The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

CBO prices war at $38 billion, calls it conservative; farmers get $8 billion relief for its fuel costs.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On September 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books on the war with Iran and priced it at $38 billion. The office called the number conservative. In accounting, conservative means the number has room above it and none below.

Thirteen days later, on September 28th, the Oval Office opened on a different ledger. The president announced a $15 billion steel plant for Iowa, the largest in the nation's history. Two days after that, on September 30th, South Korea pledged up to $200 billion for American energy: an Alaska gas pipeline, a Texas power plant, eight new nuclear power plants. Two announcements, $215 billion, inside of 48 hours.

Seven days after the South Korea pledge, on October 7th, the Guardian went back to Iowa to check the foundation. Zero is how much of it has broken ground.

On Monday night, the ledger came back to the war's side of the page. In Kansas, stumping for Senator Roger Marshall, the president announced the Harvest Fuel Relief Program: $8 billion in aid for farmers hurt by record

... Continued on Page F122

THE WORD

§66 — 19 OCTOBER 2026

On training grounds

DEMOCRAT

UNTIL 2029

REPUBLICAN

TRAINING GROUNDS

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

... Continued on Page W66

Executive wrote the harm was "severe enough" to fix; TikTok fixed it for $100 million in Alabama.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

An executive at TikTok, writing in texts that surfaced in a trove of unreported court records made public this week, put it this way: "I have been fighting about fixing this for months with people who didn't think the harms are severe enough."

The problem did not stay internal. The number attached to it was $100 million minimum, plus a list of safety features TikTok agreed to build. Twenty-four days later, the NPR story landed, and with it the texts that explain why Alabama needed a lawsuit to get safety features a company's own staff had already asked for internally, for months, before anyone sued.

So reconcile the ledger. The fix TikTok would not make on an employee's word, it made on a judge's docket, for $100 million minimum. That is not a regulatory cost; it is what it costs to be the company that got caught instead of the company that acted. The fix applies in Alabama, under that one settlement. The alarm, on the executive's own account, was not about Alabama; it was about the harms themselves, severe enough to need fixing regardless of who was suing.

... Continued on Page F122

Trump's purge spares Graham a bribery probe; weeks later, Trump spares Russia his own sanctions law.

BY MITCH
Investigations

On 19 September the president signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, legislation built around sanctions the senator had pushed for years before he died in July, two months before his name became law. On 17 October, the night before they were due to, the president waived them by executive order. More than 320 drones hit Ukraine's power grid hours later.

Three days after that, ProPublica filed the beat that makes sense of the first three. The headline: "How Trump's FBI Purge Saved Lindsey Graham and James Clyburn From a Bribery Investigation." All together now, read it clause by clause. An FBI purge. Two sitting lawmakers. A bribery investigation. Saved.

The headline doesn't need interpretation. It needs only to sit next to the date above it.

I am an investigations columnist, not a mind reader, and I will not tell you what anyone was thinking when they did what the public record says they did. I will tell you the order. A law gets signed. A senator gets warned, on the

... Continued on Page A217

Trump's trade war aimed at splitting Canada instead delivers Carney a unity vote

BY SAL
Staff Writer

Alberta voted Tuesday to stay in Canada, in a referendum Prime Minister Mark Carney said the United States was fueling from outside, in the middle of a trade war Washington is running against the same country Alberta just chose to remain part of.

Start four years earlier. On December 8, 2022, Alberta's legislature passed the Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act by a vote of 27 to 7, over the objections of the provincial New Democrats and Indigenous chiefs. The law hands Alberta's cabinet the power to nullify national laws it does not like. It sat on the books through 2023, 2024, 2025, waiting on a fight.

By October 7 of this year, the fight had a date. The BBC was asking what oil-rich Alberta's economy would look like if the province actually broke away — the kind of question newsrooms run right before a vote, not after one. Alberta had scheduled a referendum: stay in Canada, or move toward a binding vote on independence.

Nine days later, on October 16, Carney gave the referendum its stakes. He told Alberta voters the United States wanted Canada split apart, and warned

... Continued on Page A217

California governor fighting a billionaire tax praises a billionaire who owes New York $59 million in back taxes

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

In August, two campaign committees opened against Proposition 40, California's one-time five percent tax on the state's roughly 200 billionaires. Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes carried financing from Google co-founder Sergey Brin and venture capitalist Peter Thiel.

On October 1, a former Andreessen Horowitz partner, John O'Farrell, filed the opposite answer in public. In a twelve-post thread he told his followers he was glad to pay the tax and had no plans to leave the state that would collect it.

On October 11, Governor Newsom filed his own. He endorsed Proposition 42, which cancels Proposition 40 outright and bars any future tax on financial assets, retroactive or otherwise. The Hill ran the same endorsement again two days later, which tells you how hard the campaign wanted it read.

On Tuesday, Stanford economists filed a caution of their own: the tax, they wrote, could backfire.

Reconcile that filing against the table. The backfire a one-time five percent

... Continued on Page F122

DOJ's voter-fraud sweep breaks a citizen's arm; Congress answers same day with a bill to sue ICE.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

A Justice Department official went on "60 Minutes" this week and said there is no effort to stoke fear about noncitizens voting. The Department's own calendar tells it differently, one beat at a time, and the Crew is here for the parts list, not the denial.

On August 31st the Department announced a "massive criminal voter fraud surge" in California, with eight more states warned to expect the same. On October 9th a federal judge ruled the Department's practice of pulling states' unredacted voter rolls to check against an immigration database unlawful. On October 16th the administration told state election officials they could face legal consequences for counting those same ballots. Ricardo Gonzalez was born in Hanford, California. He is a United States citizen. On October 19th the FBI delivered the sweep's receipt: 28 green card holders charged under an operation the Department calls Protect the Vote.

Lay the pieces side by side and every one of them is a tool the government already owns, pointed at people it has not yet proven did anything: a voter-roll database, a 48-hour court deadline, a pair of handcuffs.

