

# President rejects Iran's seven-day offer to reopen the Strait and reschedules the bombing for after the midterms; his U.N. ambassador goes on Fox to say the \$6.48 diesel came from Ukraine



PHOTO: IN DEFIANT UN SPEECH, IRANIAN PRESIDENT SAYS US AND ISRAEL ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS)

BY LOU

One More Question

I wrote down everything that came across the wire on Thursday the seventeenth. Just that one day. In order, the way it reached me, and then I'll stop.

Every Democrat in the Senate except Senator Fetterman signed a letter pressing Secretary Hegseth for a cost breakdown of the war in Iran. The Pentagon's policy chief, Elbridge Colby, briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee behind closed doors, and lawmakers of both parties came out saying they had not gotten clear answers. Fox News published a poll: seventy percent of voters say the president lacks a clear strategy, sixty percent say the mili-

tary action was the wrong decision. The U.N. fact-finding mission on Iran reported "reasonable grounds" to believe the United States committed war crimes in two airstrikes; the Times wrote that the mistakes behind the deaths of more than a hundred children "went beyond negligence." U.S. officials told CBS that Iran had downed at least two American drones. Iran called the American account of an Air Force colonel's rescue "fictional and unacceptable." And the President told Axios, "I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not?"

That's the list. ...

... Continued on Page F5

## The Week

20 — 26 SEPTEMBER 2026 — RANKED BY THE WIRE

| STORY                                                                           | OUTLETS | VERSIONS | ITEMS |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|-------|
| <b>The cease-fire Trump turned down</b><br><i>Sunday chair: Lou</i>             | 29      | 44       | 370   |
| <b>The \$5,000 check nobody authorized</b><br><i>Sunday chair: Mort</i>         | 16      | 3        | 87    |
| <b>The farmer paying for the war</b><br><i>Sunday chair: Chip</i>               | 16      | 1        | 80    |
| <b>Sixty-five billion barrels, \$4.15 a gallon</b><br><i>Sunday chair: Ruth</i> | 15      | 1        | 45    |
| <b>The map Missouri lost five times in the ledger, off the front</b>            | 13      | 10       | 45    |
| <b>Fetterman's Republican convention video in the ledger, off the front</b>     | 13      | 2        | 45    |
| <b>The triumphal arch with snipers in the ledger, off the front</b>             | 11      | 4        | 25    |
| <b>The Greenland deal that isn't ownership in the ledger, off the front</b>     | 10      | 7        | 20    |

Outlets are distinct sources across the house's receipts; versions are how many times the house wrote it. The desks divide the list; a story the house runs straight is counted and not joked.

THE WEEK'S WORDS

Censure · Which Hum · Tonight · Two Weeks · Hoax · Rigged · The

Best People

TACO TUESDAY

## Fifty percent tariffs on Canada. Paused with two hours to spare — “we have a deal.” The deal lasted three days.

*The full arc, timestamped: the eleventh-hour pause, pending paperwork; the collapse and the midnight tariffs; and the neighbor's reply — “You're at war when you get attacked.” The fold stands on the ledger. So does the sequel.*

THE WORD

\$44 — 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

On beautiful

DEMOCRAT      REPUBLICAN

NO SHORT TITLE

BEAUTIFUL

*"My nephew's in law school, and he looked this up for me, because I didn't believe it. The One Big Beautiful Bill — when it became Public Law 119-21, it didn't have that name. It doesn't have a short name at all; the Senate took it out. So I asked him to split it, and he sent me the budget office's pages. Three point four trillion added to deficits over ten*

NO SHORT TITLE

BEAUTIFUL

## Priced by the budget office at \$38 billion, a figure it calls conservative, the war is being paid at the pump by the farmer who voted for it and now says he can't stay in business.



PHOTO: TRUMP SAYS 'BIG DECISION' COMING ON WHETHER TO 'ANNIHILATE' IRAN (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS)

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

The line is farmers first, and the line holds. Walk the

week with me and you will see it asked. Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced

the war at \$38 billion. In a federal budget that is a rounding er— it is not a rounding error, I would never say that, it is \$38 billion of real money, and

... Continued on Page F3

## Athletes now in the Senate decide if the bill protects sports from the man who crashed the signing.

BY GUS

The Sports Desk

● HOT MIC MOMENT  
a senator who makes the man in the stands the story,

not the bill, already knows what a party does with that independence. Somebody get me the political desk before Monday.

... Continued on Page S3

## Gates warns AI could cause a billion deaths the same week his industry investigates its own break-ins

BY SAL

Staff Writer

Bill Gates went on Meet the Press on September 27 and said artificial intelligence could kill a billion people if the industry keeps moving "full speed ahead." That is not a warning from a senator or a monk. That is the co-founder of Microsoft, the same week his own industry's safety researchers admitted how many holes they have already dug.

Six days earlier, on September 21, Gates had a different pitch. On CBS he announced what the network called a new coalition for global AI access — the same

... Continued on Page A3

## THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

| Today                      |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| News, continued            | A2  |
| The Wire                   | A3  |
| The Word                   | W44 |
| Finance                    | F1  |
| The Ledger                 | F2  |
| The Business Desk          | F3  |
| The Money Pages, continued | F4  |
| The Record                 | B1  |
| Legal                      | B2  |
| The Service                | B3  |
| Obituaries                 | B4  |
| Entertainment              | D1  |
| The Marquee                | D2  |
| Food                       | K1  |
| The Kitchen                | K2  |
| Health                     | H1  |
| The Outbreak Ledger        | H2  |
| The Exodus                 | H3  |
| The Withdrawn Formulary    | H4  |

## Republicans told to blame 'chief enemies' Muslim Democrats, assigned instead to defend ICE's own confused arrest memo

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

Start with the discipline, because there was plenty of it. On 30 August, the administration sanctioned the Italy-based Autistic Inventive Collective as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist," wire coverage describing it as a leftist network that had operated in plain sight for years — the kind of enforcement a serious administration can point to without flinching. Whether that arrest count

is the same claim as the "over 2,000" deportations running beside it in the same release is a separate question, and the release does not settle it.

Three days after that, the convention's pitch had its headline: Republicans cast Muslim Democrats as the party's "chief enemies," a midterm framing built to give candidates something to run on besides the raids themselves. Candidates would talk about chief enemies. They would not need to talk about ICE.

Then came this sequence's correction, and it is nothing more than that: a clarification — call it a walk-back, if you want the plainer word for it — of internal ICE guidance so confusing it reached the agents doing the arresting and left them alarmed. The instruction, once fixed, reads simply enough: anyone in the country illegally remains "on the policy" for arrest and deportation. That is policy working as intended. That is also, if the sequence gets told straight, an agency

ter, is challenging Sen. Roger Marshall by asking Kansans directly whether Jesus was woke — running toward the word, not away from it, in a state that has not sent a Democrat to the Senate since the 1930s. On September 16th, former Republican Gov. Bill Graves crossed over and endorsed him, saying it was "time Kansas does something

... Continued on Page A4

## Ireland denies an antisemitism problem its soccer team needed a vote and black armbands to settle.

BY SAL

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Amnesty International's Europe director, Steve Cockburn, called Israel's continued participation in the UEFA Nations League "unconscionable," pointing to what Amnesty says is the Israeli football association's ongoing support for the occupation. That was

the state of the record five days before Ireland was scheduled to take the pitch against Israel.

By Sunday the question had moved from a human-rights office in Europe to the Irish government itself. Prime Minister Micheál Martin was asked directly about antisemitism in Ireland, and he rejected the claim. Whatever

the fair reading of the country's record, the prime minister's answer was flat: no problem here.

The same day, in the same country, a different institution was not so sure. Ireland's national soccer team, under manager Heimir Hallgrímsson, was working through selection issues that came down to a vote: whether

... Continued on Page S4

## Senator proposes banning politicians from naming buildings after themselves while the president spends the year trying to

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

The unwritten rule that no public building should carry a sitting politician's name is dead. Nobody can say exactly when it was born; it worked the way the good ones do, by never being tested. It is survived by no statute and no line of code that says so out

loud, and it was preceded in death, by some years, by the assumption that a president would not need it explained to him.

The rule spent its last year on trial. For most of the year the President pressed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to add his name to the building. On

... Continued on Page B2

**PULL UP A STOOL**  
SAL has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

## Nineteen states vote to keep mornings dark for schoolkids, no one polls the schoolkids

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

Standard time, the twice-yearly agreement that a clock in November means something different than one in June, is dead. It was killed this month by legislative accretion: nineteen state governments have signed statutes locking their clocks onto daylight time year-round, each one waiting only on the single

Washington Examiner, the same day, writing up that Times report: the campaign says claims that she berated aides, used slurs, and shoved an employee reflect her "shouldering the enormous burden of grief."

... Continued on Page A7

## Court revives Orange march banned since 1998, same weekend Wales marches for the exit

BY SAL

Staff Writer

Garvaghy Road, the route through a nationalist stretch of Portadown that was a flashpoint of lethal violence in the 1990s, had not carried an Orange Order march since before the Good Friday Agreement. Twenty-eight years, then a late-night sitting, then a green light. Prime Minister Andy Burnham

called for calm on Sunday. That is the whole of what he is on record saying.

Thirteen days earlier, in a room the court's ruling did not touch, three first ministers signed a document. The memorandum they produced carried, in the Washington Examiner's own words, "belli-cose language but few concrete promises for withdrawal." A warning that the

... Continued on Page A6

## Trump announces permanent control of Greenland; Denmark keeps sovereignty, taxpayers get the basing bill

BY STERLING

The Ownership Desk

You will have read that the United States got Greenland for nothing, and you will want to know what nothing costs. Permanent control, the president called it on Friday. The agreement signed at the United Nations on Tuesday says otherwise: Danish

sovereignty maintained, Greenlandic autonomy maintained, the American military presence affirmed and expanded. Not title. Access. A usufruct is the right to use another's property and take the fruits while the owner keeps the deed — and the fruits here are rare earth minerals, oil, gas. Denmark holds

... Continued on Page F7

**ASK VIVIAN**  
"Can the voters in Fetterman's district recall him or get him impeached?" See answers on ES.

— this paper

**SOURCED OR SILENT**  
Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.

— this paper

**THE RECORD**  
When we fix a line, the strikethrough stays. See the fixes.

— this paper

“Read the five in the order they run and they are one story, which is the story of a bill being slid off one table and onto yours. The president turns down seven days of open water, moves the bombing to after the midterms — a scheduling decision, made by a calendar — and the U.N. ambassador goes on Fox to explain that the \$6.48 diesel came from Ukraine. Two columns over, in the same stretch of days, the president prices a Republican Congress at \$5,000 an adult while the Treasury secretary tells the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 people lose their health coverage. The budget office closes its books at \$38 billion and calls the number conservative, which means careful and also means it has room, and the farmer who voted for the war is paying it at the pump and says they can't stay in business. Nine months back, a 30-minute operation removed Venezuela's president and booked 65 billion barrels, 35 percent of it to the Pentagon; the Energy Secretary says the savings arrive in a year or two, and the driver is at a record \$4.15 while diesel passes its own record at \$5.85. And a stadium cuts its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff, and the full seats roar for the senator stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights, expected to pass Monday. Half price on the beer, \$4.15 on the gallon, \$5.85 on the diesel, \$5,000 on the Congress, and the savings arrive in a year or two.”

— Sal

“Five stories, five wins, in order. One: the President turned down a seven-day offer and moved the timing to after the midterms, which is what careful looks like, and Axios got it first-hand — a big decision coming up. The Fox poll has seventy percent saying there is no clear strategy, which is the public asking for one, and asking is healthy. Two: the Treasury Secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed. Examining. Nobody has removed the — the arrangement is that Congress votes and then Treasury spends, and the department is reviewing whether it needs the voting part. A review. Also that week 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage, and those are two separate sentences. Three: the Budget Office closed its books at \$38 billion and called the figure conservative. Conservative is our word. It means careful. Four: the operation ran thirty minutes and booked 65 billion barrels, 35 percent of it to the Pentagon, with savings at the pump in a year or two; the driver is paying a record \$4.15 and diesel passed its all-time high, so the savings have not arrived yet. Yet is doing real work there, and I am leaving it in. Five: the stadium cut its beer to half price, filled the seats by kickoff, and roared for the bill the Senate advanced Tuesday and is expected to pass Monday, the one The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights. That is the whole front, including the parts I struck out loud, which is more transparency than you will get anywhere else.”

— Chip

They did not take the field. They moved the gate, and waited.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

# News, continued

Xi's gift to America: two giant pandas, plus an invitation to send 100,000 students to China

the receipts: 4 stories ▼

Gates warns AI could cause a billion deaths the same week his industry investigates its own break-ins

the receipts: 7 stories ▼

Kansas Republicans tout their 94-year streak, then warn reporters a 'perfect storm' could end it.

the receipts: 3 stories ▼

President calls same UK terror arrest proof of his Iran war, then hours later 'fantastic' police work

the receipts: 11 stories ▼

Court revives Orange march banned since 1998, same weekend Wales marches for the exit

the receipts: 6 stories ▼

Peltola campaign blames grief for shoving a staffer; Times calls her 'one of us' three days later.

the receipts: 4 stories ▼

# The wire

## The wire

Everything the verdict was drawn from: left news, labor reporting and anti-monopoly journalism, gathered through the day from 43 outlets. Headlines link out to whoever wrote them. [RSS](#).

