The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

☼ MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Paxton told donors "everybody's numbers are down." Three weeks later, the polls agree.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Today we bury a lock, not a man — the plain assumption that a Texas Senate seat does not need defending, the kind of inherited certainty political parties budget around instead of poll for. The death took about six weeks, and it is worth reading beat by beat, because that is the only way an institution's passing looks: not a heart attack, a slow bleed with a date stamped on every page.

On September 3, Karl Rove told Republicans that "time is running out" for Ken Paxton, the state attorney general and the president's handpicked nominee. A week later, on September 10, an AARP poll found Talarico, the Democrat, ahead by four points. By September 27 the lead had grown to five, the same day Democratic strategist Paul Begala pointed to Governor Abbott's own tightening reelection number and called the shape of the state a "wipe out" in progress. Three days after that, in audio leaked to reporters, Paxton told his own donors "everybody's numbers are down." By October 7, a second leak had him blaming the president's war for his troubles; by October 13, reporters had placed him at a 2025 New Year's party in Dubai attended by American fugitives; by October 15 the president was preemptively blaming

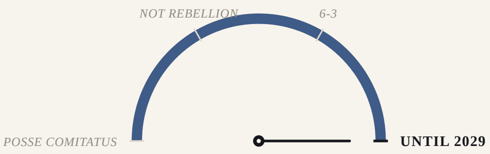
... Continued on Page B42

THE WORD

§66 — 19 OCTOBER 2026

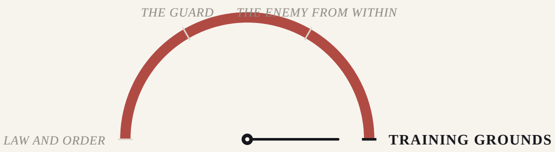
On training grounds

DEMOCRAT



UNTIL 2029

REPUBLICAN



TRAINING GROUNDS

"I'll read it the way he said it, because the wording matters. Quantico, September 30th of last year, to the generals: "we should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military national guard, but military." Then the courts, one at a time. A district judge in California. The Seventh Circuit: "political opposition is not rebellion." The Supreme Court, December 23rd: the government "failed to identify a source of authority." Then the bill: about four hundred ninety-six million through December. Excuse me, I'm going — the troops came home from three cities. The fourth deployment runs until 2029. What's it training for?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W66

Justice Department denies stoking voter-fraud fear on '60 Minutes,' breaks a citizen's arm enforcing it days later.

BY MITCH
Investigations

Harmeet Dhillon went on "60 Minutes" this week and pushed back on the idea that the Trump administration is sowing election distrust, saying thousands of noncitizen-voting cases are under review and that the broadcast cut her answers short. That's the claim. Now the paperwork, in order.

All together now — track the dates with me. On August 31st, the Department announced a "massive criminal voter fraud surge" in California, with eight other states put on notice. On October 10th, an off-duty ICE agent was found asleep, intoxicated, on a Fresno man's lawn; he assaulted the man and his daughter and was shot in the midsection for it — the agent, not the homeowner, now faces felony charges. On October 15th, Justice sued California, alleging more than 20,000 noncitizens unlawfully registered to vote. On October 16th, the Department sent county election officials a letter warning that counting a suspect ballot is itself grounds for prosecution. That spine already ran on this page once, the week a congresswoman's house got searched under the same banner.

This week it adds two more entries. The FBI announced arrests in what it

... Continued on Page T29

Musk to give every American child SpaceX stock; parental consent optional under the Trump Accounts program

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Every child in America is to receive a share of SpaceX, and you are thinking: how handsome. Look at the delivery. A gift is a thing one may decline — decline, mind you — and the Examiner reports this one goes into Trump Accounts even where the parents object. Not a gift, then. An enrollment. Every donee a minor, and no donee asked.

He wrote on Monday that it "will be the first of many."

Price the month. On October 12 the Post put his midterm spending at $276 million, the largest of the cycle. On October 9 his plan for SpaceX to become a mobile carrier wiped more than $50 billion off AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile before lunch. On September 22 a disclosure showed Trump bought up to $50,000 of SpaceX in July and sold up to $15,000.

The child holds one share ... and the man who sent it holds billions.

... Continued on Page F122

Netanyahu predicts cheaper gas once the war ends, the war that already made Trump $4.4 million.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

That endorsement carried no price at the pump.

This week Netanyahu came to the White House and supplied the number the endorsement left out. He called the president the greatest friend of Israel, and he predicted gas prices will fall once the threat from Iran's government is eliminated. The forecast gives the war's price at the pump a direction: high now, because the threat is still live, and lower only once the threat is gone.

Pull the drawer from six weeks back, dated September 9th. An analysis of the president's own annual financial disclosure found that his nine largest fossil fuel holdings had risen in value by as much as $4.4 million since the

Iran war began, a war that by that count had then run more than six months.

Set the two beside each other. Netanyahu's forecast and the disclosure's total describe the same war and the same stretch of time, and they point in opposite directions. The forecast says the price comes down once the war ends. The disclosure says that for as long as the war has run, its higher price has already moved as much as $4.4 million into holdings carrying the president's own name.

... Continued on Page F122

Man spending $100 million to kill a 5% tax dines beside the president whose cuts it offsets

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

Proposition 40 asks California voters, on November 3, to impose a one-time, 5 percent tax on billionaire residents, the proceeds earmarked to offset federal Medicaid cuts the president signed into law last year. In August, two campaign groups formed to defeat it before voters even saw it on a ballot: Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes, financed in part by Google co-founder Sergey Brin and venture capitalist Peter Thiel. By September 21, six Nobel Prize-winning economists, including Joseph Stiglitz, signed an open letter endorsing the measure that ad money was built to kill. On October 1, a former venture capitalist told reporters he would be glad to pay it — he knew where he wanted to live, he said — the same day Governor Gavin Newsom signed laws barring employers from using artificial intelligence to track workers' biometric data and emotional states, and requiring written notice when AI triggers mass layoffs. Ten days later, on October 11, Newsom endorsed a second measure for the same ballot, built to cancel Proposition 40 and bar any future wealth tax in the state. The AI protections and the tax cancellation came from the same gover-

... Continued on Page F122

Obama calls Omar probe appalling; backlash reads his own IRS's Tea Party file back to him.

BY LOU

One More Question

I want to tell you about Frank's fence, and I promise it gets to the point.

Frank moved a fence post two feet onto what is, by the deed, my side of the property line. When I asked him, he said the county's old survey had the boundary wrong, and he was correcting it. That was true. I checked the survey myself at the recorder's office. What I didn't understand until the next spring, when the shed went up, is that the post wasn't about the boundary at all. It was angled to block my oak tree's shade off his solar panels. The survey correction was real. It also wasn't the reason.

I've been turning Frank's fence over all week because of the dates on this. The next day, the 13th, The Hill reported that Omar's campaign was fundraising off the same raid, agents inside her house while a fundraising email went out calling the investigation baseless and partisan.

Two days after that, on the 15th, the Wall Street Journal and, separately, the Washington Examiner both reported what the "very carefully" turned out to be for: officials confirmed the investigation is aimed at stripping Omar of the citizenship she obtained in 2000 — five years after she arrived in this

... Continued on Page A216

Rubio tells Zelensky to end the war Putin is settling with Trump and Xi without him.

BY LOU

One More Question

I got stuck at the toll plaza on Route 1 Sunday, the one with the orange light that's supposed to flash before the arm comes down. I've driven through that plaza more mornings than I can count, and for some reason I decided to actually watch the light this time instead of just gunning it through. The arm dropped and the light came on at the same instant. Not before. The same instant. I asked the attendant about it — nice kid, works the far booth — and he told me the light and the arm run off the same signal, so there's no way for one to warn you ahead of the other. They're not two systems. They're one system wearing two coats of paint, and only one of those coats does anything.

I wrote that down. I didn't know why at the time.

Here's the page I've got from the same stretch of days. A few back, it says the president signed a waiver pausing his own Russia sanctions law the night before that law was set to take effect — not the morning after, the night before. The next line on the same page, same week: Russia answered that pause with 320 drones aimed at Ukraine's power grid.

... Continued on Page A216

White House loses three court battles and a poll, then calls the retreat mercy.