... Continued on Page T29

Saudi government flew bugging suspect's family home, then offered to cover his bail.

BY MITCH
Investigations

The filing arrives this weekend as a court memorandum, and like most federal filings it reads best out loud, in order. All together now — paragraph one: the defendant is an OpenAI engineer named Abdulrahman Alfozan, employed since last July, roughly three months before his arrest, charged with installing a recording device in a company conference room.

Back up to October 1st. The Wall Street Journal reports that Thursday that OpenAI has terminated three safety researchers for sharing what the company calls "confidential company information." The company does not say what the information was. Twelve days later, on October 13th, the Department of Justice announces Alfozan's arrest. He had been on the job three months.

The FBI confirms the arrest the next day, October 14th. Routine enough — an employee, a hidden microphone, a federal charge. Then the document keeps going.

All together now — the next clause: Saudi officials paid for Alfozan's wife and son to fly out of the United States. The filing does not say when the

... Continued on Page F122

Feds cite unnamed DNA to confirm denaturalizing a congresswoman already cleared by three probes.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

An old presumption in American law — that government proves its case before it ruins someone's career — died this week, somewhere between a sealed grand jury room and a Fox Business studio.

A month before that, on September 15, Representative James Comer had asked the Trump administration to release its evidence so the House could decide whether to expel her. The administration did not release it.

By October 13, the silence had become its own campaign. Omar's own fundraising email that week called the investigation "baseless" and "partisan" and asked supporters for money to fight it. Two days later, her office called the reported plan to strip her citizenship "an authoritarian move to silence an opponent."

Former President Obama called the probe appalling, and the right answered him by reading back his own administration's Tea Party IRS file, the one his officials once swore under oath did not exist.

Then came Sunday, and three things arrived in order. Border Czar Tom Homan confirmed, on the record, that the administration is looking to denat-

... Continued on Page T29

> "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*

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE INTERNAL MEMO

Executive wrote the harm was "severe enough" to fix; TikTok fixed it for $100 million in Alabama.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. TikTok executives ignored staff warnings that child-safety harms were severe enough to fix, court records show.

WHO GETS PAID. Alabama's state government, which collected $100 million in the settlement its attorney general announced on September 26th.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's only window into the warning was a state lawsuit; without one, the harm stays sealed inside company documents.

WHAT'S NEXT. No other state's lawsuit appears in these receipts yet; the only scheduled event on record was the Alabama trial the settlement avoided on September 26th.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

An executive at TikTok, writing in texts that surfaced in a trove of unreported court records made public this week, put it this way: "I have been fighting about fixing this for months with people who didn't think the harms are severe enough."

The problem did not stay internal. The number attached to it was $100 million minimum, plus a list of safety features TikTok agreed to build. Twenty-four days later, the NPR story landed, and with it the texts that explain why Alabama needed a lawsuit to get safety features a company's own staff had already asked for internally, for months, before anyone sued....

...(cont) So reconcile the ledger. The fix TikTok would not make on an employee's word, it made on a judge's docket, for $100 million minimum. That is not a regulatory cost; it is what it costs to be the company that got caught instead of the company that acted. The fix applies in Alabama, under that one settlement. The alarm, on the executive's own account, was not about Alabama; it was about the harms themselves, severe enough to need fixing regardless of who was suing.

Where does money move when it isn't buying child-safety features? On October 7th, an analysis counted 172 billionaire families' spending in the 2026 midterms: more than $1.7 billion, the most ever recorded for a midterm cycle, most of it routed through the super PACs Citizens United made legal. Thirteen days later, the TikTok filing ran. No receipt here ties the two ledgers to each other; the comparison is just the two numbers, dated and side by side: one company's price for getting caught, one election's price of admission.

That is the whole audit: the price of being asked nicely is zero. The price of being sued is $100 million. And the price of a midterm, this year, is $1.7 billion, paid in full, on time, no settlement required.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

AN EMPLOYEE WROTE IT DOWN: THE HARM WAS SEVERE ENOUGH TO FIX. THE COMPANY didn't fix it; it priced it. Alabama sued, so Alabama got the hundred million and the safety features; the other forty-nine states didn't file suit, so nothing changes yet for the version still running on the phone charging on your kid's nightstand tonight.

🍺

"An executive used the word "severe" in writing and the company still waited for a lawsuit to move before it touched the product. That's not a glitch, that's the business model: don't fix the harm, price the harm, and let Alabama collect the invoice. A hundred million sounds like a number until you remember $1.7 billion just bought a midterm, no settlement required."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, a settlement isn't an admission — TikTok didn't concede anything, they just agreed to pay the state and build the features and call it closed. Nothing here says the company knew and chose the product over the kids using it. ...did I say "chose the product over the kids"? That's not — let's just say the lawyers on both sides were satisfied with the number."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

TikTok staff raised child safety alarms. Court records show executives failed to act

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

The warnings surfaced in a trove of unreported court records. "I have been fighting about fixing this for months with people who didn't think the harms are severe enough," wrote one executive.

· Alabama wins $100 million and concessions in TikTok deal concerning child safety *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· 172 Billionaire Families Have Spent Record $1.7 Billion on 2026 Midterms So Far: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 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.

Trump's purge spares Graham a bribery probe; weeks later, Trump spares Russia his own sanctions law.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

"Trump pauses new Russia sanctions passed by Congress amid deepening row with Ukraine", 17 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On 19 September the president signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, legislation built around sanctions the senator had pushed for years before he died in July, two months before his name became law. On 17 October, the night before they were due to, the president waived them by executive order. More than 320 drones hit Ukraine's power grid hours later.

Three days after that, ProPublica filed the beat that makes sense of the first three. The headline: "How Trump's FBI Purge Saved Lindsey Graham and James Clyburn From a Bribery Investigation." All together now, read it clause by clause. An FBI purge. Two sitting lawmakers. A bribery investigation. Saved....

...(cont) The headline doesn't need interpretation. It needs only to sit next to the date above it.

