The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Sixth officer charged with misusing Flock cameras since the bill to defund them reached committee.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

September 23: Marion County charges five current and former Indianapolis police officers with fraud and official misconduct. An internal audit of the department's Flock license-plate cameras found officers running searches with no case number behind them — CBS reports the plates belonged to romantic partners and others the officers knew personally, not suspects.

October 14: Rep. Rashida Tlaib files a bill to bar federal money from going to Flock and systems like it, calling the buildout a "mass surveillance crisis." The same report that carries her announcement carries Flock's own count of itself: more than 120,000 cameras running in 49 states. The bill is referred to committee, where a bill goes to wait.

October 23: a Georgetown, Indiana, police officer named Justin Craig is charged with official misconduct and two counts of fraud — the identical two statutes Indianapolis used a month earlier. Court records say he ran his wife's plate through Flock more than 80 times and a previous acquaintance's nearly 250 times. That is a sixth officer, a second department, filed nine days after the bill that would have cut Flock's federal funding entered committee,

... Continued on Page A221

THE WORD

§70 — 23 OCTOBER 2026

On law and order

DEMOCRAT

FULL, COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL

REPUBLICAN

LAW AND ORDER

"I read the pardon attorney's clemency page, because it's public, and the offenses are listed right there in their own words. March of last year, pardoned: "Securities fraud; wire fraud (two counts)." October: commuted, "Wire Fraud ... aggravated identity theft." October again, pardoned: "Failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program." And the first day, the proclamation: everybody else from January sixth, "full, complete and unconditional." Then September third of this year, twenty-three more pardons. Sorry, before you go. Law and order — which of those two words does the clemency page belong to?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W70

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE LEDGER FILES AFTER THE VOTE

In the last nineteen days of the Cornyn–Paxton runoff, the law gave a quarterly-filing super PAC one day to report an ad and until fifty days after the vote to report the money it raised in those nineteen days.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Jackson reads the Court its own dates back: ninety days for a database, twelve for a student ID.

BY MITCH
Investigations

On October 22nd, the Supreme Court barred New Hampshire voters from using student IDs at the polls, twelve days before the midterms, on the rationale that a rule change this close to an election risks confusing voters. That is the ruling. The filing underneath it is the story, and it reads in order.

All together now — the dates, the way they happened.

On September 25th, the Court lifted a lower court's block and let the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls through the appeal — a database federal law otherwise keeps out of the final ninety days before an election. Whatever clock the Court found too tight for student IDs in October was no obstacle to that database in September.

On October 20th, New Hampshire urged the Court to reinstate the student-ID ban ahead of the midterms.

On October 22nd, the Court granted it. Student IDs are out, twelve days before the vote, on the stated rationale: a change this close to Election Day risks confusing voters.

... Continued on Page A221

Trump drops Canada tariffs on blueberries, potatoes and seaweed to boost Collins; every other importer pays in full

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Nine categories. Not nine industries, not nine hundred tariff lines — nine: paperboard cartons, plastic boxes, refrigeration equipment, cleaning and sorting machinery, packing and wrapping machinery, seaweed and algae products among them.

You will have read that the United States lifted its tariffs on Canada and pictured something general. It is not general. The August tariffs stand. Every other importer in the country owes in full.

The White House found the relief would "better serve the public interest." The public interest, on Friday, was blueberries, potatoes and apples ... in Maine, where a five-term senator is fighting to keep her seat next month. She says she had been working with the White House on tariff relief. She announced the nine categories herself.

The consideration — what was given back for it? The press release does not say. No vote. No repeal. No refund for anybody else. Outside the nine, August holds.

... Continued on Page F125

Mississippi rules shooting of baby 'justified,' bodycam contradicting it surfaces days later, officer resigns uncharged

BY LOU
One More Question

Was the officer in danger when he fired? I already know the answer to that one. Give me a second, I had it written down somewhere... here it is. That's not my line. That's the bodycam footage, out this week from Mississippi's own department of public safety.

Now go back four months, before any of us had seen that tape. Mississippi's attorney general, Lynn Fitch, had her office put out a statement. I wrote the word down at the time because I wanted to be sure I had it right. "Justified." That's what her office called the shooting of a one-year-old boy, Kohen Wiley, who was sitting in his mother's lap in a Walmart parking lot in Senatobia. That was a Monday, the nineteenth.

Here's where I have to keep going back, so bear with me, because I think it matters what order things happened in. On June 14th, officers in Senatobia responded to a shoplifting call at that Walmart — CBS News has it as an allegation over stolen diapers. An officer, later named as Hunter Foster, fired at a moving vehicle. The baby died in his mother's arms. Foster was put on leave two days later, June 16th. Then four months went by. Then the ruling came

... Continued on Page A220

Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification

BY LOU
One More Question

Here's a question I already know the answer to, and I'll give you a second before I read you the answer, because it's a short one: how many Alaska ballots has the Justice Department's new lawsuit actually challenged? I have it written down — hang on — here. Zero. Not one. The complaint doesn't name a precinct or a stack of absentee envelopes; it names a word. Confusion.

Let me walk you through where that word has been living, because it didn't show up Thursday. I wrote the first date down back in September. On the 2nd, standing at the White House microphones, talking about a trip he hadn't taken yet, the President was already going after the other man on the ballot — a retired schoolteacher from Petersburg who happens to also be named Dan Sullivan. Two weeks after that, on the 17th, an AARP poll had the sitting Senator trailing the Democrat, Mary Peltola, 41 to 46. I'm just reading you the numbers.

By October 14th the word was doing real work. One story that day has the President telling Alaskans to vote for the "real" Dan Sullivan. Another story, same date, has him vowing to look into whether the other Dan Sullivan coor-

... Continued on Page B43

Laptop serious enough to indict two FBI officials over becomes a coin that lost 99 percent in hours.

BY LOU
One More Question

Here's a question I already know the answer to. Who got charged this week with lying to Congress about the Hunter Biden laptop? Give me a second, I don't trust myself with names without the page in front of me. Here it is: Nikki Cole Floris, forty-six, and Bradley Benavides, fifty-six. Two former FBI officials, surrendered on arrest warrants Friday. I'm not guessing at that. That's what the paper says.

I got a demonstration for you, and it's not the kitchen, I've leaned on that counter enough this month already. It's the garage. There's a car out there with a fan belt that's been whining since August. I keep meaning to get under the hood. Every time I do, I think about how a thing can look fine from where you're standing in the driveway and be coming apart somewhere you can't see from there. That's the belt. I think it might also be the laptop.

