The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Press secretary fired after five days, replacing the Scaramucci as American politics' base unit of time

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a press secretary, which does not keep. You will need five days: Katie Zacharia was picked on the ninth of October and fired on Friday, five days after she took the job, which a White House official told the Guardian before anyone had announced it formally.

For the rest you will need a conservative commentator who had been a communications adviser at Trump Media and Technology Group; the vacancy left by Karoline Leavitt, who went in August; a law degree from Pepperdine, 2011, which the university confirms; and the midterm elections, less than a month off. No, you cannot substitute.

Clive *Does not keep. Nothing I write keeps either, not in this house, and I am the only one at this table producing anything at all.*

Gary *You are producing a smell of toast and a locked door. I could have that door off in an afternoon and the house would thank me for the light.*

Begin on Tuesday, with the first briefing: fourteen minutes of it, and widely panned. That one went on the floor in front of the whole room. Anthony Scaramucci, whom the president made communications director in

... Continued on Page A215

THE WORD

§63 — 16 OCTOBER 2026

On the worst of the worst

DEMOCRAT

70.6 PERCENT

REPUBLICAN

THE WORST OF THE WORST

"I read the phrase in three places. The press secretary: "a focus on the worst of the worst criminals." The department, on the anniversary: ICE "unleashed" on "the worst of the worst." Then I went to the clearinghouse that counts the detention population, just to meet a few of them. July: sixty-five thousand seven hundred sixty-five people in detention. Forty-six thousand four hundred thirty-six with no criminal conviction. Seventy point six percent. Excuse me — I'm going — one question. If the worst of the worst are thirty percent of the beds, who's in the other seventy?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W63

Deportation case over Omar's childhood paperwork gains a witness scared of her father in 1977.

BY LOU
One More Question

I was hoping somebody at the New York Post could do me a favor and walk me through one sentence they ran this week — "people were scared of him" — because I've been carrying it around since this morning and I can't work out which part of the file it goes in.

The Post does this kind of work every day. They found a former Somali army officer, got him on the record about a man he served with decades ago, and ran it. I do something like this once a year, when a thing won't sit still, so I'm asking them straight, because on this they know the business better than I do.

Here's what I've got written down. Hold on, it's in the glovebox with the registration — the car's been making a sound since Tuesday and the fellow at the corner says fan belt. Ah. Here.

Monday the twelfth, morning: federal agents search Representative Ilhan Omar's home in Washington. Agents with the Department of Homeland Security, per Common Dreams. The Justice Department confirms the search was carried out on a judicially authorized warrant, part of an ongoing crimi-

... Continued on Page T27

Federal officials dismantle election-threat unit, learn Republican offices are also on the mailing list

BY LOU
One More Question

I need a favor, and it's the kind of favor where I'm the one who doesn't know anything. There's a single word in a newspaper story I can't get to the bottom of, and the word is abandoned.

You people do this every day. You read these things for a living, you know which office does what. I've done it once, this week, in a notebook, with a pen I borrowed off the counter at the corner store and never gave back.

Hang on. It's in the coat, the coat's in the car, the car's the one with the fan belt — no, here, I dog-eared it. October 1st, the Guardian. I wrote the sentence down the way they printed it: the administration "has abandoned key security bodies meant to investigate direct threats to US elections by foreign actors and domestic terrorists." Former officials say so. A recent report says so. And the same story says officials have been actively focused on unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud by noncitizens, while credible threats were overlooked. Overlooked is their word, not mine.

So here's the simple question, and I apologize for how simple it is: when a direct threat arrives, which office opens the envelope?

... Continued on Page A214

Blair's rep says she did not intend to harm anyone; the charge sheet is up to three.

BY MITCH
Investigations

The first statement from Selma Blair's representatives arrived Friday, five days after a Delta flight from Los Angeles to Kennedy.

Sit with the verb. Intent is the element the statement contests, and it is the only element the statement contests. By Friday the week had already finished assembling the rest. The statement moves none of those three. It declines to engage with them at all, politely, in the passive register that publicists reserve for a count they cannot shrink.

Then there is the other document, the one argued in court on Tuesday. Her lawyer told the judge about a head injury and missed MS medication — a defense about a body, which is a serious thing and deserves a serious hearing. In the same breath, the same lawyers asked for leniency on the grounds that their client is "the gold standard." Two arguments in one room: one holding that a person was not in control of a body, the other that the person is the finest available example of one. By the Post's account of the hearing, the Queens judge was not persuaded.

Follow the last clause. The Fox version of Friday's statement includes the

... Continued on Page A214

Republicans' "enormous" financial advantage now requires a $150 million personal check from Elon Musk

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Republican Senate candidates, he wrote, carry an "enormous" financial advantage into the final three weeks, a spending tsunami that could drown Democratic chances. I reconcile filings against tables for a living, so I pulled the table.

AdImpact's tracking supports the tsunami. That is the money. The advantage is the line item I could not locate.

Byron York had filed comparable arithmetic on October 7: unlikely to keep the House, the Senate a toss-up. The Cook Political Report moved eleven House districts toward Democrats in one week. Back on September 22, Sabato's Crystal Ball moved three Senate races and four governorships left — Iowa from Leans Republican to Toss-up — citing a persistently poor national environment.

Then this morning the quarterly filings landed, which is where a reconciliation usually gets settled. Across more than a dozen competitive Senate races, Democratic candidates raised $253 million from July through September. Republican candidates in those same races raised $56 million.

... Continued on Page F120

CBS Sports' 'proven model' predicts four football winners and the wind with equal certainty, same day.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

Four of today's five headlines pair the word "prediction" with the word "odds" in the same breath, SportsLine selling the bet and the story in one sentence, no label, no wall between the newsroom and the sportsbook. This reporter is begging somebody to move this to the business desk, because sports can't police its own betting arm.

... Continued on Page S18

CDC meets 4,400-case measles outbreak with a plan to send one detective.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Measles elimination, the certificate the United States earned in 2000 after decades of vaccination work, is being lived through backward this month, and the nation's reinforcement is one employee.

