FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

Dream, Valkyries complete fourth straight Finals game without the anthem their own league's rulebook requires.



PHOTO: FOX NEWS

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

This reporter is off the air for thirty more seconds, so hear this plainly: the President of the United States is personally urging the public to boycott a women's professional basketball league over a national anthem its players have skipped four games running. This reporter covers jump balls, not the Bill of Rights, and respectfully requests the political desk take this one.

... Continued on Page S19

AIPAC spends midterm millions under the name of women's health; the law was built to allow it

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

The money is not hidden. Hidden would be a scandal, and there is no scandal in this. It is on file, every dollar of it, with the Federal Election Commission — on file under a name that has nothing to do with the people who sent it.

... Continued on Page F126

THE WORD

§71 — 24 OCTOBER 2026

On windmills

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
80 PERCENT BUILT · 18.2 CENTS · 10.5 PERCENT · 1.7 BILLION	THE BIRDS · CANCER · THE NOISE · WINDMILLS
1.7 BILLION	*WINDMILLS*

... Continued on Page W71

Musk admits the throttle he blamed on Washington was his own, the same day service was restored.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Elon Musk said this week that SpaceX throttled Ukraine's Starlink speeds itself, over drone strikes, ending ten days in which the company let the government that funds the terminals take the blame.

... Continued on Page B44

THE INTERVENTIONS

Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification only if the Republican loses; the election is ten days away.

BY LOU
One More Question

The complaint that came out of Washington on Friday is careful work, and I want to say that before I get into the rest of it. The argument inside it is a decent argument, too. A voter walks in, looks down at the Senate line, and there are two men named Dan Sullivan sitting one above the other. That could turn a person around. I have pulled the wrong socket out of my own toolbox with the number stamped on the side of it. Somebody in that building sat and thought about a person standing at a booth with a pen, and that is more thought than I expected out of the week.

Then there is the condition.

... Continued on Page B44

THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Atlanta Dream and Golden State Valkyries skipped the national anthem before a fourth WNBA Finals game.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The WNBA's own enforcement of its anthem rule slips, unchallenged for four games running.

WHAT'S NEXT. No pattern in the record covers a president's sports-league boycott call; the record stops at today's fourth skipped anthem, October 24, 2026.

On Dream, Valkyries complete fourth straight Finals game without the anthem their own league's rulebook requires. — the column, by Gus. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

Trump builds a midterm argument on a French arrest count that changes sevenfold within the same report



PHOTO: FOX NEWS

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 17th, demonstrators filled roughly 140 French cities.

By the next day, Morning Star had the receipt: police had arrested at least 1,800 people nationwide after clashes and looting. The same Sunday, the

... Continued on Page F126

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUED TO BLOCK ALASKA'S CERTIFICATION IF the Republican loses, told California counties to set aside ballots it calls likely noncitizen, asked a court to halt that count, and in October dropped the bodies that investigate real threats to elections. That is not election security, that is a turnstile with a federal lawyer standing at one exit and waving the other side through. Because a count can now be frozen wherever the result comes out wrong, your vote stops being a vote on election night and becomes a filing that waits on a judge, and that is the ballot envelope on your hall table with your own name printed on the flap.

On Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification only if the Republican loses; the election is ten days away. *— the column, by Lou*

SOURCED OR SILENT

Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.

Taken aback voters blame billionaires, Republicans make no case for the economy.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 15, a Harris poll asked key voting groups — independents, rural voters, and some Republicans — how the economy is doing. Nearly 61 percent filed the country under recession. Sixty-five percent of independents called it worse than a year ago.

Three days later, on October 18, Republican operatives learned who those voters hold responsible. A CNN report, relayed by Common Dreams, said the operatives were "taken aback": the rural voters the party has counted on for a generation are not blaming Democrats for the economy. They are blaming billionaires.

... Continued on Page F126

PULL UP A STOOL

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

Trump priced Congress at $5,000, paid $90, his own voters are not buying the rest.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Here's how the file runs, in order, dollar by dollar.

In September, at the Republican midterm convention in Dallas, the president priced a Republican Congress at five thousand dollars a head — every adult citizen, paid out, if the party held both chambers of Congress past November.

In October, the first installment cleared: ninety dollars, drawn from a Medicare improvement fund the president has called a pointless slush fund. No date has been set for the other four thousand nine hundred and ten dollars.