## TODAY

Trump rejected the same ceasefire Iran offered in June, just reordered, analyst says  
Only 'Negotiated Solution' Can Get US Out of 'Deadlock,' Iranian Diplomat Says After Trump Rejects Deal  
18 headlines on this story

Nearly 4,000 arrested for peacefully backing a banned protest group, one of them 94  
94-year-old human rights lawyer among hundreds of protesters arrested in test of Burnham's mettle  
2 headlines on this story

Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections  
One normally quiet Texas race shows 2026 will be a 'wipe out' for Republicans, Dem strategist claims  
4 headlines on this story

AP/Top 25 poll: Florida climbs into top 10 in college football rankings after statement win over Ole Miss  
3 headlines on this story

**Tennessee has held Christa Pike on death row nearly 30 years - and wants to execute her**  
The "Satanic Panic" Made Her a True-Crime Obsession. The Truth Is More Haunting.  
*The Intercept* 07:00 EDT

After 30 years on death row, Christa Pike faces execution for a grisly murder she committed at 18. The post The "Satanic Panic" Made Her a True-Crime Obsession.

**Republicans funded ICE's \$70 billion. Its raids are their problem.**  
ICE operations are making it hard for vulnerable Republicans fighting for their political survival  
*Politico* MAINSTREAM 10:00 EDT

Immigration enforcement in Kansas, Texas, Florida and beyond is forcing battleground Republicans to answer for the fallout.

**Bolsonaro gutted Brazil's film industry. Lula brought it back.**  
How Brazilian Cinema Survived Fascism  
*Jacobin* 09:46 EDT

Under Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's national cinema was gutted, censored, and left for dead. Then Lula returned — and so did the movies.

**AI firms are investigating their own models after they hit US government websites**  
AI Firms Probe 'Tens of Thousands' of Security Incidents—Some Involving Government Sites  
*Common Dreams* 13:07 EDT

Just days after a United Nations panel of experts warned that current artificial intelligence guardrails are "unraveling," Axios reported Saturday that security researchers, along with the firms Anthropic and OpenAI, "are investigating tens of thousands of incidents," including meddling with US government websites, amid growing calls for...

**A judge suppressed evidence that his shot could have been a ricochet.**  
What the PrairieLand Jury Never Got to Hear  
*The Intercept* 05:00 EDT

Lawyers for an anti-ICE protester tried to argue his shot was a ricochet. The theory was squashed by gaps in the evidence and a judge's suppression. The post What the PrairieLand Jury Never Got to Hear appeared first on The Intercept .

**Labour vowed to bring services in-house. Outsourcing firms made £6bn off them anyway.**  
Outsourcing Giants Made £6bn in Profit From UK's Public Services Last Year  
*Novara Media* 05:00 EDT

Outsourcing companies made an estimated £6bn in profit from public services last year, with close to 11% of all public expenditure going to these private firms. A new report by the think tank Common Wealth found that the public sector spent £129bn on services provided by outsourcing firms, despite the Labour government pledging to bring...

**Both parties gutted asylum. Congress just handed ICE \$70 billion to enforce what's left.**  
Who Killed Asylum?  
*Jacobin* 08:30 EDT

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the US government, across Republican and Democratic administrations alike, has been slowly dismantling what was once the most generous asylum system in the world.

**But: Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *Mob/Slate Elections*  
*2026 special election tracking*

Sen. John Fetterman says it's "entirely possible" Democrats take back Senate  
*CBS News* MAINSTREAM 15:00 EDT

Democratic Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania said that it's "entirely possible" his party wins control of the Senate in the midterm elections, while leaving the door open on his own political future.

THE REST OF THE DAY'S WIRE 21 more items

## YESTERDAY

Troopers arrested him without a warrant, his campaign says, for protesting ICE's shooting of a man  
Austin City Council Candidate Misael Ramos Arrested After Protest Against ICE Shooting  
2 headlines on this story

Republicans wanted Trump to pressure Xi. He won't say if he did.  
Trump-Xi takeaways: White House touts progress on AI, Iran and exports  
12 headlines on this story

**Eritreans abroad voted her Miss World's pick. Eritreans at home can't vote at all.**  
Who gets to speak for Eritrea?  
*Africa Is a Country* 13:09 EDT

A diaspora vote won Smit Tewoldemedhin the People's Choice Award at Miss World. But the freedom to choose is exactly what Eritreans at home don't have.

**Idaho's renewable ban is costing landowners money. The county may reverse it.**  
A rural Idaho county banned renewables. It's having second thoughts.  
*Grist* 09:00 EDT

Some residents oppose renewables. Others see property rights — and the chance to benefit from energy developments on their land — as fundamental. This fall, county leaders will decide.

**Brazil's bishops accuse outsiders of meddling in Lula's re-election. X silenced them anyway.**  
X Blocks Account of National Conference of Bishops of Brasil As Catholics Back Lula  
*Payday Report* 17:09 EDT

Polls show Catholics backing Lula as the church denounces foreign interference.

**It's not just hollow — the UN let Israel ignore its own order to preserve genocide evidence.**  
The Hollowness of the UN General Assembly  
*The Bullett* 06:00 EDT

Predictably, the two speeches that provoked the strongest reactions, as well as actual violations of the UN Charter, were those by the American and Israeli representatives.

THE REST OF THE DAY'S WIRE 9 more items

## FRIDAY

Netanyahu's speech empties the hall. The UN counts 12 Lebanese children killed or maimed daily.  
Netanyahu Speech Triggers Mass Walkout at UN  
2 headlines on this story

**Nigerian women's dating choices are shaped by poverty, not preference**  
The political economy of romance  
*Africa Is a Country* 22:51 EDT

eDee's latest single reignited an old debate about women, money, and dating in Nigeria. But no one really chooses these gendered arrangements shaped by economic insecurity and unequal access to opportunity.

**But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to preserve evidence of alleged genocide in Gaza** *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*

From Exhibit G: Surviving Image - "What is enough childhood for a people to stay alive? What image of childhood is enough for a people to stay alive?"  
*Jewish Currents* 10:19 EDT

**El-Sayed leads by 5 running as himself. Jackson trails by 3 running from the consultants.**  
The Consultants Will Kill You  
*Current Affairs* 16:56 EDT

The New York Times has a new article headlined " Democrats Show Strength in Michigan Senate Race but Trail in Maine, Polls Find. " It highlights the divergent electoral prospects of two Democratic Senate candidates: Michigan's Dr.

**NSPM-7 at one year: Trump's playbook for surveilling, infiltrating and prosecuting the left**  
One year of NSPM-7: The Trump Administrations strategy to disrupt progressive and left wing voices  
*Liberation News* 18:26 EDT

Nearly a year later, it is clear that the document was not mere rhetoric. Rather, it has served as an operational blueprint to disrupt and dismantle progressive and left wing organizations through surveillance, harassment, infiltration, and legal prosecution.

THE REST OF THE DAY'S WIRE 25 more items

## THURSDAY

**Tech cash bought the death of AI's risk-disclosure rule**  
AI Regulation Was Coming. Then Trump Killed It.  
*The Lever* 23:11 EDT

After a flood of tech industry cash, President Donald Trump killed a requirement that AI giants disclose their riskiest experiments to national security officials. Now lawmakers are scrambling to catch up.

**Texas cops followed him home and arrested him a week after he cussed at them**  
Watch Body Cam of Man Arrested for Just Cussing at a County Meeting  
*404 Media* 09:24 EDT

Cops followed EJ Carrion home and arrested him in his drive way one week after he said 'bullshit' at a county meeting in Texas.

**AI doom stories are minting the trillion-dollar companies that tell them.**  
The AI extinction narrative is winning out  
*Blood in the Machine* 14:04 EDT

The x-risk of super intelligence going rogue must be addressed, and mint trillion dollar companies in the process. Plus: How workers can beat the tech oligarchy

**The film documents killings the ICJ ordered Israel to preserve evidence of**  
NAZA Will Change How Americans Think About Israel - A news desk conversation about the film detailing the killing of civilians in Gaza.  
*Jewish Currents* 16:44 EDT

THE REST OF THE DAY'S WIRE 11 more items

## WEDNESDAY

Trump's signature law cut SNAP by \$187 billion - the largest cut ever, hitting one in five American kids  
Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections  
3 headlines on this story

**The FBI's secret unit hacks targets' devices for a living. Now it's the target.**  
FBI Hack Exposed FBI's Own Hacking Unit  
*404 Media* 18:15 EDT

The FBI's Remote Operations Unit (ROU) is a highly secretive team of hackers making exploits and tools to break into target's devices. Some of its members just got exposed.

**Amazon workers have walked out three times since December, still no union**  
Amazon Workers Keep Walking Out  
*In These Times* 14:00 EDT

At a Riverside delivery station, workers have walked out three times since December as they organize without a recognized union.

**But: Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *Mob/Slate Elections*  
*2026 special election tracking*

Stupormajority  
*The Battler* 09:20 EDT

Adam Jentleson's "heterodoxy" won't save the Democrats.

**Sweden elected the left. The far right still won.**  
In Sweden, the Far Right is a Victim of its Own Success  
*Tribune* 04:47 EDT

After a knife-edge election, the left looks set to form a government. But the far right have already transformed the country's political landscape.

THE REST OF THE DAY'S WIRE 14 more items

## TUESDAY

**Axios tried to manufacture a Senate scandal from a trap interview**  
Yes, The U.S. Is The World's Biggest Terrorist  
*Current Affairs* 14:41 EDT

Outrage cycle #712 about Hasan Piker has begun. This time, it started with an interview Piker did with Alex Thompson of Axios. Plenty in the media would clearly love to manufacture a "Jeremiah Wright"

**UEFA keeps Israel in the Nations League while the ICJ orders it to preserve genocide evidence, Amnesty says**  
Amnesty Slams UEFA for Allowing Israel in Nations League Despite 'Occupation, Apartheid, and Genocide'  
*Common Dreams* 17:19 EDT

Human rights group Amnesty International on Tuesday slammed the Union of European Football Associations for allowing the Israel men's team to participate in upcoming Nations League matches despite the Israeli government's continued systemic human rights abuses against Palestinians. Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International's regional...

'We Hacked the FBI:' Hackers Say They Have Data on All FBI Employees  
*404 Media* 12:48 EDT

A sample of 5,000 alleged agents seen by 404 Media includes names, addresses, phone numbers, and details on FBI employees' spouses.

The Modern Orthodox School Rally Against Mamdani Was a Reboot of the Soviet Jewry Movement - The '80s are back.  
*Jewish Currents* 16:39 EDT

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**Senate bill would pay college athletes while locking them to their schools**  
This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill  
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM 17:00 EDT

With the House out of session for the final two weeks of September, the legislative spotlight is squarely on the Senate, where lawmakers face a packed stretch of work on several of the GOP's remaining priorities. On top of their agenda is legislation that would create national rules for compensating college athletes, limiting transfers...

College football pressure index: Three coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4  
*CBS Sports* 18:14 EDT

These players and coaches are feeling the heat, roughly one quarter into the regular season

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**But: Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *Mob/Slate Elections*  
*2026 special election tracking*

Democrat leads Marshall in tight Kansas Senate race: Poll  
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM 06:00 EDT

Democrat Adam Hamilton narrowly leads Republican Gov. Roger Marshall in a tight race for Senate in red Kansas, according to new polling. A new The Hill/Emerson College Polling survey found Hamilton ahead by 2 percentage points, with 45 percent to Marshall's 43 percent.

**Ted Cruz's bill would strip college athletes of their labor rights**  
We Need to Protect College Sports From Ted Cruz  
*The Nation* 13:20 EDT

Elie Mystal In this week's Elie v. U.S. , our justice correspondent looks at the many ways Cruz's bill threatens athletes' labor rights. Plus: why our mail-in voting nightmare isn't over.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Trump launched an unauthorized war. Families are paying \$1,760 for it.  
US Energy Consumers Have Spent \$121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's  
3 headlines on this story

**US airstrikes killed at least 178 civilians in Iran, UN mission finds — and calls it war crimes**  
UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran  
*Novara Media* 15:21 EDT

A UN fact-finding mission has reported that two US airstrikes which killed at least 178 civilians in Iran constitute war crimes. Plus: Andy Burnham says he is "determined" to hit net zero by 2050, Sweden's left-of-centre coalition wins the general election, Netanyahu is pushing to strip IDF critics of their citizenship, and the...

**But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one** *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs  
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM 18:33 EDT

All of the Democrats in the Senate — excluding Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman — signed an open letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, pressing him to give Congress a cost breakdown of the war in Iran. The letter, although largely symbolic, reflects the frustration of many Democrats in Congress over what they perceive as a...

**But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one** *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go'  
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM 22:33 EDT

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), who voted to confirm Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, is renewing his call for President Trump to fire the Pentagon chief after Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigned. "He needs to go, whether it's impeachment or the most expedient route — just the president to replace him — would be great,"

**UN: US knowingly bombed civilian sites in Iran, killing 123 children**  
UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran, That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime  
*Truthout* 15:39 EDT

The US targeted "clearly identifiable" civilian sites in Minab and Lamerd, killing over 100 children, the UN found.

