The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Justice Department promises midterms will have 'no interruption,' delivers one to a congresswoman's front door instead.

BY LOU
One More Question

I keep going back to the password. Not mine — theirs. The Department of Justice sent Los Angeles County a thumb drive this month, and on it, someone had written the password down by hand. October 13th — hold on, let me find where I wrote it — yes, the 13th, I have it circled. A federal agency wants a county to check citizenship records fast enough to disqualify ballots already cast, and the instructions arrive the way you'd leave a spare key for a neighbor. Does a department in a hurry usually write its own password down for somebody else to read?

Let me back up, because I started in the middle again, and my wife tells me that's why nobody follows my stories to the end.

On September 18th, border czar Tom Homan told Fox News there was an ongoing criminal investigation into Representative Ilhan Omar. Same piece, same day, Omar said nobody from the federal government had been in touch with her about any such thing. A confirmed investigation nobody had confirmed to the person it was about. Is that how a criminal matter usually opens, with the subject finding out from cable news before the mail finds

... Continued on Page B42

THE WORD

§65 — 18 OCTOBER 2026

On the king

DEMOCRAT

$550 MILLION

REPUBLICAN

LONG LIVE THE KING

"I'll just read the dates. February 19th last year: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" June 14th: two to nearly five million people at over two thousand protests under the words "No Kings." October 18th — a year ago today — the organizers said nearly seven million. The next day: "I'm not a king." March of this year: a judge says the attempt to end the toll was arbitrary and capricious. First-year revenue: over five hundred fifty million. Sorry, I've got my coat on. The king declared it dead. Why is it still collecting?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W65

Treasury insists Russia got no sanctions relief, just a waiver pausing the sanctions.

BY LOU
One More Question

I had two pages open on the counter this morning, not comparing them on purpose, just squaring the corners the way you do, and that's when I saw it — the same word sitting in two different stories about two different things. I circled it once before I noticed I'd need to circle it twice.

The first page is Treasury Secretary Bessent, speaking Sunday, saying flatly that the president gave Russia no sanctions relief. The second is the New York Post's own description, same Sunday, of what he was defending — a pause meant to bring fuel price relief for the US. That's the paper's word, not his. Same word. Different owner.

I don't know what to do with a thing like that except write down how we got here.

On the 9th, the Guardian reported a deal to buy Russian diesel, and that Zelensky was furious about it. By the 10th the president was telling reporters Zelensky could have settled the war "many times" and chosen not to. On the 11th he announced an energy ceasefire; Zelensky, that same day, criticized the diesel arrangement on American television. By the 12th, members of

... Continued on Page A216

Trump and Putin call French protests 'migrant chaos'; France's own right-wing paper calls it Macron's 'indelible stain.'

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making something that has stuck fast to the bottom of the pan, which two men on the far side of an ocean have each scraped at and called by a different name. On Saturday, half a million people marched across France over school funding and the cost of living. Masked groups set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls.

Clive *Scraped at and renamed. That's practically my method with a stanza, and nobody's called it craft to my face yet.*

Emmanuel Macron called it "unrestrained violence" by "insurrectionist elements from radical far-left groups, joined by numerous criminals"; on Sunday he had voiced the public's "anger" and "shame." The arrests that Sunday stood at around 2,000; by Monday the count had settled at more than 1,800.

Gary *Craft. You glued craft to the kitchen door yourself, and it still won't shut, which is more than your stanza manages.*

Begin further back, in September, at a single school in a deprived suburb of Paris, where students protested teacher shortages, overcrowded class-

... 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

Trump preemptively blames Cornyn for Paxton's Senate loss, two weeks before Texans vote.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a shoo-in, which is an American word from the racetrack for a horse so far out front the other runners barely matter. You will need one open Texas Senate seat, a nominee the president picked himself, and the early voting that opened on Monday, with election day two weeks off.

The nominee is Ken Paxton, 63, the state's attorney general, whom Donald Trump endorsed by telling a crowd he "may not dress right, he may not talk exactly perfectly, and he may not be the best-looking guy I've ever seen." Running against him is James Talarico, the Democrat, and CBS News has called the race a toss-up, with turnout the only thing left to measure.

Clive *Best-looking. I have been told the same thing about my verse, more or less, and I notice nobody endorsed me off the back of it.*

Gary *Nobody's endorsed your verse because nobody's read past the first line. I can at least finish a job. Ask the shed door.*

Turn him over and look underneath, the way you would a chicken, and the Guardian has done the looking this week: getaway cars, affairs, a 2025

... Continued on Page A216

Trump endorses Netanyahu to keep from finishing his own war alone

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The war against Iran was already filed for after America's midterms. This week the president attached a second condition: Israel's election, nine days out on October 27th, with a preferred winner.

Start with what the filing already carried. Before today, the administration's own count on why fuel costs what it does sat with the U.N. ambassador, who told Fox News that $6.48 diesel traces back to the war in Ukraine. That number has a cause assigned to it. The Iran war, the one the president moved behind the midterms instead of in front of them, carries no assigned price at the pump at all. A barrel of oil does not check the press release to find out which war it is supposed to answer to; the ledger just assigns the blame to whichever war is more convenient to name that week.

Five days after that, on October 13th, a reporter asked the president whether he planned to endorse anyone. "We haven't even thought about it," he said, before allowing, in the same breath, that he might.

Five more days closed that gap. Today, October 18th, in a Truth Social post addressed to "the Great People of Israel," the president called Netanyahu a

... Continued on Page F121

Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Before I reconcile anything, let me show my filing. August 26: a bipartisan coalition of fifty-one state and territorial attorneys general announces a proposed agreement with Meta — up to $17.1 billion, restrictions on endless scrolling, among other changes — to do what California's attorney general called making social media "less dangerous for our kids." Proposed, note. Not signed, not entered, not finalized: a number in a press release, not yet a number in a court order. I file that detail because what happens next treats the settlement as smaller than even that.

October 2, the Washington Examiner runs an op-ed titled "We failed our children on social media. AI is our last chance to get it right." It does cite the $17.1 billion — one sentence, one paragraph — the way you'd cite a photograph of storm damage: proof the house flooded, not proof anyone has fixed the roof since. The piece's argument is that nothing has protected children from social media, and nothing will protect them from AI unless Congress starts now, starting from zero.

October 18, the Hill runs the same argument, sixteen days later, under a

... Continued on Page F121

No Kings organizers write nonpartisan rules, rewarded with vote-blue chants and a get-out-the-vote sequel.

BY LOU
One More Question

Walk me through it — not what happened, I can read that off the page, but the steps. How does a group sit down, write a rule that says "nonpartisan," and then watch their own crowd stand in front of it and say the opposite? I've drafted small things myself, a yard sign, a note on the porch about the gate latch, and even those take two or three tries before they say what I mean. So I keep picturing the room where this one got written.

Here's where I have to go back, and I'm sorry, because I know I already said it: the word is nonpartisan. That's what the rules for Saturday's rallies were called, ahead of the day itself — nonpartisan rules, for a nonpartisan event.

I went out to the garage to find an old sign, just to see how a rule like that usually holds up. Nobody argued with that sign, because nobody standing at a raffle table had a reason to want something different than what it said.

Not a policy. Not a name. Two words aimed at a party. I don't have a page that explains how both of those were true on the same Saturday. I just have the two pages, side by side.

... Continued on Page A215

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

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

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE WAIVER

Treasury insists Russia got no sanctions relief, just a waiver pausing the sanctions.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"U.S. taking Putin's side would be a 'historic mistake,' Zelenskyy says", 18 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Treasury Secretary Bessent denied Russia received any sanctions relief after Trump waived the sanctions law.

