

Episode 57BT January 13 2025 Partisan Control in State Legislatures fought for after November 2024

In Episode 57BT 1 United States 2 California Los Angeles 3 United Kingdom and European democracies attacked by Musk 4 Ukraine Battles rage inside Russia Main Content 1A United States The Pitched Battles for Partisan Control in State Legislatures [RAWSEP View](#) Whether state legislatures are controlled by Republicans or Democrats broadly determines if the state will support measures for stopping climate change One measure for slowing climate change is a current Biden Administration program of distribution of Heat Pump Rebates of up to \$8000 based on a sliding income scale which could be seen as clean energy alternatives to air polluting indoor residential wood burning [RAWSEP View of Michigan](#) In 2024 Republicans regained the majority in the Michigan House In Michigan Republican senators who are just one seat behind the Democrats want a special election as soon as possible to fill a seat they believe can be flipped In Michigan Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet a moderate Democrat was elected to Congress in a heavily white working class area outperforming Vice President Kamala Harris That left the Democrats edge in Lansing at just 19 to 18 Senate Republicans are urging Gov Gretchen Whitmer a Democrat to call a special election soon to fill a vacant Democratic seat [RAWSEP View of Minnesota](#) In 2024 In the Minnesota House a 67 to 67 tie on Election Day initially yielded a power sharing agreement that featured co speakers and committee co chairs But a court ruled that a newly elected Democratic legislator from Minneapolis did not meet residency requirements Republicans suddenly had a 67 to 66 edge A special election is set for January 28 A Republican majority also threatens to refuse to seat Representative Brad Tabke a Democrat who won re election by 14 votes after 20 absentee ballots were lost Six of those 20 voters later testified that they had voted for Tabke giving him an insurmountable margin A judge is expected to rule at any moment but a Republican said there should be a special election regardless of what the judge decided In response Democrats have floated the possibility of boycotting the session to deny Republicans the necessary quorum A Minnesota Democratic walkout of this kind in Minnesota would be without precedent [RAWSEP View of Vermont](#) In Vermont Republicans made strong inroads in the Vermont State Legislature [RAWSEP View of Virginia](#) Virginia Democrats will hold on to their narrow majorities in the state Legislature after winning special elections Tuesday in two seats in a county that shifted toward President elect Donald Trump last year [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) As state legislatures convene they face the same political polarization seen in Congress Some are in near deadlock January 13 2025 Republicans now control a majority of statehouses Republicans now control the legislature in 28 states and Democrats 18 The other states are split unresolved or led by a bipartisan coalition 1B United States Do not Call Kennedy a Vaccine Skeptic Call Him What He Is A Cynic [RAWSEP View](#) Having a Vaccine Cynic in charge of Health and Human Services is opposed in a recent letter by 18000 physicians The physician that wrote this opinion piece cleverly calls himself a vaccine skeptic because every physician and scientist who follows the scientific method tests and retests vaccines for efficacy and safety and changes are made in the scientific community when new facts come to light This opinion writer call Kennedy Junior a vaccine cynic instead implying that Kennedy Junior does not care who he hurts when with an anti science bias Kennedy Junior denies the efficacy of vaccines that have been satisfactorily safety tested If the scientific method were applied to the scientifically debunked theory of Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning the man on the street skeptical that wood burning is polluting and hastens climate change despite a tree being planted in the place of a cut down and burned tree would be logically convinced that the PM2.5 and CO2 from wood burning could in fact not be erased by planting another tree in the place of the cut down and burned tree To begin with a living tree never absorbs PM2.5 through its pores Also a living tree does perform photosynthesis under most clean air conditions but a recent research paper has shown that trees close their pores in the face

