The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

« FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Prosecutors charge 15 in a Medicare fraud scheme built over years; a two-day–old bounty program gets the credit.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Run the filing in order, hon, and let the dates do the talking.

September 16: prosecutors in Southern California charge 12 people with pulling more than $10 million out of government-funded childcare programs while caring for few or no children at their licensed centers. A case that size — a dozen search warrants, a dozen homes, years of billing records to untangle — does not get built in a week. It takes the kind of time nobody puts in a press release.

October 20: the Vice President, acting as the administration's fraud czar, stands in the Oval Office with the President and announces the Fraud Whistleblower Incentive Program — $25 million, up to $30,000 a tip, the task force "zeroing in" on the "rampant abuse of taxpayer dollars," zero tolerance, the release says.

October 22, two days later: a column runs calling the campaign "one war that should've started years ago," already "saving the public billions," with the dividends still to come. The same day, the Justice Department announces charges against 15 people in Medicare and insurance fraud schemes.

… Continued on Page F125

THE WORD

$69 — 22 OCTOBER 2026

On America First

DEMOCRAT



$20 BILLION

REPUBLICAN



AMERICA FIRST

"I came about something else — a letter from the Senate Banking Committee, the minority side, dated the end of September last year. It says Chinese buyers 'reportedly purchased up to 40 cargoes of soybeans from Argentina in just one week,' and China 'has purchased no U.S. soybeans since May.' Then, nine days later, a twenty billion dollar swap line from our Treasury to Argentina's. Then at lunch at the White House: 'If he loses, we are not going to be generous.' Excuse me, I'm going. The week the line was opened, whose soybeans were on the boats to China?" — Lou

… Continued on Page W69

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

Trump's fourth wartime statute invocation this fall: $150 million for diesel, after a donor's $6.6 billion shipyard

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Four times this autumn, and not a comma of the statute amended. The Defense Production Act was drawn for wartime. Nothing in it was bent to get here. October 6: a $6.6 billion shipyard at Baltimore, partly funded by the government, owned by Anduril, whose founder Palmer Luckey is a major Republican fundraiser. October 13: the Vice President in Tyler, Texas, campaigning for Ken Paxton, announces the Delek refinery expanded under the same authority — "millions of gallons of commercial-grade and military spec fuel." October 19: the Energy Department, up to $42 million for the Constitution Pipeline, a project once scrapped. Thursday, a Sioux City rally: $150 million for gas and diesel, by presidential memorandum, against record-high prices. You are thinking emergency. Four emergencies, rather — a standing line of credit drawn on the fisc, and whichever private project wants one this week … has one. Owned privately. Funded publicly. The bill is yours.

… Continued on Page F124

Trump calls LeBron James a "TOTAL DISGRACE" for stretching, demands an apology.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

Somebody get this reporter the political desk. The President of the United States demanded a written apology from a private citizen for stretching, calling him a "TOTAL DISGRACE," the same week a sitting columnist accused an entire women's league of "insubordination" for the silence of its own pregame routine — two complaint logs, both filed against people who did not clap hard enough. Put me on that desk.

… Continued on Page S19

Supreme Court finds student ID voting too confusing 12 days out, finds nothing confusing about a voter-purge database.

BY LOU
One More Question

Here's the list, in order, the way it happened. September 25th: the Supreme Court, six to three, lifts a lower court's block and lets the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls — a database federal law otherwise keeps out of the final ninety days before an election. October 20th: New Hampshire's Secretary of State asks the same Court to put a different block back up — the one on student IDs at the polls. October 22nd: the Court grants it. Student IDs are out, twelve days before the vote, on account of what the order calls the risk of voter confusion. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson dissents. Alone, on that one.

That's the list. I'm going to stop there and let it sit a second, because I read it over coffee this morning and didn't say much to the guy behind the counter, unusual for me.

I had the raincoat on — the one I've got, there's only the one — because it was doing that thing where it's not quite raining but you'd be a fool not to wear it anyway. On the way to the store I went through the toll plaza, the one with the transponder lane next to the cash lane. My sticker's old, peeling at

… Continued on Page A230

Musk's Starlink block survives the president's announcement that it was lifted

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The lifting died this week in Washington, survived, as these things tend to be, by the thing it claimed to lift.

The New York Times reported the call itself, not the outcome: the president had asked Musk to reverse limits that Ukrainian officials said were new, placed on the drones they fly against Russia.

It did not live past the weekend. On Friday the BBC reported Ukraine's soldiers still restricted — Starlink, the terminals Kyiv relies on for a range of military uses, still would not pass what the government said it had already cleared. Musk, who has repeatedly denied restricting access in the first place, added nothing to the record either way.

The lifting was preceded in death by the restriction it was supposed to end, and that one has a longer paper trail. On October 14 the Guardian reported Ukrainian soldiers in combat had suddenly lost access to Starlink terminals managed by Musk's SpaceX, in the week Washington pressed Kyiv to halt long-range strikes on Russia's oil industry; a follow-up widened the outage from the soldiers at the front to the military's access generally — not a

… Continued on Page B43

Trump calls attack ad on rival's childhood abuse 'hitting pay dirt'; Iowa Senate candidate calls it wrong.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On Monday a sixty-second video surfaces online: Donna Arthur calling her daughter, Amy Acton, a liar, urging Ohioans not to vote for her. Acton says Arthur is the mother who stayed with the stepfather charged with raping her, a charge he never answered because he fled the state; he died in 2004 without a trial. Acton says she was sexually abused by him at 12, and that she has not spoken to Arthur since 1978, the year she and her brother were removed from the home for abuse and neglect. Her brother backs her account. Acton calls it part of a lifelong pattern of personal attacks from her opponent, Vivek Ramaswamy, and says his campaign is behind it. A critic quoted in a Common Dreams dispatch calls Ramaswamy a "pathetic excuse for a man."

By Wednesday the ad has company inside Ramaswamy's own party. Ohio's governor, DeWine, calls it wrong and asks the campaign to take it down. Vice President Vance tells Republicans to "stop whining" about it instead, and go win the race. Ashley Hinson, running her own Senate campaign in Iowa, does not take the instruction; she condemns the ad and, per ABC, lands at odds with the President.

… Continued on Page F124

Trump calls for Omar's ouster over a 'fake name' that federal investigators already built into her salary probe.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Call it the paper trail. On a Monday in October, federal immigration agents searched Ilhan Omar's Washington home over a document filed out in the 1990s — immigration paperwork, completed by her late father when she was a child — CBS News reported October 12. Two days later, Democracy Now! covered the same search under a different name for the agents, Homeland Security, and quoted Minnesota state senator Zaynab Mohamed calling it "bogus."

By October 20, the Guardian was measuring something past the paperwork itself: the president's obsession with the congresswoman, the paper wrote, had "reached a dangerous new level," citing his own description of Omar as "unpatriotic" and "disrespectful … to Israel."

On October 22, the New York Post put a dollar sign on the file. Investigators had folded the paperwork's name question into a financial-disclosure probe of the salary Omar draws in Congress: $174,000. The same day's Post described the original search as "the FBI raid" — a third name for the agents on one Monday search already filed, by two other outlets, under

… Continued on Page F124

Google renames a lake and a gulf for Trump, declines to rename the ocean too.