WHO GETS PAID. Russian energy exporters, who keep selling diesel into the global market under the waiver instead of facing the sanctions law.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's own sanctions law stops being enforced the moment the president decides, on his own, to pause it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the waiver holds, Congress's sanctions law stays unenforced no matter what the statute says; that is what Washington got after the Yemen war-powers override failed 53 to 45 on 2 May 2019: U.S. support for that war continued 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I had two pages open on the counter this morning, not comparing them on purpose, just squaring the corners the way you do, and that's when I saw it — the same word sitting in two different stories about two different things. I circled it once before I noticed I'd need to circle it twice.

The first page is Treasury Secretary Bessent, speaking Sunday, saying flatly that the president gave Russia no sanctions relief. The second is the New York Post's own description, same Sunday, of what he was defending — a pause meant to bring fuel price relief for the US. That's the paper's word, not his. Same word. Different owner....

...(cont) I don't know what to do with a thing like that except write down how we got here.

On the 9th, the Guardian reported a deal to buy Russian diesel, and that Zelensky was furious about it. By the 10th the president was telling reporters Zelensky could have settled the war "many times" and chosen not to. On the 11th he announced an energy ceasefire; Zelensky, that same day, criticized the diesel arrangement on American television. By the 12th, members of Congress from both parties were calling the deal possibly illegal. By the 13th Zelensky was criticizing him again, and the president's own allies had started lining up behind Zelensky instead. On the 15th he put a sweeping package of sanctions and tariffs on Russian energy revenues on hold — his people called it the national interest.

That's the six days it took to get to the two pages on my counter. Sunday, the Daily Caller has Zelensky calling the diesel deal "very dangerous." Sunday also, NBC has him saying a formal American tilt toward Putin would be a "historic mistake" — this with the midterms fourteen days out and a new poll putting seven in ten Americans on the wrong track, sourest of all on gas prices. Sunday, Bessent goes on Meet the Press and says plainly that nothing of the kind took place, despite a sanctions law the president signed last month that's due to take effect any day now. Sunday, he writes on Truth Social that waiving those sanctions keeps Moscow at the table. Sunday afternoon, specifically, he tells reporters Zelensky doesn't want to end this war. And today, Monday, in Uzbekistan, the Secretary of State tells reporters there's a real risk this war spreads into another country, and that both sides ought to be focused on ending it.

I drive the same toll plaza twice a week, the one with the E-ZPass lane and the cash lane side by side. The transponder in the glovebox gets forty cents knocked off before I've even slowed the lousy car down — no form, no call, it just happens, because somebody decided that lane gets it. The cash lane pays the sticker price. What do you call the lane that already knows it's getting the break, and what do you call the one that finds out at the window?

I was going to leave it there. But excuse me — before you go — I found the page I'd set aside earlier. It's France 24, the 15th, describing plainly what the president's order did: put a sweeping package of sanctions on Russian energy revenues on hold. Not a quote from him. Just a description of the thing itself. Here's the Treasury Secretary, Sunday, on the record, saying none of it happened. Here's the wire service, three days before that, on the record, describing a law taken off hold the night before it was due to start. Same notebook, different pages, and I still can't get them to sit together. I'll leave both open on the counter, side by side, to the same question: a law taken off hold, the night before it starts — what would you call that, if not relief?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦
DUTCH

THE TREASURY SECRETARY SAYS THE SANCTIONS PAUSE GAVE RUSSIA NO RELIEF, SIGNED the night before that same law was due to take effect, with Russia answering by sending 320 drones into Ukraine's power grid. That isn't a pause, it's Moscow getting paid to stay at a table it was never going to leave, with the bill forwarded to the pump instead of the ledger. The waiver keeps Russian diesel moving into American pumps, every gallon sold here still clears money back through Moscow, and the only thing waiting in your glovebox afterward is the receipt proving you helped pay for it.

"They waived the sanctions law the night before it ever had to work, then put the Treasury Secretary on television to swear there was no break in it at all. Call the diesel deal whatever keeps the price down at the pump — the drones still hit Ukraine's grid, Zelensky's still calling it dangerous, and the man getting blamed for the war not ending is the one living under the drones."

— Sal

"Look, "pause" and "relief" are two completely different legal categories, the law hasn't technically — okay, it's the same law, same effect, but the intent was fuel prices, not favors to Moscow. And if Zelensky would stop hitting the refineries everybody benefits, including him, so really he's — did I just say the man getting bombed should hold off? That's not what I meant, let me circle back."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *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

~~U.S. taking Putin's side would be a 'historic mistake,' Zelenskyy says~~

71 percent say the U.S. is on the wrong track, 15 days before the vote.

NBC News MAINSTREAM 18:45 EDT

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that the U.S. formally siding with Russia's Vladimir Putin would be a "historic mistake." All of this comes as the midterms are just over two weeks away and a new NBC News poll shows 71 percent of Americans say the U.S.

But: Trump promised 53 separate times he would settle the Ukraine war, including 'within 24 hours' - CNN count *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

U.S. Floats Lifeline to Russia: Allowing More Gas Sales to Europe

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 14:00 EDT

The Trump administration is pitching the idea as part of a peace deal with Ukraine, but Europe is wary and critics say Russia would be strengthened.

But: Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war with Putin within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Russia will release millions of tons of diesel to help with costs

CBS News MAINSTREAM 12:08 EDT

Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to release 300,000 tons of diesel immediately and millions more over the coming months.

Trump Signs Order Exempting Russia From Sanctions Law

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 04:35 EDT

The sanctions were part of a measure that was named after Senator Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina Republican who died in July.

~~Trump waives Russia sanctions ordered by law named for Lindsey Graham~~

Trump waived the Russia sanctions he signed into law last month

Washington Examiner RIGHT 23:09 EDT

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday that waived the sweeping Russian sanctions and tariffs enacted by the bill championed by the late Sen. Lindsey Graham. Trump signed the Lindsey O.

~~Trump Faces Intense Bipartisan Backlash Over Russian Oil Deal~~

Trump lifted Russia oil sanctions to lower gas prices before midterms. Lawmakers say that may be illegal.

NBC News MAINSTREAM 07:27 EDT

President Donald Trump is facing growing bipartisan backlash following his announcement of a deal to temporarily lift U.S. sanctions on Russian diesel fuel. The move, aimed at lowering fuel prices in the United States ahead of the midterm elections, has members of Congress from both parties saying the deal may be illegal.

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of talking to Putin and Zelenskyy - he's said some version of that 53 separate times *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Ukraine needs a new leader after diesel deal with Russia

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 16:42 EDT

US president suggests Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has not done enough to end war Donald Trump has said Ukraine needs "a new leader", a day after making a deal with Vladimir Putin to buy large quantities of Russian diesel. The US president suggested Volodymyr Zelenskyy has not done enough to end the war with Russia and...

~~Trump waiving sanctions 'rewards' Putin, says Zelensky~~

Trump waived the Russia sanctions he signed into law last month

RTÉ MAINSTREAM 23:20 EDT

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has said that US President Donald Trump's decision to waive Russian sanctions only "rewards" Vladimir Putin.

Lawmakers in bipartisan statement push back on Trump over Russian oil

The Hill MAINSTREAM 18:54 EDT

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

But: I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... and within 24 hours, that war will be settled. *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Zelensky unleashes on Trump over Russia diesel deal

The Hill MAINSTREAM 20:16 EDT

Welcome to The Hill's Defense & NatSec newsletter {beacon} Defense &National Security Defense &National Security The Big Story Zelensky unleashes on Trump over Russia diesel deal Kyiv's allies, including those in President Trump's circle, are rallying around Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, pushing back against Trump's diesel deal...