Here's my one fixation, and I'm only going to say this once, then I'm leaving it alone till the very end, I promise you that. The Washington Examiner says these two had roles in the bureau's Foreign Influence Task Force, back in 2020, during the election. Not that they ran it. Not that they led it. That

... Continued on Page A220

Guardian calls Justice Department probe of a Trump ally rare, after weeks spent investigating his critics instead.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a Department of Justice investigation into the president's own man, which is not a dish you get over here, so I shall go slowly. You will need a department that usually investigates the president's critics, a longtime ally who held a top post at Homeland Security, and a president who has just said dishonest employees have to be prosecuted.

Twelve days before this, on 11 October, the same department opened a file on the president's behalf instead: whether five broadcasters, after CNN, MS Now and Politico were barred from the White House, broke antitrust law simply by stopping their coverage together.

Clive *An ally, is it. Mine rhymes, and the only file open on him is the one under his own bed.*

A week later, on 18 October, agents searched the home of a Democratic member of Congress standing for re-election, the same week the attorney general campaigned for Republican candidates — what the Guardian called the shattering of its "longstanding practice of political neutrality."

Gary *Neutrality. This house hasn't seen that word since the rota was last*

... Continued on Page A220

Unauthorized settler outposts and the Palestinian Authority receive the same verdict from Netanyahu's government: dismantlement.

BY LOU
One More Question

Do I know what that word means? I do. I've known since September, and that's exactly the trouble — the man using it hasn't learned anything new since then, he's just pointed it somewhere else.

Write this down, I keep telling myself. September 7th: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu orders what the wire service calls the "dismantlement" of unauthorized settler outposts in the West Bank. Structures. Plywood, mostly, I'd guess, though I don't have the blueprints — buildings put up without a permit, no inspector's signature, nothing with a foundation the government downtown ever agreed to. Just a second, here's the quote — Washington Examiner, September 7th: Netanyahu "ordered unauthorized West Bank settler outposts to be dismantled."

Forty-six days later — October 23rd, today's paper — Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich says the Palestinian Authority should be dismantled too. Same word. Different noun entirely. One was a shed with no permit. The other is the government that runs the lives of the people living under occupation — I don't have a count for how many of them there are, and I'm not going

... Continued on Page A220

"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

Jackson reads the Court its own dates back: ninety days for a database, twelve for a student ID.

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS



"Ketanji Brown Jackson issues public dissent in New Hampshire voting case", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 22nd, the Supreme Court barred New Hampshire voters from using student IDs at the polls, twelve days before the midterms, on the rationale that a rule change this close to an election risks confusing voters. That is the ruling. The filing underneath it is the story, and it reads in order.

All together now — the dates, the way they happened....

...(cont) On September 25th, the Court lifted a lower court's block and let the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls through the appeal — a database federal law otherwise keeps out of the final ninety days before an election. Whatever clock the Court found too tight for student IDs in October was no obstacle to that database in September.

On October 20th, New Hampshire urged the Court to reinstate the student-ID ban ahead of the midterms.

On October 22nd, the Court granted it. Student IDs are out, twelve days before the vote, on the stated rationale: a change this close to Election Day risks confusing voters.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson publicly broke with her colleagues over the order. Same court. Same campaign season. Two different clocks.

Here is the part no filing says outright. A federal database meant to run clear of the final ninety days of a campaign ran through them anyway, by order of the Supreme Court. A student ID carries no such statute. It got twelve days' notice and then got struck, by order of the same Court.

That is the order, start to finish. One clock protects a database from an election. The other clock runs out on a card an election depends on. The Court picked which one gets protected, and it was not the one that lets a student vote.

"The same court that let a federal database run through the ninety days the law sets aside to keep an election safe from last-minute changes turned around and decided a college ID was too dangerous to touch twelve days out. That is not confusion about voting, that is deciding in advance who gets to do it. Eleven days to the count, and the only member of that court who said so out loud is the most recent one appointed."

— Sal

"New Hampshire closed a loophole, plain and simple — a student ID was never real proof of residency, and tightening that up before an election protects the integrity of the vote. The database situation is completely different, it's just confirming eligibility, it's not changing any rule midstream — okay, it is running during the exact same window, but that's — look, the ninety-day thing only matters when it's their rule."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Supreme Court finds student ID voting too confusing 12 days out, finds nothing confusing about a voter-purge database.* By Lou · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- *Midterms' largest donor, at $366 million, vows to find out who is really pulling the strings* By Sterling · the morning edition, 22 October 2026
- *Houthis promise a 'painful' response if the US joins a war it already promised, in writing, to join.* By Lou · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *White House still weighing whether to join a war it already backed, in writing, on October 4th.* By Lou · the morning edition, 13 October 2026
- *Agency built to cut government waste fights to the Supreme Court to keep its own paperwork secret.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 13 October 2026
- *Altman said accept some "bad things." Sanders asked which ones. The IMF named one this week.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 13 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Ketanji Brown Jackson issues public dissent in New Hampshire voting case~~
>
> *Supreme Court lets New Hampshire block student ID voting ahead of the midterms*
>
> *The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *14:43 EDT*
>
> Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson publicly broke with her Supreme Court colleagues in a Thursday ruling allowing New Hampshire to fully block voters from using student IDs in the upcoming midterms. Jackson, the high court's most junior liberal justice, wrote in a short dissent that she would have left in place a lower court decision that...

· 'Major Win' for Democracy as Supreme Court Rejects Trump Attack on Mail-In Voting *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court slams brakes on Trump's mail-in voting plan *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.

Trump drops Canada tariffs on blueberries, potatoes and seaweed to boost Collins; every other importer pays in full

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Collins says certain Canadian goods now tariff-exempt", 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The White House exempted nine categories of Canadian farm goods from the tariffs it imposed in August.

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Susan Collins, fighting to keep her Maine seat next month, announced the exemptions and claimed the win.

WHAT SLIPS. Tariff relief now comes from asking the president rather than from a vote in Congress, and importers everywhere else keep paying the full August rate with no way to ask.

WHAT'S NEXT. Nothing in the announcement says the rest of the Canada tariffs end. The election is next month; the exemption list is nine categories and stays that size unless the White House writes a tenth.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Nine categories. Not nine industries, not nine hundred tariff lines — nine: paperboard cartons, plastic boxes, refrigeration equipment, cleaning and sorting machinery, packing and wrapping machinery, seaweed and algae products among them.

You will have read that the United States lifted its tariffs on Canada and pictured something general. It is not general. The August tariffs stand. Every other importer in the country owes in full....