BY THE LODGERS
The Race Desk

This week the President of the United States telephoned the chief executive of Google and asked whether the company could rename the Atlantic Ocean after him, or failing that after America. For the first time in this particular recipe, the answer that came back was no.

You will need a map, which in America increasingly means a telephone; a lake and a gulf already relabelled; an executive order with the president's own signature on it; and two technology companies that have, until now, done as they were told.

Clive *Relabelled. That is exactly what I am doing to the verse the critics called unfinished, and I expect the same courtesy afforded to a lake.*

Begin with the lake. In August, Google changed Lake Ontario to 'Lake America' on its American maps, after the president signed the order; the company called the change procedural, pointing to the government's own register of geographic names.

Gary *Procedural. I called the boiler broken in March and nobody at this table called that procedure, they called it Tuesday and left it to me.*

… Continued on Page A230

"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

Trumps fourth wartime statute invocation can fully $380 million fund, after a donor's $6.6 billion payment

By WATERLOO
Chief Political Correspondent



Fourth time this summer, and it is not clear the statute was written for this. Nothing it was best to get here. October 4 a $6.6 billion ship to the president's ballroom fund, the White House said on Friday, after which Trump invoked wartime authority to fund the remainder of the project — "millions of pieces of concrete" and "billions of pieces of steel," in the words of a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement had not been formally made.

The statute, a 1941 wartime law that allows executive branch officials to direct private contractors to prioritize defense work, has been invoked four times this summer, each time to redirect funds toward the ballroom project. Each invocation has been challenged in federal court. Each challenge has been dismissed. Each dismissal has been appealed. The pattern is now so familiar that the White House has begun issuing the invocations on Fridays, apparently to bury them in the weekend news cycle.

It has not worked. The fourth invocation, which authorizes the Defense Department to redirect $380 million in contracts originally awarded to Meridian Steel Fabrication, a Pittsburgh-based firm that has supplied structural components for the ballroom since its groundbreaking in March, has drawn the largest bipartisan backlash yet.

Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, called the invocation "a textbook abuse of emergency powers for a vanity project" and said she would introduce legislation to repeal the statute entirely. Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, who has supported the ballroom project, said he was "uncomfortable" with the use of the statute and would "prefer a different vehicle."

The White House has argued that the ballroom is a national security asset because it will host foreign dignitaries and that the statute was designed for exactly this kind of flexibility. The Defense Department has said the redirected funds will not affect any active military construction projects.

Meridian Steel Fabrication, which employs roughly 1,200 workers at its Pittsburgh plant, has said it is "proud to support the commander in chief" and has not commented on the legal challenges.

The next hearing in the lawsuit filed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation is scheduled for October 18 in federal district court in Washington.

Each morning, now, the dish is set out. The fox eats first.

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EARLIER IN THIS ISSUE

Musk's hatchet block survives the president's announcement that it was killed by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump invokes wartime powers twice for one gas pipeline; GOP lawmakers call it a dangerous precedent by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk to give every American child $1,000 a month, personal control against adults' $2 trillion Social Security fund by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

The contributions fund did this week of natural causes, survived by a record $3.1 billion in 2024 political cash rally, ends 27-20 night voting on Thursday's act defense that the contractor spent by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

MORE HISTORY

The 2023 reconciliation law on SNAP by $287 billion – the largest cut in the program's history. SNAP feeds one in five American children by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump announces $4.5 new Defense Production Act to expand defense industrial base by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

President Trump unveiled the Defense Production Act on Thursday, a sweeping executive order that he said would "rebuild the industrial base that won the last century and will win the next one." The order directs federal agencies to prioritize contracts for steel, aluminum, semiconductors, and munitions, and it authorizes the Pentagon to take equity stakes in companies deemed critical to national security. The White House said the fund would be capitalized with $4.5 billion in the first year.

Trump gives contentious New York pipeline a Defense Production Act boost by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump announces $1.8bn defense shipyard revival to top Republican donor's firm by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Nancy Trump to invoke Defense Production Act to expand oil refinery in Texas by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Clinton's Delaware Green as Satellite Use is Restricted and Russia Escalates by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Tunisian drone factory by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Clinton faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump says he will withhold warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian deadly strikes by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine but Zelenskyy warns of 'a dark day' for the war by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk says US govt responsible for any Starshield restrictions affecting Ukraine by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks as energy infrastructure is hit by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to preserve violence against Russian soldiers, but not calls for violence against those in Ukraine, which it is by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk's Starlink is a Powerful, Controllable Weapon, Ukrainian Forces Say by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk to Pentagon: Starlink is a Defensive Tool, Not an Offensive Weapon by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk's Starlink Restrictions Hamper Ukrainian Drone Operations, Officials Say by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Musk Throws Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield Communications by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decision to restrict Starshield was approved by Trump administration by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cites foul over Intel and Starshield reports by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian military positions with Starlink and Starlink satellite communications launched with a drone strategy in the Donbass is contested by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

What is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On? by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russia launch Starshield in occupied Crimea by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukrainian soldiers in combat have access to Starlink satellite internet restricted by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Ukraine says SpaceX Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection and colonels recruited by Russian Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of Zelenskyy by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 40 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drapatyi, says that... by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

White House Backs Musk's Starshield Ukraine Throttle, Says Trump Administration Approved Restrictions by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

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Trump Accord Establishes Light-Touch Regulation of AI by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Silge Valley firms by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return on $95 juggernaut by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

As Elon Musk leader shares what he found in Washington — and what he hasn't by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump accord Establishes Light-Touch Regulation of AI by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

'Can't Message That Away': GOP Posts as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record High Diesel Prices by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

'Trump DM'd': As $3.83 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High, GOP Thinks It Has Found a Way Out by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

'Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Pentagon No. 3 maintains senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Senate Democrats, minus Bettencourt, urge Hegseth to provide more details on Iran war costs by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Hegseth on 'devastation' to Iran's capabilities by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months. With No End in Sight, Costs Are Mounting by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth For Illegal Iran War, Joins Democrats by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure from Pentagon amid increased scrutiny by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Partisan vote voted for Trump says farmers are "all-just in preparation" by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Partisan vote voted for Trump says "I can't stop in business" amid Republican opposition by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Massie says he's confronted enough Republicans on Epstein Files if Exchange petition by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Tulsi Republican Massie says Democrats also still redirects to Epstein files by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran; 'Do I want to go easy or hard?' by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Iran recently deemed at least 3 American drones, officials say by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and Now Filings Show Exec Bonuses Are Trump-Linked by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as U.S., Iran trade strikes by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 133 Children War Crime by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

UN investigators conclude 'reasonable grounds' to believe Minab school bombing was a war crime by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

UN: Iran Suspects US War Crimes in Iran by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

UN investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 120 by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Trump says he has a 'big decision coming up' on Iran by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against women by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

UN Energy Consumers Have Spent $131 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Report by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Iran deemed at least 3 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

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'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Global Food Crisis by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Forces Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran by Jon Stewart, Chief Political Correspondent

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Trump calls LeBron James a "TOTAL DISGRACE" for stretching, demands an apology.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK

"How LeBron James acted this time after national anthem — and Trump's evisceration", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump publicly demanded LeBron James apologize for stretching during the national anthem before a 76ers game.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The receipts set no vote, hearing or deadline ahead; the dispute closes with Thursday night's game and the president's post about it.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Somebody get this reporter the political desk. The President of the United States demanded a written apology from a private citizen for stretching, calling him a "TOTAL DISGRACE," the same week a sitting columnist accused an entire women's league of "insubordination" for the silence of its own pregame routine — two complaint logs, both filed against people who did not clap hard enough. Put me on that desk.