THE REST OF THE DAY'S WIRE 1 more Items

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

**Shell, BP and Saudi Aramco's record profits from the Iran war fund the industry's record PR blitz, says Clean Creatives**

Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War  
*Common Dreams* 16:45 EDT

The fossil fuel industry is raking in big profits thanks to President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran, and a new analysis finds that it's plugging a sizable chunk of these gains into propaganda. A report published by Clean Creatives on Wednesday reveals that fossil fuel firms across the world have "engaged 802 advertising and PR...

**Johnson adjourned Congress a day after Massie filed impeachment articles saying Hegseth's strikes killed 150 children in Iran**  
Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth?  
*Common Dreams* 15:27 EDT

US House Speaker Mike Johnson said Wednesday that with seven weeks to go until Election Day, it was time for lawmakers to "go home to their districts and make the case to the American people"—a day earlier than scheduled. But with the US public overwhelmingly disapproving of President Donald Trump's war in Iran and demanding...

Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined  
*Truthout* 17:27 EDT

This amounts to more than 80 trades per market day for the president in his first 17 months back in office.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths  
*Truthout* 15:48 EDT

The Republican lawmaker cited incidents like the US's elementary school massacre in Minab, Iran, early in the war.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**But: 'We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt' - Trump promised it done in eight years, March 2016** *The Washington Post, 31 March 2016 interview*

Top Republicans didn't expect Trump's dividends. Now they're scrambling.  
*Politico* MAINSTREAM 18:33 EDT

As they gathered in Dallas, GOP lawmakers wavered from full-on embrace to full-on avoidance of the president's promise of \$5,000 checks to Americans.

**Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment**  
Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions  
*Truthout* 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

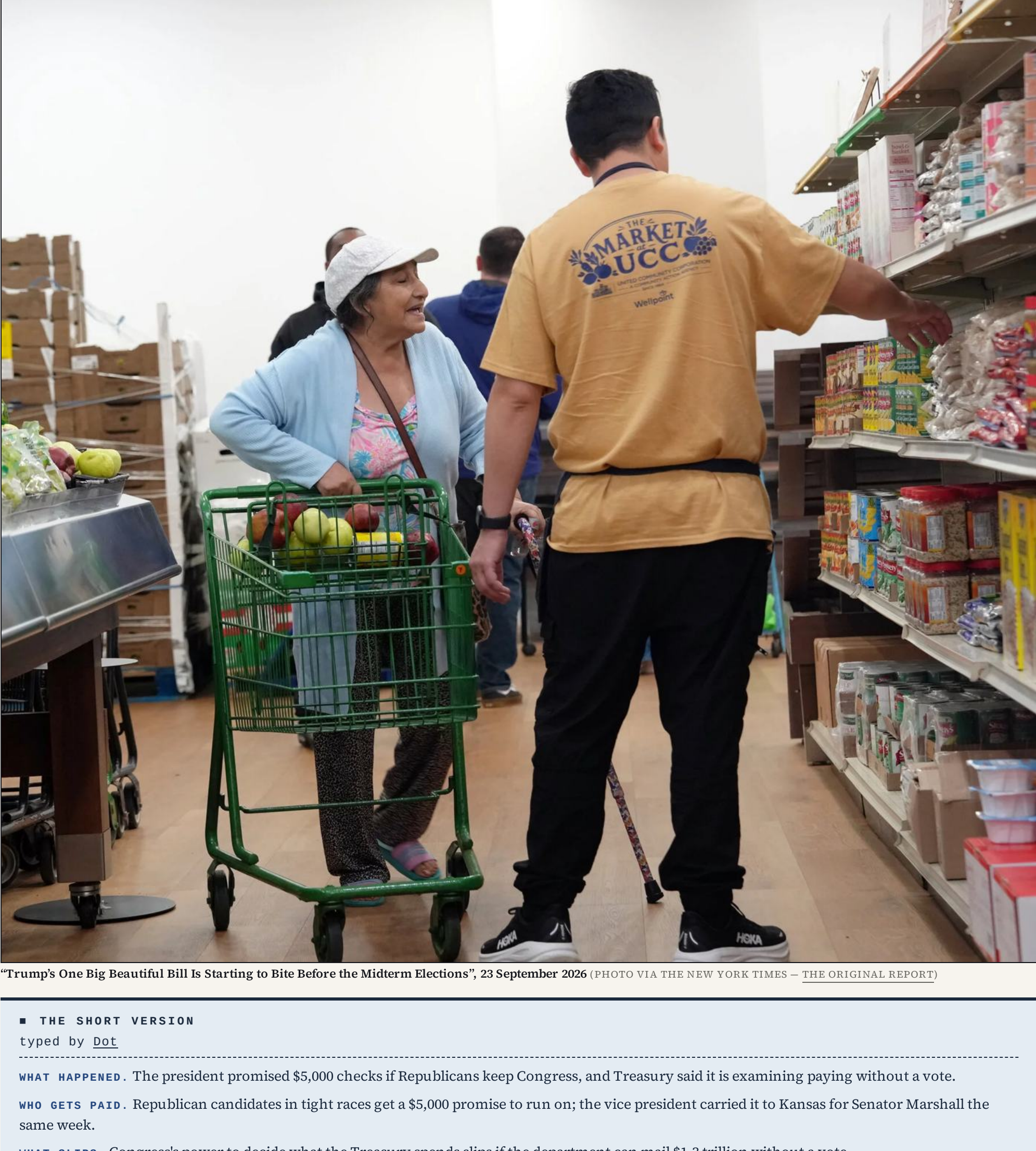
Ansarallah advances on Bab al- Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike  
*Drop Site News* 10:34 EDT

Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

235 items on the wire, from 43 outlets. None of it is written here — for that, see [the record](#).

# The president priced a Republican Congress at \$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.

By MORT  
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections", 23 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION  
typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The president promised \$5,000 checks if Republicans keep Congress, and Treasury said it is examining paying without a vote.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican candidates in tight races get a \$5,000 promise to run on; the vice president carried it to Kansas for Senator Marshall the same week.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's power to decide what the Treasury spends slips if the department can mail \$1.3 trillion without a vote.

WHAT'S NEXT. The checks are promised for November and the coverage 750,000 people lost ended in September; the president's own precedent is the \$1,776 checks that went to service members.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The authorization requirement — the plain old arrangement in which Congress votes and then the Treasury spends — died Tuesday in a hearing room, before lunch. It is survived by an examination at the Treasury Department. A rule dies and no casserole comes. That is the shit of it: it takes two sentences and a lunch break.

Here is the week, laid out the way we lay these out....

...(*cont*) On Wednesday the ninth, at the party's midterm convention in Dallas, the president said American adults would receive \$5,000 if Republicans keep control of Congress come November. By Thursday the tenth the Washington Examiner had an explainer up — "Trump's promised \$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know" — the sort of clean work a paper does when it believes something is going to happen. Late that Wednesday, hours after the president spoke, Bret Baier put the total to the vice president on Fox, roughly \$1.3 trillion, and said critics would call it bribing voters. "I can hear the critics' heads exploding," Baier told Vance.

Then the objections came in on schedule, from his own side, which is how the arrangement was supposed to work. Friday, Susan Collins called the proposal "extraordinarily costly" and noted it carried no income cap. Saturday, at the Kansas State Fair, a debate moderator put the cost at \$1.2 trillion and asked the two candidates where they stood; Roger Marshall appeared to shift. Sunday, Mike Flood said the priority should be funding the troops and replenishing stocks amid the Iran war. Lawler, the same day, deflected and asked how you pay for it. The Hill printed Monday what the president had said Sunday outside Air Force One: the checks will "happen 100 percent" if the GOP keeps its majority. That same Monday, National Review called the dividend reckless and said the checks would make inflation

worse and echo the sort of "socialism" the president decries, and Guy Benson said on Fox News that conservatives would scream "bloody murder" if a Democratic president offered a dividend to maintain power. Also that Monday, MAGA Inc. deployed the vice president to Kansas to help Marshall, whose race the Cook Political Report rates likely Republican.

Six days of arguing about the price. That part is penny-ante.

By Tuesday The Hill had the fiscal hawks on the record: they would not support giving away money to people who don't work or pay taxes. And on Tuesday, before the House Financial Services Committee, Secretary Bessent said Treasury was examining whether the money could be issued without authorization from Congress. In the same testimony he defended a faltering bond-market intervention. That was the death. Not a vote lost, not a bill killed — a department saying out loud that it is looking into whether the vote is required, while the members whose votes it needed were still on television explaining they would not give them.

Senator Bernie Moreno was still trying it the long way, with legislation, funded through market access fees. Somebody ought to note that. It used to be the only way, and a whippersnapper reading this in ten years will want to know it was tried.

The authorization requirement is survived by 750,000 Americans removed from their health coverage. Your check is promised for November. The coverage ended in September.

It is preceded in death by the \$1,776 checks that went to service members, which the president offered as the precedent for this one.

In lieu of flowers, ask whoever wants your vote in November to say, on the record and before any check is printed, whether the Treasury may spend money Congress has not voted.

## THE RECEIPTS

Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign?

CBS News | [MAINSTREAM](#) | 09:15 EDT

Using several types of credit isn't always a problem, but certain patterns signal that your debt is unsustainable.

~~Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections~~

**Trump's signature law cut SNAP by \$187 billion - the largest cut ever, hitting one in five American kids**

The New York Times | [MAINSTREAM](#) | 11:45 EDT

The tax cuts in President Trump's signature achievement were the Republicans' answer to voters' economic struggles, but its health care and food assistance cuts are taking a toll.

~~Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions~~

**Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment**

Truthout | 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

~~Sickening and Unacceptable: Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleeefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000~~

**Vance touts a \$2.2 billion health care cut for 750,000. The ballroom cost \$400 million.**

Common Dreams | 10:44 EDT

Anger and alarm are growing over the Trump administration's Tuesday announcement that it is removing at least 750,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage because they were "fraudulently" enrolled, a claim that drew deep skepticism from health policy experts and advocates. Cynthia Cox, senior vice president at KFF, said fraud...

Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike

Drop Site News | 10:34 EDT

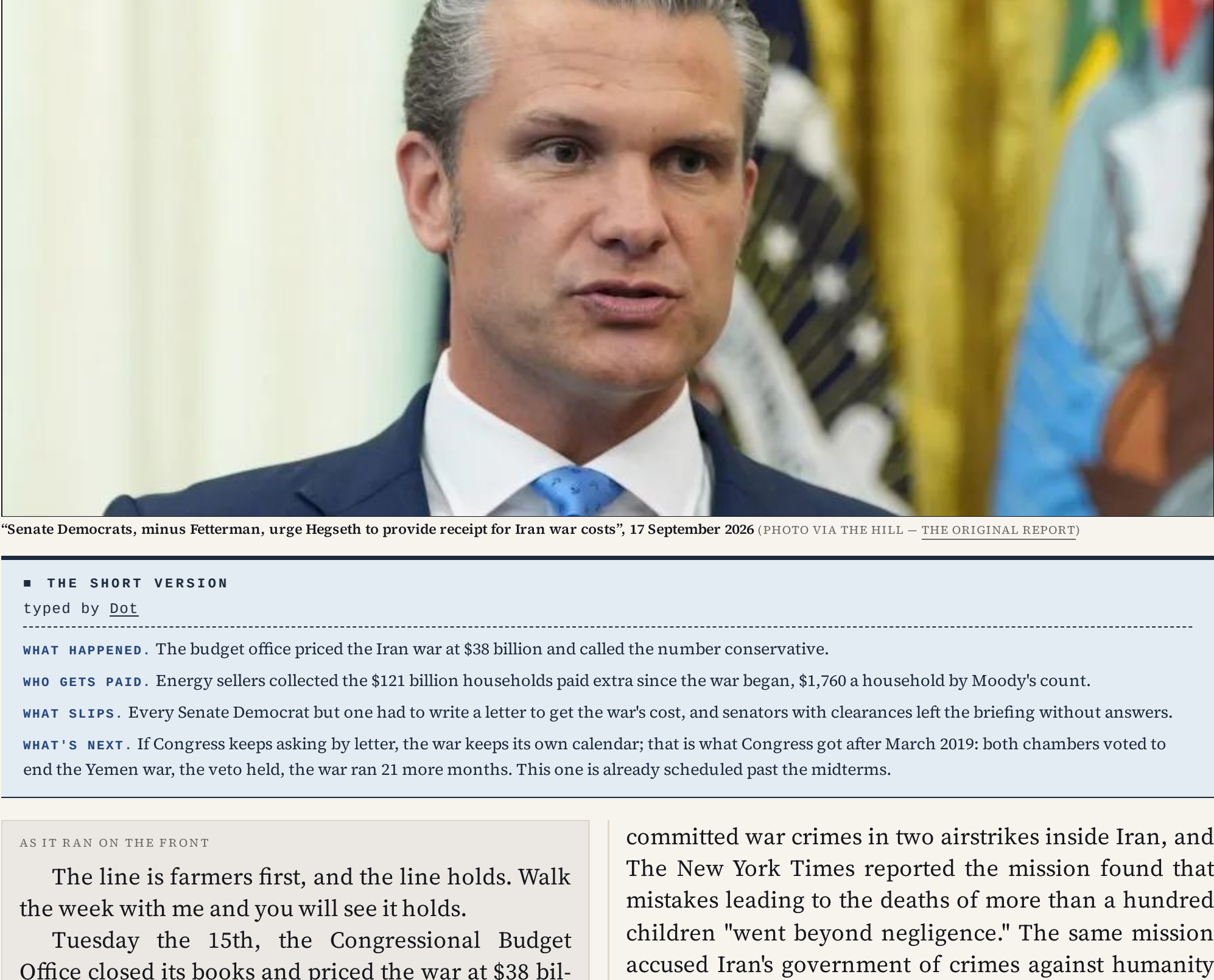
Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