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

Born October 9, when Secretary Pete Hegseth told cameras the broadcast would be "public" and a Pentagon official confirmed the livestreamed execution of Nidal Hasan, set for December 3, one o'clock. Preceded in death, that same day, by the UN human rights office's finding that livestreaming a killing "would breach the absolute prohibition of torture."

It survived six days. On October 15, a YouGov poll found seventy-one percent of Americans opposed broadcasting the execution live, eighteen percent favored it, and thirteen percent were not sure. The same day, the Guardian reported that pastors of the CREC church, whose leader said he preferred public executions to private ones, were the plan's last defenders. Not that they had asked him to stop. Only that they would rather not watch.

Across town, a second program was dying its own slower death, on a different docket but the identical premise: that the government decides what the public is permitted to see. Since September, the White House has argued that press access is a privilege, not a right, and lost that argument three separate times; a Trump-appointed judge extended the order restoring CNN,

... Continued on Page B42

> “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*

Snow held the fox's prints till the thaw,
while the farmer mended the door.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

The futures file ← →

Justice Department denies stoking voter-fraud fear on '60 Minutes,' breaks a citizen's arm enforcing it days later.

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS

“DOJ official defends Trump's noncitizen voter probe on '60 Minutes,' accuses show of editing out her answers”, 19 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department denied sowing election distrust the week ICE broke a US citizen's arm enforcing its voter fraud dragnet.

WHO GETS PAID. The Justice Department's immigration enforcement arm gains expanded leverage over state election officials and voter rolls.

WHAT SLIPS. County election officials lose independent control of their own voter rolls, and a US citizen loses safety from federal force, to the same department's discretion.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that pressure on county officials to purge rolls holds, that is what Texas got after its March 2022 ID-verification rule: mail ballot rejections twelve times the prior election's rate.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Harmeet Dhillon went on "60 Minutes" this week and pushed back on the idea that the Trump administration is sowing election distrust, saying thousands of noncitizen-voting cases are under review and that the broadcast cut her answers short. That's the claim. Now the paperwork, in order.

All together now — track the dates with me. On August 31st, the Department announced a "massive criminal voter fraud surge" in California, with eight other states put on notice. On October 10th, an off-duty ICE agent was found asleep, intoxicated, on a Fresno man's lawn; he assaulted the man and his daughter and was shot in the midsection for it — the agent, not the homeowner, now faces felony charges. On October 15th, Justice sued California, alleging more than 20,000 noncitizens unlawfully registered to vote. On October 16th, the Department sent county election officials a letter warning that counting a suspect ballot is itself grounds for prosecution. That spine already ran on this page once, the week a congresswoman's house got searched under the same banner....

...(cont) This week it adds two more entries. The FBI announced arrests in what it calls a California "voter fraud ring" — timed, the Post notes, days after the ultimatum to the state. And in Long Beach, ICE agents detained a man named Ricardo Gonzalez, a former city employee, during a confrontation with protesters. Video shows him handcuffed, face down in a gutter, officers kneeling on his back. His arm is broken; he is taken to the hospital.

Put the two documents side by side. In the transcript: a federal official, on a national broadcast, says there is no campaign to make people afraid of the vote. In the docket, filed the same week by the same department: a lawsuit naming 20,000 voters, a warning letter to county clerks, an arrest announcement, and a citizen's arm, broken, on camera, in a gutter.

Dhillon says the network edited her down. Follow along — put October 16th next to October 19th: the warning letter to county clerks and the arrest announcement sit three days apart, same department, same file. That gap is not an edit. It is the record.

> “They call it a review, they call it oversight, they call it protecting the rolls — and a former city employee ends up face down in a gutter with a broken arm because of it, same week, same department. That's not two stories, that's one department talking out of both sides of its mouth at the same press conference. A broken arm isn't the cost of enforcement going wrong, it's what the enforcement was built to do.”
>
> — Sal

> "Nobody's sowing distrust here — we're responding to distrust that already exists, which, now that I hear it out loud, might be the same action with better lighting. The arm, that's a detainment that got physical, it happens, and the arrests are real cases, Harmeet said thousands under review — did I say thousands? I meant some. Look, the numbers are being finalized, same as everything else."
>
> *— Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Obama calls Omar probe appalling; backlash reads his own IRS's Tea Party file back to him.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Justice Department promises midterms will have 'no interruption,' delivers one to a congresswoman's front door instead.* By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Conservative lawyer refutes 'political revenge' claim by revealing the warrant judge donated to Clinton* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security opens deportation case against congresswoman over a text message on her sister's phone* By Mitch · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security agents explained the criminal investigation the border czar confirmed in September and would not describe by searching Rep. Ilhan Omar's home on 12 October, over immigration forms her late father filled out when she was a child.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

DOJ official defends Trump's noncitizen voter probe on '60 Minutes,' accuses show of editing out her answers

Fox News RIGHT § *10:27 EDT*

Harmeet Dhillon pushed back on claims the Trump administration is sowing election distrust, saying thousands of noncitizen voting cases are under review.

> *But:* **The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team and ordered investigations closed, while the president's family runs a crypto business** *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*
>
> Justice Dept. sues California, claims noncitizens were sent ballots
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *19:51 EDT*
>
> The Justice Department sued California, alleging that the federal government has identified more than 20,000 noncitizens who are unlawfully registered to vote.

FBI smash huge voter fraud ring in California — days after feds issued ultimatum to state

New York Post RIGHT § *09:41 EDT*

The arrests were the latest escalation in a federal effort to tackle electoral wrongdoing in California, something local officials have denied is a widespread problem.

> *But:* **The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them** *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
>
> ICE agents broke US citizen's arm as they detained him in California, officials say
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *09:28 EDT*
>
> Ricardo Gonzalez was injured and taken to hospital after confrontation in Long Beach, according to officials Federal immigration agents broke the arm of a US citizen in what a Democratic congressman said was a "brutal attack" during a confrontation with protesters in California. Video of Saturday's encounter in Long Beach shows Ricardo...

> *But:* **Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department** *NBC News, May 2026*
>
> US man shoots off-duty ICE agent who allegedly attacked him and daughter
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *15:03 EDT*
>
> ICE official, who was sleeping on man's lawn and appeared 'intoxicated', faces felony charges, California police say A 72-year-old man shot an off-duty Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official in California early on Friday morning after the "intoxicated and agitated" official assaulted him and his daughter on their property...

> *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)*
>
> Trump administration threatens California officials if noncitizens vote in midterms
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *21:24 EDT*
>
> Justice department warns election officials of prosecution if they 'knowingly tabulate ballots' cast by noncitizens The Trump administration is escalating its fight with California ahead of next month's midterm elections , warning that local officials who process and tabulate ballots submitted by suspected noncitizen voters are putting...

· Feds launch massive criminal voter fraud surge in California crackdown as eight other states targeted *from the morgue, 31 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.

Musk to give every American child SpaceX stock; parental consent optional under the Trump Accounts program

By **STERLING**

THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue", 12 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Elon Musk says he will give every child in the United States a share of SpaceX stock.

WHO GETS PAID. Musk gets every American family on his company's shareholder list; Republicans got $276 million from him this cycle.

WHAT SLIPS. Parents lose the say over whether their child is enrolled.

WHAT'S NEXT. If donor money keeps setting the price of a seat, the winner is picked before voters vote; that is what Kentucky got after 19 May 2026: a seven-term congressman lost a primary where $37 million was spent, the most ever on a House primary.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Every child in America is to receive a share of SpaceX, and you are thinking: how handsome. Look at the delivery. A gift is a thing one may decline — decline, mind you — and the Examiner reports this one goes into Trump Accounts even where the parents object. Not a gift, then. An enrollment. Every donee a minor, and no donee asked.

He wrote on Monday that it "will be the first of many."...

...(cont) Price the month. On October 12 the Post put his midterm spending at $276 million, the largest of the cycle. On October 9 his plan for SpaceX to become a mobile carrier wiped more than $50 billion off AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile before lunch. On September 22 a disclosure showed Trump bought up to $50,000 of SpaceX in July and sold up to $15,000.

The child holds one share ... and the man who sent it holds billions.

