The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Trump warns data-center holdouts go 'backwards and poor,' watches his own county vote 6-0 to join them.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Razondy Desk

THE WRECKING CREW drove to Palm Beach County first, home to Mar-a-Lago, where the zoning ordinance that could stop a data center was already sitting on the books, unused, long before anyone ran for office on it. On August 31, the president told every town in the country that refusing a data center would leave it "backwards and poor." The county that includes his own front porch answered on September 25: a 6-0 vote, "large-scale" facilities over 50 megawatts, one year, no new construction. The tool was never new. The permitting authority sat in the county code the whole time; the commissioners just had to use it.

The chief pointed north. In Washington State, the wiring was older than that. Seattle halted new data-center buildout in June. Spokane followed. So did a Tacoma-area county. By October 6, that patchwork of local halts had become the floor under hundreds of residents at nineteen events across the state, demanding a statewide version of the same zoning brake. No new statute was invented for the day of action — the planner just traced the parts already bolted to the wall and asked why the bolts stopped at the city line.

... Continued on Page F129

THE WORD

162 – 15 OCTOBER 2026

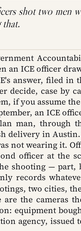
On Social Security

DEMOCRAT



78 CENTS

REPUBLICAN



NO TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY

"My sister in-law turned sixty- five this year, so she's the expert in our house now. She got the new deduction, six thousand dollars – but only through 2028, and it shrinks once you're over seventy- five thousand. And the tax people in Congress say about twenty- four million people will still pay tax on their benefits anyway. Then she showed me the trustees' report. The retirement fund runs out in the last part of 2032, and after it pays seventy- eight percent. Excuse me, I forgot my hat. The deduction ends after 2028, and the fund after 2032. Which of those two was the one he promised nobody would hurt?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W162

ICE officers shot two men with cameras off; ICE's fix lets officers keep deciding that.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The Government Accountability Office's Wednesday report makes a modest ask: when an ICE officer draws a weapon, the body camera should turn on by itself. ICE's answer, filed in the same report, is no. The agency would rather the officer decide, case by case, whether the camera runs. That is a defensible system, if you assume the camera gets turned on in the first place.

In September, an ICE officer shot Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez, a 28-year-old Venezuelan man, through the window of his car while he was working a DoorDash delivery in Austin. The officer had been issued a body camera. The officer was not wearing it. Officials said afterward they weren't sure why.

A second officer at the scene did have a camera running, and it caught part of the shooting — part, because a camera that is off when the trigger is pulled only records whatever someone remembers to switch on afterward. Two shootings, two cities, the same missing footage both times.

These are the cameras the GAO was reviewing when it wrote its recommendation: equipment bought with historic levels of funding funneled to the immigration agency, issued to officers in the field, and, in both shootings on

... Continued on Page T27

White House press secretary gives three answers on where she passed the bar, passed none

BY LOU
One More Question

I keep a notebook, and I started a new page for this one on October 9th, because that's the day I wrote down the first answer I had to this story. Everything that follows, I wrote down the same day it happened, no later. I don't trust my memory past a Tuesday, so I trust the page instead. Here is what's on it.

October 9th, the Guardian, twice the same day. The first item says the president has picked a conservative commentator to be his next press secretary. The second item, same paper, same day, says he called her a "devoted fan." I underlined "fan" because I thought I'd need it later. I didn't, not yet.

Same day, the Washington Examiner, two more lines. One says she spent several weeks earlier this year as deputy spokeswoman at the Department of Homeland Security before abruptly leaving. The other just asks who she is, plainly, which struck me as a fair question for a newspaper to be asking about someone about to stand at that podium every afternoon.

Nothing on the page again until this week, when her first televised briefing ran and the word that came back from the BBC, the Times, CBS, and the

... Continued on Page A213

Republican opposed to Omar on abortion and guns finds one point of agreement: this investigation is bullshit.

BY LOU
One More Question

Give me a second. I had this dated, I'm sure I had it dated — here. Monday. October twelfth. That's the page I need.

Monday's the raid. Agents went into the Congresswoman's home in Washington, and the Justice Department put its own name on it after the fact — "judicially authorized," that's their phrase, a judge signed off, "ongoing criminal investigation," that's the other one. I wrote both down in quotes because I wanted to get the wording right. Official wording. I underlined "ongoing."

What's it about? Next line. CBS is citing sources who say the paperwork at the center of this is immigration paperwork — filled out by her father, when she was a child. Not paperwork she filed herself. Paperwork filled out for her, by somebody else, back when she wasn't old enough to fill out her own forms. I wrote "child" and circled it, because that's the word in the reporting, not mine.

Same page: the Attorney General. Blanche. CBS says he was personally aware of the search. I'll be straight with you, the reporting doesn't say when

... Continued on Page A223

Rumor that Talarico died collapses in hours; his record $64 million quarter doesn't.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The campaign press release went out Wednesday with a number: $64 million in the third quarter. By Thursday every outlet from the Daily Caller to NBC News was using the word "record," because it is one — the most any Senate candidate has raised in a single quarter this cycle. The campaign's own accounting adds the detail that matters: ninety-seven cents of every dollar came in at $100 or less.

Ken Paxton, the man standing between Talarico and the seat, raised $18 million over the same three months. That is less than a third of what his opponent brought in, and it is already Paxton's high-water mark — double the $9 million he raised the quarter before. He is accelerating. He is still losing the arithmetic by a factor of more than three.

Run the larger ledger and the quarter gets stranger. The campaign says it has raised $134 million since Talarico announced his candidacy last year. Subtract this quarter's $64 million, and the three quarters before it — the ones that built the campaign from nothing — brought in roughly $70 million combined. One quarter, by itself, came within six million dollars of matching ev-

... Continued on Page F129

Republicans lose the same Missouri map ruling three times, propose changing how the judges are chosen

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The Missouri Legislature enacted a congressional map in 2022. In 2025 it enacted a new one. That recitation is not mine. It is the U.S. Supreme Court's own, set down unsigned and flat this September, the way a clerk reads a ledger aloud at a wake.

The state's highest court had directed Missouri to use the older map. In September the U.S. Supreme Court left that order in place. Hours later, on September 8, a federal judge ruled that Missouri should use the new map, the one that favors Republicans, for now. One state, two maps, three courts, one afternoon, and two instructions a county clerk could not follow at the same time.

On September 25 the Court ruled against the new map again — the third knockdown, by Common Dreams' count. It was not a Court in a mood to refuse anybody that Friday. The same day, it greenlit the administration's voter purge database.