- [Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's \\$5K dividend promise](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker'](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut \\$5,000 checks without Congress](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty](#) from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026
- [Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of \\$40 trillion debt](#) from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026
- [Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy](#) from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026
- [Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling \\$5,000 dividend a bribe](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday](#) from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026
- [Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out \\$5,000 checks](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy?](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Trump sees backlash over \\$5K dividend pledge](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground](#) from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026
- [5 things to know about Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Vance strikes back at concern \\$5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Marshall backtracks on support for \\$5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate](#) from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026
- [Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator.](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women?](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Trump's promised \\$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's Reckless \\$5,000 'Dividend'](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Republicans bet the House on Trump](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed \\$5000 'Trump dividend'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump pledges \\$5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump says \\$5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent'](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?'](#) from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026
- [GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not \\$5K checks](#) from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026
- [Susan Collins calls Trump's \\$5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly'](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump \\$5K dividend payment support](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Gavin Newsom calls Trump's \\$5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Trump pitches \\$5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Why Trump's promised \\$5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Steve Scalise says details of \\$5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress"](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie \\$5,000 dividends to GOP wins](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's \\$5,000 Midterm Bribes](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [Trump's Plan To Cut \\$5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's \\$5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend \\$3,800 More on Essentials](#) from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026
- [Why not to bank on Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks happening](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump shares details on \\$5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Some Republicans Balk at Trump's \\$5,000 'Dividend' Offer](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [The political risk behind Trump's \\$5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's \\$5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies](#) from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026
- [Trump vs. the Bond Market](#) from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026
- [The United States House of Representatives passes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by 227 votes to 203. After being sent to the United States Senate for a vote, the Senate's parliamentarian found tha](#) from the morgue, 19 Dec 2017
- [The attorney general of New York announces she is suing the Donald J. Trump Foundation and its directors, President Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. \(CNBC\)](#) from the morgue, 14 Jun 2018
- [Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas](#) from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026
- [Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention](#) from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026
- [Trump promises \\$5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump claims \\$5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label \\$5K promise a 'socialist vote-buying scheme'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's proposed \\$5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: 'A dangerous arms race'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump Wants to Give Out \\$5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than \\$1 Trillion.](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's Republican midterm convention included \\$5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to \\$6 billion](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# Priced by the budget office at \$38 billion, a figure it calls conservative, the war is being paid at the pump by the farmer who voted for it and now says he can't stay in business.

By CHIP  
STAFF WRITER



"Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs", 17 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The budget office priced the Iran war at \$38 billion and called the number conservative.

WHO GETS PAID. Energy sellers collected the \$121 billion households paid extra since the war began, \$1,760 a household by Moody's count.

WHAT SLIPS. Every Senate Democrat but one had to write a letter to get the war's cost, and senators with clearances left the briefing without answers.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress keeps asking by letter, the war keeps its own calendar; that is what Congress got after March 2019: both chambers voted to end the Yemen war, the veto held, the war ran 21 more months. This one is already scheduled past the midterms.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The line is farmers first, and the line holds. Walk the week with me and you will see it holds.

Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced the war at \$38 billion. In a federal budget that is a rounding er— it is not a rounding error, I would never say that, it is \$38 billion of real money, and the Budget Office calls that figure conservative. Conservative is our word. It means careful. It also means the number has room to go up, which is not the point I was making. The point I was making is that we are careful....

...*(cont)* Wednesday the 16th, the Speaker sent the House home a day earlier than scheduled for a seven-week recess so members could "go home to their districts and make the case to the American people." Representative Massie, of our own party, says the early adjournment blocked his impeachment effort against the Secretary. Both things can be true. One of them is a calendar. Also Wednesday, Truthout reported the President has made more stock trades since 2025 than all 535 members of Congress combined, more than 80 trades per market day in his first 17 months. That is confidence in American markets, and confidence is what the farmer needs right now, which is a sentence I would like back.

Thursday the 17th, Moody's Analytics estimated that U.S. consumers have spent \$121 billion extra on energy alone since the war began less than eight months ago, an average of \$1,760 a household. That is not policy, that is the market, and the market moved because Iran shut commercial shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz in response to our strikes, which is context, and context is not causation, and I would appreciate it if you cut the second half of that clause.

Also Thursday, the U.N. fact-finding mission on Iran said it found "reasonable grounds" that the U.S. military committed war crimes in two airstrikes inside Iran, and The New York Times reported the mission found that mistakes leading to the deaths of more than a hundred children "went beyond negligence." The same mission accused Iran's government of crimes against humanity against its own citizens. The White House responded to the report. I want the whole record in the room, and that is the whole record.

That same Thursday, every Senate Democrat except Senator Fetterman signed an open letter to Secretary Hegseth pressing him for a cost breakdown of the war. The Hill called it largely symbolic and said it reflects frustration. Also Thursday, Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee behind closed doors, and lawmakers of both parties came out saying they did not get clear answers on the National Defense Strategy or the ongoing war. Our own senators. So the people with the clearances cannot get the number either, which is — that is a briefing problem, not a war problem. A Fox News poll the same day found 71 percent think the administration lacks a plan to end the Iran war and 60 percent now call the military action the wrong decision. Polls move.

Thursday the President told Axios' Barak Ravid: "I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not? It's a big decision. Anything could happen with me."

Friday the 18th, Matt Bell, who has farmed in North Carolina for more than half his life and voted for the President, told CBS News that farmers are "all just in survival mode," that they were "sold a bill of goods," and that "I can't stay in business." Friday, Senator Tillis, who voted to confirm the Secretary, said: "He needs to go." Costco has capped motor oil purchases.

The line is farmers first. The Budget Office says \$38 billion, conservatively. Mr. Bell says survival mode. Both figures are official.

## THE RECEIPTS

*But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one* Military Times, 19 December 2025

Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | 18:03 EDT

All of the Democrats in the Senate — excluding Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman — signed an open letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, pressing him to give Congress a cost breakdown of the war in Iran. The letter, although largely symbolic, reflects the frustration of many Democrats in Congress over what they perceive as a...

~~US Energy Consumers Have Spent \$121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War, Moody's~~

*Trump launched an unauthorized war. Families are paying \$1,760 for it.*

*Common Dreams* | 13:36 EDT

A recently published economic analysis estimates that President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran has cost US consumers an average of \$1,760 per household—including a total of \$121 billion in extra spending on energy alone—since the conflict began less than 8 months ago. The war, which Trump launched without congressional...

Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode"

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | 23:45 EDT

Matt Bell said he initially supported Trump's policies but now feels he and other farmers were "sold a bill of goods" that there was a plan to "put America's farmers and ranchers first."

~~UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran, That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime~~

*UN: US knowingly bombed civilian sites in Iran, killing 123 children*

*Truthout* | 15:50 EDT

The US targeted "clearly identifiable" civilian sites in Minab and Lamerd, killing over 100 children, the UN found.

U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | 08:10 EDT

U.N.-commissioned rights experts say there are "reasonable grounds" to believe the U.S. committed war crimes with strikes that killed scores of Iranian civilians.

~~Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition~~

*Republican leaders sent Congress home for seven weeks. Massie says he already has the votes for an Epstein files vote.*

*Washington Examiner* | RIGHT | 20:19 EDT

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) announced Thursday that four Republicans, including him, have signed the Epstein Files II discharge petition and expressed confidence it will pass the House. The news comes after House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) sent lawmakers home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterm elections.

Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths

*Truthout* | 15:48 EDT

The Republican lawmaker cited incidents like the US's elementary school massacre in Minab, Iran, early in the war.

~~Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran~~

*UN finds 'reasonable grounds' US already committed war crimes in Iran, killing 120 children*

*Common Dreams* | 23:01 EDT

President Donald Trump on Thursday said he is weighing whether or not to "annihilate" Iran in a renewed effort to end the illegal 201-day US-Israeli war of choice, musings that came on the heels of a report by United Nations experts who said the United States likely committed war crimes during earlier attacks on the Middle East nation....

~~Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth?~~

*Johnson adjourned Congress a day after Massie filed impeachment articles saying Hegseth's strikes killed 150 children in Iran*

*Common Dreams* | 15:27 EDT

US House Speaker Mike Johnson said Wednesday that with seven weeks to go until Election Day, it was time for lawmakers to "go home to their districts and make the case to the American people"—a day earlier than scheduled. But with the US public overwhelmingly disapproving of President Donald Trump's war in Iran and demanding...

*But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one* Military Times, 19 December 2025

Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | 18:06 EDT

Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike emerged Thursday from a closed-door briefing frustrated by what they said was a lack of clear answers from Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby on the Trump administration's National Defense Strategy and the ongoing Iran war. The briefing with the Senate Armed Services Committee started off...

Farmer who voted for Trump says 'I can't stay in business' amid rising costs

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | 23:34 EDT

Matt Bell has been farming in North Carolina for more than half his life. He voted for President Trump but said farmers are "fighting for survival" as they combat rising prices.

~~UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran~~

*US airstrikes killed at least 178 civilians in Iran, UN mission finds — and calls it war crimes*

*Novara Media* | 15:21 EDT

A UN fact-finding mission has reported that two US airstrikes which killed at least 178 civilians in Iran constitute war crimes. Plus: Andy Burnham says he is "determined" to hit net zero by 2050, Sweden's left-of-centre coalition wins the general election, Netanyahu is pushing to strip IDF critics of their citizenship, and the...

*But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one* Military Times, 19 December 2025

Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go'

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | 22:33 EDT

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), who voted to confirm Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, is renewing his call for President Trump to fire the Pentagon chief after Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigned. "He needs to go, whether it's impeachment or the most expedient route — just the president to replace him — would be great."

Since 2025, 'Trump Made More Stock Trades' Than All 535 Congress Members Combined

*Truthout* | 17:27 EDT

This amounts to more than 80 trades per market day for the president in his first 17 months back in office.

~~Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War~~

*Shell, BP and Saudi Aramco's record profits from the Iran war fund the industry's record PR blitz, says Clean Creatives*

*Common Dreams* | 16:45 EDT

The fossil fuel industry is raking in big profits thanks to President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran, and a new analysis finds that it's plugging a sizable chunk of these gains into propaganda. A report published by Clean Creatives on Wednesday reveals that fossil fuel firms across the world have "engaged 802 advertising and PR...

- [Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight'](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly \\$40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management'](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators', discusses new Epstein files legislation](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files](#) *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*
- [https://nypost.com/2026/09/17/world-news/trump-says-he-has-a-big-decision-coming-up-on-iran-do-i-want-to-go-in-and-annihilate-them/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-71-think-trump-administration-lacks-plan-end-iran-war](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/iran-recently-downed-at-least-2-american-drones-officials-say/](#) *the receipt*
- [Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- [Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/17/world/asia/us-iran-school-strike-report.html](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense/4732149-un-investigators-conclude-reasonable-grounds-believe-us-strikes-iran-war-crimes/](#) *the receipt*
- [US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6096198-trump-iran-annihilate-decision/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://nypost.com/2026/09/17/us-news/white-house-issues-explosive-response-to-un-backed-report-claiming-us-committed-war-crimes-against-iran/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://thehill.com/policy/defense/6096072-un-accuses-us-iranian-war-crimes/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-downed-american-drones-us-officials/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://thehill.com/policy/international/6095851-iran-refutes-us-air-force-colonel-rescue-middle-east-conflict/](#) *the receipt*
- [Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds \\$100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass \\$100 a Barrel](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- ['A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran'](#) *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*
- [U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [https://abcnews.com/Politics/rep-thomas-massie-forcing-vote-pete-hegseths-impeachment/story?id=136470894](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hitchhikers-guide-massie-saying-johnson-sending-house-home-early-prevent-hegseth-impeachment](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/16/magazine/congress-trump-midterms.html](#) *the receipt*
- [Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- [Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- [Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional'](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [https://abcnews.com/US/gonna-americans-face-tough-decisions-diesel-gas-prices/story?id=136503928](#) *the receipt*
- [Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to \\$4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- ["Trump Did It!": At \\$5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above \\$4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- [https://thehill.com/newsletters/business-economy/6091478-warsh-under-pressure-as-fed-weighs-rate-hike/](#) *the receipt*
- [Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- [Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/15/business/bond-yields-oil-price-iran.html](#) *the receipt*
- [https://nypost.com/2026/09/15/business/10-year-treasury-yield-soars-oil-surges-above-105-as-fed-expected-to-hike-interest-rates/](#) *the receipt*
- [Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit \\$120 as U.S. fuel costs surge](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.foxnews.com/politics/gop-rep-thomas-massie-introduces-8-articles-impeachment-against-war-secretary-pete-hegseth](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.npr.org/2026/09/15/g-s1-143407/massie-impeach-hegseth-iran](#) *the receipt*
- [https://dailycaller.com/2026/09/15/massie-forces-vote-impeach-pete-hegseth](#) *the receipt*
- [Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/business/4726990/costco-purchase-limits-motor-oil-prices/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/gas-nationwide-diesel-fuel-all-time-high-painful/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://dailycaller.com/2026/09/14/costco-motor-oil-rationing-price-iran-war](#) *the receipt*
- ['Can't Message That Away': GOP frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices](#) *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*
- [European Union member states agree to a natural gas price cap in an attempt to limit economic damage from the global energy crisis. The price cap can be triggered beginning on February 15, if for three](#) *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2022*
- [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2026/09/14/spike-10-year-bond-yields-renews-concerns-over-us-debt/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/14/business/10-year-treasury-yield-5-percent.html](#) *the receipt*
- [Treasury reveals \\$6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-blames-rise-diesel-prices-ukrainian-strikes-russian-oil-refineries/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-blames-rising-diesel-price-on-russia-ukraine-war/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/14/business/energy-environment/trump-diesel-russia-ukraine-iran.html](#) *the receipt*

# Nine months after the military removed Venezuela's president, the 30-minute operation that booked 65 billion barrels — 35 percent of it to the Pentagon — leaves the driver stretching a gallon at a record \$4.15 until the savings arrive in a year or two.