Run that against the promise and the gap sits in plain numbers: one dollar delivered for every fifty-six promised, one point eight

... Continued on Page F126

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE RESCUE IS A LOAN

Chapter 1: Thirty-Five Dollars

Find the book. You know the one: it went under the passenger seat in March, or into a beach bag, or into the house of a friend who has since moved, and it belongs to the Austin Public Library, and the Austin Public Library would like it back. Austin abolished overdue fines in February 2022, so nobody is charging you a dime a day. What the city does instead is quieter. At twenty-eight days the book becomes, in the

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

THE FINANCING

Alaska pipeline got a podium, then a waiver, then a Russian financier, then a seat in peace talks

BY MITCH
Investigations

On September 30th, the president stood in front of a map of Alaska and introduced a $54 billion piece of a $200 billion deal — a gas pipeline, eight nuclear plants, a power grid — with Senator Dan Sullivan placed at center stage and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick beside him. All together now: read the backdrop, not the speech. The financing behind the U.S. firm folded into that pipeline went unannounced from the podium — not a name missing from a list, a line item missing from the ledger.

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"I was saved by God to make America great again."

— DONALD TRUMP, SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS, 20 JANUARY 2025

"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

WANTED Mental health care, to blame for the guns. *Funded by no one. Apply to SAMHSA, currently closed.* — **Classifieds**

WANTED A war that ends in twenty-four hours. Have attempted fifty-three times. *Will keep the promise, not the peace.* — **Classifieds**

WANTED Someone to define "groceries." Old-fashioned word. *It's a bag with different things in it, apparently.* — **Classifieds**

"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

AIPAC spends midterm millions under the name of women's health; the law was built to allow it

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE LEVER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The money is not hidden. Hidden would be a scandal, and there is no scandal in this. It is on file, every dollar of it, with the Federal Election Commission — on file under a name that has nothing to do with the people who sent it. The Lever traced the route today: millions from AIPAC arriving through committees branded around women, reproductive rights, Latino candidates. Nothing was concealed. Something was renamed.

Do note what the law actually asks for. The line at the foot of an advertisement naming who paid is a disclaimer, and what it must give you is the committee that spent, never the interest that wanted it spent. A committee may be called anything at all. That is not a gap in the drafting. That is the drafting....

...(cont) And it travels handsomely. The Lever reports AI interests and other power brokers taking up the same structure.

On the twelfth of October the Times, working from Commission filings, put Musk at $276 million since July — to Republican groups, to his own committee — and could arrive at a figure at all because a donor's name rides along with the donation. One number, countable. Here ... there is no number. The Commission holds one name. You are shown the other.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE LEVER TRACED MILLIONS FROM AIPAC INTO MIDTERM COMMITTEES BRANDED AROUND WOMEN, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND LATINO CANDIDATES, AND THE FILINGS SIT WITH THE Federal Election Commission without a rule broken. That is not a donation, that is a lease on somebody else's good name, signed by people who will never have to appear on the flyer. Because the name is leased, the mailer that lands in your hand says women's health; because the mailer says women's health, you mark the oval; and the only piece of paper in the whole arrangement carrying a name anyone can check is the ballot envelope you signed yourself and dropped in the box.

At the thaw, the prints were a dog's. The farmer fed the dog.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They're not sneaking around — they're filing the paperwork, and the paperwork lets them put a women's-health label on an Israel-lobby check. Musk at least got counted: $276 million since July, right there in the filings, because the Times could add up his name. Nobody's adding up this one, and you're supposed to walk into a booth and decide who's asking you for your vote."
— Sal

"It's a coalition. Coalitions are legal, everything's disclosed with the FEC, you can look it up yourself — did I say look it up? I'm saying there's nothing to look up. And if we're doing spending, maybe ask about the $276 million since July on the other side, which, I'm not saying anybody did anything there either."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name

The Lever ✧ *14:01 EDT*

A Lever investigation traces how the Israel lobby is routing millions through groups promoting women, reproductive rights, and Latino candidates — and how AI interests and other power brokers are adopting the strategy.

· Elon Musk's 'Absolutely Insane' $276 Million Midterm Spending Exposed in New Report *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· 'Take the Open Shot': Democrats Rebuked for Refusing to Target Elon Musk Over $100 Million Midterm Spending Spree *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.

Musk admits the throttle he blamed on Washington was his own, the same day service was restored.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Ukraine says Starlink satellite access is fully back after weeklong disruption", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. SpaceX's owner admits his company throttled Ukraine's battlefield internet itself, blaming drone strikes.

WHO GETS PAID. SpaceX, the single contractor running Ukraine's wartime internet, keeps sole control of it.

WHAT SLIPS. Ukraine's government and the public have no way to check who controls their wartime internet, or when it gets turned down.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing or independent review of the decision has been scheduled; the next proof of who holds the switch comes only if the service goes dark again.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Elon Musk said this week that SpaceX throttled Ukraine's Starlink speeds itself, over drone strikes, ending ten days in which the company let the government that funds the terminals take the blame.