of PM2.5 from wood burning just as humans hold their breath And when a tree closes its pores the level of photosynthesis slows or stops so the tree either absorbs much less CO2 or no CO2 in the presence of PM2.5 from wood burning So the benefit of planting a tree is for the photosynthesis it can perform undisturbed by wood burning which will not happen if the tree that is cut down and burned In this way using wood burning for energy is not renewable in the way wind solar and geothermal are and wood burning is not clean energy Nations should not be able to ignore the PM2.5 and CO2 emissions of wood burning when calculating whether each nations meeting its current United Nation approved climate goals by relying on the scientifically debunked theory of Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning Wood burning emits 2.8 times the CO2 and PM2.5 as the fossil fuel coal burning Wood burning emits 450 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel natural gas burning Replacing coal burning with wood burning in reality creates more air pollution and hastens climate change more than coal burning Final fact scientifically debunking the theory of Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning When a living tree is cut down in its prime and replaced by a smaller tree planted in its place it takes decades or centuries for the new tree to attain the stature of the cut down tree and during that time less net photosynthesis and less absorbtion of CO2 occurs and of course no absorbtion of PM2.5 by the tree occurs because tree pores never absorb PM2.5 from the air Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization January 13 2025 The opinion writer is a pediatrician specializing in infectious diseases at a Childrens Hospital The news media labels Robert F Kennedy Junior a vaccine skeptic He is not I am an actual vaccine skeptic In fact everyone who serves with me on the Food and Drug Administration vaccine advisory committee is a vaccine skeptic Pharmaceutical companies must prove to us that a vaccine is safe that it is effective Then and only then will we recommend that it be authorized or licensed for use by Americans Kennedy on the other hand is a vaccine cynic failing to accept studies that refute his beliefs He claims that the measles mumps rubella vaccine causes autism despite more than a dozen studies performed in seven countries on three continents involving thousands of children showing that it does not He has claimed that there is no vaccine that is safe and effective Childhood vaccines have prevented more than one million deaths and 32 million hospitalizations over the past three decades He has encouraged people not to vaccinate their babies I see somebody on a hiking trail carrying a little baby I say to him Better not get him vaccinated How Lagging Vaccination Could Lead to a Polio Resurgence In its original form the virus survives in just two countries But a type linked to an oral vaccine used in other nations has already turned up in the West New York Times January 13 2025 Most American parents hardly give thought to polio beyond the instant their child is immunized against the disease But there was a time in this country when polio paralyzed 20000 people in a year killing many of them Vaccines turned the tide against the virus Over the past decade there has been only one case in the United States related to international travel That could change very quickly if polio vaccination rates dropped or the vaccine were to become less accessible Robert F Kennedy Junior a longtime vaccine skeptic who may become the secretary of health and human services has said the idea that vaccination has nearly eradicated polio is a mythology And while Kennedy has said he is not planning to take vaccines away from Americans he has long contended that they are not as safe and effective as claimed But the secretary of health and human services has the authority to discourage vaccination in less direct ways He or she could withdraw federal funds for childhood vaccination programs hasten the end of school mandates in states already disinclined toward vaccines or fuel doubts about the shots exacerbating a decline in immunization rates In 2024 20 countries reported polio cases and the virus was detected in wastewater in five European countries decades after its official elimination from the region and in Australia Any reduction in coverage rates increases the risk of polio anywhere said a spokesman for the World Health Organization polio eradication program There are three types of polioviruses and eradication requires that all three disappear For years the

goal has been tantalizingly close Type 2 was declared vanquished in 2015 and Type 3 in 2019 Type 1 now circulates only in Afghanistan and Pakistan In 2021 the two countries together had just five cases; in 2024 they had 93

2A California Los Angeles On a Screen Devastation As catastrophic fires consume homes in California the owners can watch the unfolding tragedy through Ring and Nest cameras Before a home caught fire in Pacific Palisades its camera captured the unfolding tragedy **RAWSEP View** Ring cameras can also be used to film with timing of visible smoke pollution emissions from individual houses by filming with begin and end times marked on the Ring film of indoor residential wood burning emissions from wood burning chimneys which enters the yards of near neighbors and sickens the near neighbors This Ring filming can support the data of levels of air pollution from indoor residential wood burning are caught at the same time by PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors and marked with begin and end times of intervals where PM2.5 emissions were about World Health Organization safe limits of 5 micrograms per cubic meter annually RAWSEP would like to give out PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors to any near neighbor of an indoor residential wood burners whose wood smoke PM2.5 pollution enters the yard of the near neighbor and sickens them. Laws should be passed by the federal state or local governments to use PM2.5 levels above World Health Organization levels to shut down air polluting indoor residential wood burning one wood burning appliance at a time if necessary **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** January 12 2025 The lens of the Nest Cam faced the yard pointing toward the infinity pool of the home cut into the rugged hillside of Pacific Palisades Across the country the couple who own the home watched in horror as the orange fireball grew until the flames began licking the side of the pool then jumped to the roofline They watched the destruction in real time as the shed caught fire Firemen shuffled across An alert let them know that their indoor sprinkler had turned on Another alert came from a heat sensor at their front door Then the feed went dead One of the eerie realities of home technology including Nest and Ring cameras is that calamities are now being streamed live The cheapness of such technology means that you no longer need a state of the art security system to monitor what is happening in your home After a woman evacuated from the home she had rented in Malibu she checked the Ring cameras at the property but they showed only emergency vehicles It was the AirTags left in a bag of surfboards that provided the digital clues indicating the moment her home was consumed The location refreshed twice and then all she got was a spinning wheel she said in a mobile home park in Sylmar California a 65 year old woman recorded the approaching inferno on her home Ring camera refreshing it until 3 am on the night she evacuated alongside her husband and cat The footage showed the winds buffeting the home and an enormous cloud of smoke From the footage collected later she could see our neighbors house and our house was not burning which brought some relief