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — 53 times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump waives tariffs on largest buyers of Russian oil

CBS News MAINSTREAM 22:49 EDT

President Trump prevented some new sanctions on Russia and hefty tariffs on large-scale buyers of Russian oil from taking effect late Friday, as he seeks to ease prices by tapping Russian energy.

~~Graham Breaks With Trump Over Russia Sanctions Law Her Brother Championed~~

Trump exempts Russia from the sanctions law his own party wrote

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 20:19 EDT

Senator Darline Graham, appointed to fill the Senate seat of her late brother, Lindsey, gently disagreed with the president's decision to exempt Russia from the sanctions legislation.

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

'Time for Ukraine to get new president,' says Trump after Zelensky condemns diesel deal

BBC News MAINSTREAM 21:41 EDT

Ukraine's leader had said the deal with Russia to release diesel into the US would help Moscow fund the war.

But: Trump once vowed the Russia-Ukraine war would be settled within 24 hours of talks with Putin and Zelensky *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump defends waiving Russia sanctions, says it keeps Moscow at negotiating table

The Hill MAINSTREAM 20:00 EDT

President Trump defended his decision to waive Russian sanctions on Sunday, writing in a Truth Social post that it keeps Moscow at the negotiating table amid backlash from both sides of the aisle over the decision. "My decision on Russia is a very simple one. I am in the process of negotiating Peace in the...

But: 'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Zelensky bashes Trump over diesel deal with Russia

Washington Examiner RIGHT 22:32 EDT

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

But: 'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump promised this 53 separate times *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Rubio warns there's 'real risk' Russia-Ukraine war could spread into another country as he calls for end to conflict

New York Post RIGHT 03:00 EDT

Ukraine and Russia should be focused on ending the war between them, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters on his visit to Uzbekistan on Monday.

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — 53 times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies

BBC News MAINSTREAM 21:10 EDT

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

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

The White House lifted sanctions on Russian diesel. Then it blamed Zelensky for the war.

The Hill MAINSTREAM 14:26 EDT

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

Zelensky says U.S-Russia diesel deal is a 'birthday gift' to Putin to 'kill us, kill our children'

The Hill MAINSTREAM 10:29 EDT

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday said the U.S.-Russia diesel deal is a "birthday gift" to allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to "kill us, kill our children." When asked by ABC's Jonathan Karl on "This Week" about his remark that the deal helps Putin as a "gift," Zelensky explained that it "gives Putin money and...

~~Zelenskyy furious as Trump announces deal to buy Russian diesel~~

Trump funds Russia's war - the one he vowed to end in 24 hours, 53 times

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 06:09 EDT

US president says agreement needed to lower fuel prices, but move likely to create fresh crisis with Ukraine and Nato allies Donald Trump is on a fresh collision course with Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European allies after his stunning agreement to buy Russian diesel upended years of US and western pressure on the Kremlin to end its war...

Tillis: Trump's Russia deal 'is tarnishing Lindsey Graham's efforts' at sanctions

The Hill MAINSTREAM 16:20 EDT

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) slammed President Trump's deal with Russia for diesel Sunday amid the energy struggles the U.S. is experiencing.

Zelensky blasts 'unfortunate' decision to pause Russia sanctions as Moscow hits power plants

New York Post RIGHT 09:41 EDT

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

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — 53 times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump pauses new Russia sanctions passed by Congress amid deepening row with Ukraine

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 22:53 EDT

President signed the legislation championed by late senator Lindsey Graham last month but has waived the restrictions as they were due to come into effect Donald Trump has put on hold a sweeping new sanctions package targeting the Russian economy, telling Congress the pause on the legislation passed by both chambers was in the national...

But: Trump has promised to end the war within 24 hours on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump defends pausing Russian sanctions, says peace deal is close — and savages Zelensky for attacking diesel refineries

New York Post RIGHT 17:47 EDT

President Trump defended his decision to pause sanctions against Russia as a means to secure a permanent peace deal and bring fuel price relief for the US — while slamming Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's ongoing strikes on Moscow's oil refineries. Following backlash over his executive order to halt sanctions against Moscow...

~~Zelensky says Russian sanctions 'Trump waived' could have helped enormously~~

Trump waived new Russia sanctions days before they were set to take effect

The Hill MAINSTREAM 10:08 EDT

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

Easing sanctions on Russia only helps fund Putin's killing machine

New York Post RIGHT 14:52 EDT

Earlier this month, a Russian missile slammed into a housing complex in Pryluky, a Ukrainian city of no strategic value, far from the eastern front lines. Thirty apartments were destroyed. Twenty-two people were killed.

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 Zelensky 'doesn't want to end this war' and defends Russia strategy

Washington Examiner RIGHT 20:00 EDT

President Donald Trump said on Sunday afternoon he believes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky "doesn't want to end" the Russia-Ukraine war as tensions between the two world leaders continue to escalate. "My decision on Russia is a simple one,"

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - CNN counted 53 separate occasions he made that promise *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Rebuking Ukraine Over Oil Strikes, Trump Says It Should 'Get a New President'

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 15:28 EDT

Hours after President Trump said the United States would buy Russian diesel, the Kremlin said there would be no immediate resumption of discussions to end the war.

But: Trump said he'd settle the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — CNN counted 53 such promises. *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

GOP lawmakers bash Trump's decision to waive Russia sanctions: 'Beyond irresponsible'

The Hill MAINSTREAM 09:23 EDT

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

~~Live updates: Trump claims Russia-Ukraine energy ceasefire, Zelensky rips diesel deal~~

Trump's deal lets the Kremlin sell the U.S. 300,000 tons of diesel

The Hill MAINSTREAM 11:26 EDT

President Trump on Sunday claimed that Russia and Ukraine reached an energy ceasefire amid the two countries' yearslong war. The announcement came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky appeared on ABC's "This Week" earlier in the morning, where he criticized a U.S. deal to lift sanctions on Russian diesel, which sparked a war of...

But: Trump promised he'd meet Putin and Zelensky and settle the war within 24 hours — 53 separate times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump and Putin sign diesel deal, angering Ukraine and its allies

Le Monde MAINSTREAM 05:38 EDT

The US president announced Friday that Russia has committed to supplying nearly 5 million tons of diesel fuel to the United States and global markets 'within a short period of time.' The deal has sparked outrage across Europe.

Bessent says there was no sanctions relief for Russia after U.S. diesel deal

The Hill MAINSTREAM 17:05 EDT

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Sunday said President Trump did not provide Russia with sanctions relief after striking a deal that allows Russia to supply the U.S. and global marketplace with diesel, despite signing a bill imposing sanctions — set to take effect soon — into law last month. NBC News's "Meet the Press" host...

But: 'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it. *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

War in Ukraine: Europe stands united behind Kyiv but must revisit how to finance its support

Le Monde MAINSTREAM 19:25 EDT

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

~~Trump Offers Putin Economic Relief in Hopes That Russia Will Return the Favor~~

Trump defies Congress, waives Russia sanctions to shield Republicans from gas prices

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 19:46 EDT

The Trump administration is ignoring the will of Congress and waiving new Russia sanctions amid fears that high energy prices will cost Republicans in next month's elections.

But: 'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it. *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Russia will export diesel, lifts sanctions

The Hill MAINSTREAM 18:23 EDT

{beacon} Energy & Environment Energy & Environment The Big Story Trump says Russia will export diesel, lifts sanctions Russia will supply the U.S. and global market with diesel, President Trump announced Friday, responding to sky-rocketing prices exacerbated by both the Russia-Ukraine and U.S.-Iran wars. © Andrew Caballero-Reynolds, AFP...