Then this morning's wire, from ProPublica: frustrated by losses in the courts, Missouri Republicans want to change how the state's top judges are

... Continued on Page B41

Contractor who holds Ukraine's battlefield internet offers three explanations for the slowdown, lands on replacing Ukraine's president

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You are looking for the lie among the three. There is none. Tuesday, with Russian missiles inbound, Ukraine's Starlink missile tracker failed, and Musk said any restriction on Starshield would come from the United States government. Wednesday he said Zelensky should "go". Today Ukraine reports access improved and the speed ceiling still disrupting its "missions" — a ceiling, do note, not a cut. The terminals belong to others. The Pentagon funds them, SpaceX manages them, and what Ukraine has is the use of another party's property at sufferance, which is possession the owner has not yet troubled to end. Someone will say the throttle has been explained. It has been ... attributed. Three times, differently, by the one man at the switch. Washington has threatened to stop passing air-strike warnings if Ukraine keeps striking Russian refineries, which Trump blames for diesel prices. Six dead in Kyiv. Six hundred thousand in the dark.

... Continued on Page A213

Cornell named an outside reviewer; Chicago named a person of interest. Neither named anyone responsible.

BY MITCH
Investigations

On October 3, Cornell's own crime log confirmed what a lawsuit had already alleged: campus police made a drug arrest at a fraternity house twenty-two hours before a former student says she was drugged and raped in that same house. The log does not connect the two incidents. The university has not connected the larger case either — not since the district attorney, Matthew Van Houten, decided there wasn't enough evidence to charge the seven men the 2024 lawsuit names.

Three days later, on October 6, Cornell's trustees announced their answer: Sally Yates, once the Justice Department's second-ranking official, would review how the university handles sexual misconduct complaints. The same week, the state handed the underlying case to a special prosecutor the sitting president has publicly called biased. Faculty did not wait for either review.

This week, a fraternity party near a different university produced the same police blotter. A 21-year-old woman told University of Chicago police she was sexually assaulted early Sunday morning at an off-campus frat house. By Tuesday the school had issued a community alert naming a person

... Continued on Page A213

"Read the page top to bottom and notice what connects it: somebody priced something you thought was yours — your ballot, your checkup, your tank of gas — and mailed you the bill with a flag stamped on it. I started circling the good news. Still holding the pen."

— Sal

"Every story on this page is a success that hasn't been explained to you properly yet."

— Chip

The hens, a man counts in
spring. The fox counted in winter.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

ICE officers shot two men with cameras off; ICE's fix lets officers keep deciding that.

By **CHIP**
STAFF WRITER



“ICE rejects push for automatically activated body cameras”, 15 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. ICE rejected a federal watchdog's call to make body cameras turn on by themselves when an officer draws a weapon.

WHO GETS PAID. ICE keeps the power to decide when, or whether, a shooting by its own officers gets recorded.

WHAT SLIPS. The chance for an independent video record of every ICE shooting slips, since the officer alone still decides when the camera runs.

WHAT'S NEXT. No date is set to revisit the rejection. The fix stays off the table after two shootings in September 2026 where the cameras were off, and the GAO report naming that gap is the only check on record so far.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Government Accountability Office's Wednesday report makes a modest ask: when an ICE officer draws a weapon, the body camera should turn on by itself. ICE's answer, filed in the same report, is no. The agency would rather the officer decide, case by case, whether the camera runs. That is a defensible system, if you assume the camera gets turned on in the first place.

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...(cont) A second officer at the scene did have a camera running, and it caught part of the shooting — part, because a camera that is off when the trigger is pulled only records whatever someone remembers to switch on afterward. Two shootings, two cities, the same missing footage both times.

These are the cameras the GAO was reviewing when it wrote its recommendation: equipment bought with historic levels of funding funneled to the immigration agency, issued to officers in the field, and, in both shootings on the public record so far, not actually on when the officer fired. Both shootings happened before the GAO's report was finished. The fix under review was built for exactly that gap — a camera that switches on by itself the moment a weapon comes out, so the decision doesn't depend on anyone remembering, or wanting, to flip the switch. ICE's review of that fix, completed this week, was to turn it down.

ICE's position is that officer discretion should stay in charge of when the camera runs. Put plainly: the discretion that already failed twice this fall, in two different shootings, in two different cities, is the discretion the agency is choosing to keep. That isn't a defense of the policy. That's a description of it.

So the rule stands exactly as it stood before either shooting: the camera comes on when an officer decides it should. In Austin, no one decided. In New York, no one decided. The recommendation written to take that decision out of anyone's hands is the one ICE just turned down.



“They're not hiding the footage — they're skipping the step where footage exists to hide. Two men get shot, two cameras stay dark, and the agency's answer to "maybe automate that" is "we like it the way it is." That's not a glitch in the system; that's the system, and it means the only account of an ICE shooting is the one ICE decides to record.”

— *Sal*

“Officer discretion is the whole point here — you don't want a camera making tactical calls for the men and women doing this job. Automatic activation sounds intrusive until you remember all it does is turn the camera on exactly when something happens, which is — hold on, that's just what a camera's for. Forget I said that, I'll have a better line for you by Friday.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

~~ICE rejects push for automatically activated body cameras~~

ICE got a record $70 billion. It still won't wear a camera that turns on by itself.

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:32 EDT*

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) resisted a recommendation from a government watchdog to use automated body camera activation that would engage when a weapon is drawn. A Wednesday report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviewed ICE’s deployment of body cameras after historic levels of funding were funneled...

· ICE officer who shot man in Austin wasn’t wearing his body camera *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· ICE officer who shot Venezuelan man wasn't wearing body camera, sources say *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· ICE officer who shot Austin man wasn't wearing body camera: Reports *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· ICE officer who shot Venezuelan man wasn't wearing body camera, sources say *from the morgue, 23 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.

White House press secretary gives three answers on where she passed the bar, passed none

By **LOU**
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Trump says he picked 'devoted fan' Katie Zacharia to be next press secretary", 9 October 2026 [PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT]

★ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Bot

WHAT HAPPENED. White House press secretary Katie Zacharia gave three different answers this week about where she passed the bar exam.

WHO GETS PAID. Trump Media and Technology Group, her former employer, gets its own commentator speaking for the government at the podium.

WHAT SLIPS. Nobody checked her bar credential before she took the podium, so the public got the check only after reporters and a watchdog complaint forced it.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing or review date has been set, and the White House has not said whether the bar complaint will be formally investigated.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I keep a notebook, and I started a new page for this one on October 9th, because that's the day I wrote down the first answer I had to this story. Everything that follows, I wrote down the same day it happened, no later. I don't trust my memory past a Tuesday, so I trust the page instead. Here is what's on it.

October 9th, the Guardian, twice the same day. The first item says the president has picked a conservative commentator to be his next press secretary. The second item, same paper, same day, says he called her a "devoted fan." I underlined "fan" because I thought I'd need it later. I didn't, not yet....

...(cont) Same day, the Washington Examiner, two more lines. One says she spent several weeks earlier this year as deputy spokeswoman at the Department of Homeland Security before abruptly leaving. The other just asks who she is, plainly, which struck me as a fair question for a newspaper to be asking about someone about to stand at that podium every afternoon.