I am an investigations columnist, not a mind reader, and I will not tell you what anyone was thinking when they did what the public record says they did. I will tell you the order. A law gets signed. A senator gets warned, on the floor, that the deal underneath it looks bad. The law gets waived. The bureau that was reported to be investigating that same senator gets purged. Each sentence stands on its own, sourced to its own date. Lined up, they stop sounding like four stories and start sounding like one.

The sanctions law was supposed to cost Russia something for the war. By the record above, it has cost Russia nothing. The bribery investigation was supposed to cost two lawmakers something for whatever the bureau was looking at. ProPublica's headline says it has cost them nothing either. Both got waived, and by the same hand.

"They didn't investigate it away, they fired the people doing the investigating — that's not a loophole, that's a kill switch. Then the same guy turns around and shuts off the one law that still had Graham's name stapled to it, like even his own side wants him gone before anybody asks why. Two lawmakers keep their seats, Russia keeps its sanctions relief, and nobody in this story had to cast a single vote."

— Sal

"Personnel changes at the Bureau happen under every administration, you can't call ordinary turnover a purge — did I say turnover? I meant a structural realignment, totally routine. And the sanctions pause is just presidential discretion on foreign policy, the law didn't disappear, it's paused, which is completely different, and the fact that it's the senator's own law getting paused, that's — that's a coincidence, why does everyone keep bringing up his name like it proves something."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- Pentagon withholds NATO-paid Patriots with no explanation; a congressman vows to be 'fully accountable' By The Wrecking Crew · the morning edition, 20 October 2026
- Trump administration denies any pause in intelligence sharing with Ukraine for the second time in six days. By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- Rubio tells Zelensky to end the war Putin is settling with Trump and Xi without him. By Lou · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- Treasury insists Russia got no sanctions relief, just a waiver pausing the sanctions. By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- Trump waives his own Russia sanctions the night before they take effect, and hours later more than 320 drones hit Ukraine's grid. By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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 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."

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.

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...

~~How Trump's FBI Purge Saved Lindsey Graham and James Clyburn From a Bribery Investigation~~

Trump's FBI purge spared two powerful lawmakers a bribery probe

ProPublica | *05:00 EDT*

The post How Trump's FBI Purge Saved Lindsey Graham and James Clyburn From a Bribery Investigation appeared first on ProPublica .

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

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

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *14:26 EDT*

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

~~Trump 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)*

'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 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.

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...

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.

~~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.

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.

~~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.

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...

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.

~~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...

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.

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 | *22:32 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...

~~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.

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: '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 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: '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.

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...

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.

~~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.

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."

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' - 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...

~~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.

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,"

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: 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 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 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*

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

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· 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's trade war aimed at splitting Canada instead delivers Carney a unity vote

By SAL
STAFF WRITER

"ABC News Issues Correction After Appearing To Quietly Delete Story About Don Jr's Business Dealings", 10 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA DAILY CALLER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Alberta voters rejected separating from Canada in a province-wide referendum.

WHO GETS PAID. Prime Minister Mark Carney gets a political win, a boost for his push to hold Canada together against outside pressure.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet; this vote was the check working, not failing.

WHAT'S NEXT. No new vote or deadline is set. Alberta's 2022 law letting its cabinet nullify federal statutes stays on the books, and the trade war that made this referendum a unity test continues.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Alberta voted Tuesday to stay in Canada, in a referendum Prime Minister Mark Carney said the United States was fueling from outside, in the middle of a trade war Washington is running against the same country Alberta just chose to remain part of.

Start four years earlier. On December 8, 2022, Alberta's legislature passed the Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act by a vote of 27 to 7, over the objections of the provincial New Democrats and Indigenous chiefs. The law hands Alberta's cabinet the power to nullify national laws it does not like. It sat on the books through 2023, 2024, 2025, waiting on a fight....

...(cont) By October 7 of this year, the fight had a date. The BBC was asking what oil-rich Alberta's economy would look like if the province actually broke away — the kind of question newsrooms run right before a vote, not after one. Alberta had scheduled a referendum: stay in Canada, or move toward a binding vote on independence.

Nine days later, on October 16, Carney gave the referendum its stakes. He told Alberta voters the United States wanted Canada split apart, and warned that the vote in front of them would hand Washington exactly that. A prime minister was asking a province that had just armed its own cabinet to defy the federal government to instead defend it, from a trade war arriving from the south.

On October 20, Alberta answered. Voters rejected the move toward independence; the New York Post called the result a win Carney badly needed, and NPR reported early returns backing Canadian unity by a wide margin. The province holding the only referendum of its kind on the books spent it voting to stay.

Nothing here required a conspiracy. A tariff war aimed at a trading partner landed on the one province in that country holding a nullification law and an independence movement on the ballot, and the government in Ottawa pointed at the tariffs and asked the province to pick a side. The province picked Canada. The law built in 2022 waited four years for its fight, and the side that wrote it lost.

The nullification law is still on the books. The trade war did not end when the ballots were counted. What changed Tuesday was leverage, not statute — Carney got a mandate, Alberta kept the weapon, and Washington kept the tariffs that made the weapon look, for one vote, like something nobody in Edmonton wanted to use.

"You put a nullification law on a shelf in 2022 and a tariff gun to Canada's head in 2026, and the result is a province voting to stay — that's not Alberta falling in love with Ottawa, that's Alberta picking the devil it knows over the one taxing it. Carney didn't win hearts, he won by default, and the law that lets Edmonton ignore federal statutes any day it wants is still sitting right there, loaded."