~~Massie offers rare praise for Trump on waiving Lindsey Graham's Russia sanctions~~

The White House waived sanctions built to help Ukraine fight Russia

Washington Examiner RIGHT 14:32 EDT

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) on Saturday issued rare approval of President Donald Trump, commending the White House for lifting sanctions on Russia. The White House waived the sanctions on Friday, after the late Sen.

~~Trump announces 'immediate energy ceasefire' between Russia and Ukraine~~

Trump demanded Ukraine replace its leader. A day later, he declared a ceasefire.

Washington Examiner RIGHT 10:34 EDT

President Donald Trump on Sunday announced an immediate "energy ceasefire" between Russia and Ukraine, a day after ripping Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for targeting Russian energy infrastructure during the war and calling for a new Ukrainian leader. "Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia...

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump rips into Volodymyr Zelensky — insisting it's time for Ukraine to 'get a new president'

New York Post RIGHT 16:56 EDT

President Trump ripped into Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday telling reporters outside the White House that it's time for Ukraine to "get a new president."

~~Trump waives fresh sanctions against Russia in new low for Ukraine ties~~

Trump eased Russia's sanctions in exchange for cheaper diesel

France 24 MAINSTREAM 07:47 EDT

US President Donald Trump on Friday put a sweeping package of sanctions and tariffs targeting Russian energy revenues on hold, saying the waiver was in the country's national interest. The relationship between Washington and Kyiv has been fraying since Trump struck a deal with Moscow to ease sanctions in exchange for Russia flooding the...

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — 53 times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump doubles down after waiving new Russia sanctions, calling it a 'very good decision'

NBC News MAINSTREAM 22:45 EDT

President Donald Trump waived sweeping new sanctions against Russia passed by Congress, arguing in an executive order Friday that the move "is in the national interests of the United States."

~~Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin~~

Diesel prices doubled since the Iran war began. Now Trump wants Putin to fix it.

BBC News MAINSTREAM 10:24 EDT

Ukraine's president sharply criticised the move, calling it an "investment in war that must be ended, not prolonged".

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Ukraine needs 'a new leader who can make a deal'

Washington Examiner RIGHT *13:38 EDT*

President Donald Trump on Saturday called for new leadership in Ukraine, marking a dramatic shift in the United States's relationship with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Trump has long pushed Russia and Ukraine to make a deal ending the war between the countries, which has now stretched over four-and-a-half years and appeared to...

But: Trump promised 53 times he'd end the war within 24 hours *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Ukraine needs new president, blames Zelenskyy for diesel prices

CBS News MAINSTREAM *21:59 EDT*

President Trump's criticism of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy comes after Russian strikes killed at least 20 people, including three children, in Ukraine.

But: Trump has promised to end the war within 24 hours on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Zelenskyy Warns Trump's Diesel Deal With Russia Is 'Very Dangerous'

Daily Caller RIGHT *16:51 EDT*

'This diesel deal is very dangerous.'

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, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it. *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump calls for Ukraine to replace Zelenskyy after clash over Russia diesel deal: 'Get a new president'

Fox News RIGHT *15:54 EDT*

President Donald Trump demanded Volodymyr Zelenskyy stop striking Russian oil refineries, warning the attacks worsen global diesel and fuel supplies.

Schumer: 'Trump just gave Putin the best birthday gift he'll get this year'

The Hill MAINSTREAM *12:06 EDT*

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) accused President Trump on Saturday of giving Russian President Vladimir Putin "the best birthday gift" after he waived new sanctions on Russia days before they were set to take effect. "By giving the Russian economy life support Trump's deal with the devil keeps getting dirtier,"

· Trump signs Russia sanctions bill named after Lindsey Graham *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

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

· Trump: Russia has 'lost control' of its diesel industry as prices soar *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Ukraine and Russia have agreed to energy target ceasefire *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls on Ukraine to halt strikes on Russian diesel fuel *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames Ukraine for diesel fuel price spike, urges Zelensky to stop hitting Russian refineries *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls out Zelensky over rising diesel prices *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Ukraine persists with Russian oil refinery strikes, defying Trump on fuel price warnings *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Britain in talks with European allies over release of emergency diesel stockpiles amid Trump pressure *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers" in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*

· U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 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*

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.

Trump and Putin call French protests 'migrant chaos'; France's own right-wing paper calls it Macron's 'indelible stain.'

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

"French newspaper rips Macron after riots erupt across France: 'Indelible stain'", 18 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump and Putin blamed France's weekend protests over school funding and living costs on migrants.

WHO GETS PAID. The MAGA movement, the Kremlin and Europe's far-right parties gain a shared talking point blaming migrants for France's unrest.

WHAT SLIPS. The documented cause of the protests, confirmed by France's own right-wing paper, gets shouldered aside by an unproven foreign claim.

WHAT'S NEXT. No inquiry or vote on the claim is in the record; for now it stands unanswered, with no dated next step to report.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making something that has stuck fast to the bottom of the pan, which two men on the far side of an ocean have each scraped at and called by a different name. On Saturday, half a million people marched across France over school funding and the cost of living. Masked groups set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls.

Clive *Scraped at and renamed. That's practically my method with a stanza, and nobody's called it craft to my face yet.*

...(cont) Emmanuel Macron called it "unrestrained violence" by "insurrectionist elements from radical far-left groups, joined by numerous criminals"; on Sunday he had voiced the public's "anger" and "shame." The arrests that Sunday stood at around 2,000; by Monday the count had settled at more than 1,800.

Gary *Craft. You glued craft to the kitchen door yourself, and it still won't shut, which is more than your stanza manages.*

Begin further back, in September, at a single school in a deprived suburb of Paris, where students protested teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms and buildings beset by rats and falling debris. By 6 October nearly 2,000 French high schools were blockaded or closed, and French authorities had made arrests of their own.

Keith *A door that won't shut is a feature nobody's priced. Card reader, charge for entry -- I could have it listed by Thursday.*

Two days later, on 8 October, the unrest reached Belgium, where a government minister called the spillover "a real, serious, and imminent risk" and set the blame on antifa.

Rob *Card reader on a kitchen door. That's the landlord's dream, and the rent's still due Friday whichever side you're stood.*

Take the migration claim by both ends and turn it over: the causes named -- school funding, cost of living, the arson itself -- mention migration nowhere.

On the Sunday, Le Figaro, the conservative daily there, has it as an "indelible stain," aimed at Macron, at the justice system and at immigration policy. Fox News, carrying the same critique at home, printed the events as "riots."

Le Monde, on the Monday, has the claim the other way round: the MAGA movement and the Kremlin, with European far-right groups, called the same weekend "migrant chaos" and "Europe's decline," while other observers saw in it a sign of "the Macron era's twilight." The words quoted from Macron on the same riot run to anger, shame, insurrectionist elements and numerous criminals; migrant is not among them. You will be looking for a resignation; the receipts carry none, only two verdicts, pulling apart.

Clive *Twilight, is it. Rob's had us in that since the boiler went, and the rent still finds us before the dark does.*

This serves the governments that did not have to answer for a school in a Paris suburb: the claim travels from Washington and Moscow by Monday, and the bill for the rats and the falling debris stays behind in France.