Nothing on the page again until this week, when her first televised briefing ran and the word that came back from the BBC, the Times, CBS, and the Guardian was some version of stilted. A complaint was already filed, asking whether the new press secretary is in fact a lawyer. That briefing has its own page. It's filed, it's dated, it stays where I put it.

This week's page is where the answer starts moving, and it moves three times before it lands anywhere.

Tuesday, a reporter from the question desk at her: where did you pass the bar exam. I wrote that down word for word, because a sentence like that you only need to copy once.

Except it didn't stop there. The New York Times asks the obvious follow-up — is she a lawyer, plainly — and gets, in her own words, one big misunderstanding. Then the Hill gets a third version: she says she misheard the question, she thought the reporter had asked where she went after law school, not where she passed the bar. "I assumed the question was, 'Where were you after law school?'" That line isn't mine. I copied it straight off hers.

Three answers to one question, in order, in my own handwriting: China. A misunderstanding. A mishearing.

I've got a glovebox in that car that won't start half the winter, and in it there's a registration, an old insurance card, and an inspection sticker, and if you asked me which paper to believe, I could hand you three documents that don't agree with each other, because I never clean that thing out. My wife says I should just empty it and start over, and she's probably right, but that's a different column. Nobody's filing a complaint about my glovebox, though. Nobody got me at a podium either.

And here's the Post, same batch of stories, with the detail that's been sitting underneath the whole page the entire time: Pepperdine law school, 2011, and a California bar exam she did not pass.

I told myself I'd only bring the question up once, and then I went and brought it up two more times without telling you, so I owe you the honest accounting. Where did she pass the bar. China wasn't a where. The misunderstanding wasn't a where. The mishearing wasn't a where. Asked three times by three different outlets inside one week, and the page I'm holding still doesn't have a place written on it anywhere.

Before you go — the Post already wrote one down. California. She just didn't pass it there either.

> "They don't need a lawyer at that podium, they need somebody who'll say whatever keeps the cameras fed, and they found her. Three different answers to the same six-word question and the White House still hasn't landed on one, and that's not confusion, that's a script nobody finished writing. The job is explaining government to the people who pay for it, and they gave it to someone who couldn't pass a test she took back in 2011."
>
> — *Sal*

> "Nobody said she passed the California bar, nobody, people just assumed, and that's really on them for assuming without asking first. She misheard a shouted question, which happens, shouted questions are hard to hear, and also, separately, unrelated, she said China — okay, did I just put those in the same sentence? That's not the line we're going with."
>
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Her debut briefing panned as stilted, the press secretary calls confusion over her law degree "one big misunderstanding."* By Lou · the morning edition, 15 October 2026
- *Asked which state licensed her to practice law, the new press secretary answered: "when I moved to China"* by Lou · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
- *The US answer to three deaths at Riyadh's airport was filed days earlier: back the Saudi offensive.* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 9 October 2026
- *Riyadh's airport struck again, called deadliest yet, same as September, same as 2018.* By Sal · the afternoon edition, 8 October 2026
- *Twenty years after Russia cut Europe's gas, Kushner is negotiating America's cut of selling it back* By Sterling · the morning edition, 8 October 2026
- *OpenAI pledges to cut election spending; the same month it fired the researchers flagging its risks.* By Ruth · the late evening edition, 5 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump says he picked 'devoted fan' Katie Zacharia to be next press secretary
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *17:39 EDT*

Zacharia will replace Karoline Leavitt, who left the role at the end of August after giving birth to her second child Donald Trump on Friday announced that he had picked Katie Zacharia to be the next White House press secretary, lining up a conservative commentator he called a "devoted fan" to be his most prominent spokesperson. Zacharia...

~~Who is Katie Zacharia, Trump's next White House press secretary?~~
Trump's next press secretary comes straight from his own media company
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *16:31 EDT*

President Donald Trump tapped Katie Zacharia, a conservative commentator and communications adviser for Trump Media and Technology Group, to serve as his next White House press secretary. Zacharia will succeed Karoline Leavitt, who left the White House in August. Her appointment comes less than a month before the 2026 midterm elections...

~~Trump's new press secretary scrutinized over credentials~~
Trump's new press secretary couldn't say where she passed the bar exam
RTÉ | MAINSTREAM | *05:55 EDT*

The White House was facing mounting questions over new press secretary Katie Zacharia's legal credentials, after a faltering first day in the job when she gave an inconclusive answer about where she had passed the bar exam.

Trump's press secretary pick Katie Zacharia comes from Noem-Lewandowski era at DHS
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *19:12 EDT*

President Donald Trump has tapped former Department of Homeland Security public affairs official Katie Zacharia as White House press secretary, a choice that caught current and former DHS officials who had worked with Zacharia off guard. Zacharia, 41, worked for several weeks earlier this year as deputy spokeswoman for the 270,000-person...

New White House press secretary Katie Zacharia under fire as questions emerge about her legal background
New York Post | RIGHT | *10:23 EDT*

Zacharia, 42, failed the California bar exam after graduating from Pepperdine University's law school in 2011

Zacharia says she misheard question on where she took bar exam
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *08:29 EDT*

White House press secretary Katie Zacharia said that she misheard a shouted question about where she passed the bar exam from a reporter earlier this week, leading her to say that she passed the exam when she moved to China. "I assumed the question was, 'Where were you after law school?'" Zacharia said in a...

~~Katie Zacharia under fire over legal background: What to know~~
Trump's press secretary says she passed the bar exam 'when I moved to China'
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *11:15 EDT*

President Donald Trump's new press secretary Katie Zacharia is facing criticism over her background after a watchdog filed a complaint scrutinizing the new White House appointee's claim that she is a lawyer. The questions started Tuesday after Zacharia was asked where she passed the bar exam, to which she responded: "When I moved to...

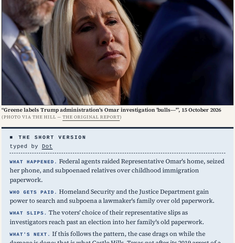
Katie Zacharia Is Trump's New Press Secretary. But Is She a Lawyer?
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *10:05 EDT*

Katie Zacharia told The New York Times that the confusion over her legal credentials was the result of one big misunderstanding.

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.

Republican opposed to Omar on abortion and guns finds one point of agreement: this investigation is bullshit.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Greene labels Trump administration's Omar investigation 'bulls---'": 15 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal agents raided Representative Omar's home, seized her phone, and subpoenaed relatives over childhood immigration paperwork.

WHO GETS PAID. Homeland Security and the Justice Department gain power to search and subpoena a lawmaker's family over old paperwork.