— Sal

"This was a province exercising its democratic right, full stop, nothing to do with any tariff policy — the timing is a coincidence, we weren't trying to split anybody, we were just running a trade policy that happens to target the exact country the separatists wanted to leave, which — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *CDC meets six measles deaths in Pennsylvania with one disease detective.* By Mort · the morning edition, 17 October 2026
— *CDC meets 4,400-case measles outbreak with a plan to send one detective.* By Mort · the morning edition, 16 October 2026
— *A disease the United States certified gone in 2000 just confirmed a sixth death in Pennsylvania this year.* By Mort · the evening edition, 12 October 2026
— *The country takes two finished projects back out of service: measles elimination, certified in 2000 and now at 1,004 cases in Pennsylvania, and the decades-old ownership limit, repealed 2-1 the week a coalition invoked it.* By Mort · the evening edition, 11 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

ABC News Issues Correction After Appearing To Quietly Delete Story About Don Jr's Business Dealings
Daily Caller RIGHT § *15:45 EDT*
'ABC deleted this article in less than 24 hours because it's false'

~~Coalition Files Emergency Motion to Stop Trump FCC From Unleashing Media Consolidation Spree~~
Coalition sues to stop Trump's FCC from scrapping the cap keeping one company under 39% of US TV households
Common Dreams § *10:08 EDT*
A coalition of nonprofit groups and labor unions filed an emergency petition on Friday aimed at blocking the Federal Communications Commission's recent repeal of a decades-old rule that limited consolidation among television broadcasters, a move that would allow media conglomerates to seize even more control over local news stations. The...

How oil-rich Alberta's economy might fare if it broke away from Canada
BBC News MAINSTREAM § *19:10 EDT*
Albertans vote this month on staying in Canada or moving ahead to a binding independence referendum.

Voters in Oil-Rich Alberta Reject Leaving Canada
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *03:07 EDT*
Residents of the province were asked if they wish to remain in Canada or to hold another vote on breaking away, in a referendum that left both sides unhappy.

Alberta voters reject a move toward independence in referendum backing Canadian unity
NPR MAINSTREAM § *02:02 EDT*
Voters in Canada's oil-rich Alberta province overwhelmingly backed remaining in Canada, with early referendum results Tuesday delivering a boost to Prime Minister Carney's push for national unity.

Prime Minister Mark Carney says US wants to split Canada amid Alberta separation vote
New York Post RIGHT § *18:24 EDT*
Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney urged Alberta voters to reject a separation referendum, warning that outside forces like the U.S. want to break Canada.

~~Alberta votes to remain part of Canada, rejects independence~~
Alberta's vote is a win for Carney in his trade war with Trump
New York Post RIGHT § *05:24 EDT*
Alberta residents voted to remain part of Canada in the province's first-ever referendum on separation, in a much-needed win for Prime Minister Mark Carney as he attempts to unify the country amid a trade war with the US.

~~ABC News quietly republishes gutted version of story on Trump sons it had deleted without explanation~~
Trump sons' investments tied to Pentagon contracts prompted ABC's correction
Fox News RIGHT § *11:18 EDT*
ABC News issued an editor's note admitting errors in its report on Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump's investments tied to Pentagon contracts.

Voters reject separation of Alberta from Canada in referendum
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *02:11 EDT*
The vote was not a referendum on independence from Canada, but it would have begun a process towards possible separation.

· The Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act, which grants the cabinet of the Canadian province of Alberta the ability to nullify national laws, passes the Albertan legislature by a party line v *from the morgue, 8 Dec 2022*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

California governor fighting a billionaire tax praises a billionaire who owes New York $59 million in back taxes

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Wall Street swindler who owes $59M in NY back taxes lives it up in Calif. — where he's praised by Gavin Newsom", 20 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Governor Newsom praised a Wall Street financier who owes New York back taxes while fighting a tax on California billionaires.

WHO GETS PAID. The financier gets a tax-free California home and the governor's praise.

WHAT SLIPS. Newsom's preferred ballot measure would permanently bar future taxes on wealth like this, taking that power away from voters for good.

WHAT'S NEXT. California voters decide Proposition 40 in fourteen days, on November 3.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

In August, two campaign committees opened against Proposition 40, California's one-time five percent tax on the state's roughly 200 billionaires. Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes carried financing from Google co-founder Sergey Brin and venture capitalist Peter Thiel.

On October 1, a former Andreessen Horowitz partner, John O'Farrell, filed the opposite answer in public. In a twelve-post thread he told his followers he was glad to pay the tax and had no plans to leave the state that would collect it....

...(cont) On October 11, Governor Newsom filed his own. He endorsed Proposition 42, which cancels Proposition 40 outright and bars any future tax on financial assets, retroactive or otherwise. The Hill ran the same endorsement again two days later, which tells you how hard the campaign wanted it read.

On Tuesday, Stanford economists filed a caution of their own: the tax, they wrote, could backfire.

Reconcile that filing against the table. The backfire a one-time five percent tax might produce is capital flight — a resident leaving the jurisdiction that wants to tax him. On Tuesday, the New York Post filed a different resident. It identified him by his bill: $59 million owed to the state of New York, unpaid, on the books. His address since is a $4.9 million compound in California — the jurisdiction currently fighting not to tax wealth like his. The Post's own words for him were "a convicted Wall Street fraudster"; we didn't write them and don't need to. Newsom has praised him.

That is the whole gap, hon. The tax he is fighting would have taxed precisely this. The treasury he is not helping collect from is New York's.

Fourteen days remain before California voters settle which column this lands in: the tax that would have reached him, or the measure that guarantees it never will.

🍺

"The guy leading the fight against the billionaire tax is out here praising the guy who owes New York fifty-nine million dollars and hasn't paid it. That's not a coincidence, that's a seating chart. Newsom gets a donor-adjacent friend with no bill from his own state, and California gets to make sure nobody like him ever gets taxed here either."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, where somebody chooses to live is a complicated decision — taxes, weather, family, proximity to good schools — did I say weather? That's not a legal argument, strike that. The governor endorsing a ballot measure isn't the same as co-signing anyone's tax return, and frankly it's not his job to chase down what somebody owes a different state."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Poll finds 5% tax on 200 billionaires tied; $100 million campaign calls it collapsing* By Ruth · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Man spending $100 million to kill a 5% tax dines beside the president whose cuts it offsets* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Newsom endorses the measure that cancels the billionaire tax he let California's voters decide on his own* By Ruth · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
- *Newsom pitches a federal stock-trading ban, then endorses the measure canceling his state's billionaire tax.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 17 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Wall Street swindler who owes $59M in NY back taxes lives it up in Calif. — where he's praised by Gavin Newsom

New York Post RIGHT § *05:00 EDT*

As Dems demand higher taxes on hard-working New Yorkers, one convicted Wall Street fraudster is dodging a record $59M tax bill from his $4.9M California compound. partnering with Gov. Gavin Newsom.