Rob *Stays behind. Imagine a bill staying where it's run up -- I'll believe that when ours does.*

🍺

"Half a million people marched because the schools have rats in the walls and the rent's crushing everybody, and two heads of state look at that and see migrants. Even the French right couldn't make that one stick -- their own conservative paper pinned it on their own president, not on anybody who crossed a border. When the countries that can't fund a classroom go looking for someone else's problem to blame, follow the money, not the finger."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, you've got masked agitators torching city halls, that's not nothing, that's -- okay, fine, Putin saying the same thing we're saying isn't a great look, I didn't pick the roommate. The chaos speaks for itself, and if Le Figaro wants to make it about Macron's own government, that's a French argument, that's not on us. Did I just agree with the French right-wing paper? Forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

French newspaper rips Macron after riots erupt across France: 'Indelible stain'

Fox News RIGHT § *16:54 EDT*

The scathing critique in newspaper Le Figaro took aim at Macron, France's justice system and immigration policies after nationwide protests erupted into violence.

Trump and Putin claim French protests are evidence of 'migrant chaos' and 'Europe's decline'

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *04:12 EDT*

The MAGA movement and the Kremlin, along with European far-right groups, described the demonstrations in France as a consequence of immigration and the decline of 'Western civilization,' while other observers saw them as a sign of the Macron era's twilight.

~~Anti-government protests explode in France~~

500,000 march in France over school conditions and cost of living; Macron calls it 'insurrectionist' violence

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:45 EDT*

Around half a million people took part in marches across France over poor school conditions and high cost of living, but they were overshadowed by what President Emmanuel Macron called "unrestrained violence" by "insurrectionist elements from radical far-left groups, joined by numerous criminals." Aidan Stretch is in Paris with the...

~~French High School Students Lead Mass Protests over School Funding, Inequality, Thousands Arrested~~

French police have arrested over 5,000 protesting students, most of them minors

Democracy Now! § *08:14 EDT*

Nearly 2,000 French high schools are blockaded or closed today amid massive student-led protests over school funding and inequality. The demonstrations began in September at a single school in the economically deprived suburbs of Paris, where students protested teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms and dilapidated school buildings...

~~French president speaks out on violent nationwide unrest across France~~

French protest rising living costs and crumbling schools; 2,000 arrested

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *18:39 EDT*

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday voiced the public's "anger" and "shame" over rioting and looting during nationwide protests against rising living costs and poor conditions in schools.

More than 1,800 arrested in France after protester violence erupts

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:46 EDT*

Authorities said masked groups on Saturday set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities.

· French student riots spill across Europe as Belgian minister attributes violence to antifa *from the morgue, 8 Oct 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 Bot

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 U.S 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.

Trump preemptively blames Cornyn for Paxton's Senate loss, two weeks before Texans vote.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

"With Ken Paxton's race faltering, GOP looks for someone to blame", 18 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Texas Republicans traded blame for Ken Paxton's sinking Senate campaign two weeks before Election Day.

WHO GETS PAID. James Talarico and Texas Democrats stand to gain the Senate seat Republicans had been counting as safely theirs.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that blame holds, Cornyn may face what Kentucky's incumbent got after October 2025: a Trump-backed primary challenger who beat a seven-term member 55 to 45 by May 19, 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a shoo-in, which is an American word from the racetrack for a horse so far out front the other runners barely matter. You will need one open Texas Senate seat, a nominee the president picked himself, and the early voting that opened on Monday, with election day two weeks off.

The nominee is Ken Paxton, 63, the state's attorney general, whom Donald Trump endorsed by telling a crowd he "may not dress right, he may not talk exactly perfectly, and he may not be the best-looking guy I've ever seen." Running against him is James Talarico, the Democrat, and CBS News has called the race a toss-up, with turnout the only thing left to measure....

Clive *Best-looking. I have been told the same thing about my verse, more or less, and I notice nobody endorsed me off the back of it.*

Gary *Nobody's endorsed your verse because nobody's read past the first line. I can at least finish a job. Ask the shed door.*

Turn him over and look underneath, the way you would a chicken, and the Guardian has done the looking this week: getaway cars, affairs, a 2025 New Year's party in Dubai with two American fugitives who never came home, the whole file filed under one phrase, "uniquely ill-chosen."

You will be looking for the part where the party pulls him from the ticket. There is no such part: a nominee this damaged, two weeks out, is simply blamed instead, which is cheaper than a ballot reprint.

Rob *Ill-chosen. Who among us was chosen at all, is what I want to know, and nobody's asked whose turn it is on the rota either.*

Keith *Nobody's answering that, so I'll say it: a party that can't pick a candidate is a party that needs a consultant, and I know a man who does flags.*

Now we come to the money, and a toss-up this close does not wait for seconds. On the 3rd of September Karl Rove warned that time was running out and that Paxton needed Trump "tossing a lot of money" his way for ads against Talarico; those ads, so far as the record shows, never made it into the pan. On the 15th of October, with that gap still open, Trump posted that Senator John Cornyn and Rove "are doing everything possible" to hurt Paxton, blame assigned two weeks before anyone has lost anything. Paxton had already told donors otherwise: in a recording leaked on the 7th, he named the president's own war with Iran, gas prices, and diesel over six dollars a gallon as what was "dragging" his campaign.

This one serves whoever is holding the seat when the toss-up settles, Talarico or Paxton. Cornyn pays for it either way, in blame, whether or not he ever sent the money Rove asked for.

Clive *Paying in blame with no money changing hands — that's just how the kitty works in this house, and I for one have never once seen a receipt.*

"Trump's already got his fall guy picked out, and the fall guy hasn't even fallen yet. Rove asked for ad money back in September, it never showed, and now the same party that handpicked Paxton is blaming the senator who was supposed to help him win. Two weeks out, a seat nobody thought was in play is a coin flip, and that's the whole trick: pick the candidate, starve the campaign, blame somebody else."

— Sal

"A toss-up this late just means Democrats are finally bothering to show up, that's turnout, not a scandal. Every candidate's got a file somebody digs up in October — Dubai, sure, fine — but nothing's been proven in a court, nothing's even been — did I say proven? There's nothing to prove. Next question."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Farmers who backed Trump for a decade turn two weeks before Republicans must defend Congress.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Record-low approval arrives before Vance finishes asking voters for more time.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
- *Trump's $5,000 a head arrived as $90 out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, with the other $4,910 due only if Republicans keep both chambers November 3* By Lou · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

CBS News poll shows a Texas toss-up with Talarico, Paxton in tight Senate race

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:47 EDT*

With early voting starting Monday in Texas in the closely watched Senate race between Democrat James Talarico and Republican Ken Paxton, CBS News executive director of elections and surveys Anthony Salvanto dives into our latest poll of the Lone Star State.

~~With Ken Paxton's race faltering, GOP looks for someone to blame~~

Trump blames Cornyn for Paxton's collapsing Senate bid

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *17:00 EDT*

Texas's Senate race is devolving into a blame game among Republicans weeks out from Election Day as the party's nominee Ken Paxton faces a stream of negative headlines and Democrats grow increasingly confident about flipping the state. Republican tensions spilled into the public on Thursday when President Trump lashed out at incumbent...

Ken Paxton attended 2025 Dubai New Year's party with US fugitives: Report

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *23:23 EDT*

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton attended a 2025 New Year's party in Dubai with two fugitives who did not return to the United States, according to a new report from the Wall Street Journal. The revelation comes as the Trump-backed Republican challenges Texas Democrat James Talarico in the final weeks of the Senate race. Paxton [...]

~~Getaway cars, affairs, Dubai fugitives: Trump's pick Ken Paxton brings baggage to Senate race in Texas~~

Texas's attorney general settled securities charges, was acquitted after impeachment, and Trump wants him in the Senate.