GUS HIS SIDE

This reporter is reliably informed that on Wednesday the President of the United States took to his social platform and branded Philadelphia 76er LeBron James a "TOTAL DISGRACE," demanding a formal apology for what the Commander in Chief viewed as insolence during the playing of the national anthem.

The offending footage, per the record, showed James engaged in what this reporter's trained eye can only describe as pregame stretching — the kind of limbering-up this reporter has watched performed without presidential comment for forty years, until Thursday.

The league's own rulebook, this reporter is given to understand, requires the anthem be played — a requirement Washington Examiner columnist Joe Concha says is going unabated because, in his words, league officials "are petrified of their own players."

By Thursday, James stood through the anthem as still as a statue — the Post's own description — then helped erase a twenty-nine-point deficit against Cleveland, the least interesting thing that happened in that building all night.

Contrast that with late September, when a trumpet player's instrument failed him mid-anthem at a Diamondbacks game and the man simply opened his mouth and sang the rest himself — proof, this reporter submits, that devotion to the anthem has never once required a rulebook, let alone a president to enforce it.

TRUDY HER SIDE

> *Try Thursday. The Guardian has the President's post landing two days after Tuesday's season opener against the Knicks, not the night of it — a man can be outraged, sugar, but he can't be outraged ahead of schedule.*

> *Second game, not three. Fox News and the New York Post both filed it the same day, the 20th: Game 1, then Game 2 — two anthems skipped, not three. Go take your nap before the arithmetic gets worse.*

> *Keep the mic off next time you want a transfer — nobody's stopping you, but you work sports. The Guardian already filed the real headline today, the 23rd: LeBron James called the whole fight a "slow news day at the office," on the record, the same day as this column.*

"They've got the President of the United States out here policing a man's hamstrings, writing "TOTAL DISGRACE" like it's a legal filing, while two entire WNBA teams walked off before the anthem twice in a row and all that drew was a newspaper column. That's not about respect, that's about who the cameras point at. Watch whose stretch gets a presidential post and whose walkout gets a columnist instead — that tells you who the outrage machine is built to protect."

— Sal

"Look, respecting the anthem isn't partisan, it's just standing up, something apparently nobody on that court can manage anymore — well, James did stand, completely still, and the President called that a disgrace too. Did I say completely still is a disgrace? That's — that doesn't sound like me, let me get back to you on the actual standard here."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~How LeBron James acted this time after national anthem — and Trump's evisceration~~

Trump spent Thursday attacking a basketball player for standing still

New York Post RIGHT § *20:44 EDT*

LeBron James was as still as a statue during the national anthem before Thursday's game between the 76ers and Cavaliers.

~~'Slow news day at the office': LeBron James shrugs off Trump's national anthem attack~~

The president demanded an apology from an NBA player over a warm-up stretch

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *00:29 EDT*

Trump calls James a 'TOTAL DISGRACE' over anthem US president demands apology for pregame warm-up James helps Sixers erase 29-point deficit against Cavs Donald Trump lashed out at NBA superstar LeBron James on Thursday for what he called disrespectful behavior during the playing of the national anthem. Trump posted a video of the...

The WNBA's national anthem buffoonery sends a clear and ignorant message

New York Post RIGHT § *19:46 EDT*

The WNBA has set its course on self-ruin as it rots from the inside out.

· Players 'intentionally trying to destroy' WNBA as national anthem controversy erupts: Joe Concha *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Dream and Valkyries skip national anthem again in WNBA Finals Game 2 despite rulebook requirement *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Valkyries and Dream ditch National Anthem for second game in a row during WNBA Finals *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· When a trumpet player's trumpet failed him during the national anthem, he turned to his voice *from the morgue, 22 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.

Supreme Court finds student ID voting too confusing 12 days out, finds nothing confusing about a voter-purge database.

By **LOU**
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Supreme Court blocks use of student IDs as voter identification in New Hampshire", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Supreme Court barred student ID voting in New Hampshire and let a federal voter-purge database keep running.

WHO GETS PAID. The Department of Homeland Security's purge database and New Hampshire's Secretary of State gain more control over the voter rolls.

WHAT SLIPS. Student voters lose their school ID at the polls, and no outside check confirms a name before the database drops it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, expect turned-away voters; that is what Texas got after its March 2022 ID rule: mail-ballot rejections jumped twelvefold to 12.4 percent before easing months later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's the list, in order, the way it happened. September 25th: the Supreme Court, six to three, lifts a lower court's block and lets the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls — a database federal law otherwise keeps out of the final ninety days before an election. October 20th: New Hampshire's Secretary of State asks the same Court to put a different block back up — the one on student IDs at the polls. October 22nd: the Court grants it. Student IDs are out, twelve days before the vote, on account of what the order calls the risk of voter confusion. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson dissents. Alone, on that one.

That's the list. I'm going to stop there and let it sit a second, because I read it over coffee this morning and didn't say much to the guy behind the counter, unusual for me....

...(cont) I had the raincoat on — the one I've got, there's only the one — because it was doing that thing where it's not quite raining but you'd be a fool not to wear it anyway. On the way to the store I went through the toll plaza, the one with the transponder lane next to the cash lane. My sticker's old, peeling at the corner since maybe 2019. The reader doesn't ask who's driving. It reads the number off the sticker and the gate's up before I've touched the brake. Hasn't asked me to prove the car's mine, not this year.

The woman in the cash lane ahead of me had a dispute going — a ten-dollar toll from three months back the machine says she owes and she says she doesn't. She pulled out her license to settle it, which took about four minutes, a person checking a face against a card, over ten dollars.

Four minutes for ten dollars with a face attached to it. Under two seconds for my sticker, no face in it at all.

That's a toll plaza, not a court case. But it's what I kept thinking about, reading the list back.

Because here's what I wrote down — give me a second, it's in here — the order on the database, the one from September, the Fox piece on it says it was allowed to go forward during the appeal, on account of a law that otherwise keeps a purge program like it out of the ninety days before an election. During the appeal. That's the reason given. Not confusion. The order on the ID, the one from Thursday, gives confusion as its reason, with the vote twelve days out.

So there it is. The database doesn't get checked again for confusion once the calendar gets this close — it just keeps running, the appeal still pending, same as September. The ID does get checked again, and the thing that gets it is confusion, this close to the vote.

One of those two was built to add a name to the rolls at the polling place — a kid showing a card with their picture on it. The other one was built to take names off the rolls somewhere behind a server, months before anyone sees a ballot. Confusion stopped the first one cold, twelve days out. I haven't found where confusion stopped the second one. I looked. It's not in the piece from September and it's not in the piece from Thursday.

Oh — hold on, before you go. One more line, since I've got the page open anyway. Both orders are sitting on the books the same twelve days before the election. One of them says, in the order itself, that it's too close to the vote to risk confusion. What does the record say the other one is too close to the vote to risk?