Pennsylvania's health department counted 903 cases on September 28, after 115 new infections in a single week. By October 3 the count stood at 977, across 39 counties. Two days later it passed 1,004 — the largest outbreak any state has recorded in more than thirty years — and five Pennsylvania residents had already died of it. New York, watching its own numbers rise, declared a state of emergency the same week the national total passed 3,800.

On October 10 the CDC set the national count at 4,080 cases across 47 states and Washington, D.C., with more than a quarter of them in Pennsylvania alone. Today the national count is 4,400. The agency's response, announced this week, is a single "disease detective," who the CDC says it plans to send to Pennsylvania.

One detective, promised to one state, for an outbreak now standing in 47 states and the capital. The staffing was the problem from the start. A disease

... Continued on Page H14

Protester interrupts Maine Senate debate about data centers; debate about data centers interrupted by jokes about the protester

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

THE WRECKING CREW kept the blueprints from last week's job open on the bench. The chief ran the inventory out loud, because the job kept growing drawers. On September 25, Palm Beach County's commission reached into its own code and pulled out permitting authority that had been sitting there the whole time: a 6-0 vote, a one-year moratorium on any data center over 50 megawatts. Memphis had already used a different tool from a different drawer, a zoning fight paired with a primary ballot, to slow down Elon Musk's xAI. Washington State had its own tool, a utility-siting statute that predates this entire fight by years, still sitting on the shelf, never retired. Then two more tools turned up on the bench: Ohio Senator Bernie Moreno's bill to tax local data-center subsidies at 100 percent, and Texas governor candidate Gina Hinojosa's promise of a moratorium of her own if she wins.

Thursday night the job moved to a stage in Maine. The planner stood back and admired how the pieces kept finding each other without anybody planning it: zoning board, primary ballot, utility statute, a tax bill in Congress, a campaign promise in Texas, and now a debate floor. A protester stood up

... Continued on Page A214

"Nothing up there is a conspiracy. That's the part that should worry you — it's all on the record, filed, stamped, and in a couple of cases notarized."

— *Sal*

"Nothing here is a scandal. A scandal requires surprise, and I can assure you nobody involved was surprised."

— *Chip*

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Deportation case over Omar's childhood paperwork gains a witness scared of her father in 1977.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Trump's Attempt to Deport Ilhan Omar Is Another Leap Toward the Abyss", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal agents searched Representative Ilhan Omar's Washington home over immigration paperwork her late father filled out when she was a child.

WHO GETS PAID. The president and the Republicans who spent years calling for her deportation now have a criminal case to point at.

WHAT SLIPS. Minnesota voters picked their representative; a case built on a dead man's old forms moves that choice to federal agents.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the case holds, years pass before a court sorts it out. That is what Castle Hills, Texas got after July 2019: a councilwoman arrested over a council fight saw the charge dropped, won at the Supreme Court, and the city paid $500,000 six years later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I was hoping somebody at the New York Post could do me a favor and walk me through one sentence they ran this week — "people were scared of him" — because I've been carrying it around since this morning and I can't work out which part of the file it goes in.

The Post does this kind of work every day. They found a former Somali army officer, got him on the record about a man he served with decades ago, and ran it. I do something like this once a year, when a thing won't sit still, so I'm asking them straight, because on this they know the business better than I do....

...(cont) Here's what I've got written down. Hold on, it's in the glovebox with the registration — the car's been making a sound since Tuesday and the fellow at the corner says fan belt. Ah. Here.

Monday the twelfth, morning: federal agents search Representative Ilhan Omar's home in Washington. Agents with the Department of Homeland Security, per Common Dreams. The Justice Department confirms the search was carried out on a judicially authorized warrant, part of an ongoing criminal investigation. That's their word, ongoing.

CBS, the same day, sources: the probe is yearslong, and it concerns immigration paperwork that was completed by her late father when she was a child. CBS notes two other things in the same breath. She is a United States citizen. She is the first Somali American in Congress.

Then her side, which I wrote down too. Monday she called the search "an attempt to target political enemies." Common Dreams adds the piece I had forgotten: the search came after years of calls by the president and other Republicans to deport her.

Today the New York Times runs a piece on an attempt to deport her, and says it is "more than just another persecution of one of the president's political enemies." The Daily Caller, same day, works the legal end — what a deportation would and wouldn't reach. And today the Post runs the officer, who says Omar's father, Nur, played an "important part" in the Somali-Ethiopian war between July 1977 and March 1978.

Here's where I need the help, and I expect it's simple to somebody who does it daily.

I keep a box in the garage with a bank passbook my father opened for me when I was eleven. He filled in the card himself. His handwriting, his numbers, including one line I couldn't have told you the meaning of at the time. He's gone. The passbook isn't. Last spring I stood in the bank line forty minutes to change an address and the young woman at the window asked me for a document from 1961, and I went out to the garage and found it in the box.

So if a line on that card is wrong, who answers for it — the man who wrote it, or the kid whose name is printed on top? That's a real question. I'd like the answer.

And the other half, which is the part I keep coming back to, and I apologize for it. Suppose a man came forward and told the bank he worked a loading dock with my father and found him hard to be around for eight months. Which line on the card does that correct? Does the bank move a number?

Oh — I'm sorry, you've got your coat on already. One thing and I'll let you go.

The paperwork hasn't changed since Monday, has it? Same forms, same man who filled them out, and CBS says the probe has been going on for years. So between Monday and today, what arrived that's new — a line on the form, or the sentence you ran? And if the eight months between July of 1977 and March of 1978 don't touch a box on a child's application, what does your officer's sentence do that a judicially authorized warrant couldn't, besides tell a reader that in a war that ended in March of 1978, somebody was scared?

"They kicked in the morning on a sitting congresswoman who is a citizen, over forms her dead father filled out when she was a kid, and the probe's been grinding for years without producing anything but a morning raid. Now the forms are doing deportation work they can't carry, so here comes a guy with a story about her father in a war that wrapped up in March of 1978. That's the con: when the document won't convict, you go find somebody to be afraid of."
— Sal

"A judge signed that warrant — a judge, not the president, so the whole political-enemy framing collapses right there. Was the war story our idea? That doesn't sound like me; the Post found the officer, we just read it like everybody else. And look, nobody's saying a child's immigration forms are her fault, we're saying the file is the file, and if the file's clean she has nothing to worry about, which, did I say clean? I said the process works."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Ilhan Omar's childhood paperwork draws a federal raid and the right's own concession it changes no votes.* By Lou · the morning edition, 16 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump's Attempt to Deport Ilhan Omar Is Another Leap Toward the Abyss

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:25 EDT*

This is more than just another persecution of one of the president's political enemies.