The cap began October 14, the same day the Trump administration was pressing Ukraine to stop hitting Russian oil refineries; The Guardian reported Ukraine's military access to Starlink had been suddenly restricted, no explanation given. Common Dreams, writing the same day, pressed the question that would sit unanswered for a week: what it costs a country to run its war on a network it does not own....

...(cont) On October 15, Russian strikes hit while the outage was still being worked; NBC reported Ukrainian officials blaming Musk's restrictions for drones losing connection in flight, and Musk, in the same report, pointing at Trump. Each side had an alibi. The drones still lost signal.

On October 19, Zelenskyy said Washington gave no warning before Russian strikes hit Kyiv's power plants — a different system, the same silence. Moscow grounded flights again.

By October 24, Starlink and Starshield were both back at full speed. That is the day Musk told CBS the slowdown had been SpaceX's own decision, made over drone strikes — not Washington's policy, not a technical fault, a choice with an author, named at last by the man who made it. By the time the admission arrived, the drones were already flying at full speed again; the week of mutual blame had already been spent, and nothing in the record says it cost the company anything to spend it.

A communications network one company can turn down without notice and turn back up without explanation was never a utility. It was a leash, and the week showed whose hand was on it. The fix, once it came, was the easiest kind: flip the switch back. The restriction itself had only ever been bunk.

In lieu of flowers, Congress should require any contractor supplying wartime infrastructure to disclose, in writing and before the fact, who holds the authority to restrict it.

"Musk spent a week letting the Pentagon and the White House eat the blame for a switch only he could flip, and the minute he admitted it, the story was already over because the drones were already back online. That's the con: own the leash, let somebody else wear the collar in public, confess only after the receipt can't be used for anything. Ukraine's whole air war ran through one guy's mood for ten days, and nobody in Washington made him explain that before it happened."
— Sal

"Look, the man runs a company, companies make engineering calls, this is not complicated — drone strikes, bandwidth, you throttle to manage load, that's just — okay, "manage load" during an active war is maybe not the phrase I want. The point is he said so himself, voluntarily, which is accountability, technically, eventually. Did I say "eventually"? That's not the word I meant to land on."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Musk blamed Washington for the Starlink slowdown he ordered, then restored it the day the public noticed.* By Mort · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Sixth officer charged with misusing Flock cameras since the bill to defund them reached committee.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026
- *Trump's fourth fuel rescue of the fall ships via tanker that arrives after Americans already voted* By Ruth · the morning edition, 23 October 2026
- *Trump's fourth wartime-statute invocation this fall: $150 million for diesel, after a donor's $6.6 billion shipyard* By Sterling · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- *Musk's Starlink block survives the president's announcement that it was lifted* By Mort · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Ukraine says Starlink satellite access is fully back after weeklong disruption

ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *17:57 EDT*

Ukrainian officials said speed restrictions on Starlink and Starshield that hampered military operations have been lifted.

~~Starshield systems unlocked in Ukraine after uproar about military restrictions~~

Ukraine's wartime satellites answer to a private company, not Kyiv

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *09:40 EDT*

Ukraine announced Saturday that it has regained full use of its Starshield system, more than a week after the military system appeared to be mysteriously restricted for use in the country. Starshield is the military version of Starlink, the communications satellite system developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX, that Ukraine relies on to boost...

Ukraine says Starlink is back to normal after disruptions

NPR | MAINSTREAM | *13:54 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that normal Starlink operating speeds were restored after more than a week of disruptions.

~~Ukraine's Starlink, Starshield back at full power after Elon Musk and White House blame game~~

SpaceX throttled Ukraine's war communications for days

New York Post | RIGHT | *13:33 EDT*

SpaceX's Starlink and Starshield are fully operational in Ukraine after days of throttling that capped communications at speeds over 100 mph.

Elon Musk says SpaceX throttled Ukraine Starlink speeds over drone strikes

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *17:23 EDT*

SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink internet service has become the backbone of Ukraine's drone operations.

· Ukrainian military's access to Starlink satellite internet suddenly restricted *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 Blames Elon Musk for Internet Outage Amid Russian Strike *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

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THE INTERVENTIONS

Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification only if the Republican loses; the election is ten days away.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Bot

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

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Dan Sullivan, who keeps the seat while the certification is frozen, and the president who ordered the suit filed.