...(cont) The White House found the relief would "better serve the public interest." The public interest, on Friday, was blueberries, potatoes and apples ... in Maine, where a five-term senator is fighting to keep her seat next month. She says she had been working with the White House on tariff relief. She announced the nine categories herself.

The consideration — what was given back for it? The press release does not say. No vote. No repeal. No refund for anybody else. Outside the nine, August holds.

The thaw is in. One hen the farmer carries indoors. The flock, not yet.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They spent a year telling you the tariffs were a national emergency you had to eat, and then on a Friday six weeks before an election it turns out there's a dial, and it only turns for one state with one senator in trouble. Blueberries, potatoes, seaweed, cardboard boxes — relief exists, it's just not for you. Your boss is still paying the August rate on his crates, and nobody at the White House is taking his call."

— Sal

"These are specialized agricultural inputs unavailable from American suppliers, that's straight out of the release, that's not politics, that's supply chains. Is the timing political? Why would you say that — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. Look, any senator can go work with the White House on relief for their state's farmers; it's just that most of them aren't in a close race, which is, I mean, irrelevant."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Collins says certain Canadian goods now tariff-exempt

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:20 EDT*

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) announced Friday that nine categories of Canadian products "crucial for Maine's agricultural industries" will be exempted from U.S.

White House says the US is lifting tariffs on some Canadian goods

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *16:39 EDT*

Susan Collins, a Republican in a tight race to keep her senate seat in next month's elections, said she had been working with the White House on tariff relief.

Trump drops some Canada tariffs in bid to boost embattled Susan Collins in Maine

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:36 EDT*

Republican senator faces critical re-election battle in state where president's trade war has outraged voters Donald Trump dropped some of the US's tariffs on Canada on Friday to "better serve the public interest" the White House said, handing a win to Susan Collins, the embattled Republican senator for Maine, as she faces a tight...

Trump administration cancels some Canada tariffs amid close midterm races

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *14:48 EDT*

Sen. Susan Collins, who's in a tough re-election fight, said she secured from the Trump administration tariff exemptions on some agricultural and forestry items.

· Susan Collins blasts US tariffs on Canada: 'There's just nothing good you can say about them' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Jackson, Collins tangle on Canada tariffs: 'We can't eat road salt' *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· 'Corruption of the Highest Order,' Says Troy Jackson After Explosive Susan Collins Report *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· "Most Stupid Trade Fight in History": U.S. & Canadian Workers Stand to Lose in Trump's New Tariff War *from the morgue, 24 Aug 2026*

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Mississippi rules shooting of baby 'justified,' bodycam contradicting it surfaces days later, officer resigns uncharged

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

"Bodycam: Cop Was Not in Danger When He Fired Shots That Killed 1-Year-Old Kohen Wiley", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE INTERCEPT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Was the officer in danger when he fired? I already know the answer to that one. Give me a second, I had it written down somewhere… here it is. That's not my line. That's the bodycam footage, out this week from Mississippi's own department of public safety.

Now go back four months, before any of us had seen that tape. Mississippi's attorney general, Lynn Fitch, had her office put out a statement. I wrote the word down at the time because I wanted to be sure I had it right. "Justified." That's what her office called the shooting of a one-year-old boy, Kohen Wiley, who was sitting in his mother's lap in a Walmart parking lot in Senatobia. That was a Monday, the nineteenth….

…(cont) Here's where I have to keep going back, so bear with me, because I think it matters what order things happened in. On June 14th, officers in Senatobia responded to a shoplifting call at that Walmart — CBS News has it as an allegation over stolen diapers. An officer, later named as Hunter Foster, fired at a moving vehicle. The baby died in his mother's arms. Foster was put on leave two days later, June 16th. Then four months went by. Then the ruling came down. Then, within days of the ruling, the department released the footage.

I want to show you something, and I promise it won't take long — the car in my driveway barely starts most mornings, but it starts enough for this. You ever sit at a toll plaza and watch the car ahead of you in the next lane? There's a window where that car is right there beside the booth, close enough to clip whoever's standing at it. And there's a window after, where the car's already gone past, already rolling, taillights shrinking. A person standing at that booth isn't in danger from a car that has already gone by. I'm not the one saying that. The bodycam is saying that — it shows the vehicle with Kohen Wiley inside already alongside the officer, already moving past him, when the shots went into the passenger's side.

So which window was Officer Foster in when he fired? I don't have to answer that one. The tape already did: passenger's side, already passing.

The family's lawyer had a line I wrote down because it was put so plainly: an allegation of shoplifting "does not warrant the death" of a child. I don't have anything in my notes where the attorney general's office disputes the diapers, or the shoplifting, or any of it. What I have in my notes is the word that got disputed once the tape came out, and I'll get to that.

On October 21st, the Senatobia board of aldermen accepted Hunter Foster's resignation. Effective immediately. No charges were filed against him. Not one. Four months of a ruling stood on its own, before the public ever saw a frame of the tape that contradicts it — and now the officer is gone from the department, and does anybody go back and reopen the file once the tape disagrees with it? I don't have that written down anywhere, because as of this morning, nobody has.

Wait — hold on, one more thing before you go to print with this. The tape came out after the ruling. The ruling is still on the books. The officer who fired it is no longer employed, and the shooting he's no longer employed over was never charged as anything — it was only ever called one thing, back on a Monday in October, before a single person outside that building had seen where those shots actually went. Justified.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

MISSISSIPPI'S ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLED THE SHOOTING OF A ONE-YEAR-OLD "JUSTIFIED" four months after it happened, and the body camera that contradicts her was sitting in a government building the entire time she said it. That's not an investigation, that's a verdict with the evidence filed under a different desk. Walk it forward: an agency can clear its own officer before the public sees the tape, the officer can resign the week the tape comes out, and the file still reads "justified" on the morning you drop your kid off at the same Walmart and watch the parking lot for a cop car the way you now watch it for anything else that moves.

"They had the tape the whole time they called it justified — that's not an investigation, that's a press release with a four-month head start on the truth. A cop fires into a car that's already past him, kills a baby, and the only consequence on paper is a resignation that leaves the word "justified" sitting in the file untouched. That's the whole racket: the ruling comes first, the evidence comes later, and by the time the public catches up there's nobody left to charge."

— Sal

"Look, the attorney general's office did its job the way it's designed — they investigated, they found the use of force justified, that's the process working. Nobody's office goes back and reopens a finding just because a video shows up later, that's not how— okay, that's actually exactly how it should work if the video contradicts the finding. I didn't say that. The resignation speaks for itself, and it speaks for itself without anyone having to call it anything."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Bodycam: Cop Was Not in Danger When He Fired Shots That Killed 1-Year-Old Kohen Wiley~~

Mississippi called the shooting 'justified.' Bodycam shows he fired into a passing car, killing 1-year-old Kohen Wiley.