~~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...

~~US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar~~

Federal agents raided a congresswoman's home over paperwork her late father filed when she was a child

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *11:13 EDT*

US federal agents on Monday launched a raid on the Washington home of Democratic representative Ilhan Omar, an outspoken critic of US President Donald Trump, officials said. The raid followed a criminal fraud investigation into the Somali-born lawmaker's immigration paperwork submitted by her late father when she was a child, Fox...

'Part of the Fascist Playbook': Ilhan Omar Condemns Trump DHS Raid on Her Home

Common Dreams § *06:03 EDT*

US Rep. Ilhan Omar on Monday forcefully condemned the Department of Homeland Security's raid on her Washington, DC home as part of a broader effort to weaponize federal law enforcement against progressives who oppose President Donald Trump's agenda. "This is part of the fascist playbook to rile up Trump's die-hard supporters and give...

'I served with Ilhan Omar's father in the Somali military — people were scared of him': ex-officer

New York Post RIGHT § *15:15 EDT*

Nur played an "important part" in the Somali-Ethiopian war between July 1977 and March 1978, the former army officer claimed.

But: **The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business** *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche 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.

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.

Federal officials dismantle election-threat unit, learn Republican offices are also on the mailing list

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Federal investigation of letters with suspicious substances widens", 16 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I need a favor, and it's the kind of favor where I'm the one who doesn't know anything. There's a single word in a newspaper story I can't get to the bottom of, and the word is abandoned.

You people do this every day. You read these things for a living, you know which office does what. I've done it once, this week, in a notebook, with a pen I borrowed off the counter at the corner store and never gave back....

...(cont) Hang on. It's in the coat, the coat's in the car, the car's the one with the fan belt — no, here, I dog-eared it. October 1st, the Guardian. I wrote the sentence down the way they printed it: the administration "has abandoned key security bodies meant to investigate direct threats to US elections by foreign actors and domestic terrorists." Former officials say so. A recent report says so. And the same story says officials have been actively focused on unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud by noncitizens, while credible threats were overlooked. Overlooked is their word, not mine.

So here's the simple question, and I apologize for how simple it is: when a direct threat arrives, which office opens the envelope?

The day after that story — October 2nd, I had to flip back twice to find it — a Republican-led state election board in Georgia asked the administration to look into Georgia's voting systems. So somebody is looking into something. I wrote "fine" in the margin. I've since put a box around "fine."

Two weeks on, October 15th: the FBI and the Postal Service are investigating letters containing an unknown substance, mailed to election offices. Louisiana. Oklahoma. Ohio. Three states, and in each one a person who runs elections opening the mail at a desk.

Then CBS, this week: the letters went to state election officials and to congressional offices. Then Friday — that's today, I checked the date on my own notebook — NBC reports the investigation has widened, because some Republicans have been identified as targets of the mailings.

Now here's where I need the help, because I keep getting turned around, and I'll show you with the only thing I've got.

There's a toll plaza on my way in. Used to be a fellow in a booth. They took the booth out, put in the machine, and one morning last spring the machine took my dollar and the gate arm stayed down. Behind me, a line. On the barrier there's a sign with a number on it. I called the number from the shoulder, smoking a cigar I shouldn't have, and the recording told me to use the website, and the website told me to call the number. Fifteen minutes, and the honest answer to "who's supposed to help me" turned out to be: the sign. Now, the sign isn't lying to anybody. The sign's doing exactly what a sign does. It just doesn't open anything.

So that's my trouble. The bodies meant to investigate direct threats from domestic terrorists — the report says those were the bodies for this — and the thing that arrived is a letter with an unknown substance in it, mailed to an election office. If the investigating is being done, and the FBI and the Postal Service say it is, which desk is the sign?

Excuse me — sorry, that's my elbow on your door, I'll be out of your way. One more thing and I'll let you go. The report that used that word came out October 1st. The letters turned up October 15th. Fourteen days between them, and now the targets include members of the majority party, which is the reason the thing got bigger on a Friday. So when a congressman's office calls to ask who's handling it, they're calling the body in the Guardian's sentence. And the word in that sentence, the one I came in here about, the one I've got written down right here — abandoned.

🍺

"They told us the threat to elections was noncitizens voting, then they walked away from the units built to chase actual threats — that's the con, you pick the scary story you can't prove so you can quit the one you can. Now the unknown-substance letters are turning up at election offices in three states and at congressional offices, and the thing that finally made it "widen" is that some Republicans got mail too. The clerk in Oklahoma opening that envelope doesn't have a unit behind her, and she never got asked."

— Sal

🚬

"Nobody abandoned anything, resources were realigned — did I say abandoned? That doesn't sound like me, that's the Guardian's word, take it up with them. And look, the FBI and the Postal Service are on it right now, which is what you want, real agents, not some standing body that holds meetings. Was the body holding meetings? I'd have to check, but the point is it isn't needed, which is why Republican offices are now being added to the thing it isn't needed for."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Federal officials disband election-threat unit, then investigate powdery letters sent to election offices* By Lou · the evening edition, 16 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Federal investigation of letters with suspicious substances widens

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *17:07 EDT*

A federal investigation of letters containing unknown substances that were mailed to elected officials' offices has expanded as some Republicans have been identified as targets of the mailings, a person with direct knowledge of the investigation told NBC News on Friday.

Feds probing suspicious letters to election officials, lawmakers

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:42 EDT*

Federal investigators said they are looking into suspicious letters containing unknown substances that were mailed to state election officials and congressional offices.

· Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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Blair's rep says she did not intend to harm anyone; the charge sheet is up to three.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Selma Blair 'did not intend to harm anyone' in airplane incident, rep says in first statement since arrest", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Selma Blair's representative said she did not intend to harm anyone aboard a Delta flight, after she pleaded not guilty.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. She pleaded not guilty, so the counts go back to a Queens courtroom. The next filing has to answer the two flight attendants and the nurse, not the question of intent.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The first statement from Selma Blair's representatives arrived Friday, five days after a Delta flight from Los Angeles to Kennedy.