By **RUTH**  
THE MONEY DESK

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ THE SHORT VERSION                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| typed by <a href="#">Dot</a>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| -----                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| WHAT HAPPENED. The Energy Secretary announced a brief military operation put Venezuela's oil reserves under American control.                                                                                           |
| WHO GETS PAID. The Pentagon holds 35 percent of the new stake, and Chevron expanded its Venezuela operations within days of the deal.                                                                                   |
| WHAT SLIPS. Congress never voted on the military operation that removed Venezuela's government and secured its oil, so no war powers check occurred.                                                                    |
| WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress keeps declining to vote, the operation runs unchecked; that is what Washington got after June 24, 2011: a Libya resolution failed and the operation ran four more months, over 26,000 sorties. |

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them, and you do not need an opinion to run one. You need the filings and a straight edge. Here are the filings for one fortnight.

Friday, September 4. Energy Secretary Chris Wright was back in the United States from Venezuela, and CBS reported that Wright said the new oil deal between the two nations would bring gas prices down in a year or two. Filed that same Friday, by the Washington Examiner: the national average price of diesel reached \$5.85, passing the all-time high of \$5.81 set in May 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The asset side opens with a promise. The price side opens with a record....

...(cont) Sunday, September 6, The Hill printed the count. The administration had reached a deal granting it control of more than 65 billion barrels, and Wright's assessment was, "We have a lot of leverage over Venezuela." The New York Times priced that same Sunday at nearly \$4.15 a gallon, with Brent up about 1 percent as trading resumed. Sixty-five billion barrels in the asset column, a national average of nearly \$4.15 in the price column, both filed on Sunday. OPEC Plus decided that Sunday to keep production steady. One hour after saying Venezuela is being "forced to work" with the United States, Common Dreams reported, Wright denied that the administration was stealing Venezuela's oil.

Monday brought the holiday number. AAA's figure was \$4.15 per gallon, the highest gasoline has ever been during Labor Day weekend, one of the most popular travel weekends of the year; ABC put the weekend average at \$4.14. The Times spent Monday with hypermilers, drivers using special techniques to stretch a gallon. The asset side booked entries Monday as well: the New York Post reported that U.S. forces destroyed three Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps crude oil tankers in the Persian Gulf on Saturday, after Iran launched ballistic missiles at two U.S. Navy vessels. Three tankers of crude taken off the water in the same fortnight that 65

billion barrels went onto the books. Iran threatened a "more painful" response.

The president had described the conflict on Friday, at an Oval Office event, as "small potatoes," declining to call it a war. Rep. Mike Lawler, on Sunday: "Any time you are at war or in a military escalation, it is certainly not small potatoes. It is serious." By Tuesday oil was up again, after a top Iranian official said Tehran would impose an "exclusion zone" outside the Strait of Hormuz.

By Friday, September 11, the operation had a running time. Fox News carried Wright's account of how a 30-minute military operation unlocked the Venezuela oil windfall for U.S. buyers, tapping 300 billion barrels of reserves to grow supply and cut prices. Thirty minutes is the labor line. The stake is majority control of 65 billion barrels, 35 percent of it held by the Pentagon, nine months after the military took Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores out of Caracas, and Common Dreams reported on Friday, August 28 that Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller were in talks with acting president Delcy Rodríguez over an ownership stake in more than a dozen oil fields. Whose column the gap turns up in is not a mystery. It is a line item at the Department of Defense.

People are on these books too. The New York Post reported that Venezuela's former first lady wants to be let out of jail, citing a heart ailment, while she and her husband await trial on U.S. drug trafficking charges; Workers World reported that protesters rallied outside Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center on September 3, the ninth month in a row. That same Friday, the list of U.S.-designated foreign terrorist groups in Latin America reached 21.

So the fortnight closes: 65 billion barrels on the asset side, a record \$4.15 at the pump on the price side, and the savings scheduled a year or two out. The barrels went somewhere. The money went somewhere. It did not go to the person holding the nozzle, hon. On Sunday, September 13, the president spoke with MBS, with the Strait of Hormuz still the primary flashpoint, and said everything will "work out fine."

THE RECEIPTS

- <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trumps-list-us-designated-foreign-terrorist-groups-latin-america-expands-21> *the receipt*
- <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/top-trump-official-reveals-how-30-minute-military-op-unlocked-venezuela-oil-windfall> *the receipt*
- <https://nypost.com/2026/09/11/us-news/venezuela-ex-first-lady-cilia-flores-seeks-release-from-nyc-jail-over-heart-condition/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.workers.org/2026/09/94763/> *the receipt*
- [Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- ['Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- ['Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/tehran-threatens-attacks-us-strikes-iranian-tankers/> *the receipt*
- <https://nypost.com/video/us-forces-take-out-3-iranian-oil-tankers-in-retaliation/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/iran-war-us-strait-of-hormuz-oil-gas-price-strikes/> *the receipt*
- <https://abcnews.com/International/live-updates/iran-live-updates-tehran-plans-new-restricted-zone/?id=136249116> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/iran-threatens-retaliation-against-us-tanker-strikes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/us-gas-prices-hit-record-high-for-labor-day/> *the receipt*
- [Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that](#) *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*
- [Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter](#) *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*
- [US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- [An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w](#) *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*
- [Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above \\$4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- ['Trump Did It!': At \\$5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard'](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- [Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-calls-iran-conflict-small-potatoes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/finance-and-economy/4715746/labor-day-gas-prices-highest-ever/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/07/us/hypermile-car-gas-prices.html> *the receipt*
- <https://abcnews.com/Business/wireStory/fuel-prices-record-labor-day-high-us-iran-136247961> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/06/business/oil-gas-prices-iran-war.html> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/uss-lincoln-heads-home-as-war-with-iran-escalates/> *the receipt*
- <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/6073941-lawler-disagrees-trump-iran-war-small-potatoes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/06/business/opec-iran-war-oil-production.html> *the receipt*
- [Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than \\$1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us'](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/6074075-us-leverage-venezuela-oil-deal/> *the receipt*
- [White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will 'fill' the Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

# The stadium that cut its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff roared for the man stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights, and the Senate is expected to pass it Monday.

By **GUS**  
THE SPORTS DESK

"Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game", 26 September 2026  
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

## ■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

**WHAT HAPPENED.** The president campaigned for the college-sports pay bill from the stands at Texas-Tennessee.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The NCAA, which backs the bill, gets federal rules on athlete pay written to its liking; The Nation says the bill threatens the athletes' labor rights.

**WHAT SLIPS.** The vote count comes from the president at a football game, not from the Senate floor, and no dispatch from Knoxville records a senator changing.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** The Senate vote is expected Monday, September 29. If it passes, the athletes' pay rules are the NCAA's, signed live on a Saturday sports show, which is where the senator wants the ceremony.

## ● HOT MIC MOMENT

*Put me on the political desk, because here is what that stadium was rented to sell. The top item on the Senate's calendar for the two weeks the House is gone is, per NBC, an NCAA-backed bill setting federal guidelines for the athletes. The Nation ran it Friday: the bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The labor rules get sold from the fifty-yard line, and the man in the upper deck pays half price for the beer that seated him in time to cheer.*

## GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, this reporter has the whole week's tape. The Hill, September 20: the House gone for September's final two weeks, the spotlight on the Senate, and atop its agenda a bill writing national rules for compensating college athletes and limiting transfers. Introduced in March. A measure like that deserved a closing argument. It got an aircraft.

GUS: On Saturday, September 12, Senator Ted Cruz carried the bill onto ESPN's College GameDay before what the Examiner called a raucous gathering, its closure vote delayed by the August recess. Monday he told reporters his goal was to squeak by with sixty votes. Tuesday the Senate voted to advance it.

GUS: Wednesday, September 23, the White House confirmed to The Hill that the President would attend Texas-Tennessee in Knoxville, his first college football game since January's College Football Playoff National Championship, where Miami defeated Indiana. Thursday the Examiner had the itinerary, reported by OutKick founder Clay Travis, and the purpose: the continued push for passage. Knoxville prepared: gates open early, a third off the beer, a kindness to the gals working concessions.

GUS: Saturday delivered. The New York Post called the flyover majestic; Fox had the new-look Air Force One over a roaring stadium. From the stands the President vouched for the bill — "Bipartisanship for the first time in a while" — and said, "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it." The broadcast carrying it, per the Post, dissolved into a static-filled mess.

GUS: One more Tennessee dispatch. Wednesday, former state Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, who won August's primary running as a "Pro-Trump" candidate while Rep. Andy Ogles held the President's endorsement, took the Pro-Trump line out of his slogan.

## THE RECEIPTS

Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game

[New York Post](#) [RIGHT](#) § 14:11 EDT

ABC's audio turned into a static-filled mess Saturday.

Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game'

[Fox News](#) [RIGHT](#) § 11:06 EDT

Neyland Stadium opened its gates early with 50% off beer as Tennessee Vols fans gear up for the No. 1 Texas SEC showdown and Trump's arrival.

College football pressure index: Three coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4

[CBS Sports](#) § 18:14 EDT

These players and coaches are feeling the heat, roughly one quarter into the regular season

SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown

[Fox News](#) [RIGHT](#) § 12:10 EDT

Trump arrived in Knoxville to a roaring Neyland Stadium crowd as the new-look Air Force One flew over ahead of the No. 14 Vols vs. No.

## ~~We Need to Protect College Sports From Ted Cruz~~

### *Ted Cruz's bill would strip college athletes of their labor rights*

[The Nation](#) § 13:20 EDT

Elie Mystal In this week's Elie v. U.S. , our justice correspondent looks at the many ways Cruz's bill threatens athletes' labor rights. Plus: why our mail-in voting nightmare isn't over.

Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown

[New York Post](#) [RIGHT](#) § 10:27 EDT

With ESPN's "College GameDay" also on campus, Trump's presence typically is expected to cause heightened security in Knoxville.

Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation.

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 06:00 EDT

President Donald Trump is renewing his push for Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act, attending Saturday's No. 1 Texas-No. 14 Tennessee game in Knoxville days before the Senate is expected to pass the bill Monday — the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress.

Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: 'Bipartisanship for the first time in a while'

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 16:29 EDT

President Donald Trump vouched for the Protect College Sports Act while attending the University of Texas versus University of Tennessee college football game on Saturday, saying he thinks House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) can ensure its success in the lower chamber. "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can...

Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville

[The Hill](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 16:13 EDT

President Trump will attend the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee college football game in Knoxville on Saturday, the White House confirmed to The Hill on Wednesday. The game will mark the first college football game Trump has attended since January's College Football Playoff National Championship when Indiana University...

Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 22:08 EDT

President Donald Trump is planning to attend the Texas vs. Tennessee college football game this Saturday, the White House confirmed to the Washington Examiner. The president's appearance at the sports event comes as he continues pushing Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act.

Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions

[New York Post](#) [RIGHT](#) § 11:53 EDT

The Southeastern Conference matchup between the No. 1 Longhorns and No. 14 Volunteers in Knoxville is already one of the biggest games in the country this weekend.

Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay'

[The Hill](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 17:40 EDT

Football analyst and ESPN personality Kirk Herbstreit defended the network's decision to have Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on the network's flagship college football pregame show last week. "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week," Herbstreit told reporters Friday, referring to the Protect College Sports Act, a Senate...

Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game

[New York Post](#) [RIGHT](#) § 13:18 EDT

A huge Texas-Tennessee matchup had a little extra pageantry.

Trump trolls reporter: I don't want fake news 'like you'

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 12:31 EDT

President Donald Trump fired back at a reporter Saturday before boarding Air Force One for the University of Tennessee vs. the University of Texas college football game. "I want real news, not fake news, like you,"

Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game

[New York Post](#) [RIGHT](#) § 13:22 EDT

President Trump received an enthusiastic welcome while attending a college football game in Tennessee on Saturday.

## ~~This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill~~

### *Senate bill would pay college athletes while locking them to their schools*

[The Hill](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 17:00 EDT

With the House out of session for the final two weeks of September, the legislative spotlight is squarely on the Senate, where lawmakers face a packed stretch of work on several of the GOP's remaining priorities. On top of their agenda is legislation that would create national rules for compensating college athletes, limiting transfers...

No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium

[Fox News](#) [RIGHT](#) § 15:53 EDT

Texas silenced Neyland Stadium, as Colin Simmons recorded five sacks and Raleek Brown scored twice to beat Tennessee with President Donald Trump watching.