The Intercept § *16:36 EDT*

Mississippi investigators said the shooting was "justified," but new body camera footage shows the cop firing into the passenger's side as the car passed by him. The post Bodycam: Cop Was Not in Danger When He Fired Shots That Killed 1-Year-Old Kohen Wiley appeared first on The Intercept .

~~Police officer who shot and killed 1-year-old resigns~~

Mississippi's attorney general ruled the killing justified. The officer resigned anyway.

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:48 EDT*

The Mississippi attorney general's office had determined that the use of force was justified in the deadly shooting that stemmed from an alleged shoplifting incident.

~~Bodycam clip released in fatal police shooting of Mississippi one-year-old~~

Police killed a one-year-old following a shoplifting allegation

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *14:45 EDT*

The family lawyer says an allegation of shoplifting "does not warrant the death" of a child.

~~Officer who shot and killed Black toddler in Mississippi resigns from police force~~

Mississippi's AG called it 'justified.' The officer resigned anyway.

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:39 EDT*

Hunter Foster fired at vehicle during a shoplifting call at a Walmart, killing one-year-old Kohen Wiley Hunter Foster, the Mississippi police officer who shot into a vehicle and killed one-year-old Kohen Wiley, has resigned from the Senatobia police department. Earlier this week, Mississippi's attorney general, Lynn Fitch, announced that…

· 'Mississippi Goddam': State AG Calls Police Killing of Toddler Kohen Wiley 'Justified' *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Mississippi attorney general says officer was justified in shooting that killed 1-year-old Kohen Wiley *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Mississippi attorney general rules fatal police shooting of one-year-old as 'justified' *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Family seeks answers after police officer who shot 1-year-old cleared of wrongdoing *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

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BEFORE THE COUNT

Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Trump on Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one who said do it'", 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department sued to let a court block Alaska's Senate certification if the Republican incumbent loses.

WHO GETS PAID. The sitting Republican senator and the administration that ordered the suit gain a ready-made court challenge to any loss in the race.

WHAT SLIPS. The state's own certified count of its voters' choice is what slips, since a result can now be fought in court before it is even final.

WHAT'S NEXT. The lawsuit needs no proven fraud, only a loss, and it already sits before a federal judge; Election Day is Nov. 3, eleven days from this filing, and the result it would contest hasn't happened yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's a question I already know the answer to, and I'll give you a second before I read you the answer, because it's a short one: how many Alaska ballots has the Justice Department's new lawsuit actually challenged? I have it written down — hang on — here. Zero. Not one. The complaint doesn't name a precinct or a stack of absentee envelopes; it names a word. Confusion.

Let me walk you through where that word has been living, because it didn't show up Thursday. I wrote the first date down back in September. On the 2nd, standing at the White House microphones, talking about a trip he hadn't taken yet, the President was already going after the other man on the ballot — a retired schoolteacher from Petersburg who happens to also be named Dan Sullivan. Two weeks after that, on the 17th, an AARP poll had the sitting Senator trailing the Democrat, Mary Peltola, 41 to 46. I'm just reading you the numbers....

...*(cont)* By October 14th the word was doing real work. One story that day has the President telling Alaskans to vote for the "real" Dan Sullivan. Another story, same date, has him vowing to look into whether the other Dan Sullivan coordinated with a liberal group to sabotage the race — a hoax, he called it, by the Democrats. That's six weeks of a sitting President narrating, out loud, on tape, exactly the mix-up the lawsuit would later say the voters might have on their own.

Then Thursday. The Justice Department filed. Twelve days before an election that had already started — people were voting, the ballots were moving — the government asked a federal judge to be ready to block Alaska's certification if the Republican loses, on the theory that the name on the ballot might trip somebody up in the booth. Friday, landing in Florida for a rally, the President told reporters exactly whose idea it was. "I'm the one who said do it." I've got that one underlined.

And the same week — I had to read this one twice — the Attorney General went on record saying the Department would not "improperly" try to block any state from certifying its own election. I don't have a transcript of which sentence came first that day, his or the filing's. I just have both of them, dated the same.

I bank at the branch on the corner, the one with the line that wraps past the velvet rope on the first of the month. I've stood behind two men signing checks with the same name on them more times than I can count this year, and not one teller, so far, has suggested throwing out the ledger. She asks for the account number. That's the whole procedure. Nobody blocks the branch.

So here's where I am. The complaint's theory rests on one idea — that the name on the ballot might trip someone up — filed before anyone has lost anything, over the same mix-up the record shows the President describing, on camera, two months before the Department decided it needed a lawsuit about it. Which came first — the lawsuit, or the President saying it on tape?

Hang on — there's one more line I almost didn't bring up. I keep this complaint folded in the glovebox now, next to the registration, because I keep going back to it. The word in it isn't fraud. It isn't recount. It's the one I started with, the one I'm handing back to you with eleven days left on the calendar: confusion.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUED TO FREEZE ALASKA'S SENATE CERTIFICATION BEFORE A single vote was lost, the same day its own Attorney General promised the department would not do exactly that. That is not a lawsuit, it is a veto on losing, filed in advance and held in reserve. Because the complaint needs no stolen ballot, only a loss, the only thing it leaves open to a courtroom is who wins — which means the envelope you already signed and sealed this week, the one with your name on the return flap, is the one piece of paper the government has reserved the right to argue with if your side comes out ahead.

"They sue to block a certification before anybody's actually lost, over two guys named Sullivan — the same day the Attorney General swears the department won't pull that stunt. The confusion isn't on the ballot, it's been coming out of the candidate's own mouth since September. Eleven days to the count, and that's the kind of lawsuit you only file if you're planning to lose."