> Each morning now, grain in the
> coop the fox leaves. The hens stay.
>
> — ENOCH
>
> *The Ownership Desk*

"They tell you there's no money for your kid's school, and then one guy hands every kid in the country a single share of his rocket company — and the law says you don't get to say no. Same guy put $276 million into Republicans this cycle, and when he said SpaceX was getting into the phone business, AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile lost fifty billion dollars of value before lunch. A share you can't refuse isn't a gift, it's your kid's name on his list."

— *Sal*

"Objecting to free stock for children? That's — look, nobody is forcing anyone, parents can object all they like, the program handles it. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. The point is a kid gets an asset, and if the man behind it happens to be the biggest donor in the midterms, those are just two nice things landing in the same month."

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *The contribution limit died this week of natural causes, survived by a record $276 million, a $400 million party edge, and the 100 mph ceiling on Ukraine's air defense that the contractor spent three days attributing to the government that funds the terminals.*

By Mort · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:10 EDT*

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

How much money has Musk given to Republican groups since July? The quiz knows

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

Plus, this week saw comings and goings at the White House, the revenge of a child (reality) star, and Elon Musk doing Elon Musk things.

Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cries foul over intel and Starlink reports

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:24 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is waving a red flag over the partnership between his country and the United States, saying he feels his administration is "losing" a strong ally in the U.S. under President Donald Trump.

~~Ukraine says SpaceX's Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites~~

SpaceX capped speeds on Ukraine's military drones without warning, Kyiv says

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *09:31 EDT*

Ukrainian officials said speed limits were imposed on military-grade Starlink terminals without warning, disrupting military missions and forcing the cancellation of some drone operations. Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on defense technology, said the restrictions apply to Starshield, SpaceX's...

~~Ukrainian military's access to Starlink satellite internet suddenly restricted~~

Musk's SpaceX cut Ukraine's battlefield internet as Trump pushed Kyiv to halt oil strikes

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:18 EDT*

Launch of Russian ballistic missiles on Ukraine, with no US warning, coincides with outage of Starlink managed by Musk's SpaceX Ukraine's military has suddenly had its access to Starlink satellite internet terminals restricted as the Trump administration has increased pressure on Ukraine to halt long-range strikes on Russia's oil...

What Is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On?

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *18:20 EDT*

For years, Ukraine's armed forces have relied on satellite communication services developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX. Recent restrictions have hampered its war effort.

~~GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink~~

A billionaire holds the off switch to Ukraine's wartime communications

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EDT*

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) is pressing Elon Musk to explain Ukraine's loss of military access to Starlink and expressing hope that Ukraine's restricted access to the space-based communications network was because of an error and not a deliberate decision. Tillis called on Musk in a social media post to "please tell me these overnight...

~~U.S. may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes~~

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

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:56 EDT*

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

~~Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russians launch brutal attacks~~

Musk's SpaceX throttled Ukraine's Starlink, Kyiv says, as Trump pressured it to halt Russian refinery strikes

New York Post RIGHT § *10:59 EDT*

Top Ukrainian officials erupted with outrage after their soldiers allegedly faced throttled Starlink access without warning in the middle of operations, as President Trump has pressured Kyiv to stop attacking Russian refineries.

~~Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense~~

Musk's Starlink is limiting Ukraine's air defense, Kyiv says, as Zelensky warns Trump may cut intelligence sharing

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:51 EDT*

Ukraine is raising alarm that air defense operations are being impacted by unannounced limitations on SpaceX satellites. The disruption comes following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warning that President Trump has threatened to cut off intelligence sharing with the country. Limits on Starlink's services in Ukraine occurred...

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

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *05:06 EDT*

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

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

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

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *04:58 EDT*

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

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

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *00:30 EDT*

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

Thanks to Trump Accounts tweak, Musk can give every child SpaceX shares even if parents object

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *11:02 EDT*

Elon Musk announced he will give every child in the United States stock in his company SpaceX, a maneuver that is possible thanks to the implementation of the Trump Accounts program. Musk, the founder of SpaceX, Tesla, and other ventures, made the announcement Monday morning. He holds billions of shares of SpaceX.

Musk blames Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield restrictions

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *17:08 EDT*

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said his company is not responsible for any speed restrictions on Starshield defense communications systems, saying that power is vested in the U.S. military and President Donald Trump. “Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government.

Elon Musk's growing SpaceX empire sends AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile shares plunging

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *13:55 EDT*

Elon Musk's plan for SpaceX to become a major mobile carrier sent shares of AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile plunging and wiped out over $50 billion before lunch.

Musk and Anthropic pledge public share giveaways

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *05:38 EDT*

Musk's announcement comes after Anthropic pledged to create a public benefit fund ahead of its blockbuster stock market listing.

Now that Musk owns Republicans, they own his extremism

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:30 EDT*

Why is Musk exempt from the kind of scrutiny devoted to social media influencers who have far less influence on our culture and political system?

Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk

Common Dreams § *10:53 EDT*

The Ukrainian government on Tuesday night said that its access to the SpaceX-owned Starlink satellite internet service was throttled, prompting critics to question the wisdom of depending on any company owned by far-right billionaire Elon Musk. According to a Wednesday report in The New York Times, Ukrainian officials suspect that orders...

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

New York Post RIGHT § *19:06 EDT*

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

> ~~Elon Musk is the largest 2026 midterms donor — with $276M spent for GOP~~
>
> ### *Musk's $276M for the GOP could cover classroom-supply costs for 300,000+ teachers*
>
> *New York Post* RIGHT § *17:58 EDT*
>
> Tech billionaire Elon Musk has spent $276 million on behalf of Republicans ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, making him the largest donor this cycle, The Post has learned.

> ~~Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian missile attack~~
>
> ### *The U.S. threatened to stop warning Ukraine about Russian strikes — Trump says the strikes raise gas prices.*
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *19:55 EDT*
>
> Ukrainian officials suspect the U.S. has been withholding information about incoming Russian air strikes. The U.S.

Elon Musk pledges to give a SpaceX share to every U.S. child

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:03 EDT*

The SpaceX CEO wrote on social media on Monday that the gift "will be the first of many."

> ~~Ukraine accuses SpaceX of restricting Starlink, disrupting military amid Trump pressure~~
>
> ### *Ukraine says Musk's SpaceX throttled the Starlink it depends on in war*
>
> *NBC News* MAINSTREAM § *08:51 EDT*
>
> Ukrainian officials and military units accused Elon Musk's SpaceX of throttling a technology at the heart of their battlefield communications and drone operations.

Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decisions to restrict Starshield up to president

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:19 EDT*

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday said decisions to restrict the speed or usage of Starlink's Starshield are made by the U.S. military and, ultimately, the president, as confusion swirls over Ukraine's loss of military access to the systems. It is not clear at this point what caused Ukraine's military to lose access to Starshield,...

Ukraine reports U.S. early warning system shut down as Russia launched new air strikes

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:39 EDT*

Ukrainian officials tell CBS News that a U.S. early warning system failed amid a new wave of Russian strikes on Tuesday. CBS News' Charlie D'Agata has the details.

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

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *19:11 EDT*

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

> *But:* **Trump promised he'd end the war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — CNN counted 53 separate occasions he made that promise** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
>
> Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy
>
> *ABC News* MAINSTREAM § *07:40 EDT*
>
> Trump declared a ceasefire, but both sides are still shooting.

> ~~Musk says Zelensky should 'go' as doubts grow over US support for Ukraine~~
>
> *Ukraine's battlefield satellites belong to one company. Musk says blame Washington for any cutoff.*
>
> *France 24* MAINSTREAM § *16:19 EDT*
>
> SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to "go" after Kyiv raised doubts over US support for his country against the Russian invasion. A day earlier, Musk said any restrictions on Ukraine's use of the Starshield system would be due to decisions made by the US government after Zelensky called on...

- Trump bought and sold shares in Musk's SpaceX in July, financial disclosure shows *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*
- A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*
- Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*
- Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian cities after it was revealed that Starlink satellite communications interfered with a drone operation by disabling a communicat *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2023*
- The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection unit colonels recruited by Russia's Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of President V *from the morgue, 7 May 2024*
- Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 60 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drap *from the morgue, 1 Jun 2025*
- 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*

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.

Netanyahu predicts cheaper gas once the war ends, the war that already made Trump $4.4 million.

By **RUTH**

THE MONEY DESK

“Netanyahu hails Trump as ‘greatest friend of Israel’ in White House endorsement”, 19 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Netanyahu predicted at the White House that gas prices will fall once Iran's threat ends.