Sit with the verb. Intent is the element the statement contests, and it is the only element the statement contests. By Friday the week had already finished assembling the rest. The statement moves none of those three. It declines to engage with them at all, politely, in the passive register that publicists reserve for a count they cannot shrink....

...(cont) Then there is the other document, the one argued in court on Tuesday. Her lawyer told the judge about a head injury and missed MS medication — a defense about a body, which is a serious thing and deserves a serious hearing. In the same breath, the same lawyers asked for leniency on the grounds that their client is "the gold standard." Two arguments in one room: one holding that a person was not in control of a body, the other that the person is the finest available example of one. By the Post's account of the hearing, the Queens judge was not persuaded.

Follow the last clause. The Fox version of Friday's statement includes the detail that authorities took her service dog. That is the single line in the whole release describing something done to her rather than something she did not mean, it is checkable, and if it happened it is worth a filing of its own. It arrives shoulder to shoulder with "much more to this story," the oldest sentence in the genre, and it is Friday evening, and the rest of the story is not attached.

What is supposed to happen when a passenger has a medical emergency in a sealed aluminum tube is treatment. Instead the record shows an arrest, a hospital, a second accusation at the hospital, and then, on day five, a sentence about what was in someone's mind. Note that the sentence is available at all. The other version gets a statement, a plea, and a memo calling the defendant a standard.

The statement names the dog. It does not name the three.

"Listen to what that sentence doesn't say — "did not intend to harm anyone" doesn't say the two attendants weren't bitten and struck, and it doesn't say the nurse wasn't kicked; it says we'd like to litigate the inside of a head instead of the outside of a chest. And the same lawyers who told the judge she wasn't in control of her body asked for a break because she's the gold standard, which is two arguments that can't both be true in one room. Anybody else has that emergency on that flight, there's no memo, no Friday statement, no "much more to this story" — there's a transport van and a court date."

— Sal

"Look, this was a medical emergency — a head injury, missed MS medication, and they took her service dog, which nobody wants to talk about because it doesn't fit the narrative. Nobody's saying nothing happened; what we're saying is intent, and intent is the whole ballgame, legally. Did I say ballgame? That doesn't sound like me. There is much more to this story, and we'll be releasing it at the appropriate time."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Selma Blair 'did not intend to harm anyone' in airplane incident, rep says in first statement since arrest

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *17:23 EDT*

A representative for Selma Blair came to her defense on Friday, just days after the actress pleaded not guilty after being arrested on two counts of second-degree assault in connection to a physical incident on a plane.

Selma Blair accused of kicking nurse hours after JFK plane arrest

Fox News RIGHT § *11:03 EDT*

Selma Blair allegedly kicked a nurse in the chest at a Queens hospital hours after her arrest for an incident aboard a Delta flight to JFK Airport.

Selma Blair's lawyer SPEAKS OUT at COURT!

New York Post RIGHT § *12:03 EDT*

We have new details on Nick Reiner's trust fund dropping a cool $350k for lawyer Alan Jackson. Plus, actor Bryan Cranston shares an emotional tribute after the tragic death of his Breaking Bad TV son RJ Mitte, and Selma Blair's lawyer blames a head injury and missed MS meds for her wild airport arrest. Meanwhile,...

Selma Blair's rep speaks out after star's arrest: 'Much more to this story'

Fox News RIGHT § *16:03 EDT*

Selma Blair's rep says the actress had a medical emergency on the Delta flight and that authorities took her service dog, adding that she did not intend any harm.

Selma Blair arrested after allegedly biting flight attendant

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:44 EDT*

Actor Selma Blair was arrested after an incident on board a Delta Air Lines flight from Los Angeles to John F. Kennedy International Airport Sunday night.

Selma Blair breaks silence on arrest after mid-flight meltdown: 'There is much more to this story'

New York Post RIGHT § *15:01 EDT*

The "Hellboy" star was traveling on a Delta flight from LAX in Los Angeles to JFK in New York City when she allegedly became physically disruptive.

Selma Blair's lawyers seek leniency while calling her 'gold standard' — how no-nonsense NYC judge fired back

New York Post RIGHT § *13:35 EDT*

Lawyers for A-lister-chomping actress Selma Blair claimed to a Queens judge she deserved a break after her second bizarre mid-air meltdown because she is "the gold standard."

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THE LEDGER

Republicans' "enormous" financial advantage now requires a $150 million personal check from Elon Musk

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Democrats rake in cash, Musk takes center stage for GOP: 5 takeaways from latest fundraising hauls", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Elon Musk wired more than $150 million to a Senate Republican group backing Ken Paxton.

WHO GETS PAID. Paxton's campaign, and the Senate Leadership Fund network, which pulled its North Carolina ads and spends where Musk spends.

WHAT SLIPS. Which races voters see argued now follows one donor's check instead of the donors in those states.

WHAT'S NEXT. If one donor can set the budget for a seat, the price of seats keeps climbing; Kentucky's House primary on 19 May 2026 cost $37 million, the most ever spent on a House primary, $7.4 million of it from a committee run by the president's advisers.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Republican Senate candidates, he wrote, carry an "enormous" financial advantage into the final three weeks, a spending tsunami that could drown Democratic chances. I reconcile filings against tables for a living, so I pulled the table.

AdImpact's tracking supports the tsunami. That is the money. The advantage is the line item I could not locate....

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Then this morning the quarterly filings landed, which is where a reconciliation usually gets settled. Across more than a dozen competitive Senate races, Democratic candidates raised $253 million from July through September. Republican candidates in those same races raised $56 million. Four and a half to one, hon, running the opposite direction from the warning.

James Talarico raised $60 million in Texas by himself — more, one candidate, than all the Republican candidates in those competitive races raised combined. Ken Paxton raised $18 million, which is accurately described as double his $9 million second quarter, in what is already the most expensive Senate race of the cycle.

So the difference arrives from outside the candidate column. Elon Musk wired over $150 million to a Senate Republican group assisting Paxton, called a decisive return to large-scale political giving by the richest man alive. In September, a separate committee — the Senate Leadership Fund's Austin-based Texas affiliate — had already moved $53.8 million into Paxton's campaign. Two legally distinct PACs, one network, one candidate who raised $18 million on his own.

