lines. But given how views on sexual misconduct have changed, it’s difficult to imagine the public responding to the allegations against Kavanaugh as they did to Hill — even if he’s eventually confirmed.”

* * *

David Lat, “Delay the Vote — for Kavanaugh, for His Accuser and for the Court,” [The New York Times](#)

“In many ways, Judge Brett Kavanaugh is the perfect Supreme Court nominee. For a dozen years, he has served with distinction on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the nation’s second most-powerful court. Before that, he held top legal jobs in the federal government, including the White House Counsel’s Office, and was a partner at a leading law firm. He’s almost universally praised by his former clerks, who are Republicans, Democrats and independents. He’s a devoted husband and father of two daughters who is celebrated as a leader in the federal judiciary when it comes to hiring and mentoring women. During and after his confirmation hearings, many unfair and unfounded charges were made against him. . . . But now Mr. Kavanaugh faces new allegations, brought by a woman named Christine Blasey Ford. Her disturbing claims deserve further investigation by the Senate Judiciary Committee, even if it means delaying his confirmation vote. A delay wouldn’t just be for her sake, but for the sake of Judge Kavanaugh and the Supreme Court itself.”

* * *

Lance Morrow, “A Spectral Witness Materializes,” [The Wall Street Journal](#)

“The passage of time sometimes causes people to forget; sometimes it causes them to invent or embellish. Invention takes on bright energies when its muse is politics, which is the Olympics of illusion. Inevitably, people will sort the matter out along mostly partisan lines. A lot will depend upon the testimony of Ms. Ford, who has volunteered to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If the left expects a windfall from all this in November, it may find itself instead the victim of a terrific backlash.”

* * *

Megan McArdle, “Caution, the Kavanaugh Mess May Never Be Resolved Satisfactorily,” [The Washington Post](#)

“It’s a cliché that memory is fallible, but in recent years, thanks to researchers such as Elizabeth Loftus, just how fallible it is has become clear. People can sincerely forget things you’d think they would remember, or they remember details or even whole events they couldn’t possibly have experienced.”

* * *

Andrea Peyser, “Kavanaugh Accuser’s Memory Could Be Wrong,” [New York Post](#)

“Kavanaugh should be judged by his judicial skill, and perhaps by his political views, but not by the recollections of one. Memories can lie.”

* * *

Jim Geraghty, “This Week Will Make the Clarence Thomas Confirmation Hearings Look Civil and Agreeable,” [National Review](#)

“The allegation against Kavanaugh is almost certain to get lumped into the discussions about #MeToo and powerful men engaging in wanton sexual misconduct. Unless more women come forward, this will be exceptionally unfair to the judge; all of the most infamous cases of #MeToo have involved multiple accusers and patterns of abuse. In at least two cases that were briefly high profile, the accusations were found to be either false or insufficiently provable to carry consequences.”

* * *

Doha Madani, “Kavanaugh’s Toughest Senate Questioners Are There in Part Due to the Me Too Movement,” [Huffington Post](#)

“Sens. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris were able to get on the Senate Judiciary Committee after allegations against Sen. Al Franken and candidate Roy Moore.”

* * *

Lisa Hagen & Max Greenwood, “Kavanaugh Becomes September Surprise for Midterm Candidates,” [The Hill](#)

“Sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh have delivered a September surprise for Senate and House candidates less than 50 days before the midterms. That is particularly the case with Republicans who may be forced to balance intense party pressure to send another conservative to the country’s top court, without alienating the suburban women voters expected to be pivotal in this year’s midterms.”

* * *

Richard Wolf, “Republicans, Democrats Face Risks and Rewards in Brett Kavanaugh’s Embattled Supreme Court Nomination,” [USA Today](#)

“Brett Kavanaugh’s suddenly endangered Supreme Court nomination creates risks for Republicans seeking to take control of the high court and opportunities for Democrats to retaliate for being denied the same thing 2½ years ago.”

* * *

David French, “Weighing the Allegations Against Brett Kavanaugh,” [National Review](#)

“The allegations against Brett Kavanaugh — outlined now on the record in the *Washington Post* by Palo Alto University professor Christine Blasey Ford — are substantial and serious. . . . But the evidence against Kavanaugh falls far short of the evidence arrayed against [other alleged sexual harassers]. So far at least it falls far short of the evidence against virtually any other politician or celebrity who has faced consequences during this #MeToo moment.”

* * *

Jennifer Rubin, “Brett Kavanaugh’s Odd Response,” [The Washington Post](#)

“[Judge Kavanaugh’s] statement is intriguing for what it does and doesn’t say.”