WHO GETS PAID. Trump's own disclosed oil stock holdings, already richer by up to $4.4 million from the war.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's check on whether a president's finances shape his own war forecasts slips here.

WHAT'S NEXT. If blaming the war for gas prices holds as the official line, expect reserve releases instead of accountability; that is what Washington got after 31 March 2022: 180 million barrels freed from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under the same logic.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

That endorsement carried no price at the pump.

This week Netanyahu came to the White House and supplied the number the endorsement left out. He called the president the greatest friend of Israel, and he predicted gas prices will fall once the threat from Iran's government is eliminated. The forecast gives the war's price at the pump a direction: high now, because the threat is still live, and lower only once the threat is gone....

...(cont) Pull the drawer from six weeks back, dated September 9th. An analysis of the president's own annual financial disclosure found that his nine largest fossil fuel holdings had risen in value by as much as $4.4 million since the Iran war began, a war that by that count had then run more than six months.

Set the two beside each other. Netanyahu's forecast and the disclosure's total describe the same war and the same stretch of time, and they point in opposite directions. The forecast says the price comes down once the war ends. The disclosure says that for as long as the war has run, its higher price has already moved as much as $4.4 million into holdings carrying the president's own name.

A forecast is free to make; nobody checks it until the date it names arrives. A financial disclosure is not free in that way. It is filed, it is dated, and it is the one place the public gets to see what a president's fossil fuel holdings are actually doing while he talks about the price everyone else pays.

Line the two up and the gap is not a rounding error. It is the distance between what an ally says will happen to the price and what the filing already says has happened to the money, while the public waits on the part that hasn't happened yet.

Whoever's column that $4.4 million sits in, hon, it is not the column the gas pump keeps open for the rest of the country. The forecast gets a date nine days out. The disclosure already has its number, filed six weeks ago, while the price it's attached to is still high.

> “Netanyahu tells everybody gas gets cheaper once the war's done. Nobody mentions that the war already ran Trump's own oil stocks up by as much as $4.4 million while it's still running. That's the tell — the man predicting relief is sitting on the markup, and the rest of us pay the price till his calendar says otherwise.”
>
> — Sal

> “Those are disclosed holdings — that's the whole point of disclosure, it's transparent. The market went up because markets go up; that's not the president personally profiting, that's just — did I say "personally"? Strike that, nobody's profiting, the numbers just went up.”
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump endorses Netanyahu to keep from finishing his own war alone* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Border czar teases 'criminal' probe he won't explain, DOJ explains it by raiding her home.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026
- *Trump lifts sanctions on Russian diesel, tells Ukraine to get a new president for objecting* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 10 October 2026
- *Trump blamed Kyiv for diesel prices, lifted the Russian sanctions, thanked Putin by name at the campaign rally.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 10 October 2026
- *Trump demanded Ukraine stop bombing Russian refineries over*

diesel costs, then agreed to import the diesel himself. By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 9 October 2026

— *Election spending watchdog can't open a single case, weeks before the most expensive vote in history.* By Mort · the breakfast edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Netanyahu hails Trump as 'greatest friend of Israel' in White House endorsement

New York Post RIGHT § *09:49 EDT*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised President Trump's leadership and vowed the two would never allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. Netanyahu also predicted gas prices would fall once the threat from Tehran's regime was eliminated.

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

Man spending $100 million to kill a 5% tax dines beside the president whose cuts it offsets

By **RUTH**

THE MONEY DESK

“We must tax the wealth of billionaires, not just income. California can lead the way”, 19 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Newsom endorsed canceling California's billionaire wealth tax; its chief opponent dined with the president.

WHO GETS PAID. California's billionaire residents, led by Sergey Brin and the donor class funding Newsom's party, keep their fortunes untaxed.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters' one shot at taxing billionaires can be erased by a second measure on the very same ballot.

WHAT'S NEXT. If both measures pass, the cancellation measure governs over the tax; California certifies the November 3 results in the weeks after, and that certification decides whether the billionaire tax ever collects a dollar.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Proposition 40 asks California voters, on November 3, to impose a one-time, 5 percent tax on billionaire residents, the proceeds earmarked to offset federal Medicaid cuts the president signed into law last year. In August, two campaign groups formed to defeat it before voters even saw it on a ballot: Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes, financed in part by Google co-founder Sergey Brin and venture capitalist Peter Thiel. By September 21, six Nobel Prize-winning economists, including Joseph Stiglitz, signed an open letter endorsing the measure that ad money was built to kill. On October 1, a former venture capitalist told reporters he would be glad to pay it — he knew where he wanted to live, he said — the same day Governor Gavin Newsom signed laws barring employers from using artificial intelligence to track workers' biometric data and emotional states, and requiring written notice when AI triggers mass layoffs. Ten days later, on October 11, Newsom endorsed a second measure for the same ballot, built to cancel Proposition 40 and bar any future wealth tax in the state. The AI protections and the tax cancellation came from the same governor, in the same month, aimed at two different kinds of California fortune.

This weekend the ledger closed its own loop. Sergey Brin, who by Sunday had spent more than $100 million fighting the one-time tax, was seated at the left hand of Donald Trump, who is himself a billionaire, at a fundraising dinner for the pro-Trump super PAC MAGA Inc., at Mar-a-Lago. OpenAI president Greg Brockman sat at Trump's right. The invitation came from the PAC, not from either man; nothing in the record shows either of them organizing the evening. What the record does show is simpler: the $100 million spent to stop a 5 percent tax on billionaires sat beside the president whose Medicaid cuts that tax was written to offset, at a dinner his own political operation hosted....

...(cont) Call it what the ledger says, hon. Proposition 40 would reach a resident like Brin once, at 5 percent. Newsom's measure would make sure it never reaches him, or anyone like him, again. The economists who studied the gap signed their names to it. The venture capitalist who could afford to pay said he didn't mind. The man actually billed for it spent nine figures instead, then had dinner with the president. Representative Khanna called the vote a choice between "New Deal Democrats" and "corporate Democrats." On November 3, fifteen days from today, Californians get to make that choice — assuming the measure built to cancel it doesn't get there first.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

Dutch

Sergey Brin spent more than one hundred million dollars fighting a one-time, five percent tax on people like him, then sat down to dinner with the president whose own Medicaid cuts that tax money was supposed to cover. That isn't a campaign, it's a bill with a seating chart: the dinner is the receipt for the cancellation measure, and the governor is the maître d'. Because the tax doesn't land on Brin, the Medicaid gap doesn't close; because the gap doesn't close, the county clinic raises what it charges at the counter; and that is why the past-due notice with your name on it is sitting on your kitchen table this month instead of his.

> “They tell you there's no money for Medicaid, then they find a seat at the table for the guy spending $100 million to make sure there never is. Newsom signs a law keeping AI off your timecard the same month he endorses the measure that keeps his donors' money off the tax rolls forever. One ballot, two billionaires at one dinner, and only one of them has to vote.”
>
> — Sal

> “Look, a private dinner isn't a policy position — Sergey Brin can eat wherever he wants, this is a free country, this is the land of— did I just say "land of the free" about a Mar-a-Lago seating chart? Forget I said that. The governor signed real AI protections, full stop, and his other measure just closes a loophole for everyone, which, fine, mostly means for him.”
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— [Newsom endorses the measure that cancels the billionaire tax he let California's voters decide on his own](#) By Ruth · the morning edition, 18 October 2026

— [Newsom pitches a federal stock-trading ban, then endorses the measure canceling his state's billionaire tax.](#) By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 17 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

We must tax the wealth of billionaires, not just income. California can lead the way

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

Will California stand with the working class or the oligarchs in the vote this November? The Democratic party has a choice to make. Are we going to be New Deal Democrats or corporate Democrats?

> ~~As Millions Struggle to Get By, Plutocrat Working to Kill California Billionaire Tax Dines With Trump~~
>
> *Google co-founder spent $100 million fighting a tax on billionaires like him*
>
> *Common Dreams* § *11:00 EDT*
>
> Billionaire Google co-founder Sergey Brin, who has spent more than $100 million fighting a proposed wealth tax in California, shared a lavish dinner with billionaire US President Donald Trump over the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida as millions of American families struggle to afford groceries, healthcare, and...