The network has a budget like anyone. On October 2, the Senate Leadership Fund pulled its ad spending out of Michael Whatley's North Carolina race and redirected it to other candidates, triage against increasingly dire polling.

The word enormous describes the check, not the advantage. There is money. It is simply not distributed by vote.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES IN THE COMPETITIVE SENATE RACES RAISED $56 MILLION LAST quarter, and Elon Musk wired more than $150 million to a Senate Republican group assisting Ken Paxton. That isn't a donation, that's one man buying the Republican side of a ledger outright and getting a party committee's ad schedule thrown in. Because his money covers Paxton's air time in Texas, the Senate Leadership Fund pulled its own ads out of Michael Whatley's North Carolina race and moved them where the billionaire was already spending, so which Senate races get argued in front of voters at all this fall was settled by a wire transfer, and the ballot sitting on your kitchen table is where you find out which ones those were.

"Schumer says the other side has an enormous advantage, and then the filings show people in a dozen-plus competitive races gave Democrats $253 million and gave Republicans $56 million — and one man in a boardroom covered the difference twice over with a check. That's not a party raising money, that's one guy's checkbook standing in where a party's donors are supposed to be. And the same outfit that found $53.8 million for Paxton in September yanked its ads out of North Carolina in October, so somebody decided which states get an argument this fall, and it wasn't the people who live in them."

— Sal

"Money doesn't buy elections — if it did, the side raising four times as much would be winning, and they're not, they're just raising. So a $150 million contribution is really a vote of confidence in the Texas ground game, which is grassroots, deeply — did I say grassroots? That doesn't sound like me. And pulling the ads out of North Carolina isn't abandoning anybody, it's allocation, it's what you do when you have an enormous advantage."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Republicans' 'enormous' financial advantage buys them eleven more lost seats this week alone.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 16 October 2026
- *Talarico outraises Paxton three to one; Musk closes the gap with a $158 million check.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 16 October 2026
- *Rumor that Talarico died collapses in hours; his record $64 million quarter doesn't.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 15 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Democrats rake in cash, Musk takes center stage for GOP: 5 takeaways from latest fundraising hauls

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:05 EDT*

Democrats running in competitive Senate races are raking in cash as they race to close the financial gap with Republicans, who have been buoyed in part by Elon Musk and his super PAC. Democrat James Talarico's campaign for Texas Senate alone raised a staggering $60 million between July, August and September, while Sen. Jon Ossoff...

~~Musk donates over $150 million to Senate GOP group, assisting Paxton~~

Musk's $150 million could cover school supplies for 167,000 teachers who pay out of pocket

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:43 EDT*

Billionaire Elon Musk is offering a nine-figure assist to Texas GOP Senate candidate Ken Paxton, a decisive return to large-scale political giving for the world's richest man.

How Elon Musk is bankrolling GOP's hopes in Texas Senate race

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *15:25 EDT*

New campaign finance filings show the major role billionaire Elon Musk is playing in bankrolling GOP efforts against Democrat James Talarico in Texas.

Democratic Senate candidates swamp GOP rivals in fundraising

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *17:02 EDT*

Democratic candidates across more than a dozen competitive Senate races raised a combined $253 million from July through September, more than four times the $56 million raised by GOP candidates in those races.

· Republicans pull funding of Trump-backed Senate candidate in critical North Carolina race *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Paxton gets $54M boost from Senate Leadership Fund's Texas PAC *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

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

· Sabato's Crystal Ball moves 3 Senate, 4 gubernatorial races in Democrats' favor *from the morgue, 22 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.

CBS Sports' 'proven model' predicts four football winners and the wind with equal certainty, same day.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



"Miami vs. Florida State prediction, odds, time: Week 7 college football picks from proven model", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA CBS SPORTS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. CBS Sports' SportsLine model issued confident picks on college football games and a baseball weather call in one day.

WHO GETS PAID. CBS Sports' SportsLine, the betting-picks brand that sells the same odds it reports as news.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If predictions keep running without a public scorecard, the claims only get bigger, not more accountable; that is what Washington got after November 24, 2025: the efficiency office claimed $214 billion saved while independent tallies found only $1.4 billion to $7 billion documented.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Four of today's five headlines pair the word "prediction" with the word "odds" in the same breath, SportsLine selling the bet and the story in one sentence, no label, no wall between the newsroom and the sportsbook. This reporter is begging somebody to move this to the business desk, because sports can't police its own betting arm.

GUS HIS SIDE

This reporter has covered college football since the days of the hand-cranked scoreboard, and seldom has one outfit issued so many confident verdicts in a single news cycle. CBS Sports' SportsLine model went five for five on Friday, naming best bets for Appalachian State-Coastal Carolina, which this reporter will tell you kicks off Saturday afternoon in the Sun Belt.

GUS: Fine, Friday. The model also weighed in on the Big Ten showdown between LSU and Mississippi State, two programs this reporter has long associated with Columbus and West Lafayette.

GUS: Then there's the genuine Big Ten affair, No. 1 Ohio State against No. 2 Indiana, a matchup this reporter considers the crown jewel of Week 7.

GUS: What's more, this reporter is pleased to report the model is seeing Ohio State-Indiana for the very first time, fresh eyes on a fresh matchup.