— Sal

"Voter confusion is a legitimate, documented concern anytime you've got two candidates sharing a name on one ballot — the Department is just getting ahead of it. This is purely precautionary; it doesn't presume anyone loses, it presumes a typo in the voting booth. The President said he personally ordered it, sure, but that's — look, oversight is oversight, no matter who calls it in. Did I just say the Attorney General's promise doesn't apply to the Attorney General's own department? That's not — let's move on."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- Trump calls for Omar's ouster over a 'fake name' that federal investigators already built into her salary probe. By Ruth · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- Federal investigators call Omar's legal name fake the same week they open a probe into her $174,000 salary. By Lou · the afternoon edition, 22 October 2026
- Agents raided her home over her father's old paperwork; reporters only ask if she married her brother. By Lou · the morning edition, 22 October 2026
- Trump calls Omar and Walz '100% guilty' of 'Minnesota fraud,' threatens jail or deportation. By Lou · the afternoon edition, 20 October 2026
- DOJ's voter-fraud sweep breaks a citizen's arm; Congress answers same day with a bill to use ICE. By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 19 October 2026
- Feds cite unnamed DNA to confirm denaturalizing a congresswoman already cleared by three probes. By Mort · the evening edition, 19 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Intel Democrats on how they'll react if Trump alleges election meddling
CBS News MAINSTREAM *17:26 EDT*

The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee says lawmakers have prepared for a range of situations ahead of the midterms, including that President Trump "is not going to accept the results."

Trump on Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one who said do it'
The Hill MAINSTREAM *15:23 EDT*

President Trump said Friday he directed the Department of Justice (DOJ) to file a lawsuit to block certification of the Senate election in Alaska if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses in November. DOJ filed the suit Thursday, claiming the existence of a candidate with a similar name to Sullivan's would make a win by Democrat...

DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot
Washington Examiner RIGHT *14:17 EDT*

The Justice Department on Friday filed a lawsuit to block the results of Alaska's highly competitive Senate race in November should it be impacted by "voter confusion." Republicans have said they are worried about the race, which features Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Democrat Mary Peltola as the primary contenders, because of the...

~~Trump told DOJ to sue to block Alaska Senate results if Republican narrowly loses~~

DOJ's justification for blocking a vote Republicans might lose: two candidates share a name
ABC News MAINSTREAM *17:00 EDT*

President Trump says he directed the DOJ to preemptively file a lawsuit to block the certification of the Alaska Senate race if the Republican incumbent narrowly loses.

Trump says he personally ordered DOJ lawsuit intervening in Alaska Senate election
Washington Examiner RIGHT *16:57 EDT*

President Donald Trump told reporters on Friday that he directed the Department of Justice to file a lawsuit challenging the results of Alaska's Senate race if it's impacted by "voter confusion." Incumbent Sen. Dan S.

~~DOJ sues to block Alaska Senate certification if Sullivan loses~~

Justice Department will only accept Alaska's Senate result if Sullivan wins
CBS News MAINSTREAM *16:30 EDT*

The Trump administration is suing to prevent the Alaska Senate election from being certified if GOP Sen. Daniel Sullivan loses to Democrat Mary Peltola because of the other Dan Sullivan who is on the ballot.

Trump repeats false claim that other Dan Sullivan on Alaska ballot is 'cheating' during Florida rally - live
The Guardian MAINSTREAM *16:46 EDT*

Dan S Sullivan, the incumbent, will face Dan J Sullivan, a retired schoolteacher who is also a registered Republican. On stage, Trump claimed again that this is a move orchestrated to boost Democrat Mary Peltola Sign up for the Breaking News US email With less than two weeks until the midterms, my colleague Jonathan Freedland and...

Trump says he ordered DoJ to file lawsuit to block Alaska Senate results certification
The Guardian MAINSTREAM *15:46 EDT*

Trump justice department claims there could be 'confusion' about two Republicans on the ballot named Dan Sullivan Donald Trump said he ordered the justice department to file a lawsuit to block the certification of Alaska's US Senate results if the Republican incumbent loses, a move that voting rights experts called an "unprecedented...

~~Trump Ordered DOJ Lawsuit in Alaska Seen as First Salvo in GOP Effort to Undermine Midterm Elections~~

DOJ said it wouldn't block election certifications. Same day, it sued to block one in Alaska.
Common Dreams *15:32 EDT*

On the same day that Attorney General Todd Blanche declared the US Department of Justice would not "improperly" try to block states from certifying their elections, the DOJ appears to have taken its boldest step yet to do just that–at the apparent direction of President Donald Trump. The DOJ on Thursday filed an unprecedented complaint...

~~Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election~~

Trump's DOJ sues to block Alaska's election because two candidates are both named Dan Sullivan
BBC News MAINSTREAM *14:49 EDT*

The justice department has filed a lawsuit arguing that the inclusion of two candidates named Dan Sullivan could confuse voters.

· Trump previews trip to Alaska to campaign for Dan Sullivan, ripping into the other Dan Sullivan *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump urges Alaskans to vote for the 'real' Dan Sullivan in tight midterms battle *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Sullivan trails Peltola in Alaska Senate contest: AARP poll *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Trump vows to probe other Dan Sullivan in alleged Dem plot to sabotage 'real' Alaska GOP senator *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· AGs v. Trump: How an AWOL Congress made hundreds of lawsuits possible *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· The Electoral College meets in the state capitals to officially elect the next President. Joe Biden, the presumptive president-elect, is officially elected president after securing California's 55 ele *from the morgue, 14 Dec 2020*

· US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *from the morgue, 22 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*

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.

Laptop serious enough to indict two FBI officials over becomes a coin that lost 99 percent in hours.

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

"Former FBI officials charged with lying to Congress about Hunter Biden investigations", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department charged two former FBI officials with lying to Congress about the Hunter Biden laptop probe.

WHO GETS PAID. Allies of President Trump, who spent years attacking these two officials' 2020 work, get the prosecution they pushed for.

WHAT SLIPS. Justice Department independence slips here: prosecutors charged two people who were already the administration's long-running political targets.

WHAT'S NEXT. No trial date has been set for either defendant; that is what is on the calendar now.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's a question I already know the answer to. Who got charged this week with lying to Congress about the Hunter Biden laptop? Give me a second, I don't trust myself with names without the page in front of me. Here it is: Nikki Cole Floris, forty-six, and Bradley Benavides, fifty-six. Two former FBI officials, surrendered on arrest warrants Friday. I'm not guessing at that. That's what the paper says.

I got a demonstration for you, and it's not the kitchen, I've leaned on that counter enough this month already. It's the garage. There's a car out there with a fan belt that's been whining since August. I keep meaning to get under the hood. Every time I do, I think about how a thing can look fine from where you're standing in the driveway and be coming apart somewhere you can't see from there. That's the belt. I think it might also be the laptop....

...(cont) Here's my one fixation, and I'm only going to say this once, then I'm leaving it alone till the very end, I promise you that. The Washington Examiner says these two had roles in the bureau's Foreign Influence Task Force, back in 2020, during the election. Not that they ran it. Not that they led it. That word, and nothing in front of it. I'm done with it till the end.