WHAT SLIPS. Saying who won moves from Alaska's canvassers and its voters to a federal judge, before the counting is done.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the suit is filed, the fight outlasts the election. That is what Washington got after 25 March 2025: parts of the president's election order were blocked within thirty days, and its mail-deadline rules were not permanently blocked until fifteen months later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The complaint that came out of Washington on Friday is careful work, and I want to say that before I get into the rest of it. The argument inside it is a decent argument, too. A voter walks in, looks down at the Senate line, and there are two men named Dan Sullivan sitting one above the other. That could turn a person around. I have pulled the wrong socket out of my own toolbox with the number stamped on the side of it. Somebody in that building sat and thought about a person standing at a booth with a pen, and that is more thought than I expected out of the week.

Then there is the condition....

...(cont) The suit asks a court to stop Alaska from certifying its Senate race if Senator Dan Sullivan loses to Mary Peltola. Not if a count comes back crooked. Not if the confusion turns up in the numbers somewhere. If the Republican loses. The president said Friday he had instructed his administration to file it, and it goes in before the counting, with the election less than two weeks out.

I wrote this down Friday because I wanted the words in the right order, and — hold on, it is back here under a phone number — ah. Here it is. The Attorney General said the Department would not "improperly" block any state's certification. That is one word carrying a great deal of freight in a short sentence.

Here is the part I keep turning over. The president said Friday that two Republicans with similar names are on that ballot. A columnist said on Fox Business the same day that Democrats put up a guy named Dan Sullivan with a different middle name to confuse voters. Same ballot, same afternoon, two sides of the same aisle. Can both of those be a description of one ballot?

Nine days before the Alaska filing, the same Department sued California over alleged noncitizen voting, told every county to set aside the ballots it considers "likely noncitizen," and asked a federal court to halt the count. In Los Angeles County that is twenty thousand ballots pulled out of the pile before anybody finishes going through it. Out in my garage there is a coffee can of bolts I inherited with the house, and no thread gauge anywhere in the place — it went out with the car that needed the fan belt. So I eyeball them. The ones that look metric go in a second can, the second can goes up on the shelf, and the shelf is now, I tell myself, sorted. Not one bolt has been measured. When a county sets aside the likely ones, what is it holding them up against? Of those twenty thousand, how many has anyone shown to be what the letter says they are likely to be?

The Department has been told about this once already. On 10 September a federal appeals court blocked an earlier push on mail voting and called it likely unlawful. And on 1 October, in the middle of all this filing, former officials told the Guardian the administration had walked away from the security bodies meant to investigate foreign actors and domestic terrorists going after our elections, while it chased unverified claims of noncitizen fraud. Five days later, the Guardian reported, election deniers were back on friendly television with fresh warnings about ballot security.

Oh — one more thing before you lock up, and then I am out of your hair. There is a person in this file who was actually convicted of breaching a voting system, a system she swore to protect. Tina Peters served under two years for it. The president has gone to extraordinary lengths for her. In September a conservative California county north of Sacramento offered her the job of running its elections, and her would-be boss said she turned it down because she is running around the country securing elections. California is the state whose count this Department wants halted. I am sorry to drag that word back out — I only meant to use it the once. Does the Attorney General's sentence say which of this month's filings he would file under improperly?

♦ FROM THE CORNER ♦
DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUED TO BLOCK ALASKA'S CERTIFICATION IF THE REPUBLICAN LOSES, TOLD CALIFORNIA COUNTIES TO SET ASIDE BALLOTS IT CALLS LIKELY NONCITIZEN, asked a court to halt that count, and in October dropped the bodies that investigate real threats to elections. That is not election security, that is a turnstile with a federal lawyer standing at one exit and waving the other side through. Because a count can now be frozen wherever the result comes out wrong, your vote stops being a vote on election night and becomes a filing that waits on a judge, and that is the ballot envelope on your hall table with your own name printed on the flap.

"They told you the worry was confused voters, and then they wrote the lawsuit so it only fires if the Republican loses — a ballot that is fine one way and a federal case the other. Same month, they walked away from the people who chase the actual threats to our elections and kept championing the one official in the whole file convicted of breaching a voting system. Ten days out, that is not security, that is a man building himself a lane where only his results get certified, and your ballot is the thing sitting in the other lane."
— *Sal*

"Look, two Dan Sullivans on one ballot, that is confusing, anybody would say that — I am not saying stop the count, did I say stop the count? That does not sound like me. The certification piece is conditional, it is conditional, it only comes up in the one scenario, which — no, that is not what that means, that is a procedural safeguard, and anyway California is a separate matter entirely, I would not connect them, you are the one connecting them."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department vows not to improperly block any election, tries to block three this month.* By Lou · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department demands verification for ballots it is also asking a federal court to stop counting.* By Lou · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

~~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 | *16:15 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.