GUS: And across in baseball, the Rays and Guardians meet Friday in what this reporter believes is a pivotal World Series clash, strong winds blowing in at Progressive Field to keep the score down.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

> *That game is Friday night, same as the headline says. Receipt's right there: "Week 7 college football Friday picks."*

> *LSU and Mississippi State play in the Southeastern Conference, and have since before either one of us was born. That one's the SEC, not the Big Ten.*

> *CBS has Ohio State fourth and Indiana fifth, not first and second. Close only counts in horseshoes, and this isn't even that close.*

> *It already saw it. The same SportsLine model listed Ohio State-Indiana back on Monday, October 12th, right alongside Alabama-Tennessee and Notre Dame-BYU. Four days, same game, same certainty both times.*

> *That's the ALCS, Game 4, not the World Series — the Rays haven't gotten there yet. Take the nap, sugar, and we'll try the pennant again after.*

> *Nobody appointed you to the business desk, and nobody asked. But the count holds: four of today's five headlines — Miami-FSU, LSU-Mississippi State, Ohio State-Indiana and App State-Coastal Carolina — do say "prediction, odds" right in the headline, CBS Sports' own words, printed the same day as everything else in this column.*

"They call it a "model," but it's just a guy with a parlay slip in a lab coat. Same company stamps "prediction, odds" on four football games in one day and doesn't have to show its record, because nobody's grading the homework. You lose money on the "best bet," they sell you next week's anyway."
— Sal

"Look, it's entertainment, odds move, that's the whole point of a market — wait, did I just say market? These are predictions, not investment advice, nobody's grading win rates because win rates aren't the product, confidence is the product. That's not spin, that's... okay, that's spin."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Miami vs. Florida State prediction, odds, time: Week 7 college football picks from proven model
CBS Sports § *09:17 EDT*
SportsLine's model revealed its best bets for the No. 3 Miami Hurricanes vs. FSU Seminoles in a Saturday ACC matchup

Ohio State vs. Indiana prediction, odds, time: Week 7 college football picks by proven model
CBS Sports § *08:34 EDT*
SportsLine's model has locked in its best bets for Saturday's Big Ten matchup between No. 4 Ohio State and the No. 5 Indiana Hoosiers

Appalachian State vs. Coastal Carolina prediction, odds: Week 7 college football Friday picks by proven model
CBS Sports § *08:21 EDT*
SportsLine's model revealed its best bets for Friday's matchup of the App State Mountaineers vs. Coastal Carolina Chanticleers

Rays vs. Guardians ALCS Game 4 picks: Strong winds blowing in at Progressive Field should keep run total down
CBS Sports § *09:53 EDT*
Weather should be a factor ALCS Game 4 as the Rays visit the Guardians on Friday

College football odds, picks, predictions for Week 7, 2026: Computer likes Penn State, Auburn
CBS Sports § *11:41 EDT*
SportsLine's model has revealed its 2026 Week 7 college football picks for matchups such as Ohio State vs. Indiana, Alabama vs. Tennessee and Notre Dame vs.

LSU vs. Mississippi State prediction, odds, time: Week 7 college football picks from proven model
CBS Sports § *08:57 EDT*
SportsLine's model revealed its best bets for Saturday's matchup of the Mississippi State Bulldogs and LSU Tigers

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CDC meets 4,400-case measles outbreak with a plan to send one detective.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"4,400 measles cases reported in US as CDC to send 'disease detective' to Pennsylvania", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The CDC said it will send one "disease detective" to Pennsylvania as the national measles count reached 4,400 on October 16.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's protection from a spreading, preventable disease slips, since the CDC's entire reinforcement for an outbreak in 47 states and the capital is one staffer.

WHAT'S NEXT. The CDC has not set a date to send more staff than the one detective. The next public check on whether the outbreak keeps climbing is Pennsylvania's own dashboard, which has tracked every hundred-case jump since September without federal help showing up in the numbers.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Measles elimination, the certificate the United States earned in 2000 after decades of vaccination work, is being lived through backward this month, and the nation's reinforcement is one employee.

Pennsylvania's health department counted 903 cases on September 28, after 115 new infections in a single week. By October 3 the count stood at 977, across 39 counties. Two days later it passed 1,004 — the largest outbreak any state has recorded in more than thirty years — and five Pennsylvania residents had already died of it. New York, watching its own numbers rise, declared a state of emergency the same week the national total passed 3,800....

...(cont) On October 10 the CDC set the national count at 4,080 cases across 47 states and Washington, D.C., with more than a quarter of them in Pennsylvania alone. Today the national count is 4,400. The agency's response, announced this week, is a single "disease detective," who the CDC says it plans to send to Pennsylvania.

One detective, promised to one state, for an outbreak now standing in 47 states and the capital. The staffing was the problem from the start. A disease the country certified gone in 2000 does not come back on malarkey; it comes back when nobody keeps paying the people whose job is to notice it early, county by county, the way Pennsylvania's own dashboard has been doing without federal reinforcement since September.

Measles elimination is survived by every county health office doing its own contact tracing this month, and by the dashboard Pennsylvania keeps updating on its own. It is preceded in death by the assumption, good through early October, that one state's count could not run to a quarter of the nation's; Pennsylvania passed that mark on the 10th. In lieu of flowers, fund the detectives ahead of the outbreak, not after the fourth thousandth case.

"They always find money for a ballroom or a tax break, but a disease we beat twenty-six years ago gets one guy with a notebook sent to a state already past a thousand cases. That's not a budget gap, that's a decision somebody signed off on, and the kid in the ER with the rash is the one who pays the difference."
— Sal

"The CDC is being efficient — why saturate a state with bureaucrats when one highly trained investigator can — well, cover four thousand four hundred cases across close to fifty states, I'll grant that math sounds thin out loud. Did I say "one investigator"? That's not — look, resources are being right-sized, and that's a perfectly normal sentence to say about a disease we eliminated."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *A disease the United States certified gone in 2000 just confirmed a sixth death in Pennsylvania this year.* By Mort · the evening edition, 12 October 2026
— *The country takes two finished projects back out of service: measles elimination, certified in 2000 and now at 1,004 cases in Pennsylvania, and the decades-old ownership limit, repealed 2-1 the week a coalition invoked it.* By Mort · the evening edition, 11 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: The last two years carry more measles cases than the rest of the century combined - the worst count since 1991 *The Hill / CDC measles data, July 2026*

4,400 measles cases reported in US as CDC to send 'disease detective' to Pennsylvania

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *10:51 EDT*

More than 4,400 measles cases have been reported in the U.S. as the CDC says it plans to send a "disease detective" to Pennsylvania.

ABC News Issues Correction After Appearing To Quietly Delete Story About Don Jr's Business Dealings

Daily Caller RIGHT § *15:45 EDT*

'ABC deleted this article in less than 24 hours because it's false'

~~ABC News quietly republishes gutted version of story on Trump sons it had deleted without explanation~~

Trump sons' investments tied to Pentagon contracts prompted ABC's correction

Fox News RIGHT § *11:18 EDT*

ABC News issued an editor's note admitting errors in its report on Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump's investments tied to Pentagon contracts.