Now, the four papers covering this don't all say the same thing, and that's worth sitting with. The Examiner's got the Friday arrest and the task force. Fox says their testimony's come under scrutiny. The Post says they covered the thing up. Four different angles on one Friday. I'm not saying any one of them is wrong. I'm saying I noticed they don't line up into one sentence, and I wrote that down too.

The actual owner of the actual laptop put it on the actual market. A coin. Ticker symbol $LAPTOP, announced in early September. By Wednesday it had gone from thirty-seven dollars to two hundred twenty-two dollars inside the first hour of trading. By three that afternoon it was down to a dollar thirty-six. I did the arithmetic twice because I didn't believe myself the first time. Two twenty-two down to a dollar thirty-six is a loss of ninety-nine point four percent. I had it wrong the first time I wrote it down, so I wrote it down again.

So somewhere in that same calendar month, the government is building a federal case on how seriously the FBI took this laptop, serious enough that two people's liberty is now riding on the answer. And the man the laptop belongs to spent that same month selling pieces of it to strangers at two hundred twenty dollars a share, then watched it go to a dollar thirty-six by supper. I'm not telling you what to do with those two facts. I'm just telling you they're both there.

Oh — one more thing, before you go. What's the actual charge against these two? I looked it up. It's not the laptop. It's not the coin. The lying is the charge. The testimony is the charge.

Which brings me to the word I said I'd leave alone till now. The record never says what these two actually did at that task force. It gives you a plural noun and nothing else — no title, no rank, no job description. Whatever it cost two people to get that word wrong in front of Congress, it's still the only word on the page for what they did there. Roles.

"They're indicting two bureaucrats for underselling how serious a laptop was, the same month the laptop's own owner turned it into a penny stock that evaporated by lunch. The thing they're prosecuting people over — how seriously to take it — is the same thing its owner treats as a punchline with a ticker symbol. Somebody's liberty is riding on a question its own subject already answered with a coin that crashed ninety-nine percent."

— Sal

"This is about sworn testimony, full stop — it has nothing to do with whatever Hunter does with a meme coin on his own time, why would those even be in the same conversation, nobody's bringing up the coin. The Bureau's 2020 work on this was handled exactly by the book, that's established. Did I say established? I meant alleged. By us."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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)*

Former FBI officials charged with lying to Congress about Hunter Biden investigations

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *11:10 EDT*

Two former senior FBI officials surrendered on arrest warrants Friday after being charged with lying to Congress about their roles in the bureau's Foreign Influence Task Force during the 2020 election and its handling of investigations involving Hunter Biden. Nikki Cole Floris, 46, and Bradley Benavides, 56, were taken into custody as...

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)*

FBI officials who covered up Hunter Biden laptop charged for lying to Congress

New York Post RIGHT § *10:58 EDT*

Two ex-FBI officials were charged Friday for lying to Congress that they had little involvement in investigations into Hunter Biden.

But: The DOJ disbanded its own 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)*

Ex-FBI officials arrested in Hunter Biden laptop probe as testimony comes under scrutiny

Fox News RIGHT § *11:04 EDT*

Two former FBI officials face charges for allegedly lying to Congress about their roles in investigating Hunter Biden's laptop and foreign ties.

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)*

2 ex-FBI officials charged with lying about Hunter Biden laptop probe

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:25 EDT*

Two former FBI agents have each been charged with one count of lying to Congress about Hunter Biden's laptop.

But: The DOJ disbanded its own 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 two former top FBI officials who were frequent targets of Trump allies

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *11:02 EDT*

Two former FBI officials who have come under withering criticism from allies of President Donald Trump over their intelligence work during the 2020 presidential election have been charged with allegedly lying to Congress.

· Hunter Biden launches crypto meme coin making light of laptop scandal *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Hunter Biden's laptop-linked meme coin soars, then falls after market debut *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Miranda Devine: Hunter Biden continues to spew 'laptop from hell' lies to indulge his new addiction — publicity *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Hunter Biden to launch crypto meme coin *from the morgue, 8 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.

Guardian calls Justice Department probe of a Trump ally rare, after weeks spent investigating his critics instead.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

"US justice department investigating Corey Lewandowski over DHS role", 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department opened a criminal investigation into Corey Lewandowski's paid role at Homeland Security.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The Justice Department's independence from the president slips, since the same office investigates his critics and, this time, his own ally.

WHAT'S NEXT. No subpoenas have gone out yet. The next marker is whether one is issued, or the inquiry closes quietly without charges, the way investigations of allies often do.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a Department of Justice investigation into the president's own man, which is not a dish you get over here, so I shall go slowly. You will need a department that usually investigates the president's critics, a longtime ally who held a top post at Homeland Security, and a president who has just said dishonest employees have to be prosecuted.

Twelve days before this, on 11 October, the same department opened a file on the president's behalf instead: whether five broadcasters, after CNN, MS Now and Politico were barred from the White House, broke antitrust law simply by stopping their coverage together....

Clive *An ally, is it. Mine rhymes, and the only file open on him is the one under his own bed.*

A week later, on 18 October, agents searched the home of a Democratic member of Congress standing for re-election, the same week the attorney general campaigned for Republican candidates — what the Guardian called the shattering of its "longstanding practice of political neutrality."

Gary *Neutrality. This house hasn't seen that word since the rota was last agreed, and that's two landlords back.*

By 22 October the president supplied his own line: "If they're not going to be honest, they have to be prosecuted," he said, the same day it emerged his Justice Department had opened a criminal inquiry into Lewandowski over a Homeland Security inspector general's referral.

Rob *Prosecuted. Heavy word for a Tuesday. I'd like to know who at this table has held themselves to a rule they wrote.*

On 23 October the BBC confirmed Lewandowski, once Trump's campaign manager and later a top aide to Homeland Security secretary Kristi Noem, is under criminal investigation over allegations he used his DHS post for financial gain. The Guardian led its briefing with the same case: no subpoenas issued, Lewandowski's lawyer not responding to its request for comment, and allegations he signed some DHS contracts despite, in the paper's words, "questionable legal authority" to sign them.

Keith *Contracts, questionable authority — now that's a going concern. I could have the paperwork sorted by Thursday, properly signed this time.*

The BBC, which is what they have here, prints it plainly: the justice department investigating Corey Lewandowski over his DHS role. The Guardian's morning briefing calls the same inquiry a rare move by the department against an ally of the president.

Clive *Rare, is it. Rare is also the word for anyone in this house finishing what they started by Thursday.*

You will be looking for the subpoena. There is not one; the department says so itself, which for now is what the investigation is instead of a charge.