2B California Los Angeles Most schools in Los Angeles will reopen on Monday January 13 2025 **RAWSEP View** Opening schools in Los Angeles seems to be a sign of optimism **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Los Angeles Unified School District announced on Sunday that it planned to reopen most of its schools on Monday after closing all campuses across the city last week as wildfires raged winds eased slightly and the fires slowly began to be contained Late last week just over 50 schools were without power he said but that number had been reduced to one and that school was in a mandatory evacuation area But not all schools in the district the second largest in the country will reopen Four were destroyed by the Palisades fire in western Los Angeles and three are still in mandatory evacuation zones

2C California Los Angeles You Do not Get Disasters Like the Palisades Fire Without Human Failure **RAWSEP View** this article briefly describes how many homeowners in California were almost uninsurable even before these wildfires **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** January 11 2025 What would hardening look like? In the

wildland urban interface a program of retrofitting homes and roofs eliminating flammable flora ensuring homes sit clear of anything flammable **and RAWSEP interjects here no wood burning appliances allowed in residential homes** In 2024 State Farm dropped nearly 70 percent of its customers in Pacific Palisades where houses are not separated by brush but stacked By 2024 the states insurer of last resort program had reached \$3 billion in exposure seven times as much as in 2020 Its most recent report counted less than a billion dollars in cash on hand and though there is reinsurance to draw on the Palisades fire alone is likely to generate many billions of dollars in claims and perhaps even more in damage 3 United Kingdom and Europe New Age of American Interference in Europe Elon Musk and MAGA are already disrupting the status quo and Europe seems ill prepared **RAWSEP View** It is beyond puzzling that Trump and Musk are attacking traditional democratic American allies The MAGA movement seems to be intentionally sowing discord within US allies That is disorienting for Europeans who grew up imbibing American lessons about democracy after World War 2 **RAWSEP View of Musk and Trump in Europe** The United States remains the main guarantor of European security as the war in Ukraine has shown It is also Europes biggest export market making the prospect of tariffs a powerful threat for European economies And Europe has no technology companies on par with those coming out of Silicon Valley including Musks X platform and his Space X satellite company European dependency on Russian energy long hampered its response to the Kremfins meddling But the European dependency on the United States is much greater **RAWSEP View of Musk and Trump in France** The governments of France have collapsed and far right parties are on the rise in France **RAWSEP View of Musk in Germany** Musk the president elects biggest financial supporter is using his social media platform X to bring the far right Alternative for Germany party into the mainstream The government of Germany has collapsed and a far right party AfD is on the rise in that country ahead of a February 2025 Snap Election Musk is encouraging voters to vote for the far right AfD offering it the legitimacy that has long been denied to a party under surveillance by Germanys domestic intelligence service for its links to neo Nazis In an opinion piece for a major German newspaper published Dec 28 he called the AfD the last spark of hope for Germany On Thursday he live streamed a 75 minute conversation with Alice Weidel the AfD is candidate for chancellor on X giving her the same platform he gave Trump five months earlier What has kept the AfD out of power despite becoming the second most popular party in the country is a national taboo against working with the far right The memory of Hitler who formed a coalition with centrist conservatives has so far kept this firewall in place Both the Kremlin and the forces around the libertarian authoritarian camp around Musk want to sow chaos in Europe and get rid of the liberal democratic elites the director of the Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin said in the German outlet Die Zeit We have to arm ourselves against that But the biggest danger for our democracies comes not from the outside but the inside Those fighting election campaigns should focus on the problems that concern voters I ca not remember a comparable case of interference in the election campaign of a friendly country in the history of the western democracies said Friedrich Merz the leader and chancellor candidate of the center right Christian Democrats His party is leading in the polls but will need a coalition partner to form a government **RAWSEP View of Musk in the United Kingdom** In Britain Musk revived a decade old scandal that unfolded while Prime Minister Keir Starmer whose center left Labour Party is in power was head of public prosecutions Fanning the flames that were kindled by right wing media outlets Musk has called Starmer utterly despicable and says he should be in prison Last week Musk asked his 212 million followers to vote on whether America should liberate the people of Britain from their tyrannical government Musk is also considering a \$100 million donation to Britains far right Reform Party which would be the countrys largest political donation ever The partys leader Nigel Farage one of the chief campaigners for Brexit has met Trump several times most recently at Mar a Lago last month A source said MAGA hates Starmer But in Britain Musk trashed Nigel Farage leader of the far right Reform Party after Farage declined to endorse