* * *

Charles C.W. Cooke, “On Jennifer Rubin’s Bizarre Critique of Brett Kavanaugh,” [National Review](#)

“Kavanaugh’s ‘statement,’ Rubin gripes, ‘is intriguing for what it does and doesn’t say.’ Not really, no. What is ‘intriguing’ is how this opportunistic dreck was ever published in the *Post*. Is it really too much to wait for the hearing in which Kavanaugh has promised fully to engage?”

* * *

Michael Graham, “Commentary: When Selection of Supreme Court Justice Is About Everything Except Judicial Qualifications,” [CBS News](#)

“The Brett Kavanaugh story is one reason why people hate politics. . . . At this moment, seating a Supreme Court justice involves debating a tale of drunken teens and attempted sex from over three decades ago ago [sic]. That’s what happens when you make the selection of Supreme Court justice about everything except his or her qualifications as a judge.”

* * *

Paul Krugman, “Kavanaugh and the Politics of Bad Faith,” [The New York Times](#)

“The very process that brought Kavanaugh to the brink of a lifetime Supreme Court appointment was saturated in bad faith.”

* * *

Michelle Goldberg, “Boys Will Be Supreme Court Justices,” [The New York Times](#)

“If the Kavanaugh nomination goes forward, it’s because Trump and his allies believe that a certain class of men accused of sexual assault deserve impunity. The question now is whether any Republican senators believe

otherwise.”

* * *

Salvador Rizzo, “Did Brett Kavanaugh Give False Testimony Under Oath?” [The Washington Post Fact Checker](#)

“Durbin’s statement that there’s new evidence that Kavanaugh misled the Judiciary Committee regarding the Haynes nomination is worth Two Pinocchios. . . . No Pinocchios for Leahy in [the Pickering accusations]. . . . [Pryor accusation] merits Two Pinocchios for Leahy. . . . Even though Leahy is careful to say Kavanaugh ‘might have’ misled the Senate, he’s still throwing red meat out without much to back him up, and he gets Three Pinocchios for [warrantless wiretapping accusations].”

* * *

Zoe Tillman, “Senate Democrats Are Suing the National Archives to Get Brett Kavanaugh’s Records,” [Buzzfeed News](#)

“Six Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee filed a lawsuit Monday against the National Archives and Records Administration, to force them to release documents about US Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh as soon as possible.”

* * *

Ryan Grim, “Attorney Sent Letter to Chuck Grassley and Dianne Feinstein Claiming Federal Court Employees Willing to Speak About Brett Kavanaugh,” [The Intercept](#)

“Sanai told the committee leadership that ‘there are persons who work for, or who have worked for, the federal judiciary who have important stories to tell about disgraced former Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, and his mentee, current United States Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. I know that there are people who wish to speak out but fear retaliation because I have been contacted by more than a half-dozen such persons since Judge Kozinski resigned in disgrace.’ . . . Sanai has long challenged the judiciary and was deemed a ‘vexatious litigant’ by one trial court, an attempted designation that was overturned on appeal.”

* * *

“No Fourth Branch of Government,” [The Washington Examiner](#)

“On this Constitution Day, it is worth reflecting that in recent years, the dangerous expansion of executive authority has taken two forms. The first covers various attempts by the executive to usurp congressional power, as when a president illegally declared war or claimed the right to make recess appointments without a Senate recess. The second is the attempt to install independent agency heads (as at the CFPB) who are unaccountable to the elected branches of government. If you fear an over-powerful executive, you should be afraid of Kavanaugh’s questioners, not of Kavanaugh himself.”

From: Porter Wilkinson Wall (b)(6)

To: Porter Wilkinson (b)(6)

Subject: BMK Clips - Sept 16

Date: Sun, 16 Sep 2018 20:35:46 -0400

Importance: Normal

Emma Brown, “California professor, writer of confidential Brett Kavanaugh letter, speaks out about her allegation of sexual assault,” [Washington Post](#)

“Earlier this summer, Christine Blasey Ford wrote a confidential letter to a senior Democratic lawmaker alleging that Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her more than three decades ago, when they were high school students in suburban Maryland. Since Wednesday, she has watched as that bare-bones version of her story became public without her name or her consent, drawing a blanket denial from Kavanaugh and roiling a nomination that just days ago seemed all but certain to succeed. Now, Ford has decided that if her story is going to be told, she wants to be the one to tell it.”