No one has been charged, and no subpoena has gone out. Lewandowski keeps his post; the president keeps the sentence he already said about who gets prosecuted.

Gary *Keeps his words. This house has kept exactly one promise this year, and it wasn't about the rent.*

"You hear "dishonest employees have to be prosecuted" and then find out it's his own guy under investigation, and for a second you think, finally. Then you notice there's no subpoena, no charge, and his lawyer isn't even returning calls. That's not accountability, that's a pressure valve — just enough steam to stop anyone asking why the same DOJ spent the month before raiding a congresswoman's house."

— Sal

"This proves the system's fair — the President says dishonest people get prosecuted, and look, even his own guy isn't exempt. The Guardian wants to call it rare like it's some kind of gotcha, it just shows how even-handed the department is being. No subpoenas, no charges, nothing's actually happened here — wait, did I just say there's no case? That's not where I was going with that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump demands dishonest aides be prosecuted, awarded investigation into his own ally same day.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 22 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

US justice department investigating Corey Lewandowski over DHS role
BBC News MAINSTREAM § *10:58 EDT*
Trump's former campaign manager is reportedly being investigated for allegedly using his role at the Department of Homeland for financial gain.

First Thing: Former DHS aide Lewandowski investigated over claims he profited from government role
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *06:53 EDT*
Investigation marks rare move by DoJ against an ally of the US president. Plus, why the world's coral reefs are facing a dire future Good morning. Corey Lewandowski, a former political adviser to Donald Trump and top aide at the Department of Homeland Security, is under criminal investigation over allegations he profited off his role...

· US justice department investigating TV networks over Trump pool coverage *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· How Trump's justice department is shattering practice of political neutrality as midterms loom *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

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ONE WORD, TWICE

Unauthorized settler outposts and the Palestinian Authority receive the same verdict from Netanyahu's government: dismantlement.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Palestinian Gunmen Open Fire on Israelis in the West Bank, Officials Say", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Netanyahu locked down the West Bank; his finance minister called for dismantling the Palestinian Authority.

WHO GETS PAID. Israeli settlers and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich gain the land and authority the Palestinian Authority currently administers.

WHAT SLIPS. Palestinian self-governance slips next: the Authority Israel now wants dismantled is the only governing body Palestinians have.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that pattern holds, expect the biggest decisions delayed until after the vote; that is what the E1 settlement expansion got after September 27, 2026: its deadline pushed past the Israeli election.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Do I know what that word means? I do. I've known since September, and that's exactly the trouble — the man using it hasn't learned anything new since then, he's just pointed it somewhere else.

Write this down, I keep telling myself. September 7th: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu orders what the wire service calls the "dismantlement" of unauthorized settler outposts in the West Bank. Structures. Plywood, mostly, I'd guess, though I don't have the blueprints — buildings put up without a permit, no inspector's signature, nothing with a foundation the government downtown ever agreed to. Just a second, here's the quote — Washington Examiner, September 7th: Netanyahu "ordered unauthorized West Bank settler outposts to be dismantled."...

...(cont) Forty-six days later — October 23rd, today's paper — Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich says the Palestinian Authority should be dismantled too. Same word. Different noun entirely. One was a shed with no permit. The other is the government that runs the lives of the people living under occupation — I don't have a count for how many of them there are, and I'm not going to guess one, but the word doesn't ask how many. It just asks what's left standing when the crew shows up.

I've got a shed of my own out back, stood there thirty-one years without a county permit, and my neighbor brings it up at the fence about twice a summer like it's on his calendar. If the zoning board ever used that word on it, I'd know exactly what comes next — a crew, a crowbar, a dumpster, done by Thursday. That's what the word means when it's pointed at plywood.

But Smotrich isn't pointing it at plywood. He's pointing it at an Authority — an office, a police force, a payroll, the outfit that issues the paperwork for the people who live there. You don't send a crowbar for that. The morgue's been filling in what gets sent instead all month: B'Tselem calls the whole pattern "The Elimination Project," Amnesty counted fifteen land confiscation orders in July alone, twenty hectares, and not one of those got the demolition word attached to it when it happened. That word was saved for something else.

I keep a toolbox in the garage, metric bolts on one side, standard on the other, and I've learned the hard way not to reach for the wrong size twice — stripped one clean trying.

His number, not mine; he's the one who reached for it. I'm not asking what's unprecedented about a military operation. I'm asking why the same prime minister had a demolition word for an illegal shed in September, and his own finance minister has the identical word for a government in October.

Oh — one more thing, before you go. That word from September, the one for plywood with no permit, nothing downtown ever signed off on — it's the same one his finance minister is using now for the Authority that governs the people under occupation. Forty-six days between the two sentences. I wrote down the first one and I wrote down the second one, and I keep checking they're not a typo. Is it the same word in both places — dismantled?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

NETANYAHU'S GOVERNMENT USED THE WORD "DISMANTLE" ON SETTLER OUTPOSTS BUILT without a permit in September; in October, the same government's finance minister used the identical word on the Palestinian Authority, the elected body governing the people living under occupation. That isn't an enforcement policy, it's a word that doesn't have to mean the same thing twice, because the only authority it answers to is whoever is holding it. A government that can call a settlement illegal on Monday and call a government illegal on Tuesday needs nothing stamped on your paperwork to decide, next, that the permit taped inside your own garage wasn't valid either.

"Watch the sequence: Netanyahu orders the illegal outposts dismantled, and weeks later his own finance minister wants the actual Palestinian government dismantled, same word both times. That's not enforcing a permit code, that's deciding what counts as legitimate whenever it's convenient, because nobody with power tells this government no. The shed came down in September; this time it's the only government the people living under occupation have."

— Sal

"This is about security — two IDF soldiers were killed, and the lockdown is the response, not some annexation plot. The outpost order back in September was Netanyahu reining in settlers, proof he's not just rubber-stamping the far right — so wait, why is that same government now using "dismantle" on the actual Palestinian Authority? That doesn't — did I just make the other guy's point for him?"

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Palestinian Gunmen Open Fire on Israelis in the West Bank, Officials Say

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *09:58 EDT*

The Israeli military said two soldiers had been killed, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to launch a major offensive in the Israeli-occupied territory.

Netanyahu locks down West Bank and threatens biggest military operation since 1967

Morning Star § *11:01 EDT*

ISRAEL vowed to "lock down" the entire occupied West Bank of Palestine today after a shootout that left two Israeli soldiers and two Palestinians dead. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had reviewed a "very extensive operation in the West Bank that will be unprecedented since 1967,"

~~Hegseth Makes Unannounced Visit to Netanyahu Ahead of Israel's Elections~~

Pentagon chief secretly meets Netanyahu to plan new Iran strike before Israeli election

Truthout § *11:19 EDT*

The visit came amid discussions between the US and Israel about a renewed assault on Iran.

