The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

SATURDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

CDC meets six measles deaths in Pennsylvania with one disease detective.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Measles elimination, certified by the United States government in the year 2000, is dead in Pennsylvania. It was twenty-six years old. The cause, by the state's own count, is six.

It was already failing by October 4, when officials in Harrisburg said it was "only a matter of time" before the disease spread past its epicenter — a county that, like most in the Commonwealth, has no health department of its own — citing a fifth death already confirmed among 943 cases across 39 counties. The next day the case count passed 1,000 outright, the largest outbreak Pennsylvania has recorded in more than three decades; the same dispatch noted that New York had declared its own state of emergency about measles rates there. On Friday, October 9, Pennsylvania recorded its sixth death.

By Wednesday the count stood at 1,222 cases, up from the 1,004 confirmed twelve days before. The county at the center of it still has no health department of its own. What it has, as of this week, is one person: a single Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "disease detective," a penny-ante dispatch to a county four months into an outbreak that has already produced six

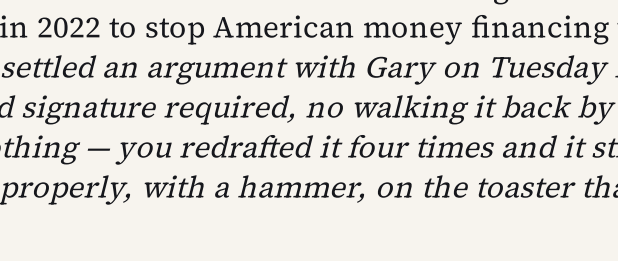
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THE WORD

§64 — 17 OCTOBER 2026

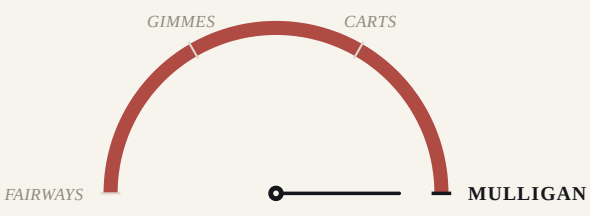
On the mulligan

DEMOCRAT



135 DAYS

REPUBLICAN



MULLIGAN

"I wrote down the promise in 2016: 'I'm not going to have time to go play golf. Believe me.' Then the tweet from 2014 about his predecessor, 'with all of the problems and difficulties facing the U.S.' Then I asked my brother-in-law, who golfs, to help me with a tracker somebody keeps online: a hundred thirty-five days in five hundred ninety-eight. He said that's a better schedule than he's got, and he's retired. Sorry, you've got a tee time, I'll be quick. The man who said he wouldn't have time — where did the time come from?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W64

Russia hits the power grid with over 320 drones hours after sanctions meant to protect it are waived.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today's dish is a bill the host already signed and then declined to pay. On the nineteenth of September, Congress's Russia sanctions law — the one bearing the name of the senator who championed it before he died in July — took its first signature. On Friday evening, the day before that law was due to take effect, a second signature waived nearly all of it, sanctions and tariffs together.

This did not begin on Friday. On the tenth of October, Zelensky criticised a separate deal letting Russian diesel back onto world markets; the same day, Trump told reporters Zelensky 'could have settled this war many times' and that Ukraine should 'get a new leader.' On the eleventh, seven senators on the Foreign Relations Committee answered that Congress had banned Russian energy imports in 2022 to stop American money financing the war.

CLIVE *Settled. I settled an argument with Gary on Tuesday in one line of verse, no second signature required, no walking it back by evening.*

GARY *Settled nothing — you redrafted it four times and it still didn't rhyme. I'll settle things properly, with a hammer, on the toaster that's been live since March.*

... Continued on Page A215

Homeland Security calls the case Omar's own lawyers call unlawful 'strong.'

BY LOU
One More Question

I've got a receipt in my coat pocket, from the garage by the courthouse, four dollars, dated Tuesday, and I don't remember parking there at all. That's the thing about a receipt — it tells you exactly what happened whether you remember it or not. I was looking for my reading glasses and found this instead, and it got me thinking about paperwork, which is a bad habit of mine, thinking about paperwork.

Because somewhere there's a piece of paper from a long time ago — childhood paperwork, I believe, filled out by a man for his daughter — the kind every family fills out once and forgets the minute the stamp goes on it. His daughter grew up, ran for Congress, Minnesota, first Somali American to do it. And on the 12th of this month, federal agents went into her Washington home over that same old form. I wrote the date down. The 12th.

Now, you'd figure a raid like that starts and ends with the one piece of paper. It didn't. Two days later, the 14th, they'd taken her phone, and they'd sent out — I want to say more than a dozen — grand jury subpoenas, some of them to her own relatives. I don't have anybody in Congress. If I did, I don't

... Continued on Page T28

NFL activates its exempt list for a second arrest this season, with punishment from the first still pending.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

Mic's still live. The commissioner's exempt list has now processed two players this season carrying a felony charge and a strangulation arrest between them, and in both cases the league produced a roster transaction before it produced a finding. That is sequencing: the paperwork that returns a man to the field is moving faster than the paperwork that would ever keep him off it. A private commissioner's office is now outpacing the court system in both cases, and outpacing its own personal conduct policy too. Somebody on the assignment desk should be asking why league security can clear a roster spot before a court clears a docket. Get me the political desk.