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

The Republican state attorney general appears uniquely ill-chosen as a candidate – but he is a political survivor who could yet frustrate Democratic dreams Depending how you look at the situation, it is either predictable that Ken Paxton , Texas 's attorney general and Republican candidate for US Senate , is struggling in the polls – or...

CBS News poll: Talarico-Paxton Senate race is a Texas toss-up

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *14:48 EDT*

Turnout will be key as Texans voice cost of living concerns in Senate race between Ken Paxton and James Talarico.

Trump preemptively blames Cornyn and Rove should Paxton lose Texas Senate race

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *17:49 EDT*

President Donald Trump is pinning the blame on Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) and former White House adviser Karl Rove in the event that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton ends up losing his Senate race next month. In a Truth Social post on Thursday, Trump said Cornyn and Rove "are doing everything possible"

· Ken Paxton Blames Trump's Illegal War for His Political Woes in Yet Another Leaked Recording *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Rove: 'Time is running out' for Paxton in Texas Senate race *from the morgue, 3 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.

Trump endorses Netanyahu to keep from finishing his own war alone

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Trump Endorses Netanyahu as Best U.S. Partner in Tight Israeli Election", 18 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reelection bid, tying it to the war against Iran.

WHO GETS PAID. Netanyahu and his Likud party gain the sitting U.S. president's public backing ahead of the vote.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's vote on ending the Iran war slips further out of reach, now made to hinge on a foreign election instead of a vote at home.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress holds off any vote on the Iran war, the president keeps setting its timeline alone; that is what Washington got after the House vote on Libya failed on 24 June 2011, when the operation ran four more months with no authorization.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The war against Iran was already filed for after America's midterms. This week the president attached a second condition: Israel's election, nine days out on October 27th, with a preferred winner.

Start with what the filing already carried. Before today, the administration's own count on why fuel costs what it does sat with the U.N. ambassador, who told Fox News that $6.48 diesel traces back to the war in Ukraine. That number has a cause assigned to it. The Iran war, the one the president moved behind the midterms instead of in front of them, carries no assigned price at the pump at all. A barrel of oil does not check the press release to find out which war it is supposed to answer to; the ledger just assigns the blame to whichever war is more convenient to name that week....

...(cont) Five days after that, on October 13th, a reporter asked the president whether he planned to endorse anyone. "We haven't even thought about it," he said, before allowing, in the same breath, that he might.

Five more days closed that gap. Today, October 18th, in a Truth Social post addressed to "the Great People of Israel," the president called Netanyahu a "Great Warrior Prime Minister" who "will never let you down," and said any other winner would be the "wrong Leader." He gave the reason in the same post: without Netanyahu, the United States will have to "finish the job" against Iran alone.

Run the entries in order. Five days from "haven't thought about it" to a campaign speech for a foreign office. Nine days from that speech to the ballot it targets. One war, already pushed past this country's own election, now made conditional on a second country's election first — and the condition is that the preferred candidate wins, not that the war ends.

The vote is nine days out. Whoever wins it, the war does not end on the 27th; the only entry that changes is which election gets credited for keeping it going.

"He delayed his own war past our vote, and this week he told another country how to vote so he doesn't have to run it alone. Call it what it is: outsourcing the finish line on a war he started to a ballot he doesn't even get to cast. Either way the diesel bill and the body count land on us, not on whichever leader gets the credit for the headline."

— Sal

"Every president has a preferred partner in an allied democracy, that's just alliance management, nothing new there. Sure, he said the U.S. finishes the war alone without Netanyahu — that's just candor about burden-sharing, it's not a threat, it's — okay, it's phrased like a threat. But you can't blame a guy for rooting for the horse he's already riding."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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
- *Trump's offer to sacrifice San Diego to Iran gets rejected by San Diego's own Republican nominee.* By Mort · the coffee break edition, 6 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump Endorses Netanyahu as Best U.S. Partner in Tight Israeli Election
The New York Times MAINSTREAM 11:17 EDT

The president praised the embattled prime minister for his endurance, saying any other candidate would be the "wrong Leader."

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours - CNN counted 53 separate occasions he made that promise *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump backs Netanyahu for reelection, says Israeli PM critical ally against Iran
Washington Examiner RIGHT 12:01 EDT

President Donald Trump on Sunday endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for reelection, praising the longtime leader as a critical American ally in the war against Iran and warning his exit could leave the United States shouldering more of the conflict. In a lengthy Truth Social post addressed to the Israeli people, Trump...

Trump endorses Israel's Netanyahu ahead of reelection bid
CBS News MAINSTREAM 14:38 EDT

Israelis are set to vote Oct. 27, in the first national elections since the 2023 Hamas attack on Israel.

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*

Trump endorses Netanyahu ahead of Israeli elections
The Hill MAINSTREAM 11:45 EDT

President Trump on Sunday endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as he seeks another term less than a week before Israel holds its elections. Trump directed a Truth Social post to "the Great People of Israel" and called "Bibi" Netanyahu "a Great Warrior Prime Minister, and an even greater Partner for Peace in combatting the...

Trump says Netanyahu needs to be re-elected, or else US will have to 'finish the job' against Iran alone
Fox News RIGHT 12:42 EDT

Trump called Benjamin Netanyahu a "great warrior" and urged Israeli voters to back Likud in the Oct. 27 Knesset elections amid the war on Iran.

Trump says he hasn't thought about endorsing in Israeli elections
Washington Examiner RIGHT 12:49 EDT

President Donald Trump said he has not focused much on whether he will endorse Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his reelection bid. "We haven't even thought about it," Trump told reporters Tuesday morning before traveling to Alaska.

~~Israel's Elections, Like Ours, Show How Much the Parties Agree On~~
Across Israel's political spectrum, parties agree on one platform: expel Gaza's Palestinians, polls show
Current Affairs 15:52 EDT

For those who have not been following the Israeli election, which is coming up on October 27 , a few updates may be in order. The stakes in this political horserace seem high, with all 120 seats in the Knesset up for grabs; depending on what party or parties gain a majority, Benjamin Netanyahu may be replaced as Israel 's Prime Minister....

Trump endorses Netanyahu ahead of Israel's elections: 'Will never let you down'
New York Post RIGHT 11:08 EDT

Trump hailed Netanyahu, whose party is facing a tough race, as the right partner for the US to have against Iran as he called for Israelis to flock to the polls to support the prime minister.

· Trump says Netanyahu told him 'Israeli plumber' stabilized hijacked flight *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Headlines for September 23, 2026 *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers' in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*

· U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

· Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"US inflation rose to 3.7% in September in blow to Republicans before midterms", 14 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Op-eds in the Washington Examiner and the Hill, sixteen days apart, said nothing protects children online.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's memory of a $17.1 billion settlement already won slips, so Congress hears only that nothing has been tried.

WHAT'S NEXT. The settlement is still a proposed agreement, not yet entered by any court, and no hearing date appears in the record to make it final.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Before I reconcile anything, let me show my filing. August 26: a bipartisan coalition of fifty-one state and territorial attorneys general announces a proposed agreement with Meta — up to $17.1 billion, restrictions on endless scrolling, among other changes — to do what California's attorney general called making social media "less dangerous for our kids." Proposed, note. Not signed, not entered, not finalized: a number in a press release, not yet a number in a court order. I file that detail because what happens next treats the settlement as smaller than even that.

October 2, the Washington Examiner runs an op-ed titled "We failed our children on social media. AI is our last chance to get it right." It does cite the $17.1 billion — one sentence, one paragraph — the way you'd cite a photograph of storm damage: proof the house flooded, not proof anyone has fixed the roof since. The piece's argument is that nothing has protected children from social media, and nothing will protect them from AI unless Congress starts now, starting from zero....