~~The controversy surrounding convicted former election official Tina Peters~~

Trump went to extraordinary lengths for an election official convicted of breaching the vote she swore to protect

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *17:23 EDT*

President Trump has gone to extraordinary lengths for Tina Peters, a former Colorado election official convicted for helping to breach the very voting system she swore to protect. Peters served less than two years in prison for crimes related to breaching voting system security. She maintains she was trying to show flaws in the system.

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

Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race

France 24 | MAINSTREAM | *07:40 EDT*

US President Donald Trump said Friday that he had instructed his administration to file a lawsuit to block the certification of the US Senate race in Alaska if Republican Senator Dan Sullivan loses, arguing that voters would be confused because two Republicans on the ballot have similar names. The legal battle is ramping up questions...

Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt': Joe Concha

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *10:49 EDT*

Washington Examiner columnist Joe Concha slammed Democrats in Alaska over voter corruption, saying they "put up a guy named Dan Sullivan" with a different middle name to "confuse" voters.

But: In special elections, Democrats have retained 10 points more of their previous turnout than Republicans *Ballotpedia, 26 February 2026*

Donald Trump challenges Alaska Senate trace

France 24 | MAINSTREAM | *07:42 EDT*

With the US midterm elections less than two weeks away, concerns are growing over whether President Donald Trump would accept a major Republican defeat. Trump has called for legal action to block the certification of Alaska's Senate race if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan loses to his Democratic challenger, Mary Peltola, arguing that...

Alaska Election Gambit Shows Justice Dept. Has Bowed to Trump's Demands

The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *15:21 EDT*

With moves in Alaska and California, the department has stepped up interventions in the midterm elections as the president's instrument of unmediated executive power.

· Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Tina Peters turns down job with California county's registrar of voters *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Election deniers stoke Trump-driven ballot security fears before midterms *from the morgue, 6 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 builds a midterm argument on a French arrest count that changes sevenfold within the same report

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Nearly 1,000 arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors: officials", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told France to close its borders and used its riots in his own midterm immigration pitch.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's ability to check the facts slips, since the same police operation got three different arrest counts from two outlets.

WHAT'S NEXT. If unverified figures keep anchoring big claims unchallenged, that is what happened in Washington on 19 February 2025, when a federal savings claim was corrected after a contract's value was overstated a thousandfold.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 17th, demonstrators filled roughly 140 French cities.

By the next day, Morning Star had the receipt: police had arrested at least 1,800 people nationwide after clashes and looting. The same Sunday, the Washington Examiner reported, President Trump told France to "close your borders" to "people with hatred in their hearts," posting "France is burning!" on Truth Social as the 1,800-arrest count came in....

...(cont) None of that stopped the argument from shipping. Trump's team was already showing French riot footage at his own midterm rallies, timed to a reported record-low approval rating at home.

That home front got louder this week. His former campaign manager, Bill Stepien, told CNN the midterms look "ugly" for the party he used to run. The New York Post, the same day, described "nearly 800 protests" aimed at ousting Macron. And the policing numbers that are supposed to anchor all of it stopped agreeing with themselves. Fox News filed two separate dispatches on Saturday's crackdown, both citing Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez, both about the identical operation: one said 135 arrests, the other said nearly 1,000. CBS, reporting independently the same day, put the figure at "more than 1,000" — higher than either of Fox's own numbers, a third tally for one minister's one afternoon of policing.

A French AI executive, quoted by Fox, called the unrest the "dead end of socialism." Maybe. What the filing actually shows, hon, is a government that cannot reconcile its own arrest log by Saturday night, being cited across an ocean as the finished case for an American border policy. The receipts didn't settle before the argument did.

"He's borrowing a riot from a government that can't count its own arrests the same way twice in one afternoon, and running it as Exhibit A for closing American borders. His own former campaign manager is on CNN this week calling the midterms "ugly" — the import business is covering for the inventory problem back home. When the evidence wobbles sevenfold and the argument still ships anyway, that's not a riot story. That's a sales pitch."
— Sal

"A minister updating arrest numbers mid-operation isn't a cover-up, that's called working in real time, people. A hundred thirty-five or nearly a thousand, the headline's the same either way: France is burning, exactly like the President said on day one. Although if the count swings sevenfold before lunch — did I just say that?"
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Fox runs 'networks call riots peaceful' story twice, each time beside networks' own tear-gas footage.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 24 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Nearly 1,000 arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors: officials~~

France deployed 70,000 police to arrest under 1,000 protesters
Fox News RIGHT · *13:51 EDT*

French Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez says nearly 1,000 people were arrested as 70,000 police officers deployed across the country amid nationwide protests.

French CEO warns 'purely chaotic' riots prove the country has reached the 'dead end of socialism'
Fox News RIGHT · *13:22 EDT*

French AI entrepreneur Brivael Le Pogam warns France has reached the "dead end of socialism" as violent protests, looting and chaos spread nationwide.