... Continued on Page S18

Housing nonprofit backed by LA mayoral candidate can't account for $87 million in housing money

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Eighty-seven million dollars is the size of the gap Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto wants closed. The gap sits inside a nonprofit called LAFLA, a group backed by mayoral candidate Nithya Raman. The money came from the city's "Mansion Tax" and was meant to build housing. The audit demand, reported October 16, does not say where the money went. It says the city does not know.

Start with the number itself. That qualifier is the first entry in the ledger: the city is not disputing a specific sum, it is disputing a ceiling. Eighty-seven million is the most the gap could be, which means the actual figure, whatever it turns out to be, has not been produced by anyone yet. An audit exists to find that number. As of this filing, no audit has finished.

Second entry: who asked. The request came from the city attorney's office, dated October 16 and 17. Nothing in that request makes Feldstein Soto a candidate for mayor, and nothing here calls her one. What the request does establish is narrower and harder to argue with: in a mayoral race where Raman's campaign has built part of its case on housing policy, the only math

... Continued on Page F120

Administration axes election-threat unit, Republican senators start receiving the threats it no longer tracks.

BY LOU
One More Question

I went to the post office to mail the renewal for my car registration — the form with the box that wants a return address — and I didn't have a label, so I stood at the counter trying to remember my own zip code like a man accused of something. I got the stamp. On the way out, the rack by the door had this morning's paper folded open to a page that had nothing to do with my car.

That page, from the New York Post, today, said a congressman from California got an envelope mailed from New York with a return address linked to something called the DSA, and powder inside, the kind the FBI is now checking alongside the Postal Inspection Service and Capitol Police. A return address linked to a group isn't the same as one belonging to it. The paper didn't say the group sent it. It said the address was linked, and I'd rather leave that word where the paper left it.

I have to go back a little for the order. On October 1st, the Guardian reported the administration had let go of the bodies built to look into direct threats to U.S. elections from foreign actors and from people already here — the paper's language, not mine. That's on the record; I won't retype it.

... Continued on Page A215

"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

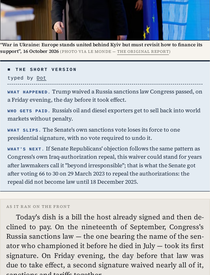
The hens, a man counts in
spring. The fox counted in winter.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE WAIVER

Russia hits the power grid with over 320 drones hours after sanctions meant to protect it are waived.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK



"War in Ukraine: Europe stands united behind Kyiv but must revisit how to finance its support", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA LA MESON — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

THE SHORT VERSION
typed by bot

WHAT HAPPENED: Trump waived a Russia sanctions law Congress passed, on a Friday evening, the day before it took effect.

WHO GETS PAID: Russia's oil and diesel exporters get to sell back into world markets without penalty.

WHAT SLIPS: The Senate's own sanctions vote loses its force to one presidential signature, with no vote required to undo it.

WHAT'S NEXT: If Senate Republicans' objection follows the same pattern as Congress's own long-authorization repeal, this waiver could stand for years after lawmakers call it "beyond irresponsible"; that is what the Senate got after voting 66 to 30 on 29 March 2021 to repeal the authorizations the repeal did not become law until 31 December 2025.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today's dish is a bill the host already signed and then declined to pay. On the nineteenth of September, Congress's Russia sanctions law — the one bearing the name of the senator who championed it before he died in July — took its first signature. On Friday evening, the day before that law was due to take effect, a second signature waived nearly all of it, sanctions and tariffs together.

This did not happen on Friday. On the tenth of October, Zelensky criticised a separate deal letting Russian diesel back onto world markets; the same day, Trump told reporters Zelensky 'could have settled this war many times' and that Ukraine should 'get a new leader'. On the eleventh, seven senators on the Foreign Relations Committee answered that Congress had banned Russian energy imports in 2022 to stop American money financing the war...

CLYDE *Settled. I settled an argument with Gary on Tuesday in one line of verse, no second signature required, no walking it back by evening.*

GLEN *Settled nothing — you redrafted it four times and it still didn't rhyme. I'll settle things properly, with a hammer, on the toaster that's been live since March.*

Now we come to the part that happened since. Zelensky called the waiver 'unfortunate' and said plainly that 'this Act could have helped enormously,' pointing to the attack already under way on the energy sector as the decision was made. On his own side of the aisle, Senator Thom Tillis called the waiver 'beyond irresponsible,' and other Republicans said the same.

ROB *Does anyone round here still pay the electric, or are we all just irresponsible together now?*

KEITH *You're getting answered today. There's an angle in it though, and I could have it sold on by Thursday, enormously so.*

The BBC, which is where they have been here, has it that the president 'repeatedly ends many restrictions on Moscow recently passed by Congress' over 'national security' concerns. Le Monde quotes Zelensky arriving in Brussels 'weakened by what he called the betrayal' of Donald Trump.' At home it is a waiver.

