

Trump postpones sweeping tariffs for one month

BY SHAUNEEN MIRANDA | KENTUCKY LANTERN

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday punted for one month his plans to impose sweeping tariffs against Mexico and Canada after both countries agreed to act on his demands to curb drug trafficking and illegal immigration into the United States.

The pauses came as Trump signed a trio of executive orders over the weekend that would kick-start a 25% tariff on Mexico, a 25% tariff on most goods from Canada and a 10% tariff on imports from China, beginning early Tuesday. The tariff against China remained in place Monday night.

Many economists have warned about the negative effects such broad tariffs could have on consumers.

Trump imposed the tariffs — a tax on goods that come into the country — in an effort to hold the three countries “accountable to their promises of halting illegal immigration and stopping poisonous fentanyl and other drugs from flowing into our country,” according to a White House fact sheet.

Mexico, Canada and China are the United States’ top trading partners. The three coun-



Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images
President Donald Trump speaks to reporters in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday in Washington, D.C.

tries had responded to Trump’s plans with their own retaliatory measures.

TWO CALLS WITH TRUDEAU

In a post on social media, Trump said “Canada has agreed to ensure we have a secure Northern Border, and to finally end the deadly scourge of drugs like Fentanyl that have been pouring into our Country, killing hundreds of thousands of Americans, while destroying their families and communities all across our Country.”

Trump held two calls

Monday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

After his second call with Trump, Trudeau said in a social media post that “Canada is implementing our \$1.3 billion border plan — reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl.”

He said nearly “10,000 frontline personnel are and will be working on protecting the border” and that the country would make new commitments to appoint a

“Fentanyl Czar.”

Canada will also “list cartels as terrorists, ensure 24/7 eyes on the border” and “launch a Canada- U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering,” Trudeau said.

“I have also signed a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl and we will be backing it with \$200 million,” he said.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEXICO

In a social media post on Monday, Trump said he had a “very friendly conversation” with Mex-

ico’s President Claudia Sheinbaum and that the two agreed to “immediately pause the anticipated tariffs for a one month period.”

Negotiations led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary nominee Howard Lutnick and “high-level” Mexico representatives would take place during that time, Trump said.

Sheinbaum also agreed to “immediately supply” 10,000 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border in an effort to curb illegal immigration to the United States, in addition to fentanyl smuggling.

SENATE DEMS ON TARIFF IMPACTS

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats — including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York; Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota; Ron Wyden of Oregon; Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire; and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland — underscored how Trump’s tariff plans could hit Americans’ pocketbooks.

“Trump is yet again rigging the same game for his billionaire friends while doing nothing to lower costs for American families,” Schumer said. “These nonsense

tariffs equate to a tax increase on the American people, and the president isn’t just randomly slapping on tariffs — he’s slapping consumers right where it hurts: their wallets,” he added.

Asked about any legislation the Senate Democrats were contemplating, Wyden said “everything is on the table at this point.”

“No president has ever used this particular statute to impose a tariff, and we’ve already got legislation from several Democrats to make sure that it can’t be used as a blank check for the president,” the Oregon Democrat said.

The senators also brought in Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale, which has conducted its own analysis on the economic and fiscal effects of Trump’s tariff plans regarding Mexico, Canada and China.

“We found that the average price increase was the equivalent of about \$1,250 per household in America,” Tedeschi said.

“Now bear in mind that that’s just an average — tariffs are not an equitable tax — they pinch the middle class more than they pinch upper-income households.”



Photo Kentucky Office of the Governor
Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear surveys Eastern Kentucky flood damage from the air with the Kentucky National Guard in 2022.

Beshear says dismantling FEMA would be ‘disastrous’

BY MCKENNA HORSLEY | KENTUCKY LANTERN

Kentucky Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear said that dismantling the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would be “disastrous in and of itself” following Republican President Donald Trump floating the idea in recent days.

Beshear — who has led Kentucky through 12 disaster declarations in his five years as governor — did say more changes to the agency are needed.

