

Daylight Between Them

Trump, Cotton feud over daylight saving time legislation

The president posted the GOP senator's personal cell phone number online, urging constituents to pressure him directly

By [Marc Rod](#) October 5, 2026



This illustration photo shows a clock in the background of a smartphone showing the time after daylight saving time was implemented in Los Angeles, California, on March 15, 2022.

President Donald Trump and Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) publicly sparred over the weekend about legislation that Trump supports, and Cotton opposes, to make daylight saving time permanent.

Trump has been pressuring the Senate to pass the legislation, which the House [passed on a bipartisan basis](#), while Cotton has been its most visible opponent in the Senate. Orthodox Jewish groups have opposed the push to eliminate the time changes, warning of the impact on morning prayer and schoolchildren's schedules. Barring that, Orthodox groups have urged making standard time permanent instead.

In a major broadside against Cotton, Trump posted the senator's cell phone number on Truth Social, urging constituents to contact him personally.

"Everyone in Arkansas, a State I love, and won 3 times, the last by ... 34 points, tell Tom to, GET IT DONE!" Trump wrote. "It's very expensive for our Nation where you have high and

dangerous steeples to reach, like on churches and municipal buildings. Almost everybody wants ‘The Sunshine Protection Act’ to pass, except for Tom Cotton.”

Trump attached a letter from PGA Tour President Brian Rolapp to his message to Cotton. The golf and leisure industries, particularly in Florida, have been among the most prominent advocates for permanent daylight saving time. The agricultural industry, particularly in northern states, has generally opposed the change, despite claims by Trump.

Though he didn’t address Trump directly, Cotton responded by highlighting a past experiment with ending time changes several decades ago, which quickly became unpopular and was reversed.

“No one likes changing the clock, me included, but Congress has enacted permanent Daylight Savings Time multiple times before and repealed it each time once Americans experienced absurdly late sunrises in the winter,” Cotton said. “Arkansans don’t want their kids going to school in the pitch dark, and I’ll always put Arkansas first.”

Trump fired back by accusing Cotton of blocking the legislation over “ego,” dismissing the past overturning of permanent daylight saving time as a result of congressional negotiating and asserting — contrary to polling from the time that showed substantial opposition to the policy after it was put in place — that “everybody loved it.”

“If Tom Cotton were putting Arkansas first, he would give them an extra hour of daylight and, more importantly, they wouldn’t have to run all over their houses, farms, work places, and everywhere else, twice a year, having to change their Clocks, and often forgetting to do so. That is really putting Arkansas FIRST, and I know, because, unlike Tom, I won that Great State, three times, and by almost 40 points,” Trump said, also emphasizing that Cotton and other Senate Republicans “NEED” the “WIN.”

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), whose state has utilized permanent standard time for decades, chimed in to say, “Senator Cotton is right. Permanent Daylight Savings has been tried and Americans didn’t like it.”

“The better way is permanent Standard Time because it’s based on science. No dark mornings, it keeps our time in sync with the Sun, and no more changing the clocks. Arizona has been on Standard Time year round since 1968 without issue,” Kelly [wrote](#) on X.