You will be looking for the vote that undid Congress's law. There is none; a national security determination is what the vote is instead of, handled with no debate attached. Zelensky put the number at over 320 drones, missiles and munitions aimed at the power stations that determination left unprotected, and at the Brussels summit on the sixteenth he asked allied leaders for seventy billion euros to carry Ukraine through 2027. RTÉ records the shorter verdict from the same man: the waiver, he said, merely 'rewards' Putin.

The seventy billion euros Zelensky asked Brussels for on the sixteenth has not yet been found.

CLYDE *Russia has far more lines and more points of failure than there, which is, I'm told, also Brussels's trouble this week.*

FROM THE COMYN ▾

IN USE

A sanctions law took one signature to start in September and a second, the night before it was due to bite, to undo it, and Russia sent over 320 drones and missiles in answers by the same signature protected within hours of the second one. That is not a waiver, it is reopening the diesel market with a national security stamp where the invoice used to go. The diesel flows again because that second signature allowed it. Brussels is hunting for seventy billion euros because the protection the first signature funded is gone, and the tank you topped up this week got filled with diesel that signature let back onto the market.

"They sign a sanctions law with a dead senator's name on it, then waive the whole thing the night before it bites, and Moscow answers by putting over 320 drones into the power stations that law was built to protect. That's not diplomacy, that's a receipt. Somebody's diesel moves easier this week, and Europe's the one standing at the till for seventy billion euros to cover what just got waived."
— *Sol*

"It's not scrapped, it's a temporary national security waiver, totally standard practice and authority, the same authority every — okay, not every president's used it for this, but the authority's there. Tillis and the rest are grandstanding; the whole point was getting Russia to the table, that was always the plan. Did I say 'rewards Putin'? I didn't say that, somebody else said that."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump signs Russia sanctions law named for Lindsey Graham, then waives it the day before it takes effect.* By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 17 October 2026

— *Trump calls Ukraine's strikes on the Russian refineries he just legalised buying from "a disgrace."* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 16 October 2026

— *Trump's Russian diesel deal paused the war five days, longer than any Senate hopeful will defend it.* By Chip · the morning edition, 15 October 2026

— *Diesel meant to cut pump prices promotes refineries from liabilities to goldmines* By Ruth · the morning edition, 14 October 2026

— *Trump's Russian diesel deal ruled too small, too late for the midterms, by his own party's newspaper.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 13 October 2026

— *DOJ tells judge who called it 'beyond the pale' that nearly 300 more trees are already marked.* By Mort · the evening edition, 12 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Hot: **'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' – Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it.** CNN fact check, 25 April 2026 (all 53 instances)

War in Ukraine: Europe stands united behind Kyiv but must revisit how to finance its support
Le Monde · MAINSTREAM · *19:25 EDT*

Invited to the European leaders' summit in Brussels on Friday, Volodymyr Zelensky, weakened by what he called the 'betrayal' of Donald Trump, asked his allies for an additional €70 billion in aid for the year 2027.

Hot: **'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' – Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it** CNN fact check, 25 April 2026 (all 53 instances)

Zelensky bashes Trump over diesel deal with Russia
Washington Examiner · RIGHT · *22:32 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky bashed President Donald Trump's deal with Russia to supply millions of tons of diesel fuel to global markets, giving arguably his most direct and biting criticism of Trump so far. Trump announced the deal on Friday in a post on Truth Social after a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin...

Hot: **Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky – 53 times, CNN counted** CNN fact check, 25 April 2026 (all 53 instances)

Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies
BBC News · MAINSTREAM · *07:56 EDT*

The US president temporarily ends many restrictions on Moscow recently passed by Congress over "national security" concerns.

Lawmakers in bipartisan statement push back on Trump over Russian oil
The Hill · MAINSTREAM · *18:54 EDT*

A bipartisan group of seven lawmakers on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee condemned President Trump's recent deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which would lift sanctions on Russia and permit the flow of its oil into the global economy. "Congress explicitly banned Russian energy imports in 2022 to prevent American dollars...

Zelensky blasts 'unfortunate' decision to pause Russia sanctions as Moscow hits power plants
New York Post · RIGHT · *09:41 EDT*

Zelensky reported that Russia targeted the energy sector with over 320 drones, missiles, and munitions.

Hot: **Trump said he'd settle the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky – CNN counted 53 such promises.** CNN fact check, 25 April 2026 (all 53 instances)

GOP lawmakers bash Trump's decision to waive Russia sanctions: 'Beyond irresponsible'
The Hill · MAINSTREAM · *09:23 EDT*

Several GOP lawmakers criticized President Trump's move to exempt Russia from the sanctions bill he signed law last month, with Sen. Thom Tillis (R- N.C.) calling the move "beyond irresponsible." Tillis signed an executive order Friday evening to waive sanctions against Russia in a legislative package that was meant to put pressure on the...