France on edge: nearly 800 protests as police clash with demonstrators
New York Post RIGHT · *17:28 EDT*

France faces another weekend of civil unrest as left-wing movements try to oust President Emmanuel Macron from office in the upcoming elections.

~~Trump's former campaign manager: GOP ahead of midterms 'It's ugly'~~

Trump's ex-campaign chief blames looming GOP midterm losses on corruption scandals
The Hill MAINSTREAM · *14:55 EDT*

President Trump's former campaign manager is joining a growing list predicting midterm doom for Republicans, highlighting recent allegations of government corruption as a key reason. Bill Stepien, who managed Trump's 2020 campaign and had a stint as White House political director in the president's first term, told CNN's Abby Phillip...

135 people arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors, official says
Fox News RIGHT · *13:51 EDT*

France Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez says 135 people were arrested as 70,000 police officers deployed to clamp down on nationwide protests.

Trump exploits France riots to push false immigration claims ahead of midterms
France 24 MAINSTREAM · *15:28 EDT*

US President Donald Trump and his inner circle are using unrest in France to push unsubstantiated claims blaming the riots on immigration, even showing French protest footage at midterm rallies. But there is no evidence linking immigration to the unrest, and it's prompted French President Emmanuel Macron to accuse world leaders of making...

More than 1,000 arrested in France as protestors and police clash
CBS News MAINSTREAM · *15:48 EDT*

While demonstrations throughout France were largely peaceful, police reported clashes with protesters Saturday evening.

· Trump tells France 'close your borders' as police arrest 1,800 in violent protests *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· French police arrest 1,800 after clashes and looting *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· 'The Government Is Trembling': Protests Erupt in France, Spreading to 140 Cities *from the morgue, 17 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.

Taken aback voters blame billionaires, Republicans make no case for the economy.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"The closing economic pitch Republicans are too scared to make", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Republican operatives privately admitted being taken aback that voters blame billionaires for the economy, not Democrats.

WHO GETS PAID. Billionaires voters blame for the economy get a campaign season with no Republican rebuttal to the charge.

WHAT SLIPS. The economic accounting a closing argument is supposed to give voters before they decide goes missing entirely.

WHAT'S NEXT. No pattern fits this yet; Election Day is ten days away, November 3, and Republicans have filed no economic defense so far.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 15, a Harris poll asked key voting groups — independents, rural voters, and some Republicans — how the economy is doing. Nearly 61 percent filed the country under recession. Sixty-five percent of independents called it worse than a year ago.

Three days later, on October 18, Republican operatives learned who those voters hold responsible. A CNN report, relayed by Common Dreams, said the operatives were "taken aback": the rural voters the party has counted on for a generation are not blaming Democrats for the economy. They are blaming billionaires....

...(cont) Run the filing against the table and the gap has a size. Six days — October 18 to October 24 — sit between that private alarm and the public response it produced. On October 24, the Washington Examiner counted the economic argument Republicans have made for Donald Trump's record since the alarm went off.

The same day, CBS reported that financial stress and the state of the economy rank among the key issues for midterm voters. Grist reported, also on October 24, that Black voters name utility bills, data centers, and pollution as the costs they want relieved now, not later.

Three days before that, on October 21, the United Nations' emissions report found the 1.5-degree target no longer reachable without overshoot, citing decades of insufficient mitigation. The report does not mention utility bills. It mentions decades.

Reconcile the ledger and the shape holds. The voters telling pollsters the economy is bad are the same voters naming billionaires, not the opposition party, as the reason. The candidates who would normally answer that charge have instead filed nothing for six straight days running, in a cycle the Examiner counts as the third in a row.

That is not a messaging gap waiting on a better slogan. That is a column that will not reconcile, and the gap always turns up in the same place: between what a party's own pollsters already know and what its candidates are willing to say out loud before voters decide, hon.

"They poll us, find out we already know who's cashing in, and then show up ten days from Election Day with nothing to say about it. That's not a strategy — that's a guy standing real still hoping you don't look his way. The silence has a price, and it isn't the operatives paying it."
— *Sal*

"You don't need a closing argument when the fundamentals speak for themselves — wait, do they? The fundamentals are — look, the point is we're letting the record speak, and if the record isn't speaking, that's strategic restraint, not a — did I just call six days of silence a strategy? Scratch that."
— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

For Black voters, climate action means little without relief from rising costs
Grist § *09:00 EDT*

Concerns about utility bills, data centers, and pollution show why Black Americans want action from elected officials.