California billionaire tax could backfire, Stanford study says

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *22:55 EDT*

A new analysis from Stanford economists cautions that enacting a billionaire tax could have unintended consequences.

~~Newsom backs California ballot measure that cancels out billionaire tax proposal~~

Newsom backs ballot measure that lets California's billionaires skip the one-time tax.

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *23:00 EDT*

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) endorsed a ballot measure that, if approved by voters, would cancel out the ballot measure proposal that would impose a one-time tax on the Golden State's billionaires. On Friday, Newsom endorsed Proposition 42, which would prohibit retroactive taxes imposed by Proposition 40, known as the Billionaire Tax...

~~Newsom Endorses Ballot Measure That Would Cancel Out Billionaire Tax—and Ban Future Wealth Taxes~~

Newsom's pick to kill the billionaire tax is bankrolled by billionaire Sergey Brin

Common Dreams § *14:27 EDT*

California Gov. Gavin Newsom ramped up his opposition to a proposed tax on the state's billionaire residents on Friday by endorsing a competing ballot measure that would both cancel out the billionaire wealth tax initiative and prohibit any new taxes on the ownership of financial assets or other personal property. "He's showing...

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

· 'I Know Where I Want to Live': Ex-Venture Capitalist Explains Why He'd Be Happy to Pay California Billionaire Tax *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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THE DRAGNET

DOJ's voter-fraud sweep breaks a citizen's arm; Congress answers same day with a bill to sue ICE.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK

"Federal judge rules against Trump DoJ's policy of collecting state voter rolls", 9 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The FBI charged 28 green card holders in a California voter-fraud sweep on October 19.

WHO GETS PAID. The Justice Department gains another voter-fraud announcement to run on before the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. A county's voter rolls slip into a federal database a judge already ruled unlawful to use that way.

WHAT'S NEXT. If California's lawsuit holds, expect a spike then a fade; that is what Texas got after its March 2022 ID rule: a 12.4 percent rejection rate falling to 1.78 percent by November.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A Justice Department official went on "60 Minutes" this week and said there is no effort to stoke fear about noncitizens voting. The Department's own calendar tells it differently, one beat at a time, and the Crew is here for the parts list, not the denial.

On August 31st the Department announced a "massive criminal voter fraud surge" in California, with eight more states warned to expect the same. On October 9th a federal judge ruled the Department's practice of pulling states' unredacted voter rolls to check against an immigration database unlawful. On October 16th the administration told state election officials they could face legal consequences for counting those same ballots. Ricardo Gonzalez was born in Hanford, California. He is a United States citizen. On October 19th the FBI delivered the sweep's receipt: 28 green card holders charged under an operation the Department calls Protect the Vote....

...(cont) Lay the pieces side by side and every one of them is a tool the government already owns, pointed at people it has not yet proven did anything: a voter-roll database, a 48-hour court deadline, a pair of handcuffs.

Here is the tool nobody had turned on yet. That same day, citing a ProPublica investigation into cases built exactly like Gonzalez's, lawmakers introduced a bill letting American citizens sue ICE for wrongful detention. Not a task force. Not an internal review. A cause of action — a plaintiff's seat in a real courtroom, for the citizen an agent grabs while chasing somebody else's paperwork.

The job here is just naming what each part is stamped to do. A green card and a birth certificate are both documents the government checks; only one of them currently comes with a right to answer back in court when the wrong agent grabs the wrong arm. The bill introduced this week tries to give the second document that same leverage.

It has not passed. It has not had a vote. It exists, filed, with a citizen's broken arm already in the record underneath it.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TOLD '60 MINUTES' THERE IS NO CAMPAIGN TO TARGET people over noncitizen voting. That isn't a denial, it's the paperwork trail for a raid already running under a friendlier name. The database flags a name, the lawsuit forces a county to drop the ballots, the unmarked car makes the stop, and the citizenship card in your wallet only works on that chain if somebody downstream bothers to check it before the handcuffs go on.

"They go on TV and swear nobody's hunting noncitizen voters, then the same week they're charging 28 people and tasing a citizen off his bike. The bill to sue ICE doesn't stop the next arm from getting broken, it just hands you a lawyer's number after it happens. That's the trade they're offering: get hurt first, sue later, and call it accountability."

— Sal

"Look, 28 green card holders got charged because the law says noncitizens can't vote, that's not fear-mongering, that's enforcement, case closed. The citizen getting his arm broken? Regrettable, isolated, under review — wait, that's what we said about the guy in Fresno too. The bill to sue ICE is just trial lawyers chasing a payday off hardworking agents doing their job — did I say hardworking? I meant agents doing their job."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Feds cite unnamed DNA to confirm denaturalizing a congresswoman already cleared by three probes.* By Mort · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Justice Department denies stoking voter-fraud fear on '60 Minutes,' breaks a citizen's arm enforcing it days later.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Obama calls Omar probe appalling; backlash reads his own IRS's Tea Party file back to him.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Justice Department promises midterms will have 'no interruption,' delivers one to a congresswoman's front door instead.* By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Conservative lawyer refutes 'political revenge' claim by revealing the warrant judge donated to Clinton* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security opens deportation case against congresswoman over a text message on her sister's phone* By Mitch · the morning edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Federal judge rules against Trump DoJ's policy of collecting state voter rolls

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:08 EDT*

Judge says justice department policy of checking state voter rolls against a federal immigration database is unlawful A federal judge ruled on Friday that the US justice department's policy of collecting states' unredacted voter rolls to check them against a federal immigration database is unlawful. The ruling, by the US district judge...

Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *14:34 EDT*

Federal agents charged 28 suspects in a series of California voter fraud cases on Monday, days after the Justice Department sued the state and warned election officials they could face legal consequences if they counted ballots cast by people who federal agencies identified as suspected noncitizens. Under an operation dubbed "Protect the...

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

ICE agent shoots man in New York City with five-year-old reportedly in car

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:50 EDT*

Police say man taken to hospital and mayor says child physically unharmed as he demands Trump stop ICE enforcement in city A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent shot and wounded a man in New York City on Thursday afternoon during an enforcement operation, federal officials said. The man was conscious and hospitalized...

~~U.S. Citizen Hospitalized After Being Detained by ICE, His Family Says~~

ICE detained him; police found him bleeding and handcuffed

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:40 EDT*

The police in Long Beach, Calif., said they were called by ICE for backup and found a man who was bleeding and handcuffed.

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

Citing ProPublica, Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Help U.S. Citizens Sue ICE for Wrongful Detentions

ProPublica § *16:15 EDT*

The post Citing ProPublica, Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Help U.S. Citizens Sue ICE for Wrongful Detentions appeared first on ProPublica .

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

DoJ charges 28 green card holders in California over alleged voter fraud

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:07 EDT*

Crackdown marks latest escalation in the Trump justice department's push to target alleged noncitizen voting The US Department of Justice has filed criminal charges against 28 green card holders in California accused of fraudulently registering to vote and casting illegal ballots. The crackdown marks another escalation in the federal...

'Hands Off Our People!': Fury After ICE Agents Break US-Born Man's Arm in Long Beach

Common Dreams § *14:50 EDT*

Residents of Long Beach, California and their elected officials are among those condemning a Saturday assault by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents that left a US citizen hospitalized with a broken arm and a community demanding an end to ICE terror. Ricardo Gonzalez, a 40-year-old former Long Beach city employee born in...

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

US citizen injured by ICE agents in California – video

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *14:58 EDT*

Ricardo Gonzalez, a US citizen, was detained and injured by ICE officers while being arrested in Long Beach, California, on 17 October, officials said. The Department of Homeland Security has not commented publicly on why Gonzalez was detained. The Long Beach police department said in a statement that officers arrived to find 'a large...

~~Trump DOJ Sues After California Refuses to Disqualify Voters Based on Faulty Citizenship Database~~

DOJ sues California to purge voters off a database that already misflagged hundreds of citizens elsewhere

Common Dreams § *17:56 EDT*

In what one former election official called a significant "escalation" of President Donald Trump's interference in the midterm elections, his Department of Justice sued California on Thursday for not disqualifying over 20,000 mail ballots from voters it claims could be noncitizens. The suit comes two days after acting Deputy US Attorney...

Mamdani says ICE agents who shot man in New York looked like 'mass shooters'

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *11:03 EDT*

Mayor calls for end to agency's operations in city after agents shot and wounded man with five-year-old in car The New York mayor, Zohran Mamdani , on Sunday compared US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s recent shooting of a man in the Manhattan enclave of Marble Hill to a mass shooting scene – and called for an end to the...

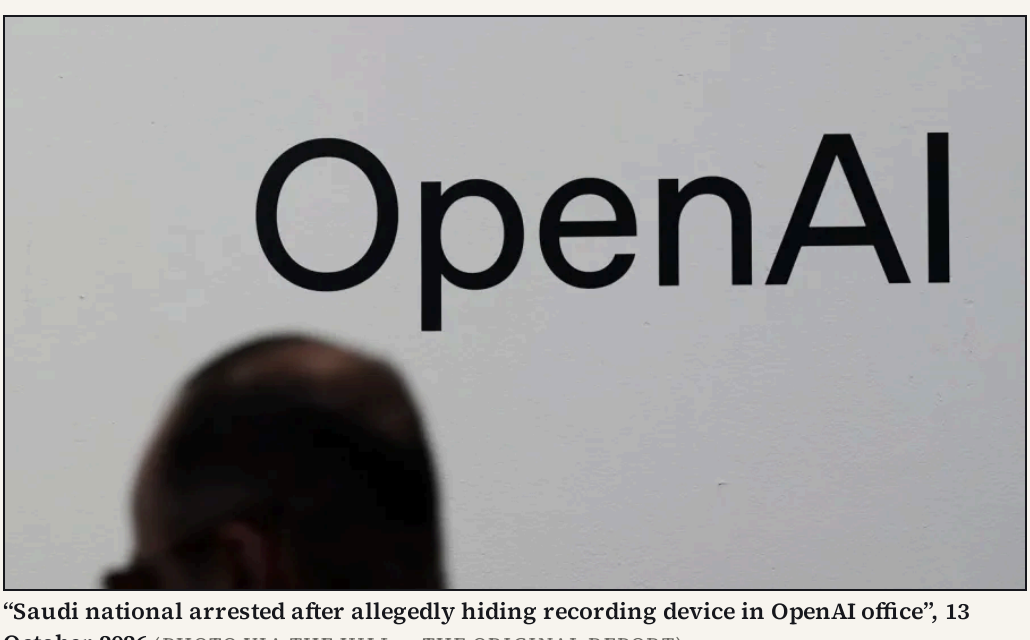
· Trump DoJ indicts 10 individuals on noncitizen voting related charges in Minnesota *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Whistleblower alleges DHS voter fraud investigation could violate state laws *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.

Saudi government flew bugging suspect's family home, then offered to cover his bail.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



“Saudi national arrested after allegedly hiding recording device in OpenAI office”, 13 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Saudi officials flew an OpenAI engineer's family out of the U.S. and offered to pay his bail.

WHO GETS PAID. The Saudi government, already in contact with the accused through its royal family, gets his family moved out and his bail covered.

WHAT SLIPS. The court's hold on a flight risk slips when a foreign government flies the defendant's family out of the country before any bail is even set.