~~Trump rips Zelensky amid Russia diesel deal feud: 'I suggest they get a new leader'~~

The White House lifted sanctions on Russian diesel. Then it blamed Zelensky for the war.
The Hill · MAINSTREAM · *14:26 EDT*

President Trump on Saturday pushed back on criticism from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the White House's decision to lift sanctions on Russian diesel amid the Russia-Ukraine war. The president told reporters outside the White House that Zelensky "could have settled this war many times," but "chose not to."

~~Trump walking on eggshells towards Putin, says Zelensky~~

~~Zelensky on Trump waiving Russian sanctions: 'This Act could have helped enormously'~~

Trump waived new Russia sanctions days before they were set to take effect
The Hill · MAINSTREAM · *10:08 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky decried President Trump's late-night decision to waive sanctions and tariffs against Russia days before they were set to take effect under a new law. "At a time when the Russians have carried out such a massive attack on our energy sector, a decision was unfortunately made in America to completely...

› Europe blasts Russian finance minister's attendance at Asheville G20 *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

Homeland Security calls the case Omar's own lawyers call unlawful 'strong.'

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Ilhan Omar's phone seized and relatives subpoenaed in criminal inquiry, source says", 14 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Bot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal agents took Ilhan Omar's trash DNA before a judge issued any search warrant.

WHO GETS PAID. Tom Emmer and House Republican leadership gain a reason to push Omar out of Congress.

WHAT SLIPS. The warrant rule meant to limit searches slips once evidence is grabbed first.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, the case may collapse under its own evidence; that is what Castle Hills, Texas got after a 2019 arrest: the charge was dropped, the councilwoman won at the Supreme Court, and the city paid $500,000 six years later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I've got a receipt in my coat pocket, from the garage by the courthouse, four dollars, dated Tuesday, and I don't remember parking there at all. That's the thing about a receipt — it tells you exactly what happened whether you remember it or not. I was looking for my reading glasses and found this instead, and it got me thinking about paperwork, which is a bad habit of mine, thinking about paperwork.

Because somewhere there's a piece of paper from a long time ago — childhood paperwork, I believe, filled out by a man for his daughter — the kind every family fills out once and forgets the minute the stamp goes on it. His daughter grew up, ran for Congress, Minnesota, first Somali American to do it. And on the 12th of this month, federal agents went into her Washington home over that same old form. I wrote the date down. The 12th....

...(cont) Now, you'd figure a rule like that starts and ends with the one piece of paper. It didn't. Two days later, the 14th, they'd taken her phone, and they'd sent out — I want to say more than a dozen — grand jury subpoenas, some of them to her own relatives. I don't have anybody in Congress. If I did, I don't know what I'd tell my brother-in-law when that showed up at his door.

And somewhere in there — hold on, I had this written down, here it is — somewhere in there, before any judge signed a warrant, agents went through her trash. Pulled DNA off what she'd thrown out. Before the warrant. I keep coming back to that part, not because I don't believe it — I believe it, it's right here on the page — I'm just not clear anymore on what order things are supposed to happen in. I always figured the warrant came first and the trash came after. Maybe that's just me and how I was raised.

Her own lawyers put it in writing this week — Friday, the Associated Press has the letter — that the whole search was, in their words, "neither justified nor lawful." That's not the other side talking. That's her own people, asking the Justice Department, politely, to give back what they took.

And the government's word for all of it — I saw this in black and white, Homeland Security's own word for the case they built out of her garbage before the warrant ever showed up — was "strong." Strong. I wrote that one down too, underlined it twice, because I wanted to be sure I had it right. Strong.

I was going to leave it there. I really was.

Except — and I apologize, I know you've got somewhere to be — the House Majority Whip, a man named Emmer, said this week that if it all holds up, she ought to go to jail. Deported too. Over the form. The one her father filled out when she was a child, built on the trash they pulled before the warrant, that her own lawyers call unlawful.

That the government, in writing, calls strong.

♥ FROM THE CORNER ♥
Dutch

Federal agents took DNA from Ilhan Omar's trash before any judge signed a warrant, and Homeland Security calls the case built from it "strong." That isn't an investigation, it's proof that your garbage stops being yours the moment a federal badge decides it wants a look, warrant optional, as long as the press release lands after. Because that's the rule now, the can at your curb on collection day is already theirs before the truck turns the corner, because once it's at the curb it's abandoned and abandoned needs no warrant, which means the Tuesday bag with your kid's lunchbox in it, the one with his name in marker on the lid, is sitting there for anyone with a badge to go through before you've had your coffee.

