

**HALLOWEEN EDITION:**

# SHUT DOWN FRIGHT

**A Close Look at the  
Online Conversation  
Inside the Beltway**

**Be the first to know what's driving D.C.**



# Republican influencers pick up Beltway momentum as SNAP benefits run out and Thanksgiving travel fears grow.

## Insight of the Week:

Voices beyond Capitol Hill steer political momentum. California Governor Gavin Newsom commands attention on the left. Prominent Republican influencers and administration officials like Scott Jennings and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent drive the narrative on the right.

## What to Watch:

With SNAP benefits in the crosshairs and holiday gatherings quickly approaching, Congress faces increasing pressure to resolve the standoff.



# Republican Voices Have Momentum Off the Hill

CNN contributor **Scott Jennings** leads overall engagement among non-Congressional voices this week, after his post claiming a Democratic Senator warned colleagues would “face the guillotine” for voting to reopen the government garnered considerable attention. On the left, **Governor Gavin Newsom** (D-CA) and former labor secretary **Robert Reich** are drawing attention to missed food benefits.



# Republican influencers, governors, and administration officials are leading the conversation.

TOP NON-CONGRESSIONAL VOICES (By Engagement; October 21–27)

**Scott Jennings**  
Political Commentator



52.5K

**Glenn Youngkin**  
Virginia Governor



7.5K

**Scott Bessent**  
Treasury Sec.



37.5K

**Kari Lake**  
Senior Advisor to USAGM



6.1K

**Gavin Newsom**  
California Governor



20.5K

**Doug Collins**  
VA Sec.



4.2K

**Robert Reich**  
Former Labor Sec.



17.7K

**Mike Davis**  
Founder, Article III Project



4.1K

**Karoline Leavitt**  
White House Press Sec.



13.8K

**S. Huckabee Sanders**  
Arkansas Governor



4.1K

Leading GOP voices are blaming Democrats for the shutdown and becoming increasingly influential players driving the Beltway's political conversation.



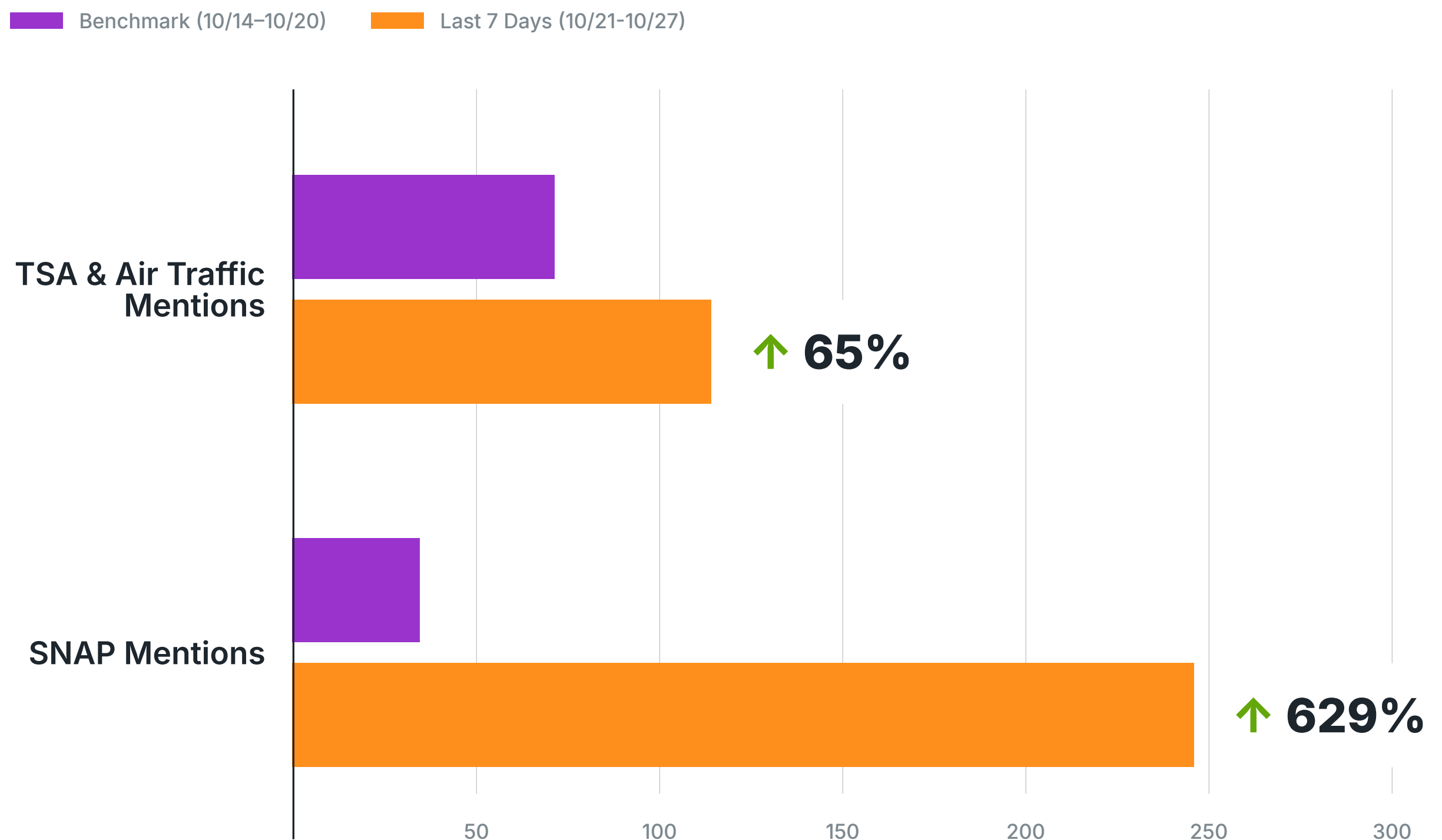
# As the Countdown to Thanksgiving Begins, Threats to SNAP and Air Traffic Control Issues are Driving the Conversation

Millions of Americans are days away from losing SNAP benefits, fueling a surge in Beltway conversation. Lawmakers are trading blame over who is responsible for families going hungry weeks before Thanksgiving. Attention is also on airports as thousands of controllers miss paychecks.



# TSA & Air Traffic Control mentions are up 65%; SNAP mentions are up 629% — in the span of a week!

## MENTIONS OF TSA & SNAP IN SHUTDOWN CONVERSATION ON BELTWAY SOCIAL



Experts fear a repeat of 2019's shutdown chaos at the nation's airports and the optics of shutting down SNAP benefits before the Thanksgiving holiday.





## Make Beltway Social Work for You

Beltway Social follows over 20,000 X accounts belonging to Members of Congress and their staff, key executive branch personnel, NGO leaders, and other influencers and boldface names from around the Beltway.

We analyze the people, topics, and trends that are dominating the conversation in Washington. This index is a summary of those conversations, plus a comparison with the broader national conversation.

You'll get a sense of where Washington is and where it's going — and when the conversation inside the Beltway is completely out of touch with the country as a whole.

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