· Gavin Newsom signs laws to protect California workers from AI threat *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Billionaire-Backed Groups Launch Ad Blitz Against California Wealth Tax *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· Liberals hope California ballot measure will be the foot in the door for wealth taxes *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

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THE BACKLASH

Obama calls Omar probe appalling; backlash reads his own IRS's Tea Party file back to him.

By **LOU**
ONE MORE QUESTION

“Ilhan Omar investigation seeks to denaturalize and deport congresswoman: Report”, 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal agents searched Representative Ilhan Omar's home in October under an unnamed "criminal" probe aimed at stripping her citizenship.

WHO GETS PAID. The Department of Homeland Security's deportation push gains a precedent: a sitting member of Congress investigated over her citizenship.

WHAT SLIPS. A voter-elected seat in Congress now depends on a Justice Department citizenship review, not the ballot that put her there.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this runs like the administration's other fights with critics, expect years without resolution — the Associated Press's own press-ban suit was still open in September 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I want to tell you about Frank's fence, and I promise it gets to the point.

Frank moved a fence post two feet onto what is, by the deed, my side of the property line. When I asked him, he said the county's old survey had the boundary wrong, and he was correcting it. That was true. I checked the survey myself at the recorder's office. What I didn't understand until the next spring, when the shed went up, is that the post wasn't about the boundary at all. It was angled to block my oak tree's shade off his solar panels. The survey correction was real. It also wasn't the reason....

...(cont) I've been turning Frank's fence over all week because of the dates on this. The next day, the 13th, The Hill reported that Omar's campaign was fundraising off the same raid, agents inside her house while a fundraising email went out calling the investigation baseless and partisan.

Two days after that, on the 15th, the Wall Street Journal and, separately, the Washington Examiner both reported what the "very carefully" turned out to be for: officials confirmed the investigation is aimed at stripping Omar of the citizenship she obtained in 2000 — five years after she arrived in this country — and deporting her. The reason given on the 12th and the reason confirmed on the 15th were not the same reason.

On the 18th, border czar Tom Homan talked to the Guardian about where that citizenship question goes next. The same week, Barack Obama called the whole investigation "appalling" — that's NBC's word for his word, and the quote holds up.

Today, the 19th — a Monday — Fox News reports that Obama's defense of Omar triggered instant conservative backlash, people citing his own administration's IRS targeting of Tea Party nonprofit groups back at him. The Daily Caller ran the identical news under a different headline: "Future presidents, in either party, won't do the same." I've read that line a few times now. Which future presidents is it asking me to picture, and which thing is it asking me to picture them not doing? The headline doesn't say. It just lands next to the IRS line and lets the reader do the rest.

That's Frank's fence again, if you think about it. Two true things sitting next to each other, daring you to assume they're the same true thing. The investigation into Representative Omar was, on the 12th, "very carefully." On the 15th, it was denaturalization and deportation. Both descriptions came from the same investigation. Neither one was false when it was said.

Excuse me — before you go, one more thing. The Justice Department that searched a sitting congresswoman's home over a case it wouldn't name is the same department that has promised the midterms will see "no interruption," the same week it sued California's election officials over noncitizen voting claims. Does the record say whether "no interruption" describes what happens to the vote — or just describes what the department does to everything around it?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

HOMAN OPENED A "CRIMINAL" INVESTIGATION INTO CONGRESSWOMAN OMAR WITHOUT naming the crime, and agents searched her house; the Wall Street Journal found the real file was about her citizenship, not a crime. That isn't an investigation, it's a denaturalization case wearing a badge. And it doesn't stop at her front door, because the same Justice Department that built that file is the one suing California's election officials over noncitizen voting and promising midterm voters "no interruption" — which means the citizenship test that unseats a congresswoman today is the same test that gets run, tomorrow, on the voter registration card in your own glovebox.

> "The backlash to Obama's outrage didn't deny the raid on Omar's house — it dug up his own IRS file on the Tea Party instead, like old wrongs cancel new ones. Both things happened; pointing at one doesn't undo the other. What should worry you is that the file doesn't close when the administration changes — it just waits for whoever's turn it is next to open it."
>
> — Sal

> "This isn't targeting, it's just a very thorough, very coincidental citizenship review — Homan said so himself, and he wouldn't exactly lie about a case he also won't describe. And sure, maybe Obama's got a point about agencies going after political opponents, but has anybody checked his own IRS's old paperwork? Wait — did I just hand him his argument back? That's not what I meant to say."
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department promises midterms will have 'no interruption,' delivers one to a congresswoman's front door instead.* By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Conservative lawyer refutes 'political revenge' claim by revealing the warrant judge donated to Clinton* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security opens deportation case against congresswoman over a text message on her sister's phone* By Mitch · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security agents explained the criminal investigation the border czar confirmed in September and would not describe by searching Rep. Ilhan Omar's home on 12 October, over immigration forms her late father filled out when she was a child.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*

Ilhan Omar investigation seeks to denaturalize and deport congresswoman: Report

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *21:04 EDT*

The Trump administration's criminal investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) is aimed at seeking to build a basis to strip the congresswoman of her U.S. citizenship and deport her, according to a new report.

Obama's lengthy reaction to Omar investigation triggers instant backlash: 'Spare me'

Fox News RIGHT § *09:34 EDT*

Barack Obama's vocal defense of Ilhan Omar drew fierce conservative backlash citing his own administration's IRS targeting of Tea Party groups.

~~Trump says he's not involved in investigation into Ilhan Omar~~

Trump denies role in Omar raid, says agents watching her "very carefully"

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *18:41 EDT*

President Donald Trump denied having involvement in the raid on Rep. Ilhan Omar's (D-MN) Washington, D.C., home by federal agents as part of a criminal investigation on Monday. Trump told reporters Monday afternoon that federal investigators are looking at Omar "very carefully,"

~~Omar Raid and Investigation Aimed at Deporting Congresswoman, Officials Say~~

ICE raided a congresswoman's home to strip the citizenship she's held since 2000, officials say

Common Dreams § *08:12 EDT*

"I have rarely wanted to be wrong more," said one journalist Wednesday night after The Wall Street Journal confirmed what many supporters of US Rep. Ilhan Omar had suspected: that the Department of Homeland Security's raid on her home this week was part of an investigation that is ultimately aimed at deporting her. The Journal reported...

~~Omar fundraising off federal investigation~~

DHS agents raided a sitting congresswoman's home Monday

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:55 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,”

Editor Daily Rundown: Barack Obama Groans About Investigation Into Ilhan Omar

Daily Caller RIGHT § *08:59 EDT*

Future presidents, in either party, won’t do the same

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THE TILT

Rubio tells Zelensky to end the war Putin is settling with Trump and Xi without him.

By **LOU**

ONE MORE QUESTION

“Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine’s power grid continue”, 12 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The President waived his own Russia sanctions law the night before it took effect.

WHO GETS PAID. Russia's president gets a seat deciding Ukraine's war; Ukraine's president does not.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's oversight check slips here: a bipartisan group of senators pressing the Pentagon on the Starlink blackout still has no answer.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the Pentagon's silence holds, the restrictions continue without a vote or an answer; that is what Congress got after its April 2019 override failed 53 to 45: support for the war it was voting on continued 21 more months regardless.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I got stuck at the toll plaza on Route 1 Sunday, the one with the orange light that's supposed to flash before the arm comes down. I've driven through that plaza more mornings than I can count, and for some reason I decided to actually watch the light this time instead of just gunning it through. The arm dropped and the light came on at the same instant. Not before. The same instant. I asked the attendant about it — nice kid, works the far booth — and he told me the light and the arm run off the same signal, so there's no way for one to warn you ahead of the other. They're not two systems. They're one system wearing two coats of paint, and only one of those coats does anything.

I wrote that down. I didn't know why at the time....

...(cont) Here's the page I've got from the same stretch of days. A few back, it says the president signed a waiver pausing his own Russia sanctions law the night before that law was set to take effect — not the morning after, the night before. The next line on the same page, same week: Russia answered that pause with 320 drones aimed at Ukraine's power grid.