Musk's demand that a far right agitator be released from prison **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** January 13 2025 For the last decade or more Europe's governments have been trying to resist covert influence operations from adversaries like Russia and China Now they have a very different challenge Fending off overt efforts by Elon Musk and Donald Trump's MAGA movement to seize territory oust elected leaders and empower far right causes and parties Even before he retakes office Trump is making threats to acquire the territory of NATO allies like Canada and Denmark And smear the leaders of Britain's center left Labour Party A senior official from the first Trump administration who is in line for an even more senior role in the second was blunt in his assessment Europe he said has no idea what is coming its way 4 Ukraine Battles Rage Inside Russia With Waves of Tanks Drones and North Koreans Ukrainian soldiers are describing fierce clashes as Russian forces try to retake territory in the Kursk region that could be key in eventual cease fire talks **RAWSEP View** The Kursk region may become a bargaining chip This article gives an idea of where Ukraine and Russia will stand by late January 2025 **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** January 13 2025 Five months after Ukrainian forces swept across the border in the first ground invasion of Russia since World War II the two armies are engaged in some of the most furious clashes of the war there fighting over land and leverage in the conflict The intensity of the battles recalls some of the worst sieges of eastern Ukraine over the past three years including in towns like Bakhmut and Avdiivka names that now evoke memories of mass slaughter for soldiers on both sides The fighting in the Kursk region of Russia has taken on a layer of significance for the territory's potential to play a role in any cease fire negotiations Facing the prospect of an unpredictable new US president who has vowed to end the war swiftly without clarifying the terms Ukraine hopes to use Russian territory as a bargaining chip Russia relying on North Korean reinforcements hopes to knock that territory out of Ukraine's grasp A Ukrainian position in a village in the Sumy region near the border with Russia Ukrainian soldiers took shelter in a garage in a village near the Russian border a few hours after returning from the Kursk region Russia with the help of an estimated 12000 North Koreans has retaken about half of the territory it lost over the summer But Ukrainian forces have also gone on the attack in recent days seeking to secure an area west of Sudzha a small town in Russia about six miles from the border that has become the anchor for Ukrainian forces which seized about 200 square miles in August The Russians have largely thwarted the assault but fighting goes on and the situation remains unpredictable soldiers said Russian bombs and rockets exploded with thunderous force in border villages and Ukrainian missiles could be seen streaking across the sky in the opposite direction Tens of thousands of drones hunted targets too The best current defense against them is a shotgun Ukrainian soldiers said Ukraine put up razor wire defenses along the border with Russia's Kursk region Ukrainian tanks are outfitted with metal netting to protect against drone attacks Trump spent months on the campaign trail questioning American military assistance to Ukraine He has said he wants to bring the war to a swift end but has not indicated how Russian forces have been on the offensive for more than a year in eastern Ukraine making steady advances despite staggering losses With its incursion into Russia Ukraine aims to create a buffer zone to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians in the city of Sumy less than 20 miles from the border with Russia Ukraine also wants to ease pressure on the eastern front by drawing Russians back onto their own land President Volodymyr Zelensky said the campaign had sent a powerful message to the world that Ukraine can do more than play defense It is one of our wins I think one of the biggest wins not just last year but throughout the war Zelensky said on Thursday in Germany while meeting representatives of nations providing military support to Ukraine Still some military analysts have cautioned that Ukraine's Kursk campaign could leave its forces increasingly stretched and losing ground in its own eastern Donbas region