~~The closing economic pitch Republicans are too scared to make~~

Republicans skip Trump's broken promise to erase the debt by now
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *08:03 EDT*

In the final stretch before the midterm elections, President Donald Trump has asked Republicans to vote as though he's on the ballot. But weirdly enough, neither he nor the rest of the GOP has made much of a case for his record at all. And in a third consecutive election where voters insist that their [...]

Economic struggles motivate midterm voters
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:17 EDT*

Financial stress and the state of the economy are key issues for voters. Kelly O'Grady explains more.

~~'We Must Pull Out All the Stops': UN Emissions Report Confirms 1.5°C Target Is Dead~~

UN: Decades of Fossil Fuel Delay Just Killed the 1.5°C Target
Common Dreams § *12:36 EDT*

Over a decade after world leaders adopted the Paris Agreement, United Nations experts warned Wednesday that the climate treaty's goal of limiting global temperature rise this century to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels is no longer achievable without an overshoot—though returning to that threshold remains possible with sweeping action to...

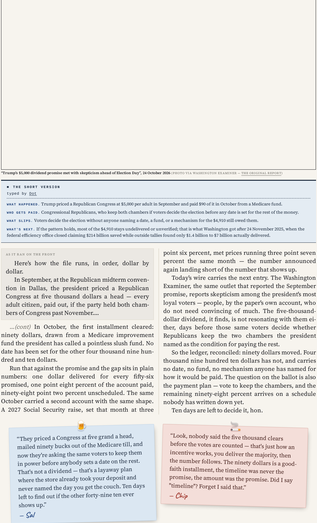
· Key US voters say economy is getting worse ahead of midterms, exclusive poll finds *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· GOP Operatives 'Taken Aback' As Rural Voters Blame Billionaires for Economic Woes: Report *from the morgue, 18 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 priced Congress at $5,000, paid $90, his own voters are not buying the rest.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Trump's $5,000 dividend promise met with skepticism ahead of Election Day", 24 October 2026. PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE CRIMSON ARMORY

THE SHORT VERSION
Typed by Ruth

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump priced a Republican Congress at $5,000 per adult in September and paid $90 of it in October from a Medicare fund.

WHO BETS PICH. Congressional Republicans, who keep both chambers if voters decide the election before any date is set for the rest of the money.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters decide the election without anyone naming a date, a fund, or a mechanism for the $4,910 still owed them.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the partners holds, most of the $4,910 stays underfunded or unenrolled; that is what Washington got after 24 November 2025, when the federal efficiency office closed claiming $24 billion saved while outside tallies found only $1.4 billion to $7 billion actually delivered.

SCOTT ASH ON THE POINT

Here's how the file runs, in order, dollar by dollar.

In September, at the Republican midterm convention in Dallas, the president priced a Republican Congress at five thousand dollars a head — every adult citizen, paid out, if the party held both chambers of Congress past November…

(cont) In October, the first installment cleared: ninety dollars, drawn from a Medicare improvement fund the president has called a pointless slush fund. No date has been set for the other four thousand nine hundred and ten dollars.

Run that against the promise and the gap sits in plain numbers: one dollar delivered for every fifty-six promised, one point eight percent of the amount paid, ninety-eight point two percent unscheduled. The same October carried a second account with the same shape. A 2027 Social Security raise, set that month at three point six percent, met prices running three point seven percent the same month — the number announced again landing short of the number that shows up.

Today's wire carries the next entry. The Washington Examiner, the same outlet that reported the September promise, reports skepticism among the president's most loyal voters — people, by the paper's own account, who do not need convincing of much. The five-thousand-dollar dividend, it finds, is not resonating with them either, days before those same voters decide whether Republicans keep the House, which makes the president named as the condition for paying the rest.

So the ledger, reconciled: ninety dollars moved. Four thousand nine hundred ten dollars has not, and carries no date, no fund, no mechanism anyone has named for how it would be paid. The question on the ballot is also the payment plan — vote to keep the chambers, and the remaining thirty-two percent arrives on a schedule nobody has written down yet.

Ten days are left to decide it, hon.