That was last week's strike. This week's is a different one. Sunday night, close to eleven, a missile barrage — not drones, a barrage — hit power plants in Kyiv, and by Monday morning Ukraine's Air Force was telling the press the warning never arrived before that one either. President Zelensky used a phrase on this I had to read twice: "denial of reality." Not my phrase. His, about Washington. Question for the page, not for me: did a call come through to Kyiv before the missiles did, on this barrage, the one the Air Force is talking about this week? The page I've got says no.

I went back a month in the same drawer, out of habit more than anything. Last month, same man, same accusation, same ships: "We can't have that happening," he said then. A month apart, almost word for word.

I want to be careful here, because the page keeps those two statements, from two different people, on two separate lines, so I will too.

Then there's the call Putin made on October 9th, the one proposing a sit-down — himself, the president, and President Xi. The page lists three names for that room. Question I keep coming back to, because the page lets me: whose name isn't on it?

And running under all of it is a question the record hasn't closed yet. October 16th, a bipartisan group of senators — some from the president's own party — pressed the Pentagon for answers about why Starlink access over the battlefield had been restricted. The lawmakers say American personnel were endangered by it.

Oh — before I let you go, one more thing. That request went out on the 16th. Today's the 19th. Three days, and as of today's page the senators are still the ones doing the asking, not the Pentagon the answering — "want answers," it says, word for word. My toll plaza doesn't warn me about anything; the light and the arm move together. But a question isn't a toll arm. It's supposed to get an answer before the next strike does. Has it?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

Rubio tells Zelensky to end the war the same week Putin books the summit that ends it, with Trump, with Xi, not him. That isn't a ceasefire being negotiated, it's a sale being closed after the other owner's line got cut. The signal over the front goes dark first; then the man whose country is being fought over loses his seat where the terms get written; which is the same order a utility uses on you — the power goes out the night before the company calls to explain the increase, the bill still arrives, and the porch light you leave on for no one stays off until somebody upstream decides it's worth turning back on.

> “They waived the sanctions law the night before it kicked in, Russia answered with 320 drones on the grid, and now the guy who signed the waiver says the guy getting bombed doesn't want peace. Putin gets a seat at the table with the president and Xi, and Zelensky doesn't even get the invite. That's not a peace process, that's a sale with the seller's phone cut off before he can counter.”
>
> — Sal

> “The waiver wasn't relief, it was a pause for energy stability — wait, that's a different column, scratch that. Rubio's just flagging a legitimate security concern, Ukraine hit American-linked tankers, and if Zelensky won't come to the table with Putin and the president and Xi — okay, he wasn't invited, but that's a scheduling matter, not a — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me.”
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Treasury insists Russia got no sanctions relief, just a waiver pausing the sanctions.* By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Trump waives his own Russia sanctions the night before they take effect, and hours later more than 320 drones hit Ukraine's grid.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:10 EDT*

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

But: I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled - Trump, 10 May 2023; CNN counted 53 such promises *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Rubio says Ukraine attacked ships carrying US-owned oil, demands Zelensky bring ‘an end to this war’

New York Post RIGHT § *10:24 EDT*

Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Ukraine of attacking American energy vessels in the Black Sea and urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to find a way to end the bloody war.

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

Bipartisan senators ask Pentagon to answer for Ukraine Starlink restrictions

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:20 EDT*

{beacon} Technology Technology The Big Story GOP senators press Pentagon over Starlink restrictions in Ukraine Four Republican senators joined their Democratic colleagues in pressing the Trump administration for information about whether Pentagon officials ordered restrictions on Ukraine's access to the satellite-based Starshield...

But: **Trump promised Putin-Zelensky talks would settle the war within 24 hours - CNN counted 53 separate such promises** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Putin proposing summit with Trump, Xi in push to end Ukraine war: WSJ

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:54 EDT*

Russian President Vladimir Putin is proposing a three-way meeting with President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month to discuss the war in Ukraine, the Wall Street Journal Reported. Putin proposed the summit during a phone call with Trump on Oct. 9, the Journal reported, citing a Russian intelligence officer briefed on the...

US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *05:03 EDT*

Ukrainian president accuses Washington of ‘denial of reality’ in ongoing row with Trump over apparent support for Moscow Ukraine did not receive a warning from the US about an impending Russian missile attack on Sunday evening, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said, reviving concerns that Washington is withholding intelligence in order to bully...

~~Volodymyr Zelensky openly defies Trump’s ban on Russian oil refinery strikes, Ukraine will resume attacks: ‘We’re done’~~

Russia broke Trump’s cease-fire first. Ukraine just said it’s dead.

New York Post RIGHT § *10:29 EDT*

“The block is out. We’re done,” Zelensky told the Financial Times during a London visit.

But: **I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled - Trump, 10 May 2023, one of 53 times he's made this promise** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Zelenskyy doesn't want to end Russia's war on Ukraine

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:15 EDT*

As Ukraine and Russia continue trading strikes, Trump accuses Zelenskyy of not wanting to end the war sparked by Putin's ongoing full-scale invasion.

Bipartisan group of senators want answers on Starlink disruptions in Ukraine

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *09:46 EDT*

The lawmakers say American personnel were endangered in attacks on Ukraine.

· Rubio says Ukraine has attacked US-linked ships: ‘We can’t have that happening’ *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· US invites Putin to G20 summit in Miami for first time since Russia-Ukraine war began *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

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

White House loses three court battles and a poll, then calls the retreat mercy.

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU

“Voters in Key States See AI Campaign Cash as More Politically Toxic Than AIPAC: Poll”, 8 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump cancelled the Pentagon's planned livestream of Nidal Hasan's December 3 execution six days after confirming it.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the White House keeps appealing after losing, the ban can stay partly in force without ever winning outright; that is what the Associated Press got after its Oval Office ban was enjoined on 8 April 2025: an appeals panel kept a stay in place through September 2026, the case still unresolved eighteen months later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Born October 9, when Secretary Pete Hegseth told cameras the broadcast would be "public" and a Pentagon official confirmed the livestreamed execution of Nidal Hasan, set for December 3, one o'clock. Preceded in death, that same day, by the UN human rights office's finding that livestreaming a killing "would breach the absolute prohibition of torture."

It survived six days. On October 15, a YouGov poll found seventy-one percent of Americans opposed broadcasting the execution live, eighteen percent favored it, and thirteen percent were not sure. The same day, the Guardian reported that pastors of the CREC church, whose leader said he preferred public executions to private ones, were the plan's last defenders. Not that they had asked him to stop. Only that they would rather not watch....

...(cont) Across town, a second program was dying its own slower death, on a different docket but the identical premise: that the government decides what the public is permitted to see. Since September, the White House has argued that press access is a privilege, not a right, and lost that argument three separate times; a Trump-appointed judge extended the order restoring CNN, MSNBC and Politico's access again this month. If that is not malarkey, the word has no work left to do. Different plaintiffs, different courtroom, same theory, same verdict.

On Sunday, the Hill ran the plainest epitaph available: the public execution is off, but it never should have gotten this far. They didn't change their minds; they lost the argument. That is not a correction. That is a program that kept confirming the broadcast after the UN had already called it torture, and kept standing by it after its own poll said no, and stopped only when stopping was the one option left that no court or pollster could overturn.

Survived by the December 3 date, now empty on the calendar. Preceded in death by the notion that losing counts as persuasion.

In lieu of flowers, read the poll before you confirm the broadcast, not after.

> “They didn't get a conscience, they ran out of road — the UN called it torture, their own poll said no, three judges already said no about the press passes, and only then does Trump call it mercy. Same move both times: lose everywhere else first, then stand up and take credit for stopping.”
>
> — Sal

> “Look, the President showed mercy here, plain and simple — he heard the country and he acted, that's leadership. The press pass lawsuits? That's ongoing litigation, nothing's really final, these things take time to work through the courts. Did I say three losses? That's not — that's an appeals process functioning exactly as designed.”
>
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump cancels the livestream, keeps the firing squad.* By Sterling · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Voters in Key States See AI Campaign Cash as More Politically Toxic Than AIPAC: Poll

Common Dreams § *11:10 EDT*

Polling data released Thursday shows that American voters in several key states view campaign cash from the artificial intelligence industry and Big Tech CEOs as more politically poisonous than donations from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Wall Street executives, and cryptocurrency firms. The poll from Data for Progress...