Last week, Trump talked about “getting rid” of FEMA while surveying damage and recovery efforts in North Carolina following Hurricane Helene. The president established a 20-member committee via a Friday executive order to review FEMA and propose ways to overhaul its work, including whether to shift responsibility for managing disaster recovery to the states.

Kentucky has received nearly \$2.9 billion in federal aid for natural disaster response and recovery since 2017, \$1.7 billion of which was allocated by FEMA.

Those numbers exclude COVID-19 disaster funding.

Asked about Trump’s idea, Beshear said during his weekly press conference that “FEMA is an important partner” for states addressing natural disasters, both in terms of training and having personnel to process applications for aid.

Beshear said the overhead costs of replicating FEMA in each state would be prohibitive.

“If FEMA was dissolved, every state would have to do that on its own, because that work is required under statute,” Beshear said. “And what that would do is that would make the overhead so expensive, having to do this 50 plus times compared to what it currently is, that it would eat up most of that money.”

Beshear said that since he became governor in 2019, the state has had 12 federal disaster declarations after tornadoes, flooding and storms that have caused “significant damage and loss of life across Kentucky.”

The governor emphasized that FEMA is not

just dealing with individual and public assistance, “which should come faster,” but also aids states in responding during the emergency phase of a disaster. Beshear said that 1,400 Kentuckians were saved during 2022 floods in Eastern Kentucky. FEMA aided in that by bringing in additional personnel, like members of the Tennessee and West Virginia National Guards, and sent helicopters for search and rescue.

However, Beshear did say that he agreed changes should be made to FEMA and “a lot of changes are being made.”

“A whole lot of changes are being made because in Kentucky, we weren’t going to take it, we were going to make sure that our voices were heard,” Beshear said. “And because of that, things have been a little bit better for the natural disasters that have happened since then. But FEMA is an organization that needs to continue. We need them to do better, but it would be disastrous in and of itself for the FEMA organization to be dissolved.”

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COMMONWEALTH’S ATTORNEYS OFFICE – SEEKS JANITORIAL SERVICES

The local Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Office is seeking bids for janitorial services to begin by March 1, 2025, as follows:

1.00 Purpose and Background

Offeror will provide janitorial services to the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney, 52nd Judicial Circuit located at 1102 Paris Rd. Suite 14B Mayfield, KY 42066.

2.00 Scope of Work

Weekly: Offeror shall dust furniture, desks, chairs, credenzas, and cabinets. Empty waste containers and remove trash to the designated area and replace trash liners. Clean entrance and interior glass doors. Vacuum any carpeted areas. Sweep and mop ceramic and resilient floors. Disinfect tabletops, counters, and break room. Damp wipe exterior and interior of microwave ovens. Wipe the exterior of the refrigerator.

Clean and sanitize bathroom sinks, toilets, and bathroom floors. Restock toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap.

Monthly: Offeror will dust high reach areas including shelves, ledging, vents and grill covers. Dust venetian blinds, remove cobwebs, clean baseboards, and corners.

Site Evaluation: Offeror may schedule a walk-through of the approximate 2,107 sq ft space by calling 270 247-5226 during normal business hours prior to the deadline of February 25, 2025.

3.00 Evaluation Criteria

The Prosecutors Advisory Council will evaluate the proposals based on the following evaluation factors:

Cost: Bidder with lowest price receives highest score – maximum 50 points. Vendor shall provide the weekly rate rate for which they shall provide the aforementioned services. Bidder with most years of cleaning experience shall receive maximum 25 points. Bidders shall submit 2 references for a maximum 25 points.

4.00 Bid Sheet

Offerors shall submit the following to the Prosecutors Advisory Council before the due date, via email to - mwise@prosecutors.ky.gov. Questions for clarification can be sent to the same email address. **Only bids submitted to mwise@prosecutors.ky.gov by the due date will be considered. Bids submitted directly to the Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Office will be disqualified.**

- **Business Name:** _____
- **Remit to address:** _____
- **Tax ID or Social Security #:** _____
- **Weekly cost (cleaning will be done 1 time per week):** \$ _____
- **Does your bid include cleaning supplies? Circle One: Yes or No**
- **Do you agree to a background check? Circle One: Yes or No**

Bidder Signature: _____ **Date:** _____