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WASHINGTON AT A CROSSROADS: THE 2026 U.S. MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND WHAT COMES NEXT

October 26, 2026 | 13:00hrs

An insider's look from the Hill exclusively for AmCham Greece members

Speakers Bios



AMERICAN-HELLENIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Jon Decker

White House Correspondent
Senior National Editor
Gray Television

Jon Decker is the White House correspondent for Fox News Radio and has been a member of the White House Press Corps since 1995. He was recently elected by his colleagues to the Board of the White House Correspondents' Association. He is also on the faculty of Georgetown University where he is an Adjunct Lecturer. Previously, Jon served as the White House correspondent for Reuters Television and SiriusXM Radio; Washington correspondent for PBS Television's "Nightly Business Report"; the host of PBS Television's "This Week in Business"; business reporter for the NBC affiliate in Washington (WRC); and field producer for NBC in Miami. He has served as a Media Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and was also an aide to the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. Jon, who was born in Washington, DC, received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with Honors from the University of Pennsylvania and received a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School. He also studied international law at the Sorbonne in Paris. Jon has covered the Clinton, Bush and Obama Administrations, as well as 21 State of the Union Addresses, 5 Presidential elections and the Impeachment of President Clinton. He has been in the Supreme Court to cover some of the most important cases of the past two decades - including Bush v. Gore, NFIB v. Sebelius and Windsor v. United States. In the past two decades, Jon has reported from Athens, Brussels, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Luxembourg, Madrid, Milan, Montreal, Panama, Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei, the Bahamas, Havana and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Columbia Journalism Review has called Jon "refreshingly self-aware-for-a-reporter."

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Nikolas Vafiadis

International News Manager
ANT1 TV

Nikolas Vafeiadis was born in Vyronas, Athens, in 1961. He studied Geology at the University of Athens and specialized in Geochemistry and Petrology using X-ray analytical techniques. He began a doctoral dissertation on the occurrence of tungsten deposits in Greece, which he abandoned to pursue a career in journalism. He excelled in the British Council examinations and was awarded a scholarship to study in London, where he obtained a Master's degree in International Journalism from City University of London. He has worked for newspapers (Eleftherotypia, Kathimerini, Kerdos, Financial Times, among others), radio stations (Antenna FM, BBC World Service), magazines (Georama, among others), and television networks. His reports and dispatches have been broadcast by numerous international media outlets, including CNN, CBS News, Sky News, Al Jazeera, and RAI. He has covered more than ten wars from the front lines and interviewed or obtained statements from world leaders who have left their mark on the modern era. These include Nelson Mandela, Yasser Arafat, Mikhail Gorbachev, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, Slobodan Milošević, Hamid Karzai, Kiro Gligorov, Jimmy Carter, Ion Iliescu, Turgut Özal, Jesse Jackson, John Major, Sali Berisha, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Tomislav Nikolić, Tassos Papadopoulos, and many others. His journalistic work has earned him numerous awards and distinctions in Greece. In 2017, he became the first Greek journalist to receive the international Amerigo Journalism Award in Florence. He has been working with the ANTENNA Group for 30 years. He currently heads the International News Department at ANT1 Television, where he also presents news bulletins. In addition, he teaches the course Mass Media and Natural Disasters in the postgraduate programme Environmental, Disaster and Crisis Management Strategies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He also teaches International Journalism at ANT1 Media Lab. He is married and has two sons: Lykourgos, born in 1994, and Giannis, born in 1996.

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Elias Spirtounias

Executive Director
AmCham Greece

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA., a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997 until February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven cultural theme parks in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. Since January 2022 he served as Treasurer and since January 2024 as Vice Chair of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.