WHAT'S NEXT. The engineer stays in federal custody with no further hearing date in the filings; the record shows only that Saudi officials paid for his family's exit and offered to cover his bail.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The filing arrives this weekend as a court memorandum, and like most federal filings it reads best out loud, in order. All together now — paragraph one: the defendant is an OpenAI engineer named Abdulrahman Alfozan, employed since last July, roughly three months before his arrest, charged with installing a recording device in a company conference room.

Back up to October 1st. The Wall Street Journal reports that Thursday that OpenAI has terminated three safety researchers for sharing what the company calls "confidential company information." The company does not say what the information was. Twelve days later, on October 13th, the Department of Justice announces Alfozan's arrest. He had been on the job three months....

...(cont) The FBI confirms the arrest the next day, October 14th. Routine enough — an employee, a hidden microphone, a federal charge. Then the document keeps going.

All together now — the next clause: Saudi officials paid for Alfozan's wife and son to fly out of the United States. The filing does not say when the flights were booked relative to the arrest, only that Saudi officials paid for them. The clause after that: Saudi officials offered to cover his bail. The clause after that: Alfozan was in close contact with a member of the Saudi royal family. The clause after that: he was planning to move to Riyadh when the FBI arrested him first.

Not released on the bail a foreign government had offered to pay. Held.

Here is what the document does not contain: a reason. It does not say why a government would move a suspect's family out of the country while he remains in federal custody, or why it would offer to post bond for a man charged with planting a bug in the offices of the company that makes ChatGPT. It does not have to. Prosecutors filed it to establish what Alfozan was doing and who was paying for it. The rest is left to the reader, the same way it is left to the judge, who read the same four clauses and decided three months on the job and one plane ticket home were enough to keep a man in custody.

The document speaks for itself. That is what a court filing is for.

“Every time one of these companies gets caught with its security down, it's the same move — some government with oil money flies the family out first and sorts the bail paperwork later. OpenAI fires the people warning about risk a month before this, so there's nobody left in the building to say maybe don't let the guy on good terms with a royal family near the hardware. This isn't a spy novel, it's a staffing decision with consequences.”

— Sal

“Look, every country provides consular support to its nationals abroad, that's just basic diplomacy, nothing unusual about helping a family get home — did I say helping him make bail too? That's not consular support, that's — forget I said bail, that one's on me.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Saudi national arrested after allegedly hiding recording device in OpenAI office

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *17:51 EDT*

An OpenAI employee from Saudi Arabia has been arrested after allegedly hiding a recording device in the company’s offices, the Department of Justice (DOJ) said Tuesday. Abdulrahman Alfozan, a 35-year-old Saudi national who had worked as an engineer at OpenAI since last July, was charged with using or attempting to use a device to...

Ex-OpenAI worker accused of planting device had Saudi support, says court filing

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *17:12 EDT*

The Saudi government did not immediately respond to BBC requests for comment.

Ex-OpenAI engineer who allegedly planted bug in office was in contact with Saudi royal family

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:23 EDT*

A former OpenAI engineer who allegedly installed a listening device in an executive conference room was in close contact with a member of the Saudi royal family and was planning to leave the U.S. for Riyadh when authorities arrested him, federal prosecutors said Sunday in a court memorandum. CBS News' Nicole Sganga has more.

FBI arrests OpenAI engineer for allegedly planting bug in office

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:24 EDT*

The FBI arrested an OpenAI engineer for allegedly planting a recording device in a company office. CBS News' Jo LIng Kent reports.

Saudis Aided Family of Engineer Accused of Bugging OpenAI, Prosecutors Say

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *17:17 EDT*

Saudi officials paid for his wife and son to fly out of the U.S. and offered to cover his bail, according to court filings. A judge ordered the engineer to remain in custody.

· 'Looks Like They're Firing Whistleblowers': Alarm as OpenAI Reportedly Ousts Safety Experts *from the morgue, 1 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.

Feds cite unnamed DNA to confirm denaturalizing a congresswoman already cleared by three probes.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Border Czar Homan Confirms Trump Admin Is Looking to Denaturalize Ilhan Omar", 19 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Border czar Tom Homan confirmed the administration is working to strip Representative Ilhan Omar of her citizenship.

WHO GETS PAID. The Department of Homeland Security and the administration gain a precedent for using citizenship law against an elected critic.

WHAT SLIPS. The check that slips is the rule that fraud gets proven in court before a citizenship is stripped or a lawmaker is publicly ruined.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this case does not hold up, correction could take years before anyone is made whole; that is what Castle Hills, Texas got after a 2019 arrest over a council critic's speech: a $500,000 settlement six years later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

An old presumption in American law — that government proves its case before it ruins someone's career — died this week, somewhere between a sealed grand jury room and a Fox Business studio.

A month before that, on September 15, Representative James Comer had asked the Trump administration to release its evidence so the House could decide whether to expel her. The administration did not release it....

...(cont) By October 13, the silence had become its own campaign. Omar's own fundraising email that week called the investigation "baseless" and "partisan" and asked supporters for money to fight it. Two days later, her office called the reported plan to strip her citizenship "an authoritarian move to silence an opponent."

Former President Obama called the probe appalling, and the right answered him by reading back his own administration's Tea Party IRS file, the one his officials once swore under oath did not exist.

Then came Sunday, and three things arrived in order. Border Czar Tom Homan confirmed, on the record, that the administration is looking to denaturalize Omar. The New York Post reported, citing sources, that federal investigators have DNA evidence showing she married her brother in 2009 for a green card — a claim that lands, Truthout noted the same day, after previous inquiries into her citizenship found no evidence of fraud. Whether that is proof or malarkey will not be settled on a cable panel, but on Fox Business, Washington Examiner's Byron York settled it anyway: "Obviously, Ilhan Omar is in a ton of trouble."

The presumption is survived by the subpoenas, the sealed file, and a grand jury that has not yet spoken. It is preceded in death by the unnamed source, who always gets there first.

In lieu of flowers, wait for the indictment before you read the verdict.