WHAT SLIPS. The voters' choice of their representative slips as investigators reach past an election into her family's old paperwork.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this follows the pattern, the case drags on while the damage is done; that is what Castle Hills, Texas got after its 2019 arrest of a council critic: a $500,000 settlement six years later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Give me a second. I had this dated, I'm sure I had it dated — here. Monday. October twelfth. That's the page I need.

Monday's the raid. Agents went into the Congresswoman's home in Washington, and the Justice Department put its own name on it after the fact — "judicially authorized," that's their phrase, a judge signed off, "ongoing criminal investigation," that's the other one. I wrote both down in quotes because I wanted to get the wording right. Official wording. I underlined "ongoing."...

...(cont) What's it about? Next line. CBS is citing sources who say the paperwork at the center of this is immigration paperwork — filled out by her father, when she was a child. Not paperwork she filed herself. Paperwork filled out for her, by somebody else, back when she was too young to fill out her own forms. I wrote "child" and circled it, because that's the word in the reporting, not mine.

Same page: the Attorney General. Blanche. CBS says he was personally aware of the raid before the agents knocked. Yes, the reporting doesn't say when he became aware, just that he was, so that's all I wrote — "aware" — and I left it there, because I don't put down more than I've got.

The Congresswoman put out a statement that same Monday. Her words, not mine: an attempt to target "political enemies" — plural, I went back and checked that twice — and "weaponize law enforcement." She said she would not be silenced. I wrote that part down slow.

And then, same page, same Monday — a reporter asks the President if he had anything to do with any of it. He says no. Nothing to do with him. I wrote that right underneath her statement, because on one page you've got the raid, her answer to it, and his denial of it, all before the day's out.

A couple days go by quiet. I was out on the porch Wednesday morning with the toolbox open, sorting sockets back into the tray — the quarter-inch, the half-inch, the ones that haven't had a home in years because the set's missing half its pieces — dog working over the same spot in the yard he always works over, when the next page starts. Phone seized. Relatives subpoenaed. I wrote "a dozen" at first and then crossed it out, because I didn't have a real count and I won't put one down I can't back up. Just "relatives." Plural. That's what's on the page.

Wednesday's also when a Republican — a former colleague of hers, someone who told everybody, right out loud, that she's pro-life where the Congresswoman's pro-choice, for the Second Amendment where she's for gun control, "on and on," opposite on everything they could name — looked at this same investigation, the one sitting on all my other pages, and called it bullshit. Her word. I wrote it down. I wrote it went back through every other page first, looking for it anywhere else — "judicially authorized," "ongoing criminal investigation," "personally aware" — and it isn't there. Not once. Not from the Department. Not from the Attorney General. Not from the President, who only told me what it had nothing to do with.

Oh — before you go. I'm sorry, I said I'd only bring that word up once, and here I am flipping back to it. I just want to ask you something, since you've seen the same pages I have: in all of this — the raid, the subpoenas, the phone they took — has anybody running it ever once called it what the one person outside it, who disagrees with the Congresswoman on everything else, finally called it out loud — bullshit?

★ FROM THE CORNER ★
Dutch

DHS agents searched Representative Omar's home over immigration paperwork her father filled out when she was a child, then seized her phone and subpoenaed her relatives. That is not a fraud investigation, it is a prosecution of paperwork signed by a man who is no longer alive, aimed at the daughter who was a child when he signed it. Because the paperwork under subpoena was filled out by her father when she could not yet sign her own name, the same kind of paperwork is sitting behind your name too, filed out by your father before you could write, waiting only on some future investigation deciding your name is worth a subpoena — the citizenship paperwork with your name on it, signed by a hand that was not yours.

"They're not chasing fraud, they're chasing a dead man's paperwork to get at a sitting congresswoman they can't beat at the ballot box. A Republican who disagrees with her on abortion and guns just said out loud what the rest of them won't: bullshit. If they can subpoena a signature that isn't even hers, they can subpoena anybody's family."
— *Sal*

"This is a straightforward law-enforcement matter — a judge signed off, that's the system working exactly as it— wait, the President went out of his way to say he had nothing to do with it, so maybe that's not the point I was making. The Attorney General being personally aware just shows appropriate oversight, and if one of her own ideological opposites on abortion and guns is calling the investigation bullshit, I'm sure that's coincidence. Did I say coincidence? That doesn't sound like me."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *A dozen subpoenas and a seized phone later, the president says he had nothing to do with it.* By Lou · the morning edition, 15 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Greene labels Trump administration's Omar investigation 'bulls---'
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *09:12 EDT*

Former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) went after the Trump administration on Wednesday over the investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), who recently had her home raided.

Rel: **The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business** *CNR, 8 April 2025 (flaccbc memo)*
Ilhan Omar raid concerns immigration paperwork from when she was a child, sources say
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *19:53 EDT*
Federal agents searched Rep. Ilhan Omar's Washington, D.C., home Monday morning. Sources tell CBS News a yearslong probe into Omar involves immigration paperwork that was completed by her late father when she was a child.

Rel: **The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business** *CNR, 8 April 2025 (flaccbc memo)*
Omar's phone seized, relatives subpoenaed: AP source
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *10:27 EDT*
Federal authorities seized Rep. Ilhan Omar's (D-Minn.) phone and issued subpoenas to some of her relatives as part of an ongoing criminal investigation. The subpoenas were issued as part of a federal grand jury probe of alleged fraud involving Omar's immigration paperwork, The Associated Press reported, citing a person familiar with the...

Rel: **The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business** *CNR, 8 April 2025 (flaccbc memo)*
AG Blanche was personally aware of search at Ilhan Omar's home, sources say
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *19:30 EDT*
Sources tell CBS News that Monday's search of Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar's home is tied to potential false statements and immigration fraud, including paperwork that was completed when Omar was a child. Homeland security correspondent Nicole Sganga has more.

~~Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats~~
DOJ raided a sitting congresswoman's home over a claim an immigration expert calls 'even weaker than it already seems'
Common Dreams | *11:04 EDT*
Following years of threats from President Donald Trump and other Republicans to deport Rep. Ilhan Omar, the Minnesota congresswoman's Washington, DC home was raided on Monday morning by agents with the Department of Homeland Security. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has confirmed that the raid was carried out as part of a judicially...

Rel: **The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business** *CNR, 8 April 2025 (flaccbc memo)*
Ilhan Omar says she will not be silenced after federal agents raid her home
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *12:20 EDT*
Trump and key allies have accused Omar of immigration fraud, and have called to expel her from the country Federal agents searched Representative Ilhan Omar 's home on Monday morning as part of a criminal investigation, according to the Department of Justice and reports in the Associated Press and Fox News. In a social media post later...

Everything we know about Ilhan Omar's family amid high profile DHS investigation
New York Post | RIGHT | *10:36 EDT*
A federal raid on Rep. Ilhan Omar's Washington, DC pad has placed the controversial Democrat and her relatively unknown family in the spotlight as Homeland Security investigators near the end to a long investigation into whether Omar was actually older than 17 when she received automatic US citizenship from her naturalized father — a...