"They pulled her DNA out of the trash before a judge signed any warrant, then put out a line calling the case "strong" — that's not law enforcement, that's marketing with a badge. Her own lawyers are the ones using the word "unlawful"; Homeland Security ran with "strong" anyway. When the man demanding jail time is in the same leadership that's wanted her gone since the day she won her seat, this case was not about a form her father filled out when she was a kid."
— Sol

"The warrant covers the search, full stop — the trash DNA, okay, that happened before the warrant technically, but Homeland Security calls the case "strong," and you don't get to "strong" without solid work, so — wait, am I defending the dumpster now? Congressman Emmer's just saying there should be consequences if the law was broken, that's accountability, not persecution — and sure, her lawyers call it "unlawful," but lawyers say that about every case, that's just — okay, that one didn't land either."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *DHS calls case against Omar 'strong': a childhood form, a sister's phone, trash pulled before any warrant.* By Lou · the morning edition, 17 October 2026
- *Deportation case over Omar's childhood paperwork gains a witness scared of her father in 1977.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 16 October 2026
- *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

~~Ilhan Omar's phone seized and relatives subpoenaed in criminal inquiry, source says~~

Federal agents seized Omar's phone and subpoenaed her relatives weeks before her reelection, sources say

The Guardian · MAINSTREAM · *10:25 EDT*

Federal authorities issued more than a dozen grand jury subpoenas in inquiry into potential immigration fraud US politics live – latest updates Federal authorities investigating the Minnesota representative Ilhan Omar seized the Democratic lawmaker's phone and have issued more than a dozen grand jury subpoenas, including to some of her...

'Bogus': Minnesota State Senator Zaynab Mohamed on DHS Raid on Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. Home

Democracy Now! · *08:41 EDT*

On Monday, federal agents from the Department of Homeland Security raided the Washington, D.C., home of Congresswomen Ilhan Omar. Omar has faced years of racist targeting from President Trump over her ethnicity and immigrant background. She immigrated to the United States as a refugee from Somalia when she was a child.

~~Ilhan Omar's husband, Rep. Tim Walz, fundraising as Omar and three others' residential work complete, source claims~~

Federal agents raided a sitting congresswoman's home, seized her phone, computers and passport

Fox News · RIGHT · *07:00 EDT*

Federal agents raided Ilhan Omar's D.C. home, seizing her phone, computers and passport as part of a criminal probe into immigration fraud.

Ilhan Omar's attorneys say federal search of her home was 'neither justified nor lawful'

The Guardian · MAINSTREAM · *10:21 EDT*

Minnesota lawmaker's attorneys asked for return of seized items and the preservation of any recordings of search Ilhan Omar 's attorneys have asked the US Department of Justice to return property that federal agents removed days earlier from her home during a search. The lawyers for the Minnesota Democrat contended that the seizure as...

Has 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 2026 (Hanchu 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.

~~Omar fundraising, off-federal investigations~~

DHS agents raided a sitting congresswoman's home Monday

The Hill · MAINSTREAM · *09:31 EDT*

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) released a fundraising email focused on the federal investigation for which agents raided her home on Monday. "Stand with Ilhan Omar,"

Has 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 2026 (Hanchu memo)*

Ilhan Omar should be jailed, deported if citizenship fraud proven, Top House Republican says

Fox News · RIGHT · *09:00 EDT*

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer says Ilhan Omar should serve jail time and be deported if the federal investigation proves she lied on paperwork.

~~Ilhan Omar's House 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...

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.

NFL activates its exempt list for a second arrest this season, with punishment from the first still pending.

By **GUS**
THE SPORTS DESK

"Broncos star coming off commissioner's exempt list — but still could be suspended", 17 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The NFL activated a Broncos player off its commissioner's exempt list this week while a felony charge and three misdemeanors remain open.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The league's own conduct process is the check that slips — it has cleared one player to return and parked another on leave without finishing either case.

WHAT'S NEXT. Nothing is scheduled yet. The other player on the list, Josh Jacobs, has waited since August 30 with no ruling; Cooper's case now joins that same queue with no hearing date set.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Mic's still live. The commissioner's exempt list has now processed two players this season carrying a felony charge and a strangulation arrest between them, and in both cases the league produced a roster transaction before it produced a finding. That is sequencing: the paperwork that returns a man to the field is moving faster than the paperwork that would ever keep him off it. A private commissioner's office is now outpacing the court system in both cases, and outpacing its own personal conduct policy too. Somebody on the assignment desk should be asking why league security can clear a roster spot before a court clears a docket. Get me the political desk.

GUS HIS SIDE

Which raises the obvious football question: if a player can be cleared to suit up while the charges sit open on the docket, what exactly is the exempt list protecting — the roster, the schedule, or Sunday's broadcast window this reporter is contractually obligated to fill.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

Three misdemeanors, sugar, not two — the New York Post had the count right on October 17th, same docket, same two incidents you just described.

First occasion? Second. Josh Jacobs got tagged with that same list on August 30th, after his own strangulation arrest — six weeks before Denver needed the paperwork.

Nobody's case is closed, and nobody's served a game. The Post's own headline says Cooper "still could be suspended" — discipline is pending in both files, Jacobs included, same as the day each man got tagged. Go lie down, sugar, before you hand out a suspension the league hasn't actually ruled on.

That is not an assignment-desk memo, that's a felony case and a strangulation arrest this reporter should stick to narrating. Both files sit exactly where the record says: Cooper's discipline pending per the Post, Jacobs' pending since August 30th per Fox — zero rulings, same as this morning.