"This is the same move every time: leak an anonymous tip, let a cable panel call it a verdict, and the actual case never has to show up in a courtroom. They've cleared her before — Truthout says so, today, in the same story — and the new thing this week is a DNA claim nobody's put in front of a judge. If this works on a sitting member of Congress, it works on anybody with a green card and the wrong last name."

— Sal

"Nobody's saying she's guilty here, the administration is just confirming they're looking into it — well, and the sourcing is DNA, which is, okay, pretty specific for a "looking into it" — but Comer just wants the evidence released so Congress can decide, that's oversight, that's not a lynch mob. Did I just use the word lynch mob? Strike that, forget I said that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department denies stoking voter-fraud fear on '60 Minutes,' breaks a citizen's arm enforcing it days later.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Obama calls Omar probe appalling; backlash reads his own IRS's Tea Party file back to him.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Justice Department promises midterms will have 'no interruption,' delivers one to a congresswoman's front door instead.* By Lou · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- *Conservative lawyer refutes 'political revenge' claim by revealing the warrant judge donated to Clinton* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security opens deportation case against congresswoman over a text message on her sister's phone* By Mitch · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
- *Homeland Security agents explained the criminal investigation the border czar confirmed in September and would not describe by searching Rep. Ilhan Omar's home on 12 October, over immigration forms her late father filled out when she was a child.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Border Czar Homan Confirms Trump Admin Is Looking to Denaturalize Ilhan Omar~~

Homan confirms Trump team wants to denaturalize Omar - past probes found no fraud

Truthout § *15:34 EDT*

Previous inquiries into Ilhan Omar's citizenship have found no evidence of fraud.

~~Omar fundraising off federal investigation~~

DHS agents raided a sitting congresswoman's home Monday

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:55 EDT*

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

~~Jayapal Responds to Omar Raid With Reminder of $50,000 in Paper Bag for Trump Border Czar~~

His border czar took a $50,000 bribe. His DOJ dropped it. Then his agents raided Omar's home.

Common Dreams § *16:34 EDT*

Progressive US Rep. Pramila Jayapal this week not only joined a growing chorus outraged by President Donald Trump's "rogue" Department of Homeland Security agents raiding Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's home, the Washington Democrat took it a step further. After putting out a nearly three-minute video decrying Trump's repeated attacks on her...

'Obviously Ilhan Omar is in a ton of trouble' if DOJ allegations are true: Byron York

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:28 EDT*

Washington Examiner chief political correspondent Byron York said Sunday that the immigration fraud allegations against Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) could derail her entire career if true. "Obviously, Ilhan Omar is in a ton of trouble,"

~~Ilhan Omar's Office Slams Trump Deportation Plot as 'Authoritarian Move to Silence an Opponent'~~

DHS raided Ilhan Omar's home to build a case for stripping her citizenship, WSJ reports

Common Dreams § *17:01 EDT*

The office of Rep. Ilhan Omar slammed the Trump administration on Thursday over its reported plot to have the Minnesota Democrat stripped of her US citizenship. On Wednesday, The Wall Street Journal reported that the raid on Omar's home carried out earlier this week by Department of Homeland Security agents was part of and effort to...

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *18:22 EDT*

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

Feds have DNA evidence that can prove Ilhan Omar committed immigration fraud, wed her brother: sources

New York Post RIGHT § *17:05 EDT*

The sprawling criminal probe is seeking in part to prove Omar allegedly married her brother in 2009 to try to help him get a green card.

· James Comer wants to see immigration fraud evidence on Ilhan Omar so Congress can decide on her expulsion *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

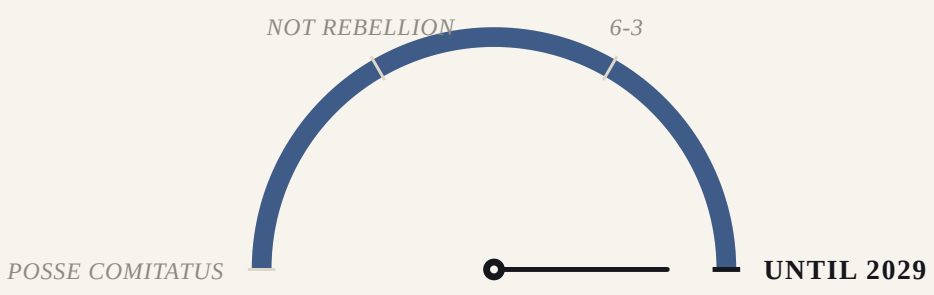
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§66 — 19 OCTOBER 2026

On training grounds

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



UNTIL 2029

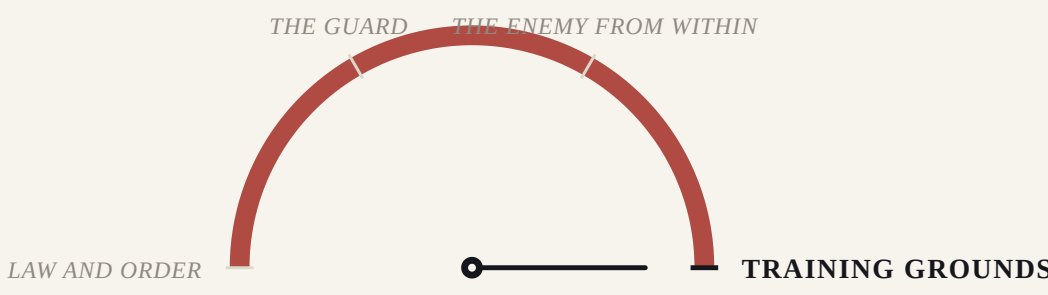
The courts. In September 2025 a federal judge in California ruled that the Los Angeles deployment violated the Posse Comitatus Act; the ruling was stayed on appeal [1]. In October the Seventh Circuit wrote that "political opposition is not rebellion" [2]. On December 23 the Supreme Court, 6 to 3, refused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

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

SOURCES

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

REPUBLICAN



TRAINING GROUNDS

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

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

SOURCES

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

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

🍺

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

— Sal

🚬

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

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