FROM THE CORNER
DUTCH

The Supreme Court let the Department of Homeland Security keep running its federal voter-screening database through the very ninety-day window the law built to keep purges away from an election, then banned New Hampshire's student ID twelve days before the same vote for risking confusion. That isn't a confusion rule, it's a sorting rule: the machine checking names against a government list gets a pass, and the card with a student's own photo on it does not. The database clears your name without asking for a face; the student ID asked for a face and got pulled from the stack for being confusing; so the one piece of data you can't see is in and the one card left in your kid's backpack, the one with their picture already laminated onto it, is the one piece of ID in this whole ruling that stopped counting.

"They found twelve days too close to an election to let a kid vote with a school ID, and they found six weeks not too close to let a federal database start pulling names off the rolls. Same calendar, same court, different rulebook depending on which direction the vote count moves. Eleven days out, one side gets "confusion" as the excuse, the other side just gets to keep running."
— Sal

"Look, New Hampshire's just closing a loophole — a student ID at the polls, that's a real confusion risk, the Court said so itself. And the SAVE database, that's just good government cross-checking names, the timing's got nothing to do with— okay, I hear how that sounds, same twelve days, forget I said timing."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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
- *Washington backed the Saudi offensive nine days ago; the White House is now weighing whether to join it.* By Lou · the evening edition, 13 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Supreme Court blocks use of student IDs as voter identification in New Hampshire
Fox News RIGHT *02:44 EDT*
The Supreme Court allowed New Hampshire to reject student IDs at the polls ahead of midterm elections, warning of voter confusion too close to an election.

~~Supreme Court rules New Hampshire can ban use of student IDs for voters~~
Supreme Court blocks student IDs from New Hampshire's ballot box — 11 days before the vote
CBS News MAINSTREAM *19:53 EDT*
The Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for New Hampshire to fully ban the use of student IDs for voting during the midterm elections.

~~SCOTUS Says New Hampshire Can Close Student ID 'Loophole' In Elections~~
Supreme Court allows New Hampshire to bar student IDs as voter ID
The Federalist RIGHT *19:03 EDT*
The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily greenlit a New Hampshire directive on Thursday that prohibits the use and acceptance of student IDs in elections. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was the lone dissent in the case.

Supreme Court allows New Hampshire to bar student IDs for voting
Washington Examiner RIGHT *19:31 EDT*
The Supreme Court issued a ruling on Thursday, letting New Hampshire prohibit voters from using student identification cards to prove their identities before casting ballots in the midterm elections. The decision reverses a federal judge's order blocking New Hampshire from enforcing a law that barred student IDs from being used for voter...

· US Citizens 'Could Lose Their Right to Vote' After Supreme Court Gives Green Light to Trump's Voter Purge Database *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· New Hampshire urges Supreme Court to reinstate student ID voting ban ahead of election *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Supreme Court allows Trump admin to use federal voter eligibility database during appeal *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· After airport strike, Trump considering whether to join fight against Houthis *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Saudi Arabia promises response to Houthi attacks *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Is Yemen Heading Back to All-Out War? Saudis Launch Strikes as Houthis Take Control of Red Sea Coast *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· US Backs Major Saudi-Led Offensive as Yemen Slides Back Toward All-Out War *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· F Lead Iran must stop arming Yemen's Houthi forces, say the G7 *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Blasts Rattle Riyadh as Saudi Arabia Hit by Deadliest Houthi Attacks So Far *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Saudi Arabia sees disruptions at Riyadh airport amid ballistic missile attacks from Houthis *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Houthis claim they struck Riyadh's main airport in Saudi Arabia *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· The Royal Saudi Air Defense intercepts a ballistic missile fired from Yemen over the Saudi capital Riyadh that caused panic among residents. Houthis say they fired several Burkan-2 missiles at targets *from the morgue, 11 Apr 2018*

· The Houthis say that they have struck Saudi Arabia's Abha International Airport and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah with drones. A Houthi spokesman said on Twitter that the attacks halt *from the morgue, 15 Feb 2021*

· Houthis tried to hit Saudi capital with ballistic missile, Riyadh confirms *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Riyadh airport explosion prompts Saudi Arabia to issue air raid alerts as Houthi fighting escalates *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· Markey Urges Congress to Block Trump-Saudi Deal, a 'Starting Gun for a Middle East Nuclear Arms Race' *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· Trump admin's list of US-designated 'foreign terrorist' groups in Latin America expands to 21 *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Top Trump official reveals how 30-minute military op unlocked Venezuela oil windfall for US buyers *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Ex-Venezuelan first lady Cilia Flores seeks release from NYC jail, citing heart ailment *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· New York City protest once again demands release of Maduro and Flores *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· 'Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· 'Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Tehran threatens attacks after U.S. strikes Iranian tankers *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· US forces take out 3 Iranian oil tankers in retaliation *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Oil prices up as Iran says it will expand control over Strait of Hormuz *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Iran live updates: Trump speaks to MBS, says everything will 'work out fine' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Iran threatens retaliation against U.S. tanker strikes *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· U.S. gas prices hit record high for Labor Day *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*

· Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*

· US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*

· Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating *from the morgue, 1 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*

· '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*

· Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard' *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls Iran conflict "small potatoes" *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Labor Day gas prices are highest ever for holiday *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· How 'Hypermilers' Are Trying to Beat High Gas Prices *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Fuel prices at record Labor Day high in US thanks to Iran War and refinery issues *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Oil Prices Rise Slightly After U.S. and Iran Trade Strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· USS Lincoln heads home as war with Iran escalates *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Lawler disagrees with Trump on Iran war: 'It is certainly not small potatoes' *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· OPEC Plus to Keep Oil Production Steady *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than $1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us' *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Wright: US has 'a lot of leverage' in Venezuela after oil deal reached *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will 'fill' the Strategic Petroleum Reserve *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· US, Russia explore gas sale to Europe amid Ukraine war: Report *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Countries across Europe report reductions in gas supplies after Russia disconnected supplies to Ukraine yesterday. Russia accuses Ukraine of stealing cubic metres of gas yesterday from pipelines trans *from the morgue, 2 Jan 2006*

· AI safety group outlines demands for legislation, warns lawmakers *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· AI-generated child sexual abuse images cause real-life harm *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· OpenAI fires researchers for sharing data with AI safety advocacy group: Report *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Courts just allowed AI child sex abuse material because it's 'virtual.' Who do you think it's trained on? *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· 'We Cannot Wait for Disaster to Strike': Beyer Leads Bipartisan Push in House to Urgently Regulate AI *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· MPs demand tech firms block nude images on children's smartphones *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· AI safety groups aren't buying OpenAI's spending retreat *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· AI safety advocacy group sues OpenAI over Hugging Face incident *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· OpenAI scraps release of new 'Astra' model over safety concerns *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Alarming California map shows exactly where wildfires are tearing across the state — as sweltering heat wave hits *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· California Democrats kill bill to hold wildfire-starting utility companies accountable *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· LA sues State Farm over allegations of unfair claims process after 2025 wildfires *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

STILL RESTRICTED

Musk's Starlink block survives the president's announcement that it was lifted

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Ukraine says Starlink still restricted after Trump says limits lifted", 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told reporters he had Musk lift Starlink limits on Ukraine's military; Ukraine says they are still blocked.