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.

THE LEDGER

Rumor that Talarico died collapses in hours; his record $64 million quarter doesn't.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Talarico on 'crazy' conspiracy theories: 'I learned … that I had died'", 15 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

▶ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Talarico's campaign raised a record quarter the same week a rumor that he'd died collapsed.

WHO GETS PAID. Talarico's own Senate campaign, funded almost entirely by donors giving $100 or less, gains the money and the power here.

WHAT SLIPS. The press let an unverified death rumor spread across right-wing media for days before one phone call to the campaign ended it.

WHAT'S NEXT. There is no dated next step in this record yet. The one date already on the calendar is Election Day, the test both the money and the rumor were aimed at.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The campaign press release went out Wednesday with a number: $64 million in the third quarter. By Thursday every outlet from the Daily Caller to NBC News was using the word "record," because it is one — the most any Senate candidate has raised in a single quarter this cycle. The campaign's own accounting adds the detail that matters: ninety-seven cents of every dollar came in at $100 or less.

Ken Paxton, the man standing between Talarico and the seat, raised $18 million over the same three months. That is less than a third of what his opponent brought in, and it is already Paxton's high-water mark — double the $9 million he raised the quarter before. He is accelerating. He is still losing the arithmetic by a factor of more than three....

...(cont) Run the larger ledger and the quarter gets stranger. The campaign says it has raised $134 million since Talarico announced his candidacy last year. Subtract this quarter's $64 million, and the three quarters before it — the ones that built the campaign from nothing — brought in roughly $70 million combined. One quarter, by itself, came within six million dollars of matching everything the campaign had raised in all the quarters before it. The fundraising is not decelerating toward the finish; it is compounding.

Then came the other number nobody put in a press release: zero. By the weekend the rumor had an audio clip attached, allegedly an Ohio facility employee confirming a discharge. By Sunday night it had collapsed — in mere hours, the lifespan a false story gets when the only thing standing between it and the public record is a phone call to the man's own campaign, which will tell a reporter, accurately, that the candidate has the flu.

Ninety-seven percent of a record quarter came in small enough to be lunch money. The rumor built to bury it didn't survive the weekend.

▼ FROM THE CORNER ▼
DUTCH

Talarico outraised Ken Paxton three to one on checks of a hundred dollars or less, and the same week, an anonymous audio clip claiming he'd been committed collapsed inside a day. That isn't a failed smear, it's a bank statement they couldn't match, dressed up as a hospital record. When the small checks outrun the money men, the only account left to drain is the candidate's own name; when that account drains dry in an afternoon, what's left on your porch Tuesday morning is the same yard sign, spelled right, still standing.

"Ninety-seven cents on the dollar from regular folks and he's still outraising the Attorney General three to one — that's not a fluke, hon, that's what happens when the con stops working on people who read their own bank statement. They couldn't kill him off at the bank, so they tried to kill him off online, and it took one phone call to prove that was garbage too. You can't out-raise small checks with a rumor that doesn't survive a weekend."
— *Sal*

"Look, raw dollar totals don't measure enthusiasm — Paxton's donors are quieter, more strategic, they give once and mean it. And nobody "spread" anything, people were asking legitimate questions about a candidate who vanished for nine days, that's accountability — okay, it was an anonymous audio clip about a mental health facility, that's not really accountability, that's — did I say accountability? Forget I said that."
— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

'Talarico on 'crazy' conspiracy theories: 'I learned … that I had died'
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *09:15 EDT*

Texas Senate candidate James Talarico (D) on Wednesday responded to the "crazy" conspiracy theories that circulated during his time away from the campaign trail with the flu, saying he learned of one rumor "that I had died." CNN's Erin Burnett asked Talarico about the theories during a town hall event, asking if the flu was...

~~Autopsy of a lie: James Talarico got the flu — spiraling right-wing midterm misinformation machine goes into overdrive~~

Trump turned a Senate candidate's 9-day absence into a conspiracy theory
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *06:00 EDT*

Claims that James Talarico suffered a mental health crisis spread across rightwing media, offering a warning about disinformation ahead of the US midterm election Where is James Talarico? The question ricocheted around rightwing echo chambers before metastasising into a conspiracy theory – and a reminder of the persistent danger of...

James Talarico touts record fundraising haul in Texas Senate race
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *09:24 EDT*

Texas Democratic Senate hopeful James Talarico's campaign says it raised $64 million in the third quarter of 2026, a staggering haul that would set a new record.

Talarico announces record-breaking $64 million fundraising haul
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *10:33 EDT*

The Talarico campaign said that brings his total fundraising to $134 million since he announced his candidacy last year.

Editor Daily Rundown: James Talarico Plays Dumb At CNN Town Hall
Daily Caller | RIGHT | *09:09 EDT*

'The bill is about our elections, right?'

~~'Bi-Zod Billionaire Control Over Our Politics': 97% of Talarico Historic Fundraising Arrives as Donations of $100 or Less~~

Muck bankrolls his opponent's money machine. 97% of Talarico's record haul came in $100 checks.
Common Dreams | *10:13 EDT*

James Talarico, the Democratic candidate for US Senate in Texas, says that his near record-breaking fundraising haul in the third quarter—one built almost entirely on small-dollar donations—is proof that grassroots energy is on his side as he faces off against the full weight of the Republican Party's money machine, including the world's...

Conspiracies mount after Texas Senate Democratic candidate James Talarico's absence for nine days due to 'nasty case of the flu'
New York Post | RIGHT | *17:26 EDT*

Senate Democratic candidate James Talarico is clearing up the timeline of his "nasty" flu diagnosis after missing more than a week of in-person campaigning in the critical Texas Senate race and sparking widespread online speculation.

~~Right-Wing Smear Campaign Against James Talarico Collapses in Mere Hours~~

MAGA influencers Sortor and Amacher fabricated Talarico's fake hospital-discharge audio
Common Dreams | *10:08 EDT*

A right-wing smear campaign against Texas Democratic US Senate candidate James Talarico fell apart in mere hours on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon, MAGA influencers Nick Sortor and Rhein Amacher posted a 45-second audio recording on social media that they claimed was of an employee at an Ohio mental health center stating that Talarico had...

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

James Talarico Raises More In Third Quarter Than Any Senate Candidate In History
Daily Caller | RIGHT | *09:55 EDT*

Talarico raised record-breaking amounts of money

· Paxton raises $18M in third quarter *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Trump fuels rumors about James Talarico's campaign trail absence *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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Republicans lose the same Missouri map ruling three times, propose changing how the judges are chosen

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Missouri Republicans have proposed changing how the state's top judges are selected, after courts repeatedly blocked their congressional map.

WHO GETS PAID. Missouri Republicans, who keep a map drawn to favor them if the next court to hear it lets it stand.