...(cont) October 18, the Hill runs the same argument, sixteen days later, under a different masthead: "We didn't protect children from social media — we have another chance with AI." I read it twice, looking for the $17.1 billion. It is not there. Not the number, not a mention, not a clause. The first draft gave the settlement one paragraph, as evidence of the wound. The second draft gives it nothing; the wound stays on the page, the stitches come out.

Here is the reconciliation, hon. Both pieces ask Congress to build, from scratch, the research and safeguards AI needs so history does not repeat itself. Fifty-one attorneys general had already built a $17.1 billion version of exactly that, for social media, weeks before the first piece ran. Neither piece has to credit the coalition by name — neither one does, even the version that cites the dollar figure.

That is the whole filing. The mention went from one paragraph to zero. The claim went from made once to made twice. I'm not calling anyone a liar. I'm running the copy against the table, and the table does not match.

"Fifty-one attorneys general, red state and blue state both, already made Meta agree to pay up to seventeen billion dollars for the exact thing these two op-eds say nobody has touched. The number showed up once, in the first piece, then vanished completely in the second one sixteen days later — that's not sloppy, that's a script. Forget the settlement, sell Congress on starting the fight from zero, and whoever drafts the next AI bill gets to write it on a blank page instead of against a seventeen-billion-dollar precedent."

— Sal

"Look, social media and artificial intelligence are two completely different technologies, you can't just — well, the op-ed itself is titled "AI is our last chance," comparing it directly to social media, so maybe they are the same fight. Fine, the dollar figure ran once and then didn't run again, but nobody's required to cite every state settlement in every single draft of an opinion piece — did I say every draft? It's one draft. There's only one draft."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Farmers who backed Trump for a decade turn two weeks before Republicans must defend Congress.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
— *Record-low approval arrives before Vance finishes asking voters for more time.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
— *Trump's $5,000 a head arrived as $90 out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, with the other $4,910 due only if Republicans keep both chambers November 3* By Lou · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: The 2025 reconciliation law cut SNAP by $187 billion - the largest cut in the program's history. SNAP feeds one in five American children *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*

US inflation rose to 3.7% in September in blow to Republicans before midterms
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *10:29 EDT*

Final inflation report before voters go to polls comes amid widespread anger over cost of living under Trump Send us your questions on how the US economy is shaping the midterm elections Republicans are entering the midterm elections with the highest rate of inflation since the spring, according to a government report released on...

We didn't protect children from social media — we have another chance with AI
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *11:00 EDT*

The question is not whether children will grow up with artificial intelligence. They will. The question is whether, this time, we will build the research, safeguards and scientific guidance needed to understand what AI is doing to children — while we still have the opportunity to shape what comes next.

Social Security recipients to get cost of living boost — here's how much more you'll receive each month
New York Post RIGHT § *09:58 EDT*

The Social Security Administration projected Wednesday that the annual cost-of-living adjustment for older adults and people with disabilities will go up by 3.6% beginning in 2027, with some recipients complaining that is not enough to offset soaring prices.

But: NAR puts the median first-time homebuyer at 40 years old — a record — and first-time buyers at a record-low 21% of the market *National Association of Realtors, 2025 Profile*

Surging Inflation Complicates Trump's Final Push to Sell Voters on Strong Economy
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:42 EDT*

The final inflation report before the 2026 election — showing price increases and stagnant wages — spelled bad political news for the White House.

~~'He Thinks Working People Are a Joke': Ken Paxton Floats Social Security Cuts in Leaked Audio~~

Paxton: cut Social Security, keep cutting taxes for the rich
Common Dreams § *13:37 EDT*

Ken Paxton, the Republican Party's nominee for the US Senate in Texas , expressed a willingness to cut programs such as Social Security in a leaked recording published by The Texas Tribune on Thursday. In the recording, which was made during a private meeting with donors and lobbyists last month, Paxton said he'd target "mandatory...

But: The 2025 reconciliation law cut SNAP by $187 billion - the largest cut in the program's history, feeding one in five American children *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*

Social Security COLA set to rise by 3.6 percent in 2027
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:32 EDT*

Social Security benefits will increase by 3.6 percent in 2027, the Trump administration announced Wednesday. With the latest cost of living adjustment (COLA), Social Security retirement benefits will increase by $75 per month on average, according to the Social Security Administration (SSA). Last year's COLA was 2.8 percent.

Trump promised to lower prices for Americans. Here's what the data shows.
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:28 EDT*

Just weeks before the midterm elections, 90% of Americans say prices in the U.S. are the main factor shaping their view of the economy. These charts show why.

Here is how much prices for groceries, gas, utilities, and shelter are up under Trump
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:40 EDT*

Prices are up 5.4% overall since President Donald Trump entered office, according to the final inflation report before the midterm elections. The September consumer price index report showed that prices rose 3.7% on an annual basis. With that increase, prices for staples like groceries and gas, as well as for electricity and shelter, are...

· We failed our children on social media. AI is our last chance to get it right *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· $17 Billion Meta Settlement 'Will Make Social Media Less Dangerous for Our Kids,' Says California AG *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· Top OpenAI Executive Labels Social Security a 'Fraud' That Must be Dismantled *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· Trump Says He Wanted to Privatize Social Security 'So Badly' During First Term *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend $3,800 More on Essentials *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

· Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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

No Kings organizers write nonpartisan rules, rewarded with vote-blue chants and a get-out-the-vote sequel.

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION



"New Round of 'No Kings' Rallies Focuses on Getting Out the Vote", 17 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. No Kings organizers wrote nonpartisan rally rules, then built their next events around the vote their own crowd chanted for.

WHO GETS PAID. Democratic campaigns and candidates gain a ready-made volunteer turnout operation heading into the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. The "nonpartisan" label the organizers used with reporters and new attendees stops holding once their own next schedule is built around one party's voters.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next date on the calendar is November 3, the midterm election the new round of rallies is now built to turn out voters for.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Walk me through it — not what happened, I can read that off the page, but the steps. How does a group sit down, write a rule that says "nonpartisan," and then watch their own crowd stand in front of it and say the opposite? I've drafted small things myself, a yard sign, a note on the porch about the gate latch, and even those take two or three tries before they say what I mean. So I keep picturing the room where this one got written.

Here's where I have to go back, and I'm sorry, because I know I already said it: the word is nonpartisan. That's what the rules for Saturday's rallies were called, ahead of the day itself — nonpartisan rules, for a nonpartisan event....

...(cont) I went out to the garage to find an old sign, just to see how a rule like that usually holds up. Nobody argued with that sign, because nobody standing at a raffle table had a reason to want something different than what it said.

Not a policy. Not a name. Two words aimed at a party. I don't have a page that explains how both of those were true on the same Saturday. I just have the two pages, side by side.

There's a toll plaza near me where half the signs say exact change and half the cars still pull up with a driver reaching for cash. The sign isn't wrong, exactly. It's just describing a lane that isn't the one doing the work. I don't know yet which one this is. That's why I'm asking.

I'm sorry, this makes a third time, but here's what sent me back again: somebody at one of these rallies was quoted — not by the organizers, by a reporter who'd gone and talked to them — saying, "this is as partisan as you can get." That's their sentence. I want to be careful, because it isn't the rule's sentence, and it isn't mine. But it's sitting on the same desk as the word nonpartisan, and I don't know what a person does with two sentences like that except read them out loud, one after the other.