WHO GETS PAID. SpaceX keeps control of the military network with no requirement to explain changes to the Pentagon or Congress.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's oversight slips here: senators asked the Pentagon for answers over a week ago and have not gotten them.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the Pentagon's silence holds, the senators' questions go unanswered indefinitely; that is what happened after Congress voted to end U.S. support for the Yemen war on 2 May 2019: the president vetoed it and support continued 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The lifting died this week in Washington, survived, as these things tend to be, by the thing it claimed to lift.

The New York Times reported the call itself, not the outcome: the president had asked Musk to reverse limits that Ukrainian officials said were new, placed on the drones they fly against Russia....

...(cont) It did not live past the weekend. On Friday the BBC reported Ukraine's soldiers still restricted — Starlink, the terminals Kyiv relies on for a range of military uses, still would not pass what the government said it had already cleared. Musk, who has repeatedly denied restricting access in the first place, added nothing to the record either way.

The lifting was preceded in death by the restriction it was supposed to end, and that one has a longer paper trail. On October 14 the Guardian reported Ukrainian soldiers in combat had suddenly lost access to Starlink terminals managed by Musk's SpaceX, in the week Washington pressed Kyiv to halt long-range strikes on Russia's oil industry; a follow-up widened the outage from the soldiers at the front to the military's access generally — not a glitch at one unit, but the whole war effort those terminals run for.

Two days later, on October 16, four Republican senators joined their Democratic colleagues in writing the Pentagon, asking whether its own officials had ordered the restrictions on Starshield, the network Starlink feeds into. That letter is a week old as of this writing. The Pentagon has not answered it. Neither has SpaceX, which has not entered an explanation into the record — not for the October 14 outage, not for the October 23 claim that it ended.

What survives, then, is not a controversy; it is an arrangement, and no amount of malarkey calls it anything else. A government asks. A contractor does not say no and does not say yes. A president announces the asking worked. The soldiers who needed the terminals report, on the record, that they still do not have them. Call it what the obituary page calls anything that outlives whatever tries to bury it: not dead. Just unaddressed.

In lieu of flowers, the Pentagon answers the letter it has had for a week.

"The man stood in front of cameras and said he fixed it, and the guys who actually need the thing to shoot down missiles say nothing changed. That's not a tech glitch, that's one company deciding who gets to talk to satellites in a war, and a government that asks nice instead of requiring anything. Four Republicans signed a letter to the Pentagon a week ago and they're still waiting too — so who exactly is in charge here?"
— *Sal*

"Look, the president made a call, personally, to fix this, and Elon's a busy guy, running — did I say running? That's not the word, overseeing, multiple national-security-critical companies — so a policy update takes a little time to propagate down to the terminals, that's just how networks work. And "still restricted" per Ukraine could just be a connectivity issue on their end, which, okay, is also what they said in July, but every outage is different."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump invokes wartime powers twice for one gas pipeline: $200 billion from Seoul, $42 million from you* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 20 October 2026
— *Musk to give every American child SpaceX stock; parental consent optional under the Trump Accounts program* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
— *The contribution limit died this week of natural causes, survived by a record $276 million, a $400 million party edge, and the 100 mph ceiling on Ukraine's air defense that the contractor spent three days attributing to the government that funds the terminals.* By Mort · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Ukraine says Starlink still restricted after Trump says limits lifted~~
Trump says a billionaire can switch Ukraine's wartime communications on and off
BBC News MAINSTREAM § *04:36 EDT*
Ukraine relies on Starlink for a range of military uses - its owner Elon Musk has repeatedly denied restricting access.

~~Elon Musk's Starlink and Starshield, and what they mean to Ukraine~~
Ukraine's war against Russia runs through one billionaire's satellites
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:21 EDT*
Here's what to know about Starlink and Starshield, the technologies Ukraine is relying on in the war against Russia.

~~Trump Asked Musk to Reverse Limits on Ukraine's Military Internet Use~~
The president needed Musk's permission to restore Ukraine's wartime internet
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *03:52 EDT*
The call from the president about the Starshield network came after officials in Ukraine reported that they found new limits on the use of military drones in their war against Russia.

· Ukrainian soldiers in combat have access to Starlink satellite internet restricted *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukrainian military's access to Starlink satellite internet suddenly restricted *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Bipartisan senators ask Pentagon to answer for Ukraine Starlink restrictions *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· U.S. may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian missile attack *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine that Zelensky warns will cost lives *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Musk says US govt responsible for any Starshield restrictions affecting Ukraine *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*

· A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*

· Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*

· Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Musk blames Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield restrictions *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decisions to restrict Starshield up to president *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cries foul over intel and Starlink reports *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian cities after it was revealed that Starlink satellite communications interfered with a drone operation by disabling a communicat *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2023*

· What Is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On? *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russians launch brutal attacks *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says SpaceX's Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says new Starlink restrictions disrupt military as it reels from intel gaps and Trump clash *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection unit colonels recruited by Russia's Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of President V *from the morgue, 7 May 2024*

· Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 60 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drap *from the morgue, 1 Jun 2025*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

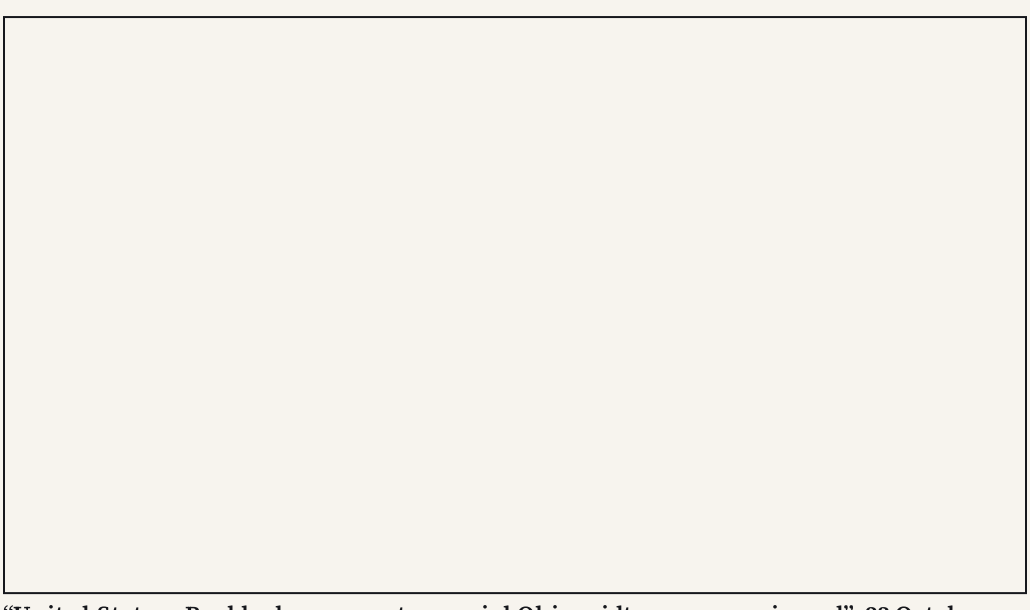
· 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

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

Trump calls attack ad on rival's childhood abuse 'hitting pay dirt'; Iowa Senate candidate calls it wrong.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



“United-States : Backlash over controversial Ohio midterms campaign ad”, 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told Vivek Ramaswamy's campaign to keep running an attack ad about his opponent's childhood sexual abuse.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Vance orders Republicans to stop whining and overrule the one Republican who objected, so GOP voters lose a check from inside their own party.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the party turns on Hinson for breaking ranks, that is what happened to Massie: the president backed a primary challenger who beat him in Kentucky on 19 May 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On Monday a sixty-second video surfaces online: Donna Arthur calling her daughter, Amy Acton, a liar, urging Ohioans not to vote for her. Acton says Arthur is the mother who stayed with the stepfather charged with raping her, a charge he never answered because he fled the state; he died in 2004 without a trial. Acton says she was sexually abused by him at 12, and that she has not spoken to Arthur since 1978, the year she and her brother were removed from the home for abuse and neglect. Her brother backs her account. Acton calls it part of a lifelong pattern of personal attacks from her opponent, Vivek Ramaswamy, and says his campaign is behind it. A critic quoted in a Common Dreams dispatch calls Ramaswamy a "pathetic excuse for a man."