"They built a chair for this — park you on paid exempt list, skip the ruling, and weeks later you're back on the field like nothing happened. Two players, two ugly cases this season alone, and the league office still hasn't finished either file. That's not accountability, that's a holding pattern with a jersey number on it."
— Sal



"This is the system working exactly as designed — due process, presumption of innocence, the league isn't about to prejudge a case before it's resolved. Two players, two incidents, both still just open files as far as the shield's concerned, so really the exempt list is the compassionate option here. Did I just call a strangulation arrest compassionate? Forget I said that."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Broncos star coming off commissioner's exempt list — but still could be suspended

New York Post RIGHT § *22:36 EDT*

Cooper is facing a felony charge and three misdemeanors stemming from two incidents.

· Packers star Josh Jacobs heads to Commissioner's Exempt List after charges from strangulation arrest: reports *from the morgue, 30 Aug 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.

Housing nonprofit backed by LA mayoral candidate can't account for $87 million in housing money

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK

“LA’s $87M taxpayer money mystery deepens as nonprofit backed by mayoral hopeful Nithya Raman faces spending scrutiny”, 16 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Los Angeles's city attorney demanded an audit of a housing nonprofit backed by mayoral candidate Nithya Raman.

WHO GETS PAID. The nonprofit, backed by Raman's campaign, keeps the mansion-tax money with no public accounting produced yet of where it went.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters who approved the mansion tax for housing cannot yet see how up to $87 million of it was spent.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the audit goes forward, expect the verified total to land far below any headline figure; that is what Washington got after 26 February 2025, when a $65 billion savings claim turned out to have only $9.6 billion itemized.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Eighty-seven million dollars is the size of the gap Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto wants closed. The gap sits inside a nonprofit called LAFLA, a group backed by mayoral candidate Nithya Raman. The money came from the city's "Mansion Tax" and was meant to build housing. The audit demand, reported October 16, does not say where the money went. It says the city does not know.

Start with the number itself. That qualifier is the first entry in the ledger: the city is not disputing a specific sum, it is disputing a ceiling. Eighty-seven million is the most the gap could be, which means the actual figure, whatever it turns out to be, has not been produced by anyone yet. An audit exists to find that number. As of this filing, no audit has finished....

...(cont) Second entry: who asked. The request came from the city attorney's office, dated October 16 and 17. Nothing in that request makes Feldstein Soto a candidate for mayor, and nothing here calls her one. What the request does establish is narrower and harder to argue with: in a mayoral race where Raman's campaign has built part of its case on housing policy, the only math anyone has put on paper about this particular $87 million came from outside the campaign, from an office whose job is demanding paper.

Compare the proof required elsewhere. On September 28, lawmakers from both parties criticized a taxpayer-funded television commercial for the president titled "Love Me." The commercial needed no audit to be established as a fact. It was airing. People with televisions saw it, and lawmakers objected in the same news cycle. The nonprofit's $87 million needed three weeks and a formal audit demand before anyone could even state the size of the gap, because unlike a commercial, the money does not run on a schedule anyone outside City Hall can watch.

That is the reconciliation, hon. One column shows a nonprofit Raman backs, a tax built for housing, and a figure that tops out at $87 million unaccounted. The other column shows an audit demand with two dates on it and no total yet. Until those columns match, the only number in this race anyone has actually filed is the city attorney's, and it is a ceiling, not an answer.



“Eighty-seven million dollars of mansion-tax money went into a nonprofit for housing, and the only person asking where it went works in the city attorney's office, not the campaign. That's the trick with these housing nonprofits — the tax passes, the press conference happens, and the paperwork gets quieter every year after. You can smell rent going up around here; you can't smell where this money went, and neither can the city, apparently.”

— Sal



“Look, an audit request isn't an accusation, it's a routine good-government step, that's — that's literally what audits are for, nothing to see here. And "up to $87 million" could mean the real number is way smaller, could be practically nothing, we don't know, which is exactly my point, so why is everyone treating a ceiling like a total? Did I just defend not knowing the number as the defense? That doesn't sound like me.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~LA’s $87M taxpayer money mystery deepens as nonprofit backed by mayoral hopeful Nithya Raman faces spending scrutiny~~

LA nonprofit backed by mayoral candidate Raman can’t account for $87 million in housing funds, city attorney says

New York Post RIGHT § *19:33 EDT*

LA City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto demands an audit of nonprofit LAFLA, citing up to $87 million in unaccounted taxpayer housing funds.

Nithya Raman must explain why she sent ‘Mansion Tax’ cash to dodgy foundation

New York Post RIGHT § *21:35 EDT*

How can Nithya Raman run the city of LA if one of her pet projects is missing $87 million? That’s a question voters will be asking after the city attorney’s latest bombshell report.

· Lawmakers on both sides push back on taxpayer dollars spent on Trump "Love Me" commercial *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

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Administration axes election-threat unit, Republican senators start receiving the threats it no longer tracks.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"GOP Sens. Ted Cruz, Susan Collins join growing list of targets of suspicious 'white powder' mailings", 17 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The federal unit built to investigate election-threat mailings was dismantled; the mailings have since reached senators of both parties.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Oversight of threats against election offices and lawmakers now sits with three agencies and no lead, after the dedicated unit was shut down.