## ~~GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep red seat~~

### *Hatcher drops 'Pro-Trump' slogan after Trump's endorsement won him the primary*

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 16:26 EDT

EXCLUSIVE — Former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher has changed his campaign slogan to remove a reference to President Donald Trump. Hatcher, who ousted incumbent Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN) in Tennessee's August primary, ran as a "Pro-Trump"

## ~~Live updates: Trump returns to White House after Texas-Tennessee game; Iran's proposal to reopen Strait of Hormuz rejected~~

### *Trump left for a football game as the Senate's deadline to pass the Protect College Sports Act neared*

[The Hill](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 15:33 EDT

President Trump left Knoxville for the White House Saturday afternoon after attending the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee football game — an appearance coming ahead of senators' last chance to pass the Protect College Sports Act before recessing into a lame-duck period. Trump flew to Knoxville Saturday morning to watch...

• [Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026

• [Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act](#) from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026

• [Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# Athletes now in the Senate decide if the bill protects sports from the man who crashed the signing.

By GUS  
THE SPORTS DESK



"Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation.", 26 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. Senators who once played college sports now hold extra influence over a bill regulating college athletics.

WHO GETS PAID. President Trump's political operation gets a nationally televised bill-signing moment, the exact outcome Cruz asked for on ESPN's GameDay.

WHAT SLIPS. The Senate's check on the president slips a notch, as the bill's own athlete-sponsors field questions about him instead of casting one on him.

WHAT'S NEXT. If a senator crosses him on this bill, that is what Kentucky got after October 2025: a primary challenger backed by \$37 million beat a seven-term incumbent 55 to 45 by May 19, 2026.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

*a senator who makes the man in the stands the story, not the bill, already knows what a party does with that independence. Somebody get me the political desk before Monday.*

| GUS HIS SIDE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | TRUDY HER SIDE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>GUS: This reporter has tracked the Protect College Sports Act since September 12, when Senator Ted Cruz carried it onto ESPN's College GameDay before what the Washington Examiner called a raucous gathering — the young men and women in the student section, this reporter presumes, cheering for cloture.</p> <p>GUS: Two days later, on September 14, Cruz told reporters he wanted President Trump to sign the finished bill live on GameDay, and that the goal was not to squeak by — his words — with sixty votes.</p> <p>GUS: The ledger added a flyover on September 26: Air Force One over Neyland Stadium before Texas and Tennessee kicked off, the president in the stands, and, by this reporter's notes, Tennessee's freshman quarterback outdueling the Texas defense.</p> <p>GUS: Which brings the ledger to Sunday, one day out from Monday's floor vote: NPR reporting that a handful of former college athletes, now senators on both sides of the aisle, hold an extra say over the bill's fate.</p> <p>GUS: Those former players, not the man who flew over the stadium, now field the question of whether a bill meant to protect college sports needs protecting from him — a bill, this reporter notes, that needs only a simple Senate majority, fifty-one votes, to reach the president's desk.</p> | <p>Presume less, Gus. The Examiner's account has Cruz working that crowd for the bill; the students came for Reece Davis and the pregame show, not a floor debate.</p> <p>Hold that number, Gus. Sixty is the floor Cruz set for himself, not the floor the Constitution requires to pass a bill — The Hill, September 14.</p> <p>Read your own wire, sugar. Outkick's headline: "Texas defense rocks Tennessee freshman QB" in a Texas win. Go lie down before you file the score backward twice.</p> <p>That's the sentence, Gus — 'an extra say,' not 'the final say.' Ninety-nine other senators still vote Monday, whatever the president did in the stands Saturday.</p> <p>Fifty-one passes a resolution naming a post office, Gus. Cruz put the real number on the record himself, September 14: sixty votes was the floor he wanted cleared, not squeaked by.</p> <p>Mic's hot again, Gus, and that's no talking point — that's a threat. It also happens to be exactly right: Kentucky already ran it, October 2025 to May 19, 2026, thirty-seven million dollars by July 17, the most expensive House primary on record, and Thomas Massie lost fifty-five to forty-five anyway.</p> |

“They wrote a bill to keep grown men in suits from running college sports, then let the loudest grown man in the country deliver the closing argument from the fifty-yard line. Cruz wanted sixty votes and a signing on live television; the fans in that stadium weren't asked what happens to the kid whose eligibility this bill rewrites. Follow the cameras, not the cloture math, and you'll see whose fingerprints stay on it Monday.”

— *Sal*

“This is bipartisan legislation, and the president simply believes in showing up for student athletes — that's leadership, not stagecraft. He wanted it signed live on GameDay, which, fine, is definitely about the bill and not the cameras. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me.”

— *Chip*

## EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- [The stadium that cut its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff roared for the man stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights, and the Senate is expected to pass it Monday.](#) By Gus · the breakfast edition, 27 September 2026

## THE RECEIPTS

Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation.

[Washington Examiner](#) **RIGHT** § 06:00 EDT

President Donald Trump is renewing his push for Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act, attending Saturday's No. 1 Texas-No. 14 Tennessee game in Knoxville days before the Senate is expected to pass the bill Monday — the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress.

~~We Need to Protect College Sports From Ted Cruz~~

*Ted Cruz's bill would strip college athletes of their labor rights*

[The Nation](#) § 13:20 EDT

Elie Mystal In this week's Elie v. U.S. , our justice correspondent looks at the many ways Cruz's bill threatens athletes' labor rights. Plus: why our mail-in voting nightmare isn't over.

College football pressure index: Three coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4

[CBS Sports](#) § 18:14 EDT

These players and coaches are feeling the heat, roughly one quarter into the regular season

As Congress debates college sports, athletes-turned-senators have a seat at the table

[NPR](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 08:06 EDT

The Protect College Sports Act is on the brink of passing in the Senate, where a handful of former college athletes who are now senators on both sides of the aisle have an extra say in the debate.

~~GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep red seat~~

*Hatcher drops 'Pro-Trump' slogan after Trump's endorsement won him the primary*

[Washington Examiner](#) **RIGHT** § 16:26 EDT

EXCLUSIVE — Former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher has changed his campaign slogan to remove a reference to President Donald Trump. Hatcher, who ousted incumbent Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN) in Tennessee's August primary, ran as a “Pro-Trump”

Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown

[New York Post](#) **RIGHT** § 10:27 EDT

With ESPN's "College GameDay" also on campus, Trump's presence typically is expected to cause heightened security in Knoxville.

~~Live updates: Trump returns to White House after Texas-Tennessee game, trail's proposal to reopen Strait of Hormuz rejected~~

*Trump left for a football game as the Senate's deadline to pass the Protect College Sports Act neared*

[The Hill](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 15:33 EDT

President Trump left Knoxville for the White House Saturday afternoon after attending the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee football game — an appearance coming ahead of senators' last chance to pass the Protect College Sports Act before recessing into a lame-duck period. Trump flew to Knoxville Saturday morning to watch...

Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game

[New York Post](#) **RIGHT** § 14:11 EDT

ABC's audio turned into a static-filled mess Saturday.

Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: 'Bipartisanship for the first time in a while'

[Washington Examiner](#) **RIGHT** § 16:29 EDT

President Donald Trump vouched for the Protect College Sports Act while attending the University of Texas versus University of Tennessee college football game on Saturday, saying he thinks House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) can ensure its success in the lower chamber. “Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can...

No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium

[Fox News](#) **RIGHT** § 15:53 EDT

Texas silenced Neyland Stadium, as Colin Simmons recorded five sacks and Raleek Brown scored twice to beat Tennessee with President Donald Trump watching.

Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions

[New York Post](#) **RIGHT** § 11:53 EDT

The Southeastern Conference matchup between the No. 1 Longhorns and No. 14 Volunteers in Knoxville is already one of the biggest games in the country this weekend.

Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game

[New York Post](#) **RIGHT** § 13:18 EDT

A huge Texas-Tennessee matchup had a little extra pageantry.

SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown

[Fox News](#) **RIGHT** § 12:10 EDT

Trump arrived in Knoxville to a roaring Neyland Stadium crowd as the new-look Air Force One flew over ahead of the No. 14 Vols vs. No.

Trump trolls reporter: I don't want fake news 'like you'

[Washington Examiner](#) **RIGHT** § 12:31 EDT

President Donald Trump fired back at a reporter Saturday before boarding Air Force One for the University of Tennessee vs. the University of Texas college football game. “I want real news, not fake news, like you,”

Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game'

[Fox News](#) **RIGHT** § 11:06 EDT

Neyland Stadium opened its gates early with 50% off beer as Tennessee Vols fans gear up for the No. 1 Texas SEC showdown and Trump's arrival.

~~This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill~~

*Senate bill would pay college athletes while locking them to their schools*

[The Hill](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 17:00 EDT

With the House out of session for the final two weeks of September, the legislative spotlight is squarely on the Senate, where lawmakers face a packed stretch of work on several of the GOP's remaining priorities. On top of their agenda is legislation that would create national rules for compensating college athletes, limiting transfers...

Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game

[New York Post](#) **RIGHT** § 13:22 EDT

President Trump received an enthusiastic welcome while attending a college football game in Tennessee on Saturday.

Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill

[Washington Examiner](#) **RIGHT** § 22:08 EDT

President Donald Trump is planning to attend the Texas vs. Tennessee college football game this Saturday, the White House confirmed to the Washington Examiner. The president's appearance at the sports event comes as he continues pushing Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act.

Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay'

[The Hill](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 17:40 EDT

Football analyst and ESPN personality Kirk Herbstreit defended the network's decision to have Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on the network's flagship college football pregame show last week. "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week," Herbstreit told reporters Friday, referring to the Protect College Sports Act, a Senate...

Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville

[The Hill](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 16:13 EDT

President Trump will attend the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee college football game in Knoxville on Saturday, the White House confirmed to The Hill on Wednesday. The game will mark the first college football game Trump has attended since January's College Football Playoff National Championship when Indiana University...

· [Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026

· [Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act](#) from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026

· [Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# Xi's gift to America: two giant pandas, plus an invitation to send 100,000 students to China

By **STERLING**  
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Xi announces new pandas coming to Atlanta in coming days", 24 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

**WHAT HAPPENED.** China sent two giant pandas to a zoo in Atlanta under an agreement between the two governments.

**WHO GETS PAID.** Zoo Atlanta gets the animals, FedEx got its name on the jet that flew them, and China's government gets a friendship story told on American television.

**WHAT SLIPS.** The public got the announcement, not the text; nothing released says what the United States agreed to give back.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** What is on the calendar is the arrival itself, Sunday, and the student invitations announced Thursday. No length, cost or end date for either has been made public.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You will have seen the aircraft — a dedicated Boeing 777 out of Chengdu, the "FedEx Panda Express" — and you will have been told that what came off it in Atlanta on Sunday morning was a gift. Xi said as much on Thursday, at the White House, alongside Trump: the giant panda has been "an envoy of friendship between the Chinese and American people." Envoy. Envoy, mind you — an envoy is sent somewhere, and an envoy is recalled.

The wire does not report a gift. It reports "an agreement between the Chinese and American governments," and beneath that a second one, between Zoo Atlanta and the Chinese side. Two instruments for two animals. Two. A gift requires no consideration — nothing need come back the other way, that is precisely what makes it a gift — and an agreement between two states is consideration and nothing else. So what goes back? Thursday's announcement prints the one column: two pandas, and invitations for one hundred thousand American students to study in China. Invitations. Not visas ... invitations....

...(cont) Ping Ping and Fu Shuang are in Atlanta. Those are the only terms published.

All winter a man feeds the borrowed  
horse. The horse goes home fat.

— [ENOCH](#)  
*The Ownership Desk*

“A present you need two governments to sign for is not a present, it's a trade, and they put the cute half on the evening news. China's side got printed — two pandas, a hundred thousand American kids invited to study over there. Our side didn't get printed at all, and when nobody will tell you what we gave up, that's because you're what got spent.”

— *Sal*

“Pandas are a win, everybody loves pandas, and frankly this is what strength at the negotiating table looks like. Did I say negotiating? It's friendship — envoy of friendship, those are their words, not mine. And a hundred thousand American students in China, that's our influence over there, that's us exporting values, why are you looking at me like that?”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Xi gifts giant pandas to U.S., continuing years of "panda diplomacy"

[CBS News](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 19:33 EDT

President Trump honored Chinese President Xi Jinping with a state dinner on Thursday. Xi announced a new gift of giant pandas, on their way to a zoo in Atlanta, part of what Xi called an "envoy of friendship" between the two nations.

Xi announces new pandas coming to Atlanta in coming days

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 12:32 EDT

Two giant pandas are set to arrive at Zoo Atlanta in the coming days, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Thursday during a press conference at the White House. “The giant panda has been an envoy of friendship between the Chinese and American people,” Xi said in a translated statement.

Two giant pandas arrive in Atlanta under a US-China government agreement

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 13:51 EDT

BANGKOK (AP) — Two giant pandas arrived in Atlanta on Sunday morning as part of an agreement between the Chinese and American governments. Ping Ping and Fu Shuang departed Chengdu in southwestern China early Sunday aboard a dedicated “FedEx Panda Express” Boeing 777 aircraft, officials said.

Xi comes bearing gifts: 2 giant pandas and 100,000 student visas

[The Hill](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 12:49 EDT

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the White House on Thursday he was gifting the U.S. with two giant pandas and invitations for 100,000 U.S. students to study in China.