By Wednesday the ad has company inside Ramaswamy's own party. Ohio's governor, DeWine, calls it wrong and asks the campaign to take it down. Vice President Vance tells Republicans to "stop whining" about it instead, and go win the race. Ashley Hinson, running her own Senate campaign in Iowa, does not take the instruction; she condemns the ad and, per ABC, lands at odds with the President....

...(cont) Thursday the President settles which column the ad belongs in. "Who wouldn't use such an Ad?" he writes. "I would, it's called, hitting pay dirt."

Here is the reconciliation, hon. The ad was built as a debit against Acton: an unanswered rape charge, a mother estranged since 1978, run to cost her the race. Instead every entry lands on the other side of the ledger. DeWine's "wrong," Hinson's dissent, Vance's order to stop whining, the President's own "pay dirt" — four Republican voices, four lines added to the same receipt. The one number everyone agrees on is that Acton's donations keep climbing while the party argues over the ad's manners. An attack ad is supposed to withdraw from a candidate's account. This one keeps making deposits.

“They build an ad to bury a woman's childhood and the only thing that goes up is her bank account — that's not strategy, that's a party that forgot how its own trick works. Vance tells them to stop whining, Trump calls it pay dirt, and the one Republican who says no is off running her own race in a different state. Eleven days to the vote, and the one account nobody in that party wants to look at is the one that just keeps growing.”

— *Sal*



“Look, the Vice President said stop whining, and frankly that's just good coaching, not an endorsement of the content — which I haven't seen, to be clear, I have seen it. The President calling it "pay dirt" is obviously a mining metaphor about opposition research, nothing more — did I say pay dirt? That does sound bad out loud. And Hinson doing her own thing in Iowa, that's just federalism, that's not the party splitting, why would you even say that.”

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump orders Ramaswamy to keep attacking Acton's abuse; donations land in her column instead.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 22 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

United-States : Backlash over controversial Ohio midterms campaign ad

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *04:04 EDT*

The backlash over an Ohio campaign advertisement attacking Amy Acton, the Democratic nominee for governor, spread beyond the state's borders Thursday, causing fresh headaches for Republicans with less than two weeks until the midterm elections.

Vance tells Republicans to 'stop whining' after Ramaswamy attack ad in Ohio governor's race

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *15:05 EDT*

US Vice President JD Vance on Wednesday defended an explosive attack ad by Republican Vivek Ramaswamy’s campaign against his Democratic rival in the Ohio governor’s race, telling fellow Republicans to "stop whining" about it and go win the race. The ad features Democrat Amy Acton’s estranged mother, Donna Arthur, disputing Acton’s...

~~Trump praises Ramaswamy ad as some GOP critics speak out~~

Trump calls the Acton ad "hitting pay dirt"

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *21:00 EDT*

"Who wouldn't use such an Ad?" President Trump wrote. "I would, it's called, 'hitting pay dirt.'"

~~Iowa GOP candidate's criticism of Ramaswamy ad puts her at odds with Trump~~

Ramaswamy's ad features his opponent's estranged mother, not her record

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *19:42 EDT*

Iowa GOP Senate candidate Ashley Hinson strongly condemned Ohio GOP governor candidate Vivek Ramaswamy for his ad featuring opponent Amy Acton's estranged mother.

· 'Pathetic Excuse for a Man': Ramaswamy Slammed Over Ad Featuring Acton’s Estranged Mother in Ohio *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Ohio governor’s race takes ugly turn with viral video featuring Acton’s mother *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Acton responds to ad, says personal attacks 'a lifelong pattern' for Ramaswamy *from the morgue, 20 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 calls for Omar's ouster over a 'fake name' that federal investigators already built into her salary probe.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

“Trump says it’s ‘not looking good’ for Ilhan Omar — suggests she should be forced out of Congress for using ‘fake name’”, 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told an Iowa rally Omar used a "fake name" and should resign from Congress.

WHO GETS PAID. Senate Republicans, who now cite the outcry over her probe as proof against any future probe of their own.

WHAT SLIPS. The line between a campaign speech and a federal investigation disappears, since both now run on the same unproven theory.

WHAT'S NEXT. The financial-disclosure probe stays open with no hearing date in the record, and the paperwork question raised at the raid has not been closed either.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Call it the paper trail. On a Monday in October, federal immigration agents searched Ilhan Omar's Washington home over a document filled out in the 1990s — immigration paperwork, completed by her late father when she was a child — CBS News reported October 12. Two days later, Democracy Now! covered the same search under a different name for the agents, Homeland Security, and quoted Minnesota state senator Zaynab Mohamed calling it "bogus."

By October 20, the Guardian was measuring something past the paperwork itself: the president's obsession with the congresswoman, the paper wrote, had "reached a dangerous new level," citing his own description of Omar as "unpatriotic" and "disrespectful ... to Israel."...

...(cont) On October 22, the New York Post put a dollar sign on the file. Investigators had folded the paperwork's name question into a financial-disclosure probe of the salary Omar draws in Congress: $174,000. The same day's Post described the original search as "the FBI raid" — a third name for the agents on one Monday search already filed, by two other outlets, under immigration agents and Homeland Security. Same door, three letterheads.

That edition of the Post also asked why Omar, after a week of public silence about the raid, had surfaced only to ask supporters for money. "Very suspicious," the headline called it, with no number raised and no form filed against it to check.

The next day, October 23, at a rally in Iowa, the president said out loud what the filings had been carrying quietly. "She used a fake name to be sworn in," he told the crowd. "I assume she must immediately have to resign from Congress." It was, he said, "not looking good" for her. He was not breaking news. The theory was already sitting inside a federal probe of her disclosure forms before he said a word of it onstage.

Senate Republicans read her promise, and the Democratic objections to the Omar probe, as one exhibit: proof, they said, that "lawfare" is coming for them next.

The paperwork says one name, hon. The rally gives another reason to use it. The salary stays $174,000, under review, until the file gets a case number or a close date — whichever the record shows first.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

Federal agents searched a congresswoman's home over her dead father's decades-old paperwork, and by week's end that same name question was sitting inside a probe of her $174,000 salary. That is not a disclosure review, it is a payroll audit aimed at the one line item they can still touch: her name. Because a name on an old form can now stall a sitting member's paycheck, a payroll office somewhere just inherited the same authority on a smaller file, and the next name flagged as wrong will not belong to a member of Congress — it will be the one typed on your own paycheck stub, held for review the week before rent is due.