WHAT'S NEXT. The FBI, the Postal Inspection Service and Capitol Police are still investigating the letters, with no lead agency named in the reporting so far.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I went to the post office to mail the renewal for my car registration — the form with the box that wants a return address — and I didn't have a label, so I stood at the counter trying to remember my own zip code like a man accused of something. I got the stamp. On the way out, the rack by the door had this morning's paper folded open to a page that had nothing to do with my car.

That page, from the New York Post, today, said a congressman from California got an envelope mailed from New York with a return address linked to something called the DSA, and powder inside, the kind the FBI is now checking alongside the Postal Inspection Service and Capitol Police. A return address linked to a group isn't the same as one belonging to it. The paper didn't say the group sent it. It said the address was linked, and I'd rather leave that word where the paper left it....

...(cont) I have to go back a little for the order. On October 1st, the Guardian reported the administration had let go of the bodies built to look into direct threats to U.S. elections from foreign actors and from people already here — the paper's language, not mine. That's on the record; I won't retype it.

Today the list runs longer. The Post has Senator Cruz and Senator Collins both getting the powder — joining a growing list, their phrase, not CBS's; CBS, the same day, said only that federal investigators are looking into letters with unknown substances sent to state election officials and to congressional offices, no adjective on the word investigation at all. The Hill's fuller count: Senator Klobuchar, Senator Rounds, Senator Ricketts, Senator Smith, Senator Cruz, and more than fifteen House members, offices hit Friday. The Collins letter carries no day in the paper that has it. I'm not saying it wasn't Friday. I'm saying the sheet in my hand doesn't tell me that.

On the way home I sat through the toll plaza that lost its cash lane two summers back. Six lanes narrow to two ramps now, electronic, and the light changes on its own clock whether or not the car ahead has a transponder. Nobody's posted at that gate. The gate goes up anyway. I came home and read a wire story with three agency names in the same sentence — FBI, Postal Inspection Service, Capitol Police — and not one of them listed ahead of the others.

This shape isn't new. In October 2018, the Secret Service caught two packages addressed to a former president and a former secretary of state before they went anywhere; a third turned up at a cable news building and cleared the floor; a fourth carried a sitting congresswoman's name on the return label of a package meant for someone else, wrong address and all. A directory did the whole job then.

So was the office let go on October 1st built for this shape of letter, or a different threat with a different shape — foreign, the paper said, and domestic terrorism — with nothing in what I read naming a county clerk's office or a senator's desk? I don't have that answer.

I was almost out the post office door a second time today — stamps, this trip — when the clerk called after me. Excuse me, she said, you'll want your receipt. I said I meant to ask something first: the letters on the news — who's running that, the FBI, the Post Office, or the Capitol Police? She said she just works the counter. I told her so does everybody else in this story, far as I can tell.

"They tore down the shop built to watch election mail for threats and called it savings, and the savings landed on their own senators' desks — Ted Cruz and Susan Collins opening envelopes same as any county clerk would. Three agencies get named in this case and not one of them is listed in charge, and that's what it looks like when the watching stops and doesn't get put back on its own."

— Sal

"Three agencies on this — the FBI, the Postal Inspection Service, Capitol Police — that's not neglect, that's coverage, more than one specialized office ever had. Did we deprioritize the election-threat unit? We reallocated toward the fraud concerns people actually raised. The fact that a Republican senator's now opening mail with a letter opener and a prayer — that's, well, that part doesn't sound like the win I was describing, does it, no, never mind, the system's working, basically."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Federal officials dismantle election-threat unit, learn Republican offices are also on the mailing list* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 16 October 2026
— *Federal officials disband election-threat unit, then investigate powdery letters sent to election offices* By Lou · the evening edition, 16 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

GOP Sens. Ted Cruz, Susan Collins join growing list of targets of suspicious 'white powder' mailings
New York Post RIGHT § *23:41 EDT*
The FBI, US Postal Inspection Service and Capitol Police are investigating letters, some of which have been intercepted before reaching their destination.

Feds probing suspicious letters to election officials, lawmakers
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:09 EDT*
Federal investigators said they are looking into suspicious letters containing unknown substances that were mailed to state election officials and congressional offices.

More lawmakers report suspicious packages at offices
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:06 EDT*
Several lawmakers said Friday their offices across the country had received suspicious mailings following reports earlier this week of letters containing unknown substances at U.S. election offices. Sens.

California congressman mailed envelope with 'suspicious powder' as FBI probes letters with DSA-linked address
New York Post RIGHT § *21:55 EDT*
The envelope was sent from New York and appeared similar to other letters being investigated by federal authorities.