WHAT SLIPS. The court that blocked the map would be filled through a process written by the side that lost in it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the change passes, the next map case is heard by judges the legislature helped choose. Missouri already ran on conflicting orders once: on September 8 a federal judge allowed the new map for now, hours after the U.S. Supreme Court left the order for the old map in place.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Missouri Legislature enacted a congressional map in 2022. In 2025 it enacted a new one. That recitation is not mine. It is the U.S. Supreme Court's own, set down unsigned and flat this September, the way a clerk reads a ledger aloud at a wake.

The state's highest court had directed Missouri to use the older map. In September the U.S. Supreme Court left that order in place. Hours later, on September 8, a federal judge ruled that Missouri should use the new map, the one that favors Republicans, for now. One state, two maps, three courts, one afternoon, and two instructions a county clerk could not follow at the same time....

...(cont) On September 25 the Court ruled against the new map again — the third knockdown, by Common Dreams' count. It was not a Court in a mood to refuse anybody that Friday. The same day, it greenlit the administration's voter purge database.

Then this morning's wire, from ProPublica: frustrated by losses in the courts, Missouri Republicans want to change how the state's top judges are selected.

So we gather. Died this week in Jefferson City, after three short illnesses, the practice of answering a court loss by going back to the drawing table. It was born in the plainest arithmetic there is: you lose, you read the opinion, you fix the part the opinion says is broken, you file again. It was a dull little habit. It kept the fight about the map.

Filing again is what it had already done twice. Instead the subject changed, from what the judges held to how the judges arrive. There is no scandal in that, and no mystery; it is a proposal, which is to say paperwork, and paperwork is how most of this shit actually gets done. We are told the courts are a check on the mapmakers. This week the mapmakers took an interest in the staffing.

It was preceded in death by the assumption that a party out of arguments runs out of moves. It leaves behind every voter in Missouri whose district number now depends less on a pen than on a personnel process.

In lieu of flowers, find out this week how the judges in your own state are chosen, and say the answer out loud to somebody who does not know it yet.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

MISSOURI'S HIGHEST COURT DIRECTED THE STATE TO USE THE OLDER CONGRESSIONAL map, the U.S. Supreme Court left that order in place in September, and on September 25 it ruled against the new map a third time. That isn't court reform, it's a legislature applying for the job of choosing the judges who rule on its own maps. Change who picks the judges and you change who hears the next map case, change who hears the map case and you change which district your street sits in, and the next thing with your name on it is the voter registration card in your wallet, printed with a district the legislature chose for you.



"They lost this map fight three times, and the last time the same Court that told them no on the map said yes to a voter purge database the same day — so it isn't like the thing is rigged against them. When you lose three hands straight and your next idea is picking the dealer, you've stopped playing cards. And the pot here is which congressman your street gets handed for the next ten years."

— Sal



"Judicial selection reform has been on the table in Missouri for years, this has nothing to do with the map — did I say the map? That doesn't sound like me. Look, a federal judge said use the new map, a state court said use the old one, so clearly the system is a mess, and fixing a mess is not the same as losing, which we didn't."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Republicans ask Supreme Court for cheaper campaign ads, get cheaper campaign ads, ask again, get them again* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026

— *Trump empanels a committee to fire a Fed governor the Supreme Court already said he couldn't fire.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 14 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Frustrated by Losses in the Courts, Missouri Republicans Want to Change How Top Judges Are Selected~~

After losing in court, Missouri Republicans want to pick the judges themselves

ProPublica § *05:00 EDT*

The post Frustrated by Losses in the Courts, Missouri Republicans Want to Change How Top Judges Are Selected appeared first on ProPublica .

· In Win for Missouri Voters, Supreme Court Smacks Down GOP's Rigged Map a Third Time *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Federal judge backs Missouri's new House map after Supreme Court rebuffs case *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Federal judge backs Missouri's new House map after Supreme Court rebuffs case *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Federal judge backs Missouri's new House map after Supreme Court rebuffs case *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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Contractor who holds Ukraine's battlefield internet offers three explanations for the slowdown, lands on replacing Ukraine's president

By **STERLING**
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates, 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

★ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Rot

WHAT HAPPENED. The contractor who runs Ukraine's battlefield internet gave three explanations for slowing it, then said Ukraine's president should go.

WHO GETS PAID. SpaceX keeps the contract either way; the White House gains leverage over Ukraine's strikes on Russian refineries, which Trump links to diesel prices.

WHAT SLIPS. Whether Ukrainian troops get warning of incoming missiles now rests with a company and a decision no one will sign.

WHAT'S NEXT. If diesel prices keep setting policy, expect limits come next; the president backed restricting diesel exports on 22 September 2026 — about 40 percent of what Americans burn.

You are looking for the lie among the three. There is none. Tuesday, with Russian missiles inbound, Ukraine's Starlink missile tracker failed, and Musk said any restriction on Starshield would come from the United States government. Wednesday he said Zelensky should "go". Today Ukraine reports access impaired and the speed ceiling still disrupting its "missions" — a ceiling, do note, not a cut. The terminals belong to others. The Pentagon funds them, SpaceX manages them, and what Ukraine has is the use of another party's property at sufferance, which is possession the owner has not yet troubled to end. Someone will say the throttle has been explained. It has been … attributed. Three times, differently, by the one man at the switch. Washington has threatened to stop passing air-strike warnings if Ukraine keeps striking Russian refineries, which Trump blames for diesel prices. Six dead in Kyiv. Six hundred thousand in the dark.

The well, the neighbour keeps. A man drinks when the lid comes off.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Book

"First the switch isn't his, then it's Trump's, then the fix is a brand-new president in Kyiv — that's not a man who's confused, that's a man showing you what his contract lets him do. Ukraine rents its air-raid warning from a company, and the rent gets reviewed when Washington doesn't like which refinery got hit. Six people are dead and 600,000 were sitting in the dark while we argued about the price of diesel."
— *Sal*

"Nobody throttled anything — the government owns Starshield, he said so himself, it's on the record, so going after SpaceX here is just absurd. Did I say nobody? I said the government controls it, which is a completely different point, obviously. And look, if Kyiv wants the warnings to keep coming, maybe stop hitting refineries; that's not a threat, that's — that's just how allies talk."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Musk says Ukraine's battlefield internet throttle is not his, is asked by senator to please unthrottle it* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
- *The contractor planning the Pentagon's future of warfare imposes a 100 mph speed limit on Ukraine's air defense* By Sterling · the morning edition, 14 October 2026
- *Pentagon breach headline reads "over 3 million," the story beneath it still counts 2.76 million.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *Record $276 million donation and $40 million Republican edge clear every campaign finance rule on the books* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026
- *Coalition invokes decades-old ownership limit to stop consolidation; FCC repeals the limit, 2-1* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 10 October 2026
- *FCC repeals media ownership limits 2-1 while ABC quietly thins the report on Pentagon contracts for Trump's sons.* By The Wrecking Crew · the morning edition, 10 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 05:06 EDT

A huge attack cut power to 600,000 people in Kyiv, and a Pentagon-funded satellite internet program appeared to be curbed without warning.

Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds

BBC News MAINSTREAM 00:30 EDT

Ukraine says Starlink access has improved but it is still facing speed limits which are disrupting its battlefield "missions".

But: **Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of taking office — CNN counted 53 separate times he said it** CNN fact-check, *25 April 2025 (18 months)*

Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure

Le Monde MAINSTREAM 04:38 EDT

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he felt 'betrayed,' as the US is threatening to halt intelligence sharing and new restrictions on the Starlink satellite network hamper the country's defense capacities.

Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine that Zelensky warns will cost lives

New York Post RIGHT 19:06 EDT

Tech titan Elon Musk indicated the Trump administration, not SpaceX, caused the throttling of a military version of Starlink in Ukraine that set off panic in the war-torn country.

~~US may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes~~

Trump administration may have withheld warnings before a strike that killed 6, cut power to 600,000: sources

CBS News MAINSTREAM 19:56 EDT

The Trump administration may have withheld intelligence warnings to Ukraine about Russian strikes that killed 6 and cut power to 600,000 people, sources say.

U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 19:11 EDT

Confusion about the U.S. stance has mounted in Kyiv amid restrictions on how the military version of Starlink is used.

~~Ukrainian officials accuse US of withholding intelligence leading to deadly strikes~~

The U.S. threatened to stop warning Ukraine about Russian strikes — Trump says the strikes raise gas prices.

CBS News MAINSTREAM 19:55 EDT

Ukrainian officials suspect the U.S. has been withholding information about incoming Russian air strikes. The U.S.

~~Moderate Zelensky should go as deaths grow over US support for Ukraine~~

Ukraine's battlefield satellites belong to one company. Musk says blame Washington for any cutoff.

France 24 MAINSTREAM 16:19 EDT

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to "go" after Kyiv raised doubts over US support for his country against the Russian invasion. A day earlier, Musk said any restrictions on Ukraine's use of the Starshield system would be due to decisions made by the US government after Zelensky called on…

But: **Trump promised he'd end the war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — CNN counted 53 separate occasions he made that promise** CNN fact-check, *25 April 2025 (53 instances)*

Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy

ABC News MAINSTREAM 22:36 EDT

Trump declared a ceasefire, but both sides are still shooting.

Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes

CBS News MAINSTREAM 19:39 EDT

Ukrainian officials tell CBS News that the Starlink missile tracker owned by Elon Musk failed amid a new wave of Russian strikes on Tuesday. CBS News' Charlie D'Agata has the details.

Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 12:10 EDT

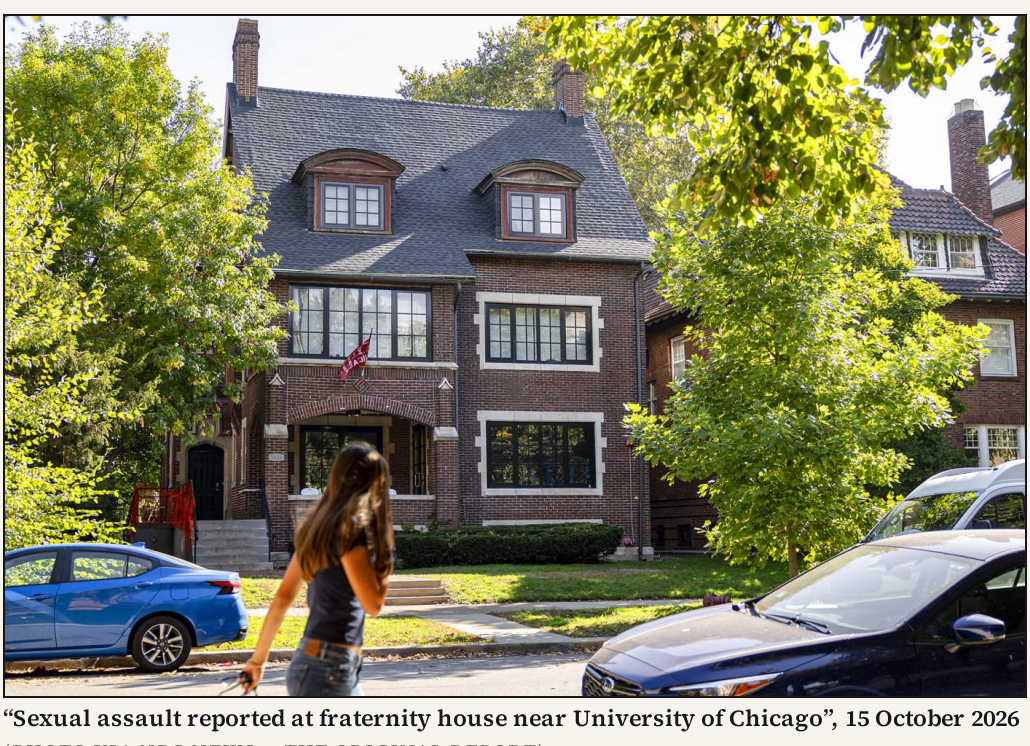
Ukrainian leader says he was surprised by Trump's 'energy ceasefire' announcement, posted as Russian drones hit Kyiv Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed to respond to Russia's continuing attacks on the Ukrainian power grid as European leaders rally around Kyiv amid a feud with Donald Trump over Ukraine's strikes on oil refineries. Speaking to…

- Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*
- A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*
- Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*

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Cornell named an outside reviewer; Chicago named a person of interest. Neither named anyone responsible.

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS



"Sexual assault reported at fraternity house near University of Chicago", 15 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. University of Chicago named a person of interest in a frat assault while Cornell's 2024 case remains uncharged.

WHO GETS PAID. Cornell's administration, which buys time with a trustee-ordered outside review instead of facing the faculty's no-confidence vote.

WHAT SLIPS. The faculty's vote on the president slips behind a review the trustees control, and public accountability slips behind a person-of-interest alert with no arrest.

WHAT'S NEXT. Cornell's faculty senate is moving toward a no-confidence vote on the president; no arrest date has been set in either school's case, and none is on the calendar yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 3, Cornell's own crime log confirmed what a lawsuit had already alleged: campus police made a drug arrest at a fraternity house twenty-two hours before a former student says she was drugged and raped in that same house. The log does not connect the two incidents. The university has not connected the larger case either — not since the district attorney, Matthew Van Houten, decided there wasn't enough evidence to charge the seven men the 2024 lawsuit names.

Three days later, on October 6, Cornell's trustees announced their answer: Sally Yates, once the Justice Department's second-ranking official, would review how the university handles sexual misconduct complaints. The same week, the state handed the underlying case to a special prosecutor the sitting president has publicly called biased. Faculty did not wait for either review....