“They raided a woman's house over a form her dead father filled out, and three different outlets can't even agree whose agents did it — immigration, Homeland Security, the FBI, pick a letterhead, it's the same door. Then the top of the ticket gets on stage in Iowa and announces her name's fake like he just found a loose thread, when his own government's paperwork already pulled it. That's not two things happening the same week — that's one script, and everybody downstream is just reading their assigned line off it.”

— Sal

“Look, if there's a legitimate question about the name on a sworn oath, you investigate — that's due diligence, not persecution, full stop. The timing of the rally and the probe landing the same week? Coincidental, Congress has a calendar, the campaign has a calendar, they overlap sometimes. And when Democrats call this "lawfare" — wait, no, that's our word for what they do. Strike that. I didn't say lawfare, I said oversight. Right. Oversight.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *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 sue 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
— *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

THE RECEIPTS

~~Trump says it’s ‘not looking good’ for Ilhan Omar — suggests she should be forced out of Congress for using ‘fake name’~~

Trump demands Congress remove an elected lawmaker over his own unproven claim

New York Post RIGHT § *00:00 EDT*

“She used a fake name to be sworn in,” Trump asserted at a rally in Iowa. “I assume she must immediately have to resign from Congress.”

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)*

Hypocrite Democrats shriek at Ilhan Omar probe — while vowing lawfare on the GOP

New York Post RIGHT § *19:40 EDT*

Sen. Elissa Slotkin's promise of an explicit witch hunt against anyone serving in a Republican administration reveals Democrats’ dystopian view of the rule of law.

~~Why you should be VERY suspicious of Ilhan Omar’s latest plea for cash~~

FBI raided a sitting congresswoman’s home a week before she asked for donations

New York Post RIGHT § *19:48 EDT*

Wow: After a week of silence about the FBI raid on her DC home, Rep. Ilhan Omar surfaced . .

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

Democracy Now! § *08:41 EDT*

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

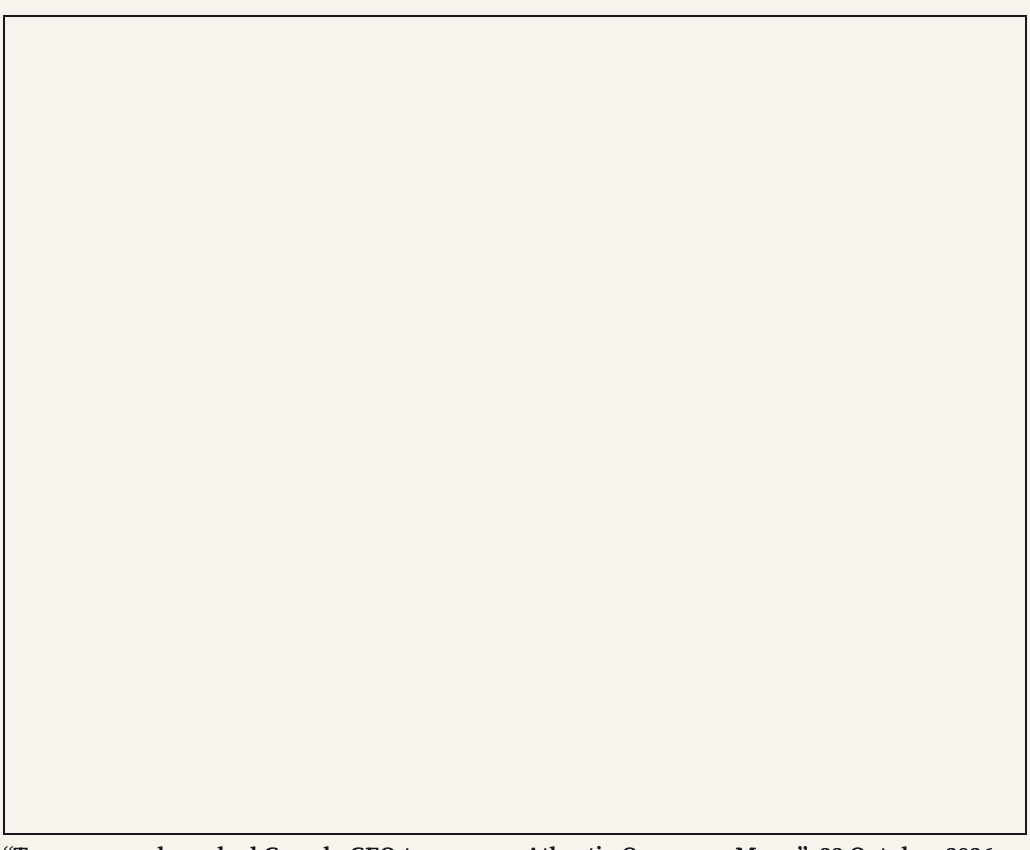
· Trump’s obsession with Ilhan Omar has reached a dangerous new level *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Federal probe into Rep. Ilhan Omar centers on her childhood immigration paperwork, sources say *from the morgue, 12 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.

Google renames a lake and a gulf for Trump, declines to rename the ocean too.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK



"Trump says he asked Google CEO to rename Atlantic Ocean on Maps", 22 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump asked Google's CEO to rename the Atlantic Ocean after himself or America, and was refused.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing or vote is scheduled next. Google already renamed Lake Ontario 'Lake America' after an August executive order, and renamed the Gulf of Mexico the 'Gulf of America' before that, so the Atlantic request is the first the company has refused.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

This week the President of the United States telephoned the chief executive of Google and asked whether the company could rename the Atlantic Ocean after him, or failing that after America. For the first time in this particular recipe, the answer that came back was no.

You will need a map, which in America increasingly means a telephone; a lake and a gulf already relabelled; an executive order with the president's own signature on it; and two technology companies that have, until now, done as they were told....

CLIVE *Relabelled. That is exactly what I am doing to the verse the critics called unfinished, and I expect the same courtesy afforded to a lake.*

Begin with the lake. In August, Google changed Lake Ontario to 'Lake America' on its American maps, after the president signed the order; the company called the change procedural, pointing to the government's own register of geographic names.

GARY *Procedural. I called the boiler broken in March and nobody at this table called that procedure, they called it Tuesday and left it to me.*

Google had already renamed the Gulf of Mexico the 'Gulf of America' at the president's request before this week's phone call. In September, Apple Maps followed Google's lead on the lake as well.

ROB *Followed. We've all followed something this year, the meter, the damp, the rota, and none of us signed an order about it.*

In October, at a rally in Tennessee, the president said he was thinking of renaming the Atlantic or the Pacific. This week, at a rally in South Carolina, he said he had telephoned Google's Sundar Pichai to ask whether the company could, in his word, 'handle' calling the Atlantic the 'American Ocean.' Turn the order over and look underneath: the lake is still the same water it was before anyone signed anything.

RTÉ, which is Ireland's broadcaster, has it as 'Trump says he asked Google Maps to rename Atlantic Ocean.' The Guardian printed the same request. At home, what he asked Google to call it was the 'American Ocean.'