Israel shuts down West Bank after two soliders shot dead by Palestinian gunmen

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *09:43 EDT*

Israel locked down the West Bank after two Israel Defense Forces soldiers were killed and three wounded by two Palestinian gunmen. On Friday, two Palestinian gunmen armed with an M16 rifle and a handgun, whom Israeli authorities alleged were members of Hamas, opened fire at an IDF position near the city of Hebron, triggering a [...]

~~Netanyahu Orders "Full Lockdown" of Occupied West Bank~~

Netanyahu orders West Bank lockdown as Smotrich calls for more home demolitions

Truthout § *10:50 EDT*

Smotrich said the Palestinian Authority should be "dismantled" and called for increased demolition of Palestinian homes.

· Netanyahu orders dismantlement of West Bank settler outposts: Report *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Battle Over Illegal E1 Settlement in Occupied West Bank Escalates a Month Before Israeli Election *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· "The Elimination Project": Israel's Systematic Dismantling of Palestinian Life in West Bank: B'Tselem *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Amnesty Warns Israel Is 'Brazenly Expanding Its Annexation Agenda' in Occupied West Bank *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

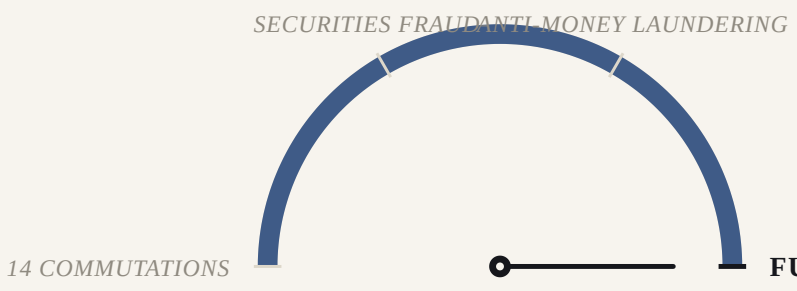
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§70 — 23 OCTOBER 2026

On law and order

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



FULL, COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL

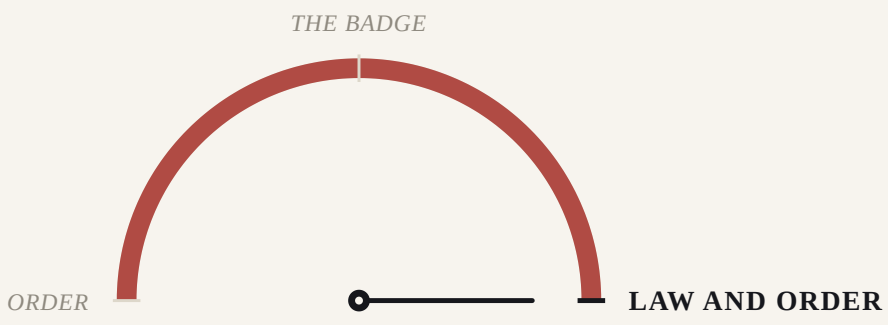
The paperwork. On January 20, 2025, a proclamation commuted the sentences of 14 named January 6 defendants and granted everyone else convicted for the events at the Capitol a "full, complete and unconditional pardon" [1]. The Justice Department's Office of the Pardon Attorney lists the grants since, with each offense as recorded: on March 27, 2025, a pardon for Trevor Milton, "Securities fraud; wire fraud (two counts)"; on October 17, a commutation for George Santos, "Wire Fraud … aggravated identity theft"; in October, a pardon for Changpeng Zhao, "Failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program" [2].

The page is still growing: 23 pardons and 6 commutations on September 3 of this year, and another on September 8 [2]. Law and order is the promise on the podium. The pardon attorney's page is where the second word gets its edits.

SOURCES

1. Commutations for 14 named individuals; a "full, complete and unconditional pardon" for all others convicted of offenses related to the events at or near the Capitol on 6 January 2021 — proclamation, 20 January 2025 — The White House ↑
2. Clemency grants, 2025–present, with offenses as recorded, including grants of 3 and 8 September 2026 — U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Pardon Attorney ↑

REPUBLICAN



LAW AND ORDER

The phrase has been his for six years. In the Rose Garden on June 1, 2020: "I am your President of law and order, and an ally of all peaceful protesters" [1]. At a dinner for law enforcement officials on May 11 of this year: "I deployed our National Guard and federal law enforcement to restore law and order to our most dangerous cities" [2].

And the year's biggest crime number is on this side of the page. The FBI's 2025 data showed murder down 18.1 percent and robbery down 18.5 percent — by CBS's reading, the "biggest one-year drop on record" [3]. A president who ran on order and presides over the largest single-year fall in murder in the record has a claim to the phrase, whatever the cause. The other half of the phrase is the law, and its paperwork is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "I am your President of law and order, and an ally of all peaceful protesters" — statement in the Rose Garden, 1 June 2020 — Trump White House archives ↑
2. "I deployed our National Guard and federal law enforcement to restore law and order to our most dangerous cities" — Rose Garden dinner for law enforcement officials, 11 May 2026 — transcript ↑
3. FBI 2025 data: murder down 18.1 percent, robbery down 18.5 percent; the "biggest one-year drop on record" — CBS News, 14 August 2026 ↑

“I read the pardon attorney's clemency page, because it's public, and the offenses are listed right there in their own words. March of last year, pardoned: "Securities fraud; wire fraud (two counts)." October: commuted, "Wire Fraud … aggravated identity theft." October again, pardoned: "Failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program." And the first day, the proclamation: everybody else from January sixth, "full, complete and unconditional." Then September third of this year, twenty-three more pardons. Sorry, before you go. Law and order — which of those two words does the clemency page belong to?” — Lou

🍺

“"I am your President of law and order." Murder's down eighteen percent, a record, and he'll take a bow for that. Then read the clemency page at his own pardon attorney's office. First afternoon: "full, complete and unconditional" pardons for January sixth, all but fourteen. Then securities and wire fraud, pardoned. Then wire fraud and aggravated identity theft, commuted. Then a failure to maintain an anti-money-laundering program, pardoned. The law is for the street. The order comes on letterhead.”

— Sal

🚬

“The president believes in law and order, and a pardon is the law, and the order in which he issues them is his business, so every single entry on that page is law and order in its purest form.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