~~Coalition Files Emergency Motion to Stop Trump FCC From Unleashing Media Consolidation Spree~~

Coalition sues to stop Trump's FCC from scrapping the cap keeping one company under 39% of US TV households

Common Dreams § *10:08 EDT*

A coalition of nonprofit groups and labor unions filed an emergency petition on Friday aimed at blocking the Federal Communications Commission's recent repeal of a decades-old rule that limited consolidation among television broadcasters, a move that would allow media conglomerates to seize even more control over local news stations. The...

But: The last two years carry more measles cases than the rest of the century combined - the worst count since 1991, after elimination was declared in 2000 *The Hill / CDC measles data, July 2026*

U.S. measles cases surpass 4,000, with over 25 percent coming from Pennsylvania

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *17:41 EDT*

U.S. measles cases this year have surpassed 4,000, with over 25 percent of the nation's reported infections coming from Pennsylvania, according to recently released data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are currently 4,080 measles cases reported across 47 states and Washington, D.C., the CDC confirmed...

· Pennsylvania nears 1,000 measles cases, state health department reports *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Pennsylvania faces largest measles outbreak in decades as case count rises to 1,000 *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Pennsylvania surpasses 900 measles cases *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· GOP senator calls for subpoenaing Donald Trump Jr. and Hunter Biden over their business dealings *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Republican senator calls for Don Jr. and Hunter Biden to be subpoenaed over business dealings *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP Sen. John Curtis calls for Trump Jr., Hunter Biden investigations *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Is Trump's son-in-law and top negotiator a midterm liability for Republicans? *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· White House Claims in Court Filing That Press Coverage of Trump Is a 'Privilege,' Not a Right *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· 'Dangerous for Democracy': Paramount Merger Opponents File Emergency Motion to Fight Settlement Deal *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Trump-Appointed Judge Orders President to Restore White House Access to CNN, MS NOW, and Politico *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return as 2026 juggernaut *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· An Elon Musk insider shares what he found in Washington — and it should terrify you *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump says tech CEOs signed 'morally binding' document to self-regulate artificial intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· READ IN FULL: Trump and tech leaders' White House Accord on Super Intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Soaring diesel prices take their toll on US farmers in midwest corn belt *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Inflation Could Soon 'Get a Lot More Painful' as Trump's Iran War Drives Diesel Over $6 a Gallon *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 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*

· States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 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*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 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*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran: 'Do I want to go in and annihilate them' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN investigators conclude 'reasonable grounds' to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision coming up' on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world's No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· The Hitchhiker's Guide to Massie saying Johnson is sending the House home early to prevent Hegseth impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'You're Elected to Fight and Kill the Other Side': How Congress Lost Its Way *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 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*

· Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 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.

Protester interrupts Maine Senate debate about data centers; debate about data centers interrupted by jokes about the protester

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



"Oh, shut up!': Democrat snaps at Collins after heckler drives Maine Senate debate off the rails", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A protester interrupted a Maine Senate debate on October 16 shouting about AI data centers; Collins and Jackson traded jokes instead.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The debate floor, the one place voters could hear both candidates answer the question, slipped into a punchline exchange instead.

WHAT'S NEXT. Local governments already have the tools to act without waiting on Congress or a campaign promise; that is what Palm Beach County got on September 25, 2026: a 6-0 vote using existing permitting code to pause data centers over 50 megawatts.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

THE WRECKING CREW kept the blueprints from last week's job open on the bench. The chief ran the inventory out loud, because the job kept growing drawers. On September 25, Palm Beach County's commission reached into its own code and pulled out permitting authority that had been sitting there the whole time: a 6-0 vote, a one-year moratorium on any data center over 50 megawatts. Memphis had already used a different tool from a different drawer, a zoning fight paired with a primary ballot, to slow down Elon Musk's xAI. Washington State had its own tool, a utility-siting statute that predates this entire fight by years, still sitting on the shelf, never retired. Then two more tools turned up on the bench: Ohio Senator Bernie Moreno's bill to tax local data-center subsidies at 100 percent, and Texas governor candidate Gina Hinojosa's promise of a moratorium of her own if she wins.

Thursday night the job moved to a stage in Maine. The planner stood back and admired how the pieces kept finding each other without anybody planning it: zoning board, primary ballot, utility statute, a tax bill in Congress, a campaign promise in Texas, and now a debate floor. A protester stood up shouting about AI data centers. Security moved to remove them. While they worked, Senator Susan Collins quipped: "So this is obviously one of Troy's supporters." Challenger Troy Jackson snapped back: "Oh, shut up."...

...(cont) The tinkerer looked at what was actually on the table once the noise cleared: no new law, no new statute, nothing built for the occasion. Just an old permitting code, an old zoning map, an old utility statute, a new federal tax bill, and a promise on a gubernatorial trail, all aimed at the same industry from five different directions.

The pilot is the one who gets a story like this to print, and tonight the only cargo worth carrying was the question nobody on that stage asked out loud: which drawer does Maine open next, the one Palm Beach already used, or one nobody's found yet. The tools are out of the box. The industry hasn't been stopped in Maine. It has been stopped in Memphis, Palm Beach County, and the state of Washington, by people who already had what they needed before anyone announced a plan.

"You got a protester screaming about data centers and the two people running for Senate turn it into a sitcom bit — "oh shut up," "that's one of his supporters" — meanwhile three different governments already used the stuff sitting in their own filing cabinets to actually stop this thing. Nobody needed a debate stage. Palm Beach didn't wait for permission, they just read their own zoning code. The con is making you think this needs a hero on a podium when it just needs somebody to open a drawer they already have the key to."

— Sal

"Collins didn't dodge anything — she made a joke. That's what you do when security's hauling someone out, you lighten the mood. As for the data-center fights, those are local matters — zoning, permitting, that's for cities and counties to sort out, not something that needs a federal... well, I guess Moreno's bill is federal. And the tax. Okay, maybe it does need Washington. Forget I said local."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump threatens towns with 'backward and poor'; his own party's senator moves to leave data centers broke instead.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 15 October 2026
- *Trump warns data-center holdouts go 'backwards and poor,' watches his own county vote 6-0 to join them.* By The Wrecking Crew · the morning edition, 15 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

'Oh, shut up!': Democrat snaps at Collins after heckler drives Maine Senate debate off the rails

Fox News RIGHT § *21:13 EDT*

A protester yelling about AI data centers sparked a fiery clash between Republican Sen. Susan Collins and Democratic challenger Troy Jackson.