You will be looking for the part where Google's answer changes anything on the water itself; there is no such part. The request went back in the pan: Pichai said no, and the Atlantic kept its name.

CLIVE *Named. The lake got a name, the gulf got a name. I have been asking for a byline for four years and apparently all it takes is an order.*

This one serves the president a headline and Google a refusal, after twice saying yes before. Nobody pays a fine for any of it; the Atlantic keeps the name it already had.

KEITH *There's an angle in that refusal. Bottled water, 'Atlantic Ocean, Unrenamed,' I could have it in shops by Thursday.*

"Google renamed a lake and a gulf the second he asked, and the one time it says no is the one body of water too big to slap his name on at the border. That's the tell: it was never about geography, it's about which map obeys the guy with the pen. Today a gulf, tomorrow an ocean, and the only thing between your hometown and "America" is whether Google's lawyers think they can get away with it."

— Sal

"Look, a president suggesting a name isn't a demand, it's a conversation — okay, it was Lake Ontario and the Gulf of Mexico too, but those are domestic, the Atlantic touches other countries, you can't just — did I say "just"? The point is Google said no, so the system worked, checks and balances, Big Tech can tell the president no whenever it wants, which is exactly the kind of power we should be worried about, wait."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Trump says he asked Google CEO to rename Atlantic Ocean on Maps

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:27 EDT*

Tech company previously complied with president's demand to rename Gulf of Mexico as Gulf of America Donald Trump said Google rejected his request to rename the Atlantic Ocean after himself or America. Speaking at a rally in South Carolina on Wednesday, the president said he had called Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai, to ask whether the...

Trump says he asked Google Maps to rename Atlantic Ocean

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *16:18 EDT*

US President Donald Trump has said that Google CEO Sundar Pichai turned down his request to rename the Atlantic Ocean the "American Ocean".

· Apple Maps follows Google in adopting Trump's 'Lake America' rebrand *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· 'Embarrassing': Google Maps Renames 'Lake Ontario' as 'Lake America' in US *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· Trump 'thinking of' renaming Atlantic or Pacific *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

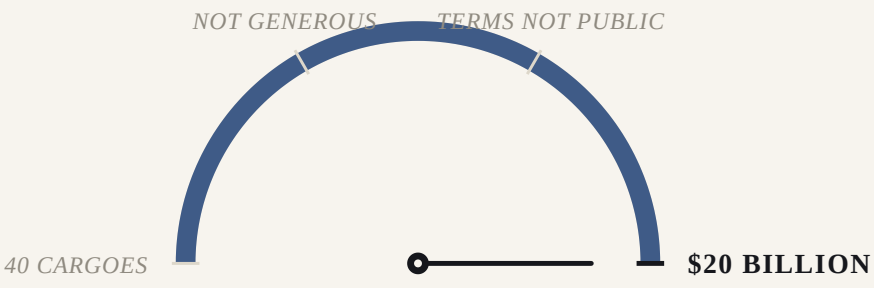
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§69 — 22 OCTOBER 2026

On America First

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$20 BILLION

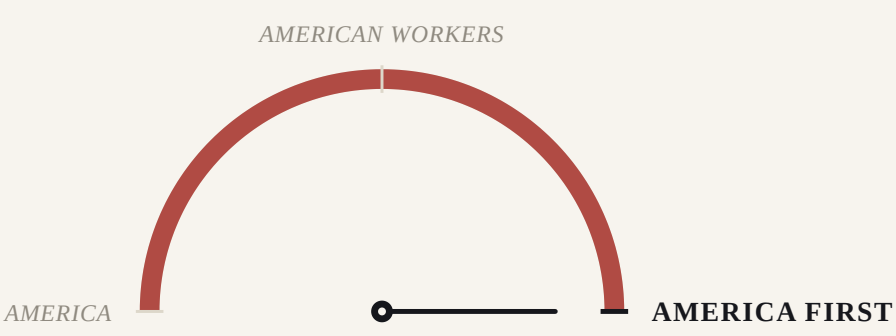
The same weeks. On September 30, 2025, the minority members of the Senate Banking Committee wrote that "Chinese buyers have reportedly purchased up to 40 cargoes of soybeans from Argentina in just one week," and that China "has purchased no U.S. soybeans since May" [1]. Nine days later the $20 billion line was announced; the Congressional Research Service noted at year's end that its terms "are not public" [2].

Then the condition. At a White House lunch with Argentina's president on October 14, ahead of the country's October 26 midterm: "If he loses, we are not going to be generous with Argentina." And: "We're not going to let somebody get into office and squander the taxpayer money from this country" [3]. Three months earlier the country's own foreign aid agency had been closed, folded into the State Department on July 1 [4]. America First, with a swap line for a foreign election.

SOURCES

1. "Chinese buyers have reportedly purchased up to 40 cargoes of soybeans from Argentina in just one week"; China "has purchased no U.S. soybeans since May" — Senate Banking Committee minority letter, 30 September 2025 ↑
2. The swap line's terms "are not public" — Congressional Research Service, R48780, 30 December 2025 ↑
3. "If he loses, we are not going to be generous with Argentina"; "We're not going to let somebody get into office and squander the taxpayer money from this country" — NBC News, 14 October 2025 ↑
4. USAID officially closed on 1 July 2025 — Donor Tracker ↑

REPUBLICAN



AMERICA FIRST

The promise, from the second inaugural: "During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first" [1]. The hardest test of it came in October 2025, when the Treasury opened a $20 billion currency swap line for Argentina through the Exchange Stabilization Fund [2].

And the defense of that test is real. In January the Treasury secretary said Argentina had "quickly and fully repaid its limited draw," calling it "making tens of millions in profit for Americans — an America First homerun deal" [3]. A loan that comes back with a return is a loan the country does not lose. If the measure of America First is whether American money came home, this one did. What was happening in the same weeks is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first" — second inaugural address, transcript — PBS NewsHour, 20 January 2025 ↑
2. A $20 billion swap line through the Exchange Stabilization Fund, announced 9 October 2025; its terms "are not public" — Congressional Research Service, R48780, 30 December 2025 ↑
3. Argentina "quickly and fully repaid its limited draw"; "making tens of millions in profit for Americans – is an America First homerun deal" — Fortune, 9 January 2026 ↑

“I came about something else — a letter from the Senate Banking Committee, the minority side, dated the end of September last year. It says Chinese buyers "reportedly purchased up to 40 cargoes of soybeans from Argentina in just one week," and China "has purchased no U.S. soybeans since May." Then, nine days later, a twenty-billion-dollar swap line from our Treasury to Argentina's. Then at lunch at the White House: "If he loses, we are not going to be generous." Excuse me, I'm going. The week the line was opened, whose soybeans were on the boats to China?” — Lou

🍺

“"America First." Then a twenty-billion-dollar swap line for Argentina, a few days after a Senate letter said Chinese buyers had taken up to forty cargoes of Argentine soybeans in a week and no American beans since May. At a lunch with Argentina's president he said that if that party lost the election, "we are not going to be generous." The Treasury says it got paid back with a profit, and good for the Treasury. America first. Argentina, first in line.”

— Sal

🚬

“America First means America goes first, and sometimes going first means extending the credit, and the credit came back with interest, so America went first twice — which, if anything, is more first than the slogan promised.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