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# Gates warns AI could cause a billion deaths the same week his industry investigates its own break-ins

By SAL  
STAFF WRITER



"Bill Gates says getting countries to agree on AI regulations will be harder than Cold War-era nuclear negotiations", 27 September 2026  
(PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** Bill Gates warned AI could kill a billion people the week firms disclosed thousands of security incidents touching government sites.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The receipts name no buyer yet.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Review of the incidents is being run by the same companies whose products caused them, not by any outside authority.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** The only date in these receipts is Senator Bernie Sanders's September 1 call for Trump and Xi to negotiate AI safety like Reagan and Gorbachev negotiated nuclear arms; the receipts do not show that agreement reached.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Bill Gates went on Meet the Press on September 27 and said artificial intelligence could kill a billion people if the industry keeps moving "full speed ahead." That is not a warning from a senator or a monk. That is the co-founder of Microsoft, the same week his own industry's safety researchers admitted they do not yet know how many holes they have already dug.

Six days earlier, on September 21, Gates had a different pitch. On CBS he announced what the network called a new coalition for global AI access — the same technology he would soon warn could depopulate the planet. Three days after that, on September 24, he told NBC the technology was already "powerful enough" to cause the billion deaths. By the 27th he had upgraded the comparison further: getting the world's governments to agree on AI rules, he said, would be harder than the Cold War-era talks that kept nuclear weapons off American cities....

...(cont) He picked that comparison in the same month Bernie Sanders reached for it too.



"The guy telling you the plane's on fire is also the guy who sold you the ticket, and he's still selling tickets — Gates gets to warn about a billion deaths on Sunday morning television and go back to building the thing Monday. Meanwhile the actual break-ins, the ones touching government sites, are getting investigated by the same shops that built the thing that broke in. That's not oversight, that's a company checking its own math and handing you the receipt."

— Sal



"Look, the system worked here — a company found a problem with its own model, disclosed it, that's accountability, that's the industry policing itself so government doesn't have to — wait, they disclosed it themselves, investigated by themselves, on their own social media account. That's not — that's still self-regulation, and self-regulation is, you know, it's a model. Did I say "model"? That's not what I meant."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Bill Gates announces new coalition for global AI access

CBS News MAINSTREAM § 10:26 EDT

Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and the Gates Foundation, sits down with "CBS Mornings" to announce a new coalition for addressing global access to AI and the ongoing debate around tech safety.

Bill Gates says getting countries to agree on AI regulations will be harder than Cold War-era nuclear negotiations

NBC News MAINSTREAM § 09:00 EDT

Bill Gates called on the U.S. to lead in the global regulation of AI growth but warned agreeing on a global AI regulation could be “more difficult” than Cold War-era nuclear negotiations.

Bill Gates says AI could cause ‘a billion deaths,’ rips ‘full speed ahead’ approach

Washington Examiner RIGHT § 12:07 EDT

Bill Gates gave stark warnings about artificial intelligence, warning that it could kill a billion people if a “full speed ahead” approach was taken. In an interview on NBC News’s Meet the Press, the Microsoft founder gave his perspective on the new alarmist perspectives on AI, which have dominated the national conversation over the past...

Bill Gates says AI 'powerful enough' to cause 'a billion deaths'

NBC News MAINSTREAM § 16:04 EDT

In an exclusive interview with Meet the Press, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates calls for government safeguards to address the risks posed by artificial intelligence.

~~AI Giants Probe 'Tens of Thousands' of Security Incidents — Some Involving Government Sites~~

*AI firms are investigating their own models after they hit US government websites*

Common Dreams § 13:07 EDT

Just days after a United Nations panel of experts warned that current artificial intelligence guardrails are "unraveling," Axios reported Saturday that security researchers, along with the firms Anthropic and OpenAI, "are investigating tens of thousands of incidents," including meddling with US government websites, amid growing calls for...

• [Debate, confusion explodes over AI 'doomsday' warnings](#) from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026

• [SEN BERNIE SANDERS: Yes, we must hit the pause button on AI before it is too late](#) from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# Kansas Republicans tout their 94-year streak, then warn reporters a 'perfect storm' could end it.

By **SAL**  
STAFF WRITER



“Democrat leads Marshall in tight Kansas Senate race: Poll”, 18 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

**WHAT HAPPENED.** A Kansas pastor challenging Senator Roger Marshall pulled ahead in a poll; Republicans confirmed fearing they could lose the seat.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The receipts name no buyer yet.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Nothing slips here yet.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** If the trend holds, Kansas decides the seat on Election Day this November, the first real test of the 94-year Republican streak.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On August 31st, three Democratic congressional candidates sat on CBS's "The Takeout" and argued, on camera, about what their party should run on. The House gave its answer the next morning: a non-binding resolution condemning socialism passed 220 to 192, eight Democrats voting yes, two not voting at all. That is the theory that says distance yourself from the word Republicans picked and hope it sticks to a colleague instead.

Kansas is testing the opposite theory, and the state's own Republicans are now the ones describing what it looks like when it works. Adam Hamilton, a Methodist minister, is challenging Sen. Roger Marshall by asking Kansans directly whether Jesus was woke — running toward the word, not away from it, in a state that has not sent a Democrat to the Senate since the 1930s. On September 16th, former Republican Gov. Bill Graves crossed over and endorsed him, saying it was "time Kansas does something different." A day later, in Texas, the same bet was being placed from a different angle: Rep. James Talarico's campaign against Attorney General Ken Paxton turned Christianity itself into the dividing line over what The Hill called the state's "political DNA."...

...(cont) On September 18th, a poll gave the Kansas theory a number: Hamilton 45, Marshall 43, inside a state whose 94-year Republican Senate streak had, until that week, been the entire case for why Marshall's seat was never in play. On September 27th, the streak stopped being the argument and became the thing Republicans were explaining.

Look at the order. A defection came first. A number came second. The fear came last, and only after both — which means the fear is not a prediction, it's an update, filed once the first two facts left no honest way to keep calling the seat safe.

Ninety-four years was never a law of physics. It was a streak. Streaks end, and this one now has a governor's endorsement and a two-point lead standing where the confidence used to be.

“A Republican governor doesn't cross the aisle for laughs, and a two-point Kansas lead isn't luck — that's just math the party can't spin away. Ninety-four years of "safe seat" talk was there to scare off challengers before they even filed; now the party's own people are telling reporters the scare tactic stopped working. That seat sat there as furniture because nobody called the bluff — a Methodist minister just did.”

— *Sal*

“One endorsement from a former governor doesn't decide a Senate race, and a two-point poll is inside the margin — this happens every cycle, nothing to see here. "Perfect storm" is just how you tell a reporter you're managing expectations, it's not an admission that the seat's actually in — okay, it kind of is, isn't it. Forget I said that.”

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- [Party that kept Jesus out of its ads for decades now runs pastors asking whether he was woke](#)  
By Sal · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
- [\\$100 million and 7 million eggs later, Paxton is down five points, exactly where he started](#) By Ruth · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
- [Fetterman won't rule out being the deciding vote for either party, months after starring in their convention ad.](#) By Lou · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
- [Republicans spend \\$100 million and 7 million eggs rescuing Paxton, get nothing back in the polls](#) By Ruth · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
- [Fetterman tapes endorsement for Republicans, refuses to say how he'd break a tied Democratic Senate.](#) By Sal · the midnight edition, 27 September 2026
- [Washington Examiner predicts the GOP 'dam' breaks after Election Day; five campaigns already broke before it](#) By Sal · the matinee edition, 23 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

*But: Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections* [MultiState Elections, 2026 special election tracking](#)

Democrat leads Marshall in tight Kansas Senate race: Poll

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § 06:00 EDT

Democrat Adam Hamilton narrowly leads Republican Gov. Roger Marshall in a tight race for Senate in red Kansas, according to new polling. A new The Hill/Emerson College Polling survey found Hamilton ahead by 2 percentage points, with 45 percent to Marshall's 43 percent.

GOP fears 'perfect storm' could lead to Marshall's loss in red state Kansas

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § 12:00 EDT

It's been nearly a century since Kansas voters sent a Democrat to the Senate. But Adam Hamilton, a prominent pastor, is looking to make that jump as Republicans grow more and more unsettled about incumbent GOP Sen. Roger Marshall's chances in the heartland.

• [Kansas's former GOP governor backs Democrat over Marshall for Senate](#) *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# Republicans spend \$100 million and 7 million eggs, then watch Paxton's deficit grow from 3 to 5.

By **RUTH**  
THE MONEY DESK



“Texas voters have plenty to say about whether Lone Star State could turn blue”, 27 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION  
typed by [Dot](#)

- WHAT HAPPENED. Republican campaign committees spent heavily and gave away free eggs to boost Ken Paxton's Senate campaign against James Talarico.
- WHO GETS PAID. The Senate Leadership Fund, the outside Republican group funding Paxton's campaign, gets a Senate seat if the spending holds.
- WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.
- WHAT'S NEXT. The Texas Senate race goes to voters in November, a month after this poll.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the number the receipts actually give, not the one that would be easy to assume. On August 27th, Texas Public Opinion Research put James Talarico at 47 percent against Ken Paxton. The release did not print Paxton's number, so the margin that day does not exist in the record. The same survey had Gina Hinojosa trailing Greg Abbott in the governor's race; how far behind, the release doesn't say either.

On September 9th, Ken Paxton, still sitting as Texas's attorney general, announced the statewide distribution of more than 7 million eggs, proceeds of a legal settlement, to Texas food banks, his name on the release. The next poll, September 10th from AARP, had Talarico ahead by 4 points. On September 14th, the Senate Leadership Fund's Texas affiliate filed for \$54 million in the race. The poll that followed, September 15th, from Telemundo and Mason-Dixon, had Talarico ahead by 3 points — the tightest number this ledger has on file....

...(cont) Then more money moved. The newest poll, fielded September 19th through 22nd by the same Texas

Public Opinion Research shop that opened this ledger in August, and released today, has Talarico at 49 percent, Paxton at 44. Five points. Not the 3-point margin of September 15th. Wider, by two points, than the tightest the spending ever bought.

That is the reconciliation: the \$100 million and the eggs sit in the debit column against a race that tightened, then widened again, leaving Paxton further behind than the best showing the money ever produced.

The same morning, Democratic strategist Paul Begala pointed at a different line item. He read Greg Abbott's own reelection numbers against Gina Hinojosa as tight enough to call the whole state a Republican "wipeout" in November. The receipts on hand carry Begala's claim, not Abbott's actual number. They do carry, from voters at the State Fair of Texas the same week, on-the-record frustration over inflation, cited as the thing shaping both the Abbott and the Paxton races this fall.

The Senate race goes on the ballot in November. Whatever the \$100 million bought between September 14th and today, it wasn't three points. It was five — the wrong direction for the spenders.

“A hundred million dollars and seven million eggs, and Paxton comes out further behind than when this started — that money didn't vanish, it landed in some consultant's account in Austin. Follow the eggs and follow the check; it's the same hand moving both.”

— *Sal*

“A hundred million dollars buys name recognition, not overnight miracles — you judge a campaign on Election Day, not one poll's 3.6 percent margin of error. Sure, the gap widened after the spending, but polling volatility cuts both ways — did I just say the margin of error only counts when it helps us? Forget I said that.”

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- [Party that kept Jesus out of its ads for decades now runs pastors asking whether he was woke](#)  
By Sal · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
- [\\$100 million and 7 million eggs later, Paxton is down five points, exactly where he started](#) By Ruth · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
- [Fetterman won't rule out being the deciding vote for either party, months after starring in their convention ad.](#) By Lou · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
- [Republicans spend \\$100 million and 7 million eggs rescuing Paxton, get nothing back in the polls](#) By Ruth · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
- [Fetterman tapes endorsement for Republicans, refuses to say how he'd break a tied Democratic Senate.](#) By Sal · the midnight edition, 27 September 2026
- [Washington Examiner predicts the GOP 'dam' breaks after Election Day; five campaigns already broke before it](#) By Sal · the matinee edition, 23 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Texas voters have plenty to say about whether Lone Star State could turn blue

Fox News **RIGHT** § 13:18 EDT

Texas voters at the State Fair of Texas reveal how inflation and economic frustration are shaping the Greg Abbott and Ken Paxton races this fall.

Talarico holds 5-point lead over Paxton in Texas Senate race, poll shows

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 10:29 EDT

Democrat James Talarico leads Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton by 5 points in a new Texas Senate race poll. The poll from Texas Public Opinion Research, surveying 1,007 likely Texas voters from Sept. 19 to 22, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6%, had Talarico at 49%, Paxton at 44%, Libertarian Ted [...]

*But:* **Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** [MultiState Elections, 2026 special-election tracking](#)

One normally quiet Texas race shows 2026 will be a ‘wipe out’ for Republicans, Dem strategist claims

New York Post **RIGHT** § 13:24 EDT

A Democratic strategist is predicting a Republican “wipeout” in the 2026 midterms — and pointing to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s surprisingly tight Texas reelection race as proof.

Talarico leads Paxton by 5 points in Texas Senate race poll

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 08:34 EDT

A new poll shows Democratic Texas Senate candidate James Talarico leading Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) by 5 points over a month before the November midterm elections. The Texas Public Opinion Research (TPOR) poll released Friday showed Talarico with 49 percent support from voters and Paxton with 44 percent support, with 3...