* * *

“JCN’s Carrie Severino Responds to Washington Post Article,” [Press Release](#)

“Judge Kavanaugh is admired in his church, in his community, and in his profession. Throughout his distinguished career in public service, he has undergone half a dozen FBI background checks, and never a whisper of misconduct. Until the eve of his confirmation. Sixty-five women who were his contemporaries during high school have all come out saying that Brett Kavanaugh was and is a man of character and integrity. Countless women who have known Brett Kavanaugh personally and professionally spanning three decades have all testified to his respect for women, his character, and his integrity. Furthermore, Senator Feinstein apparently did not believe the allegations were serious, credible, or relevant enough to share with the FBI or any other member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, even in the confidential background portion of the committee process. It doesn’t add up. But what does add up is that Democrats are doubling down on a strategy of character assassination, seeking to destroy the life of a distinguished public servant for the sake of appeasing their base.”

* * *

Sheryl Gay Stolberg, “Kavanaugh Accuser Comes Forward, Saying He Pinned Her on Bed and Groped Her,” [New York Times](#)

“[N]ow Ms. Ford’s decision to put her name behind the accusations — made after weeks of reluctance — has quickly intensified the push by Democrats to delay Judge Kavanaugh’s Senate confirmation vote. The Post’s article included an interview with Ms. Ford’s husband and her lawyer, Debra Katz, and described a therapist’s notes from 2012 in which Ms. Ford told of the attack.”

* * *

Burgess Everett, “Kavanaugh’s accuser steps forward, putting onus on GOP,” [Politico](#)

“A lawyer close to the White House said the nomination will not be withdrawn. ‘No way, not even a hint of it,’ the lawyer said. ‘If anything, it’s the opposite. If somebody can be brought down by accusations like this, then you, me, every man certainly should be worried. We can all be accused of something.’”

* * *

David Rutz, “White House, Grassley Back Kavanaugh After Accuser Goes Public,” [Washington Free Beacon](#)

“The White House and Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Chuck Grassley (R., Iowa) are continuing to give their full backing to Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh following an accusation of sexual assault against him.”

* * *

John T. Bennett, “Three Ways Kavanaugh Nomination Could Play Out After Accuser Speaks,” [Roll Call](#)

“What was an anonymous letter with serious allegations against Supreme Court nominee are now vivid words from an accuser, putting a name and face on the charges and raising new questions about the nomination.”

* * *

Emily Birnbaum, “Senate Judiciary Republicans call on Feinstein to release letter after Kavanaugh accuser breaks silence,” [The Hill](#)

“‘A Republican committee spokesperson on Sunday questioned the timing of the accusations coming to light, questioning why Democrats are now bringing the allegations to the public’s attention after reportedly being informed of them months ago.’ ‘It raises a lot of questions about Democrats’ tactics and motives to bring this to the rest of the committee’s attention only now rather than during these many steps along the way,’ the spokesperson said in a statement to The Hill. ‘Senator Feinstein should publicly release the letter she received back in July so that everyone can know what she’s known for weeks.’ . . . It’s disturbing that these uncorroborated allegations from more than 35 years ago, during high school, would surface on the eve of a committee vote after Democrats sat on them since July,’ the spokesperson said.”

* * *

“Read the letter Christine Blasey Ford sent accusing Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct,” [CNN](#)

“The following is the text of the letter Christine Blasey Ford wrote to Sen. Dianne Feinstein detailing an event in which she accuses Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. CNN was not provided a copy of the letter sent to Feinstein, but a source who had the letter read the contents of a redacted version to CNN.”

* * *

Lindsey Graham, on [Twitter](#)

“I agree with the concerns expressed in the Judiciary Committee’s statement about the substance and process regarding the allegations in the latest claim against Judge Kavanaugh. However, if Ms. Ford wishes to provide information to the committee, I would gladly listen to what she has to say and compare that against all other information we have received about Judge Kavanaugh. If the committee is to hear from Ms. Ford it should be done immediately so the process can continue as scheduled.”

* * *

Sean Sullivan, et al., “GOP senator: Hold off on vote on Brett Kavanaugh until accuser is heard,” [Washington Post](#)

“In an interview with The Washington Post, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) said the woman, Christine Blasey Ford, ‘must be heard’ and urged the committee not to vote on Kavanaugh’s nomination until it has a chance to hear more from her. ‘I’ve made it clear that I’m not comfortable moving ahead with the vote on Thursday if we have not heard her side of the story or explored this further,’ said Flake, who is one of the committee’s 21 members. Republicans hold a 11-to-10 majority on the panel.”

* * *

Elizabeth Sanders (CNN), on [Twitter](#)

“@gregclarycnn asked Sen Susan Collins if she believed the accuser, Christine Blasey Ford. Collins said: ‘I don’t know enough to create the judgment at this point.’”