Christa Pike out of hospital and recovering in prison after botched Tennessee execution

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *12:52 EDT*

Christa Pike has been released from the hospital and is back in prison after surviving an execution attempt in Tennessee that left her unconscious and on a ventilator. Pike is on death row for the premeditated torture and murder of a college classmate in 1995. The prisoner was set to be executed on Sept.

~~Hegseth church allies backed plan for ‘public’ execution of Fort Hood shooter~~

Hegseth proposed livestreaming a federal execution before Trump axed the plan

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:00 EDT*

Leader of CREC church – whose pastors have advocated death penalty – says he ‘prefers public executions to private’ Donald Trump announced on Thursday he was cancelling Pete Hegseth’s recently announced plans to livestream a military execution – because “many very good and well-meaning people would rather not watch him die”. But there...

~~Republican opposition grows to livestreaming execution of Fort Hood shooter~~

Hegseth’s planned livestreamed execution is ’beyond disgusting,’ GOP senator says

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:18 EDT*

Republicans are condemning the Pentagon’s plans to livestream the execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan, with one senator calling it “beyond disgusting.” Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced Thursday that Hasan’s execution, scheduled for Dec. 3, would be public.

~~Christa Pike discharged from hospital, returned to prison after botched execution, attorneys say~~

State’s botched lethal injection left her with arm injuries, memory loss, attorneys say

Fox News RIGHT § *15:06 EDT*

Christa Pike is back at prison after surviving a botched lethal injection, but her attorneys say she still struggles with arm injuries and memory problems.

~~Majority of Americans oppose public executions: poll~~

71% of Americans oppose the Pentagon’s planned livestream execution

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *21:41 EDT*

A new survey found the majority of Americans opposed publicly broadcast executions ahead of the Pentagon’s planned livestreamed execution of convicted Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan. In the YouGov poll, 71 percent of respondents opposed “having executions broadcast live to the public,” while 18 favored it and 13 percent were not sure.

~~‘Medieval’ and ‘disturbing’: US plan to livestream execution elicits global condemnation~~

Trump’s Pentagon to livestream disabled man’s execution by firing squad

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:32 EDT*

Pentagon said execution of Nidal Malik Hasan, who killed 13 people at Fort Hood in 2009, would be broadcast live US politics live – latest updates The US is facing worldwide condemnation over a “barbaric” plan to execute a disabled man by firing squad and livestream it to the public, with critics comparing the Trump administration to…

~~Christa Pike discharged from hospital and returned to prison, her lawyers say~~

Tennessee failed to execute her by lethal injection – twice, her lawyers say

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *11:58 EDT*

The convicted murderer was left in a critical condition after she survived two lethal injections.

Fort Hood massacre survivor weighs in on possible Hasan execution livestream

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:53 EDT*

Fort Hood massacre survivor Sgt. Alonzo Lunsford shared his complicated feelings on the planned execution of convicted shooter Nidal Hasan potentially being livestreamed in December. Appearing on The Hill’s partner network NewsNation’s “Katie Pavlich Tonight,”

Retired US generals call on Pentagon to cancel 'barbaric' execution livestream

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:26 EDT*

Livestreaming the execution of Nidal Hasan "will taint the honor of the military that employs it, and a nation that allows it," 72 former officers said in a letter.

Daughter of Fort Hood victim slams Hegseth’s plan to livestream terrorist’s execution: ‘Nothing to do with justice’

New York Post RIGHT § *14:17 EDT*

"This does not bring anyone's family back. Livestreaming isn't closure for any of us," she said.

~~Mike Johnson urges Trump to rethink livestreaming Nidal Hasan execution: ‘I wouldn’t be watching’~~

Trump wants to livestream an execution. His own Speaker says he won’t watch.

New York Post RIGHT § *09:52 EDT*

House Speaker Mike Johnson appeared to publicly nudge President Trump against having the 2009 Fort Hood shooter's execution by firing squad live-streamed for the whole world to see.

~~Trump cancels public execution, but a line may already have been crossed~~

Hegseth proposed a livestreamed execution. His church calls it biblical.

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

Defense Secretary Hegseth's announcement of a livestreamed execution elicited reactions of disgust and condemnation from some faith leaders and politicians. But within his church, it's not an outlier.

The public execution is off, but it never should have gotten this far

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:00 EDT*

They didn’t change their minds; they lost the argument.

But: **The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves "incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture" – ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them** *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

UN Says Trump-Hegseth Livestream of Execution Would Breach ‘Absolute Prohibition of Torture’

Common Dreams § *11:02 EDT*

As rights advocates across the US expressed horror at the Trump administration's confirmed plans to publicly broadcast the execution of Nidal Hasan, the former military psychiatrist who was convicted of killing 13 people in a mass shooting at Fort Hood in 2009, the top United Nations human rights expert warned that the public state…

~~Judge extends White House access to banned media outlets CNN, MS Now and Politico~~

Judge forces Trump to keep letting reporters into the White House

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *00:34 EDT*

District court judge Timothy Kelly was ruling after Trump administration blocked access to three outlets last month A federal judge ordered the White House on Tuesday to continue allowing journalists from CNN, MS Now and Politico to access the building as the media coalition’s lawsuit against the Trump administration plays out. Timothy...

Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *00:15 EDT*

The prison commissioner in the southern US state of Tennessee has resigned over the failed execution of convicted murderer Christa Pike, Governor Bill Lee has said.

~~Federal Judge Again Blocks Trump’s Ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico~~

Trump’s ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico blocked again — access problems remain

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *01:33 EDT*

The ruling will allow the outlets to enter the White House grounds while they sue to overturn the ban. But it doesn’t resolve all of their access problems.

Christa Pike out of hospital and back in prison after botched execution attempt

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:10 EDT*

Pike’s lawyers said she is back in same prison she’s lived in for last 30 years and will continue to receive medical care Christa Pike has been discharged from the hospital after surviving Tennessee ’s botched 30 September attempt to execute her by lethal injection and is back in prison, her lawyers said on Saturday. Pike, 50, returned...

~~Report: Trump Is Having Second Thoughts About Livestreaming Military Execution~~

Report: Pentagon’s plan to livestream a military execution proceeds despite Trump’s doubts

Truthout § *17:03 EDT*

Trump isn't “particularly enthusiastic” about Pete Hegseth's plan to livestream a military execution in December.

~~Christa Pike moved back to prison after failed execution~~

Tennessee’s lethal injection failed to kill her

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *11:43 EDT*

Christa Pike, who survived Tennessee's attempt to execute her by lethal injection, has been moved back to prison, according to a statement released by her lawyers.

Judge grants preliminary injunction continuing to block Trump's White House media ban

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *11:04 EDT*

A federal judge late Tuesday granted a preliminary injunction continuing to block the Trump administration's move to bar CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House.

~~Pentagon vows to livestream first military execution in decades~~

Hegseth’s Pentagon will livestream an execution the UN says breaches the torture ban

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *06:56 EDT*

The first US military execution in more than 65 years will be livestreamed, announced the Pentagon on Thursday, after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said it would be "public". Former Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan opened fire at Fort Hood in Texas in 2009, killing 13 people. His execution will take place at the military base on December...

White House confirms appeal as Trump-appointed judge extends ruling restoring CNN, MS NOW, Politico access

Fox News RIGHT § *15:49 EDT*

Judge Timothy Kelly found Trump's ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters likely violated the First Amendment. The White House vows to appeal.

Judge says Trump's White House media ban likely violated First Amendment

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *13:07 EDT*

U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly said the White House's revocation of hard passes for CNN, MS NOW and Politico journalists likely violated their First and Fifth Amendment rights.

Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

Truthout § *14:08 EDT*

“I’ve never seen anything like what we saw Wednesday night,” said one reporter who witnessed the execution attempt.

> ~~Convicted murderer Christa Pike leaves hospital, returns to prison after botched execution~~
>
> *Tennessee’s execution attempt failed. She survived and went back to prison.*
>
> *France 24* MAINSTREAM § *13:41 EDT*
>
> Christa Pike's lawyers on Saturday said that the 50-year-old convicted murderer has been discharged from the hospital and returned to prison. Pike was transported to the hospital in critical condition on September 30 after she survived Tennessee's botched effort to execute her for murdering a classmate when she was a teenager.