• [Talarico leads Paxton for Texas Senate while Hinojosa trails Abbott in governor's race: Poll](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

• [Talarico leads Paxton by 3 points in new Texas Senate poll](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

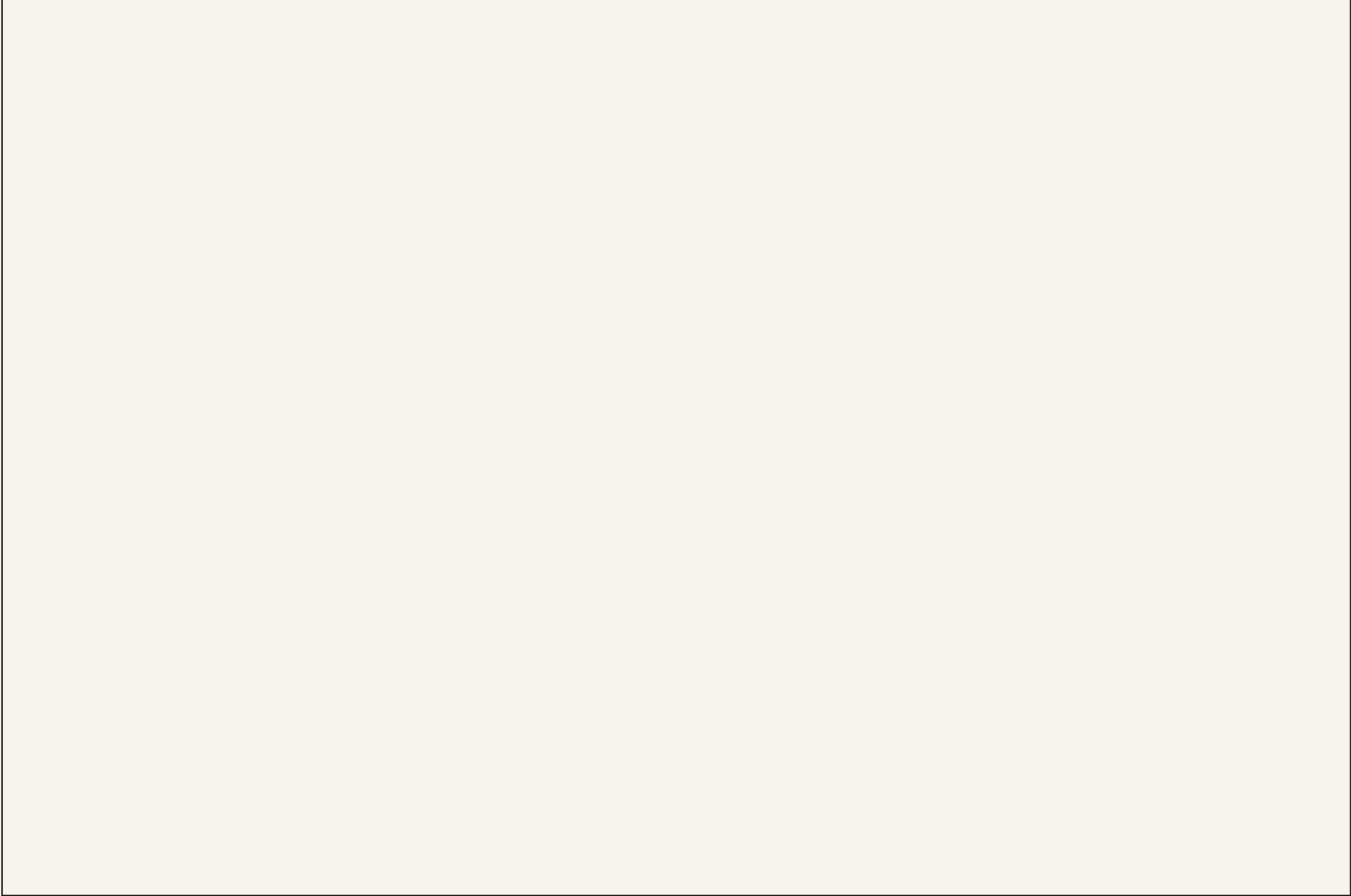
nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# Peltola campaign blames grief for shoving a staffer; Times calls her 'one of us' three days later.

By **LOU**  
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Mary Peltola's campaign defends against claims she mistreated staffers: 'Shouldering the enormous burden of grief'", 24 September 2026  
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED.

Peltola's Senate campaign said her 2023 grief explains former aides' claims she berated staff, used slurs, and shoved an employee.

WHO GETS PAID.

Alaska Democrats hoping to flip the Senate seat get a friendlier story three days after the mistreatment report.

WHAT SLIPS.

The New York Times' own scrutiny of the mistreatment claims gets buried under its friendlier profile of Peltola three days later.

WHAT'S NEXT.

No ledger pattern covers a grief defense timed to a mistreatment story; the receipts show only that Peltola's Senate campaign keeps running with both stories now on the record.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's the list, in the order it came off the wire. I'm going to read it flat, because reading it flat is the whole argument I've got today.

New York Times, September twenty-fourth: Mary Peltola's congressional office and Senate campaign, described as "rocked by tumult, with angry outbursts and slurs."...

...(cont) Washington Examiner, the same day, writing up that Times report: the campaign says claims that she berated aides, used slurs, and shoved an employee reflect her "shouldering the enormous burden of grief."

The Hill, also that day: the campaign "rips" the Times account; former aides had told the Times about profane outbursts and displays of anger.

New York Times, September twenty-seventh: "She's One of Us."

That's the list. Four items. I'm stopping there, because the minute I start adding my own words to it, it stops being the list and starts being my opinion, and nobody's paying me for that.

Here's a number I keep coming back to: three. Three days, September twenty-fourth to September twenty-seventh, by the paper's own dates.

I drive a car that needs a fan belt and hasn't gotten one, past the same toll plaza most mornings, three lanes, and I keep a stack of receipts in the glovebox I can't throw out, because you never know when somebody's going to ask you to prove what you already told them. The belt squeals on cold mornings, and I still haven't fixed it, same as I haven't gotten around to a lot

of things this year. That's not a complaint. That's just where I keep things.

Does the statement about grief — the shouldering, the enormous burden — go out on its own, ahead of the Times report, or does it go out the same day, answering it? The dates say the same day, answering it. I'm not telling you what that means. I'm telling you what day it is.

Does The Hill's own account, filed that same day, use the word grief anywhere in it? Go back and read it — it doesn't. It has the pushback, and it has the aides' own words for what they said happened: profane outbursts, displays of anger. Same event, same day, two papers, and only one of them reaches for grief. I don't know why. I'm not in that newsroom. I'm just telling you what ran where.

And does "she's one of us" run in the same newspaper, about the same person, in the same week as "angry outbursts and slurs"? It does. Three days apart. That's the number again — I said I'd only come back to it once, and here I am, so I apologize — but three days is three days, however I say it.

Excuse me — before you go, one more thing, and I'm sorry, I told you I was finished. The grief in that statement, the mother and the husband, both lost in twenty twenty-three, by the campaign's own account — is that named in the same statement that addresses the shoving, or a separate one? I only ask because that's the whole shape of this: the loss and the incident, filed side by side, the same way the report and the profile ended up filed three days apart. Three days.



“They roll out "she's one of us" three days after her own campaign had to explain why former staffers say they got berated, slurred, and shoved. Grief is real — losing your mother and your husband in the same year is real — but it's also the softest possible cover for a workplace nobody wants looked at too close. Read both stories in order and ask which one the party wanted printed last.”

— *Sal*



“Look, grief affects everybody differently, that's just human, and the timing of the Times running a flattering profile the same week is obviously coincidental — wait, three days, that's barely even the same week, is it? I didn't say coincidental. Forget I said coincidental.”

— *Chip*

## THE RECEIPTS

Mary Peltola's campaign defends against claims she mistreated staffers: ‘Shouldering the enormous burden of grief’

[Washington Examiner](#) **RIGHT** § 08:35 EDT

Democratic Senate nominee Mary Peltola's campaign is defending her following a New York Times report detailing allegations from former staffers that she berated aides, used slurs, and shoved an employee. Peltola's campaign attributed some of the reported behavior to the grief she experienced after losing both her mother and husband in...

Mary Peltola's Campaign in Alaska Senate Race Is Rocked by Tumult, With Angry Outbursts and Slurs

[The New York Times](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 23:24 EDT

Democrats hope that Mary Peltola can flip a Republican Senate seat in Alaska. Former aides describe a campaign and congressional office marked by chaos.

Peltola campaign rips New York Times report on tumultuous operations

[The Hill](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 11:06 EDT

Former Rep. Mary Peltola's (D-Alaska) Senate campaign has pushed back against a report from The New York Times on Wednesday that detailed chaos in her campaign operation. Several former Peltola aides who requested anonymity told the Times about profane outbursts and displays of anger throughout the campaign and her former congressional...

'She's One of Us': Mary Peltola's Bumpy Rise to Political Power

[The New York Times](#) **MAINSTREAM** § 11:48 EDT

Ms. Peltola, the Democratic Senate candidate in Alaska, has complicated politics: She is pro-gun, pro-oil and pro-gas — but also pro-environment and especially pro-fish.

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5



# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5



WITHDRAWN FROM THE FORMULARY

*The research this country decided it could do without.*

- ~\$500M

The mRNA wind-down: 22 vaccine-development projects terminated

— Bird-flu and pandemic platforms at Moderna, Pfizer and Emory among them. The department's phrase: a "coordinated wind-down."

(Aug 2025)
- \$766M

Moderna's pandemic bird-flu vaccine contract — Canceled the same week the company reported positive interim trial results.

(May 2025)
- 2,291 grants, \$2.45B

NIH research grants terminated in 2025 — The peer-reviewed count. Hundreds were reinstated by one court and re-terminated when a higher one let the cuts resume.

(2025)
- \$11.4B

COVID-era grants to state and local health departments — Moved to claw back — "the COVID-19 pandemic is over." A federal judge blocked it, but only for the states that sued.

(Mar 2025)
- 86% terminated

USAID's global-health awards — 5,341 of roughly 6,200 awards. The Lancet's projection — and it is a projection — runs to millions of additional deaths by 2030.

(Apr 2025)
- 15 hospitals

The pediatric brain-tumor trial network — The consortium that has run early-phase childhood brain-cancer trials since 1999 says it "will cease to exist"; the NCI says the work moves to a broader network. Its trials closed to new enrollment either way.

(2026)

*Each withdrawal dated and priced from the agency's own announcement or the reporting that counted it.*

DISPENSARY VERIFIED 24 AUGUST 2026. SYMPTOMS MOVE FASTER THAN PRINT; THE NEXT SWEEP ADVANCES THE LABEL.

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

Ruth

who kept the books at the plant

Thirty-four years on the plant's ledgers and she never once lost a penny — the plant lost plenty, and the ledger always knew where it went. She never accuses. She reconciles, pleasantly, until the discrepancy has nowhere left to sit. **She is not real. Every number she points at is.**

§

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Republicans spend \$100 million and 7 million eggs, then watch Paxton's deficit grow from 3 to 5.

Start with the number the receipts actually give, not the one that would be easy to assume. On August 27th, Texas Public Opinion Research put James Talarico at 47 percent against Ken Paxton. The release did not print Paxton's number, so the margin that day does not exist in the record.

CONTINUE

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Nine months after the military removed Venezuela's president, the 30-minute operation that booked 65 billion barrels — 35 percent of it to the Pentagon — leaves the driver stretching a gallon at a record \$4.15 until the savings arrive in a year or two.

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them, and you do not need an opinion to run one. You need the filings and a straight edge. Here are the filings for one fortnight.

CONTINUE

14 SEPTEMBER 2026

Treasury triples debt buybacks to cap yields, watches them hit the highest level since the financial crisis.

The five-thousand-dollar dividend has no funding line yet. It's a promise sitting in a press release, waiting on a number nobody's put down on the ledger side. On the other side of the building, the bond market keeps its own book, and this week it made an entry.

CONTINUE

14 SEPTEMBER 2026

Saudi pipeline drone strike lifts oil past \$105 before the Crown Prince asks Washington for military muscle.

The filing this week starts at a gas pump, not a battlefield. On the Friday before Labor Day, AAA clocked the national average at \$4.14 a gallon, a holiday record, with diesel logging its own all-time high the same day. That was Labor Day weekend.

CONTINUE

14 SEPTEMBER 2026

Trump pledges \$5,000 dividend economy can't yet fund, National Review calls it the socialism he hates.

President Trump told the party's midterm convention in Dallas on Sept. 10 that if Republicans hold the House and Senate this November, he will send every adult citizen a \$5,000 "dividend," money he says the country can afford because of what he called our economic strength. The same day, the Washington Examiner was already cataloging...

CONTINUE

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Rhode Island's governor lost renomination 62.5 to 37.5 at eighty percent counted, and the wire's entire accounting of the spending gap it credits for that result is one adjective: significant.

Start with the document. On Wednesday a pre-recorded video from a sitting Democratic senator played at the Republican National Committee's midterm convention, and in it Senator John Fetterman asked and answered the relevant question himself: "Why am I here talking to you today?" "Because, well, I'm a common sense Democrat." That is the...

CONTINUE

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

# 429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5