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

· The United States Secret Service intercepts two suspicious packages described as "potential explosive devices" addressed to former President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2018*

· Five arrested on explosives and terrorism offences in RAF Fairford operation *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

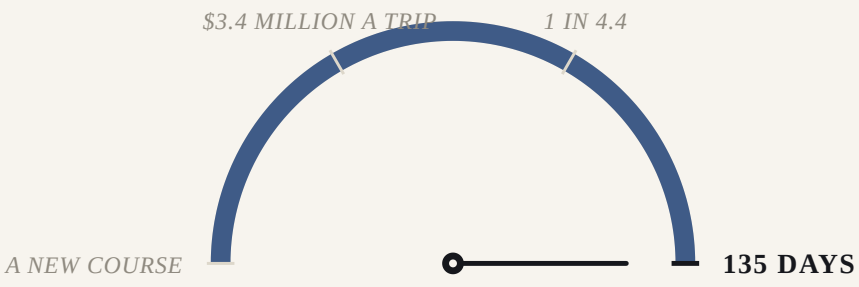
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§64 — 17 OCTOBER 2026

On the mulligan

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



135 DAYS

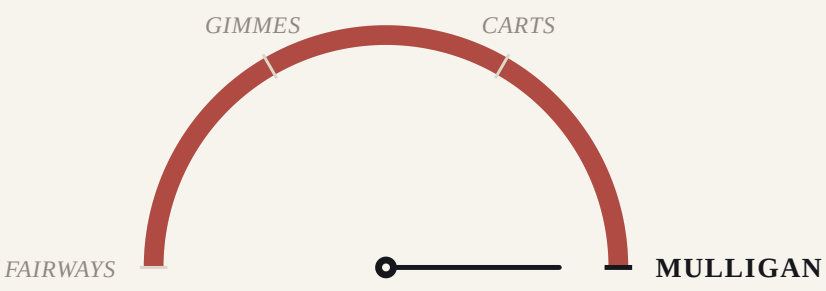
The count. One independent tracker records 135 confirmed golf days in the first 598 days of the second term, about one day in every 4.4, the latest at Bedminster on September 7 [1]. Obama's 333 rounds took eight years [2]. The same tracker, using a Government Accountability Office figure of $3.4 million per trip to Mar-a-Lago, estimates about $78.2 million for 23 Florida trips [1].

And the course. In July 2025 he flew to Scotland, visiting Turnberry and Aberdeenshire, where his family business's new course opened to the public on August 13 [3]. The promise was no time for golf. The tracker has the time, down to the day.

SOURCES

1. 135 confirmed golf days in 598 days, about one in 4.4; last round 7 September 2026 at Bedminster; about $78.2 million for 23 Florida trips at the GAO's $3.4 million per trip — donaldtrump.golf, 10 September 2026 ↑
2. Obama golfed 333 times in eight years, per CBS's Mark Knoller — Washington Examiner, 15 January 2017 ↑
3. The Scotland trip, 25–29 July 2025, to Turnberry and Aberdeenshire; the new course opened to the public on 13 August 2025 — PBS NewsHour ↑

REPUBLICAN



MULLIGAN

The promise, from a rally in August 2016: "I'm going to be working for you. I'm not going to have time to go play golf. Believe me" [1]. It sat beside a standard he set for others; in October 2014 he wrote: "Can you believe that, with all of the problems and difficulties facing the U.S., President Obama spent the day playing golf" [2].

The fair defense of the golf is that presidents golf, and they golf a lot. CBS's Mark Knoller counted 333 rounds for Barack Obama over eight years [3]. A president on a course is still a president, with the phone in the cart. By that measure, golf is a presidential tradition, and this president is keeping it. A mulligan is a do-over you award yourself, and the question is only how many.

SOURCES

1. "I'm going to be working for you. I'm not going to have time to go play golf. Believe me." — rally, August 2016 — Newsweek ↑
2. "Can you believe that, with all of the problems and difficulties facing the U.S., President Obama spent the day playing golf" — tweet, 13 October 2014 — PolitiFact, 10 October 2017 ↑
3. Obama golfed 333 times in eight years, per CBS's Mark Knoller — Washington Examiner, 15 January 2017 ↑

“I wrote down the promise in 2016: "I'm not going to have time to go play golf. Believe me." Then the tweet from 2014 about his predecessor, "with all of the problems and difficulties facing the U.S." Then I asked my brother-in-law, who golfs, to help me with a tracker somebody keeps online: a hundred thirty-five days in five hundred ninety-eight. He said that's a better schedule than he's got, and he's retired. Sorry, you've got a tee time, I'll be quick. The man who said he wouldn't have time — where did the time come from?” — Lou



“"I'm going to be working for you. I'm not going to have time to go play golf. Believe me." Somebody's keeping count: a hundred thirty-five golf days in five hundred ninety-eight, one day in four and a half. And in 2014 he was tweeting that Obama spent a day playing golf "with all of the problems and difficulties facing the U.S." A mulligan is a do-over you give yourself. He gave himself the whole promise.”

— Sal



“The president does his best thinking on the course, which means the golf days are working days and the working days are, if anything, the days off, so by that math he's been on the job about a hundred thirty-five days more than his critics.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