...(cont) This week, a fraternity party near a different university produced the same police blotter. A 21-year-old woman told University of Chicago police she was sexually assaulted early Sunday morning at an off-campus frat house. By Tuesday the school had issued a community alert naming a person of interest. The suspect fled the scene and has not been found.

All together now — set the two institutions' responses side by side and read them in order: name an outside reviewer, or name a person of interest; either way, do not say the word arrest. University of Chicago is four days into its version of that sequence and already ahead of Cornell on the one count that matters to a victim — it has named someone connected to the case. Cornell has had its case open since 2024, with a lawsuit, a trustee-ordered review, and a prosecutor under public suspicion, and its count of people charged, after two years, remains zero.

"They hire a lawyer to review the paperwork before police even finish looking for the guy who did it. Call it a review, call it a community alert — it's the same move, name a process, not a suspect. My kid's dorm could burn down and the first call wouldn't be 911, it'd be the PR office."

— Sal

"You want Cornell to just convict seven men because a lawsuit says so? There's a process — Sally Yates is a serious person, this is diligence, this is thoroughness. Did I just compare a misconduct review to a guy who ran from a frat house? That's not the same thing. Forget I said that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *New York Times prints the university crisis playbook; Cornell and Chicago are already following it.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 15 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Police search for suspect who fled scene in alleged sexual assault at UChicago frat party

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:28 EDT*

Police are searching for a suspect who fled after allegedly sexually assaulting someone at a University of Chicago off-campus fraternity party. Lilia Luciano has more.

Sexual assault reported at fraternity house near University of Chicago

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *10:51 EDT*

A person of interest has been identified after a 21-year-old woman told police that she was sexually assaulted at a fraternity party near the University of Chicago last weekend, amid national outrage over sexual misconduct on college campuses.

Police investigating report of sexual assault at frat house near University of Chicago; person of interest identified

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:30 EDT*

A person of interest has been identified in connection with a sexual assault that was reported early Sunday morning at a fraternity house near the University of Chicago campus, the school announced Tuesday in a community alert.

· Former Obama official will review Cornell's handling of sexual misconduct complaints *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Trump is fueling a culture of misogynistic impunity *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Cornell University police made drug arrest hours before alleged sexual assault *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Cornell University police made drug arrest hours before alleged sexual assault *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

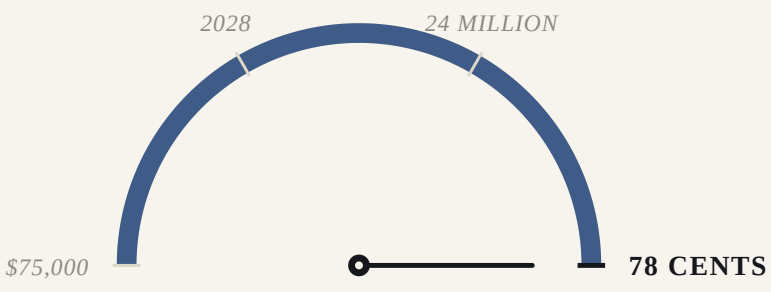
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§62 — 15 OCTOBER 2026

On Social Security

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



78 CENTS

What they add up to. The deduction is not an exemption: it phases out above $75,000 of income for a single filer and $150,000 for a couple, and it ends after 2028 [1]. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that about 24 million people will still owe tax on their benefits [2]. The agency that pays them is down about 7,000 employees, to a workforce near 50,000, its smallest in decades [3].

And the number underneath all of it. The 2026 Trustees Report projects the retirement trust fund depleted in the fourth quarter of 2032, after which 78 percent of scheduled benefits would be payable; the combined funds last to the third quarter of 2034 [4]. The promise was not to hurt anybody on Social Security. Under current law, from 2032, the arithmetic takes 22 cents of every dollar.

SOURCES

1. The senior deduction phases out above $75,000 ($150,000 joint) and applies for 2025 through 2028 — Internal Revenue Service ↑
2. About 24 million people would still owe tax on their benefits, per the Joint Committee on Taxation — PBS NewsHour, 2 July 2025 ↑
3. About 7,000 staff cut; a workforce near 50,000, the lowest in decades — Federal News Network, 10 June 2026 ↑
4. OASI trust fund depleted in the fourth quarter of 2032, with 78 percent of benefits payable; combined funds to the third quarter of 2034 — National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, analysis of the 2026 Trustees Report, June 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



NO TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The promise came in two parts. The tax: "Seniors should not pay tax on Social Security," posted in July 2024; last summer he said the bill delivered "no tax on Social Security" [1]. The program: "One thing I said and I gave my word — we're not going to hurt anybody on Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security" [2].

There are receipts on this side. The law created an extra $6,000 deduction for each person 65 and older, for 2025 through 2028, open to people who do not itemize [3]. And the agency, after cutting staff, says its phones got faster: average waits down 89 percent, from 42 minutes to under five, with more than 2,000 employees moved to the phone lines [4]. A bigger deduction and a shorter hold are things a retiree can feel. What they add up to is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "Seniors should not pay tax on Social Security" (31 July 2024); "no tax on Social Security" (29 June 2025), rated Mostly False — PolitiFact, 30 June 2025 ↑
2. "One thing I said and I gave my word — we're not going to hurt anybody on Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security" — ABC News, 27 August 2025 ↑
3. An additional $6,000 deduction per person 65 or older for 2025 through 2028, phasing out above $75,000 ($150,000 joint) — Internal Revenue Service ↑
4. About 7,000 staff cut, a workforce near 50,000; more than 2,000 moved to phones; average phone waits down 89 percent, from 42 minutes to under 5, per the agency — Federal News Network, 10 June 2026 ↑

“My sister-in-law turned sixty-five this year, so she's the expert in our house now. She got the new deduction, six thousand dollars — but only through 2028, and it shrinks once you're over seventy-five thousand. And the tax people in Congress say about twenty-four million people will still pay tax on their benefits anyway. Then she showed me the trustees' report. The retirement fund runs out in the last part of 2032, and after that it pays seventy-eight percent. Excuse me, I forgot my hat. The deduction ends after 2028, and the fund after 2032. Which of those two was the one he promised nobody would hurt?” — Lou

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“"No tax on Social Security." What passed was a six-thousand-dollar deduction for people over sixty-five, phasing out above seventy-five grand, gone after 2028 — and about twenty-four million people still owe tax on their benefits. That's not no tax. That's a coupon. And the retirement trust fund runs dry in the last quarter of 2032, when the check drops to seventy-eight cents on the dollar. He promised not to touch it. Under current law, the arithmetic touches it for him.”

— Sal

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“The deduction means no tax on Social Security for everyone who wasn't paying tax on Social Security, and for the twenty-four million who still are, it's no tax on Social Security in spirit, which is the more important place to have no tax.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