I'm sorry — one more side of it — there's also the next round. Not after the election, before it: same organizers, new set of dates, and the stated purpose this time isn't tone, it's turnout, getting people to the polls for the vote that gets counted November 3rd. So I can lay the sequence flat, the way I'd lay tools on the porch before a job: a nonpartisan rule, a crowd chanting for one party, a second round built around that same party's voters. Three things. I can hold all three without dropping one.

Oh — one more thing, before you go. I had another page filed in with these, from earlier in the month, about a fight inside one political party over how far left it ought to run, older voters against younger ones. I don't know why it was in the same folder. But it's a debate that only makes sense if you already know which party you're standing inside of. So maybe you can tell me: the rule, the chant, the next round, the fight over how left to go — lay all four of those on the porch together, and tell me which one of them is still, by your reading, nonpartisan?

"They write "nonpartisan" on the permit application and let the crowd do the branding work for free, chanting vote blue on every camera in the square. Call it what it is, a turnout machine wearing a press release, sixteen days out from the vote that decides who runs Washington."

— Sal

"Nonpartisan just means the organizers don't personally hand anybody a ballot — what people shout on their own time isn't the group's doctrine, that's the First Amendment working the way it's supposed to. Though when your own rally makes the news for someone yelling "this is as partisan as you can get," that's not really a talking point I signed up to carry. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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

New Round of 'No Kings' Rallies Focuses on Getting Out the Vote

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *18:22 EDT*

With midterm elections approaching, organizers of the demonstrations known for their anti-Trump sentiment are urging people to vote early.

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

'Standing up for democracy': Atlanta 'No Kings' rally draws Trump critics ahead of midterms

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *21:50 EDT*

"No Kings, Vote Now" was the theme of a rally in Atlanta, one of many organised across the US on Saturday. While many demonstrators denounced US President Donald Trump's policies, organisers said the rally was aimed at getting out the vote in the November 3 midterm elections and protecting democracy in America.

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

'No Kings' protesters spurn organizers' rules: 'This is as partisan as you can get'

Fox News RIGHT § *21:13 EDT*

Protesters at official No Kings events openly urged voters to "vote blue" and elect Democrats, directly contradicting organizers' nonpartisan rules.

· The DSA has a believability problem with older Black voters. But young people want to take more risks *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

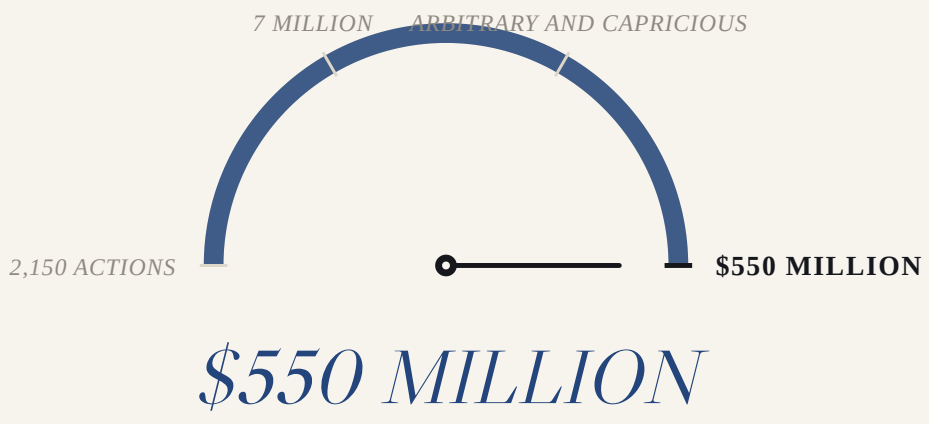
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§65 — 18 OCTOBER 2026

On the king

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$550 MILLION

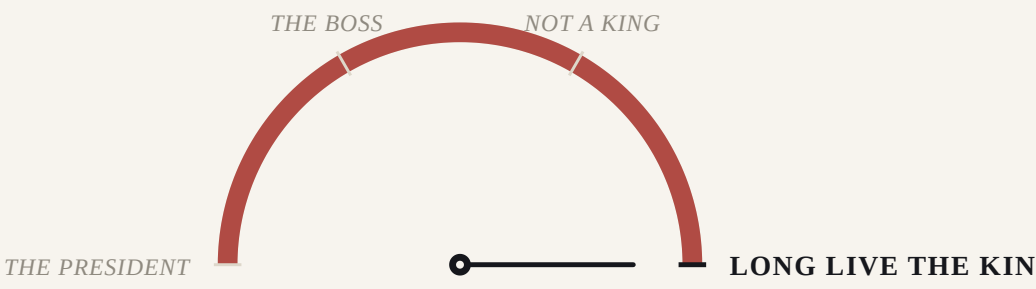
The marches. On June 14, 2025, the Crowd Counting Consortium estimated "between 2 and 4.8 million people participated in over 2,150 actions" under the words No Kings [1]. On October 18, 2025 — a year ago today — the organizers counted nearly 7 million at 2,700 locations [2]; an independent estimate put the median near 5 million [3].

The toll. On March 3 a federal judge granted the transit authority summary judgment, finding the Transportation Department's attempt to end congestion pricing "arbitrary and capricious" [4]. The state reported "over $550 million in net revenue in its first year" and "27 million fewer vehicles" in the zone [5]. The king declared it dead in February 2025. It was still collecting on its first birthday.

SOURCES

1. "Between 2 and 4.8 million people participated in over 2,150 actions" on 14 June 2025 — Crowd Counting Consortium via Waging Nonviolence, August 2025 ↑
2. Organizers counted nearly 7 million at 2,700 locations on 18 October 2025 — Variety, 19 October 2025 ↑
3. A median estimate of about 5.0 million — G. Elliott Morris ↑
4. The Transportation Department's termination of congestion pricing ruled "arbitrary and capricious" — Earthjustice, 3 March 2026 ↑
5. "Over $550 million in net revenue in its first year"; "27 million fewer vehicles" — Office of the Governor of New York, 5 January 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



LONG LIVE THE KING

The post, February 19, 2025, on the day his administration moved to end New York's congestion toll: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" [1]. In October, the day after the second national No Kings protests, he posted an AI video of himself crowned, flying a "King Trump" jet over the marchers [2].

And the answer he gave in his own voice, the same day, to reporters at Joint Base Andrews: "I'm not a king. I work my ass off to make our country great" [3]. That is the defense, and it is not nothing: an elected president who submits to elections, courts and a two-term limit is, whatever he posts, not a monarch. The crown is a costume. Whether the costume changed what happened to the toll is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" — Truth Social, 19 February 2025 — NBC New York ↑
2. A 19-second AI video of a crowned Trump flying a "King Trump" jet over protesters — Variety, 19 October 2025 ↑
3. "I'm not a king. I work my ass off to make our country great." — Fox News, 19 October 2025 ↑

"I'll just read the dates. February 19th last year: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" June 14th: two to nearly five million people at over two thousand protests under the words "No Kings." October 18th — a year ago today — the organizers said nearly seven million. The next day: "I'm not a king." March of this year: a judge says the attempt to end the toll was arbitrary and capricious. First-year revenue: over five hundred fifty million. Sorry, I've got my coat on. The king declared it dead. Why is it still collecting?" — Lou

🍺

"'CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. LONG LIVE THE KING!" Then a federal judge ruled the killing arbitrary and capricious, and the thing he declared dead cleared five hundred fifty million dollars in its first year. The king has a crown, a jet in a cartoon, and one of the better-attended protest movements in American history named after him. What the king doesn't have is the toll booth."

— Sal

🚬

"The post was a joke, the crown was a joke, the video was a joke, and "I'm not a king" was entirely sincere, which is exactly how you can tell a joke from the truth: by which one he says after the protest."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