Anti-data center protester crashes Maine Senate debate between Susan Collins and Troy Jackson

New York Post RIGHT § *21:38 EDT*

As the demonstrator was being dealt with by security, Collins quipped: "So this is obviously one of Troy's supporters."

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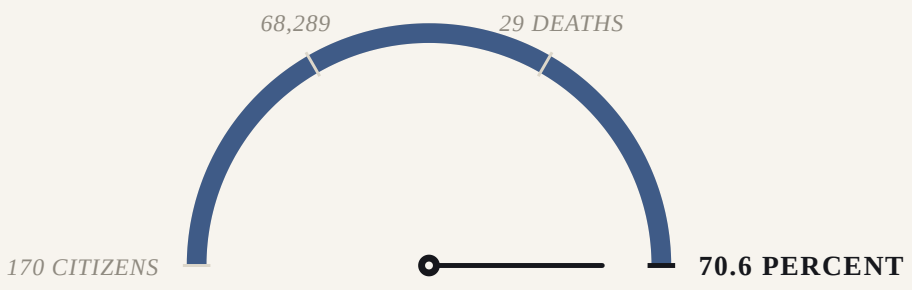
§63 — 16 OCTOBER 2026

On the worst of the worst

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



70.6 PERCENT

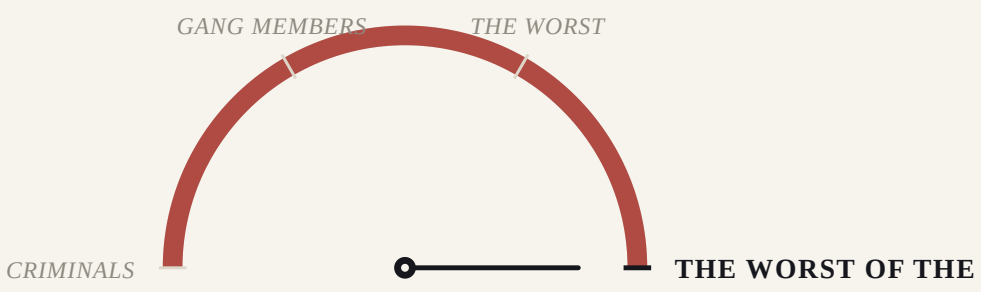
The beds. In July, TRAC counted 65,765 people in ICE detention; 46,436 of them, 70.6 percent, had no criminal conviction [1]. A year earlier the AP's count was 71.7 percent [2]. The population peaked at 68,289 in early February [3].

The people in them. NPR reported in April that 29 people had died in ICE custody since October, surpassing the previous record of 28, set in 2004 [4]; Human Rights Watch counted 52 deaths from January 20, 2025 through June 4, 2026 [5]. ProPublica documented more than 170 U.S. citizens held by immigration agents, nearly 20 of them children [6]. The phrase is the worst of the worst. The count is seven in ten with no conviction at all.

SOURCES

1. 46,436 of 65,765 in ICE detention (70.6 percent) with no criminal conviction — TRAC Immigration, 11 July 2026 ↑
2. 41,495 of 57,861 detainees (71.7 percent) with no conviction — AP, 12 July 2025 ↑
3. "At its recent high point in early February 2026, ICE held 68,289 people in detention" — TRAC, 10 April 2026 ↑
4. "Twenty-nine people have died in ICE custody since October … surpassing 2004's toll of 28" — NPR, 17 April 2026 ↑
5. 52 deaths in immigration detention from 20 January 2025 to 4 June 2026 — Human Rights Watch, 25 June 2026 ↑
6. "More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents," nearly 20 of them children — ProPublica, 16 October 2025 ↑

REPUBLICAN



THE WORST OF THE WORST

The phrase is the administration's own, and it is repeated on purpose. The Associated Press reported the president's pledge to deport "the worst of the worst" [1]. His press secretary, in February: "The Trump administration will continue our focus on deporting all illegal aliens present in our country, with a focus on the worst of the worst criminals" [2]. The Homeland Security Department, on the anniversary of the inauguration: ICE was "unleashed" to "target the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens" [3].

And there are real people behind the phrase. The same detention data that measures the whole population also counts about 19,000 people held in July who do have criminal convictions [4]. Removing people convicted of crimes is a job every administration claims, and this one names it first. How much of the detention system that job fills is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. Trump "has pledged to deport 'the worst of the worst'" — AP, 12 July 2025 ↑
2. "With a focus on the worst of the worst criminals" — White House press secretary — Fox News, 12 February 2026 ↑
3. "He unleashed ICE to target the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens" — Department of Homeland Security, 20 January 2026 ↑
4. 65,765 people in ICE detention, of whom 46,436 had no criminal conviction — TRAC Immigration, quick facts, 11 July 2026 ↑

"I read the phrase in three places. The press secretary: "a focus on the worst of the worst criminals." The department, on the anniversary: ICE "unleashed" on "the worst of the worst." Then I went to the clearinghouse that counts the detention population, just to meet a few of them. July: sixty-five thousand seven hundred sixty-five people in detention. Forty-six thousand four hundred thirty-six with no criminal conviction. Seventy point six percent. Excuse me — I'm going — one question. If the worst of the worst are thirty percent of the beds, who's in the other seventy?" — Lou

🍺

"""The worst of the worst." Beautiful phrase. It's on the podium, it's in the press releases, it's the first thing out of the briefing room. Then the research clearinghouse that counts detention looks at who's actually in the beds: seventy point six percent with no criminal conviction. That's not the worst of the worst. That's the most of the most. And more than a hundred seventy of the people they've held were American citizens."

— Sal

🚬

"A person without a conviction is simply a person who hasn't been convicted yet, and the administration is being proactive, which is the worst of the worst thing you can say about an administration that is doing its job."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