* * *

Seung Min Kim, on [Twitter](#)

“Grassley and Feinstein jointly working on scheduling follow up calls with both Kavanaugh and Ford, per [spokesperson].”

* * *

Alex Wong, “Senate Democrats call for Kavanaugh investigation,” [Axios](#)

“Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, led by ranking member Sen. Dianne Feinstein, are calling for a thorough investigation of the sexual assault allegation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh before his confirmation process moves forward.”

* * *

Jordain Carney, “Schumer: Senate must postpone vote on Kavanaugh,” [The Hill](#)

““Senator Grassley must postpone the vote until, at a very minimum, these serious and credible allegations are thoroughly investigated. For too long, when woman have made serious allegations of abuse, they have been ignored. That cannot happen in this case,’ Schumer said in a statement on Sunday.”

* * *

Kalhan Rosenblatt, “Senators Call For Delay Of Kavanaugh Confirmation Vote After Woman Reveals Sexual Assault Allegations,” [NBC News](#)

“Sens. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii; Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; and Kamala Harris, D-Calif., also called for the vote to be postponed.”

* * *

Michael Burke, “Feinstein backs Kavanaugh accuser’s decision to go public,” [The Hill](#)

““From the outset, I have believed these allegations were extremely serious and bear heavily on Judge Kavanaugh’s character,’ Feinstein said. ‘However, as we have seen over the past few days, they also come at a price for the victim. I hope the attacks and shaming of her will stop and this will be treated with the seriousness it deserves.’ ‘I support Mrs. Ford’s decision to share her story, and now that she has, it is in the hands of the FBI to conduct an investigation,’ she continued. ‘This should happen before the Senate moves forward on this nominee.’”

* * *

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, on [Twitter](#)

“I admire the courage Ms. Ford has shown in coming forward with her story. This requires a pause, at a minimum, in the unseemly, special-interest-funded rush to put Brett #Kavanaugh on the Court. . . . #Kavanaugh’s blanket denial cannot be reconciled with her specific recollections, and the @FBI needs time to take proper witness statements. Lying to an #FBI agent in a formal interview is a crime, and an impeachable offense.”

* * *

Doug Jones, on [Twitter](#)

“This was a very brave step to come forward. It is more important than ever to hit the pause button on Kavanaugh’s confirmation vote until we can fully investigate these serious and disturbing allegations. We cannot rush to move forward under this cloud.”

* * *

Jonathan Zimmerman, “Is Brett Kavanaugh a nice guy? That’s irrelevant. So is alleged sexual assault as a teen.” [USA Today](#)

“I don’t want Brett Kavanaugh to be confirmed for the Supreme Court. Based on what he has said and written, I fear that Kavanaugh will roll back reproductive rights, environmental regulations and many other causes that I hold dear. But I’m also opposed to the latest gambit in the campaign against Kavanaugh, who faces an allegation from California psychology professor Christine Blasey Ford that he tried to sexually assault her at a party when they were in high school. I find Ford’s story entirely believable: she talked about it years ago with her future husband and later a therapist, among others, and has passed an FBI-administered lie detector test, according to The Washington Post. Yet I still think it’s a poor reason to bar Kavanaugh from the court.”

* * *

David Frum, “Delay the Kavanaugh Vote,” [The Atlantic](#)

“‘The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.’ So said Mitch McConnell about the Merrick Garland nomination nine months before the 2016 elections. It’s now less than eight weeks to elections that may remake the Senate. What’s the case that this group of men should be the one to speak for the American people about this nomination?”

* * *

John Fund, “Democrats Want Their Pound of Kavanaugh Flesh,” [National Review](#)

“The 27-year-old ‘Anita Hill’ strategy of digging for dirt on a Supreme Court nominee didn’t work with Clarence Thomas back in 1991. But desperate times for liberals call for desperate measures.”

* * *

Eliana Johnson, “Kavanaugh faces his #MeToo test to reach Supreme Court,” [Politico](#)

“Long before the assault allegation emerged, the White House sought to inoculate Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh with a strong pro-women stance.”

* * *

Charles C.W. Cooke, “So Now What?” [National Review](#)

“[T]his has now become a political question. Unfair as it may be, the core calculation now will not be whether the charges are *true* (we don’t know) or whether the timings and assumptions are *fair* (they are not), but what the various players consider the least dangerous course politically. Perhaps Republicans will want to make clear that they will not be bullied by eleventh hour half-charges. Or perhaps they will cut their losses lest they help Democrats turn out women in the midterms. Who knows? Either way, this is a low moment in the history of the Senate — and one that has little to do with justice.”