- Trump White House Restores Access to Politico, MS NOW, CNN Reporters Hours After Judge's Order *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- Federal judge extends order halting White House press ban while considering long-term ruling *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*
- Judge orders White House to temporarily restore media access for blocked outlets *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- White House again blocks CNN from press pool as Trump rages against media in wide-ranging interview – live *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Trump made ‘clear’ that media ban was due to critical coverage, lawyer tells judge *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*
- Sunday Shows Preview: Trump bans 3 media outlets from White House; Parties make final cases as midterms approach *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*
- Outgoing prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five ‘botched’ executions, lawyers say *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Judge orders officials to preserve all evidence tied to Christa Pike’s botched execution *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike’s lawyer says request to unshackle her was denied as he confirms she is speaking ‘limitedly’ – live *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike left in ‘critical condition’ as Tennessee halts all executions *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee suspends executions as Christa Pike’s lawyer says failed lethal injection leaves her in critical condition *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee Corrections commissioner resigns days after failed Christa Pike execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- After failed execution, health workers say Tennessee's method flouts medical ethics *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Supreme Court Allows Execution of Christa Pike, Tennessee’s Lone Woman on Death Row *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Federal court halts Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- White House defends media outlet bans, now citing 'professionalism' standards *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Vance defends White House media ban: ‘Politico is as anti-Trump as Breitbart was anti-Obama or anti-Biden’ *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*
- Vance defends Trump's media ban as 'totally appropriate' *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*
- Bill Clinton: 'There were lots of times when I wanted to ban the White House press corps' *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee prison chief to resign after Christa Pike's failed

execution, governor says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee’s prisons chief resigns after failed Pike execution, governor says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Federal Appellate Court Halts Tennessee's Planned Execution of Christa Pike *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Supreme Court declines Christa Pike's clemency appeal, with Tennessee set to execute first woman in 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Supreme Court allows execution of Christa Pike to go forward *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee court makes last minute move to temporarily halt Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- DOJ petitions judge to reinstate White House ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters regain entry to White House *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee prison system head to resign after failed Christa Pike execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee Prison Commissioner Resigns Days After Failed Execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike’s botched execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike’s Tennessee execution halted by court an hour before it was scheduled *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Christa Pike thought her arm would ‘burst open’ during botched Tennessee execution: court docs *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Death row inmate unconscious on ventilator after botched execution for teen’s killing: attorneys *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike remains unconscious and on ventilator after failed execution in Tennessee *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike unconscious and intubated after failed execution, lawyers say *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike Was Unconscious and on Ventilator After Execution Attempt *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee inmate survived two lethal injections, her lawyer says in motion to halt execution *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee prepares to execute the first woman in over 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike’s botched lethal injection takes focus off victim, jeopardizes execution: former police chief *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- States should not blindly Alabama's use of execution by nitrogen *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*
- Lawyers, experts urge Tennessee governor to commute Christa Pike’s sentence after botched execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Botched execution of death row inmate *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· After Two Botched Attempts, UN Experts Urge Tennessee Not to Try to Execute Crista Pike Again *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Legal expert on what could happen after botched execution of Christa Pike *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· After Failed Attempt to Execute Christa Pike, Tennessee Pauses a Planned Execution *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Botched US execution prompts global calls to scrap death penalty *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Lone woman death row inmate Christa Pike says she's 'at peace' ahead of execution — as Tennessee gov. denies last-ditch bid for clemency *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

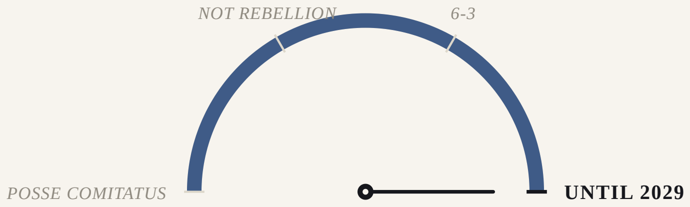
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§66 — 19 OCTOBER 2026

On training grounds

BY **LOU**
The Word

DEMOCRAT



UNTIL 2029

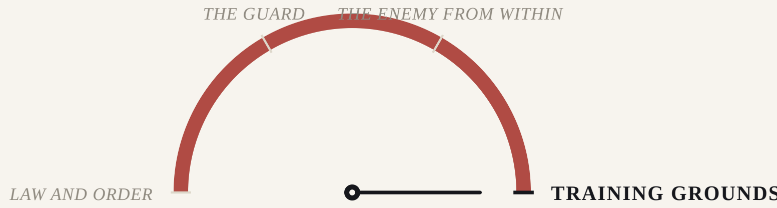
The courts. In September 2025 a federal judge in California ruled that the Los Angeles deployment violated the Posse Comitatus Act; the ruling was stayed on appeal [1]. In October the Seventh Circuit wrote that "political opposition is not rebellion" [2]. On December 23 the Supreme Court, 6 to 3, refused the Illinois deployment: "At this preliminary stage, the Government has failed to identify a source of authority that would allow the military to execute the laws in Illinois" [3]. The FBI's 2025 figures showed murder down 18.1 percent nationally; one analyst noted rates "are falling in cities with very different public safety strategies" [4].

The bill and the calendar. The Congressional Budget Office put the deployments at about $496 million through December 2025, and about $93 million a month going forward [5]. The Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland deployments ended. The one in Washington was extended in August until Inauguration Day, 2029 [6].

SOURCES

1. A federal judge ruled the Los Angeles deployment violated the Posse Comitatus Act; the Ninth Circuit stayed the ruling — Cato Institute, September 2025 ↑
2. "Political opposition is not rebellion" — Seventh Circuit — Chicago Sun-Times, 16 October 2025 ↑
3. Trump v. Illinois, 23 December 2025, 6–3: "the Government has failed to identify a source of authority that would allow the military to execute the laws in Illinois" — NBC News ↑
4. FBI 2025 data: murder down 18.1 percent; "Rates are falling in cities with very different public safety strategies" — CBS News, 14 August 2026 ↑
5. About $496 million through December 2025; about $93 million per month going forward, per CBO — CBS News, 29 January 2026 ↑
6. The Washington deployment "quietly extended until Inauguration Day of 2029" — NPR, 11 August 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



TRAINING GROUNDS

The line, to the generals and admirals at Quantico on September 30, 2025: "I told Pete, 'we should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military national guard, but military. Because we're going into Chicago very soon.'" And: "it's the enemy from within and we have to handle it before it gets out of control" [1].

The case for the deployments is the crime numbers, and in Washington they moved. Metropolitan Police data reported in February showed four homicides in the previous 41 days, a 78 percent drop from the same period a year earlier, with violent crime down 36 percent [2]. When he ended three of the deployments at the end of 2025, he credited the troops: "CRIME has greatly reduced by having these great Patriots in those cities, and ONLY by that fact" [3]. A falling homicide count is the kind of result a city can feel. Whether the troops were the reason is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "We should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military"; "it's the enemy from within" — remarks to military leaders at Quantico, 30 September 2025 — Miller Center ↑
2. Four homicides in 41 days, a 78 percent drop from a year earlier; violent crime down 36 percent — NBC Washington, 10 February 2026 ↑
3. "CRIME has greatly reduced by having these great Patriots in those cities, and ONLY by that fact" — Stars and Stripes, 31 December 2025 ↑

> *“I'll read it the way he said it, because the wording matters. Quantico, September 30th of last year, to the generals: "we should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military national guard, but military." Then the courts, one at a time. A district judge in California. The Seventh Circuit: "political opposition is not rebellion." The Supreme Court, December 23rd: the government "failed to identify a source of authority." Then the bill: about four hundred ninety-six million through December. Excuse me, I'm going — the troops came home from three cities. The fourth deployment runs until 2029. What's it training for?”* — Lou

🍺

“"We should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military." He said that to a room full of generals. Then a judge in California said the Posse Comitatus Act still exists, an appeals court in Chicago said "political opposition is not rebellion," and the Supreme Court said it couldn't find the authority. Half a billion dollars later, three cities got their troops sent home. Washington got its extended to Inauguration Day 2029. A training ground with a lease through the end of the term.”

— Sal

🚬

“The troops left Chicago because crime fell, crime fell because the troops were there, and they're staying in Washington because crime is still falling there — which proves they're needed right up until it stops.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