> "They priced a Congress at five grand a head, mailed ninety bucks out of the Medicare till, and now they're asking the same voters to keep them in power before anybody sets a date on the rest. That's not a dividend — that's a layaway plan where the store already took your deposit and never manned the day you got the couch. Ten days left to find out if the other forty-nine ten ever shows up."
> — *Sal*

> "Look, nobody said the five thousand clears before the votes are counted — that's just how an incentive works, you deliver the majority, then the number follows. The money dollars is a good-faith installment, the timeline was never the promise, the amount was the promise. Did I say "timeline"? Forget I said that."
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Paxton told donors "everybody's numbers are down." Three weeks later, the polls agree.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Trump preemptively blames Corpus for Paxton's Senate loss, two weeks before Texans vote.* By The Ledger's · the afternoon edition, 15 October 2026
- *Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
- *Farmers who backed Trump for a decade turn two weeks before Republicans must defend Congress.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
- *Record-low approval arrives before Vance finishes asking voters for more time.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 16 October 2026
- *Trump's $5,000-a-head arrived as $90 out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, with the other $4,910 due only if Republicans keep both chambers November 3.* By Lou · the evening edition, 14 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump's $5,000 Dividend Promise met with skepticism ahead of Election Day

Even Trump's most loyal voters don't believe his $5,000 promise.

Washington Examiner | REPORT | 07:08 EDT

President Donald Trump's promise to give Americans a $5,000 dividend check if Republicans retain control of Congress after the 2026 elections is not resonating with even his most loyal voters across the country. Trump first made the promise back in September during the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas. The proposal, which...

- Trump's promised $5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump promises $5,000 dividend for every American adult if GOP wins midterm elections *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Social Security COLA set to rise by 3.6 percent in 2027 *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Social Security recipients to get cost of living boost — here's how much more you'll receive each month *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Surging Inflation Complicates Trump's Final Push to Sell Voters on Strong Economy *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- US inflation rose to 3.7% in September, figures show *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Trump promised to lower prices for Americans. Here's what the data shows. *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Here is how much prices for groceries, gas, utilities, and shelter are up under Trump *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Top OpenAI Executive Labels Social Security a 'Fraud' That Must be Dismantled *from the morgue, 24 Aug 2026*
- 'He Thinks Working People Are a Joke': Ken Paxton Floats Social Security Cuts in Leaked Audio *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*
- Trump Says He Wanted to Privatize Social Security 'So Badly' During First Term *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- In Trump's Second Term, Average VA Family Forced to Spend $3,800 More on Essentials *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie Flies 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 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 War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- "Trump Did It": At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

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THE FINANCING

Alaska pipeline got a podium, then a waiver, then a Russian financier, then a seat in peace talks

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"In U.S. Gas Talks With Kremlin, Hidden Financing for Alaska Project Emerges", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Russian energy giant secretly financed the U.S. firm now folded into Trump's Alaska gas pipeline.

WHO GETS PAID. The Russian energy giant that financed the firm gains a seat in the U.S. talks meant to end the war it is fighting.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's chance to learn who financed the pipeline slipped when the administration exempted the project from environmental review eight days after the unveiling.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pipeline's role in the peace talks holds, Congress is unlikely to get a vote on its terms; that is what Congress got after 16 April 2019, when the president vetoed its Yemen withdrawal resolution and support continued 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 30th, the president stood in front of a map of Alaska and introduced a $54 billion piece of a $200 billion deal — a gas pipeline, eight nuclear plants, a power grid — with Senator Dan Sullivan placed at center stage and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick beside him. All together now: read the backdrop, not the speech. The financing behind the U.S. firm folded into that pipeline went unannounced from the podium — not a name missing from a list, a line item missing from the ledger.

Eight days later, on October 8th, the administration exempted winter exploration projects on Alaska's North Slope from environmental review. The Washington Examiner's word for it was "accelerating" — the review outrun by about a week....

...(cont) Today, The New York Times supplies the line item. Documents and interviews show a Russian energy giant secretly financed the U.S. firm now sitting inside the pipeline Trump unveiled beside Sullivan. The same deal, the Times reports, has been discussed in the talks meant to end the war that financier is fighting. Not a rumor passed at a briefing — documents, interviews, on the record, dated this week.

Walk it in order. A company financed a firm. The firm was folded into a pipeline. The pipeline got a podium, a senator, a South Korean investment partner, and eight days to outrun its own environmental review. Then the pipeline turned up in the talks meant to end a war its financier is fighting. Each step sits on its own receipt; none of them needed the others to happen, and all of them did.

What the filing does not say matters as much as what it does. It does not say the financing paid for any war. It does not say the pipeline caused the talks. It says only that the money was never on the backdrop, and the backdrop is where the public was supposed to find out whose name belonged on the project before the bulldozers moved. The review that would have asked that question was waived on October 8th. The disclosure that would have answered it arrived on October 24th, sixteen days later, from a newspaper, not from the agency that granted the waiver.

That is the whole filing: a podium, a waiver, and a receipt, in that order, each one dated.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

A Russian energy giant financed the U.S. firm that is now part of the Alaska gas pipeline Trump unveiled beside Senator Sullivan, and the project cleared environmental review in eight days. That isn't an energy rollout, it's a seat held open at the table for a financier already fighting the war that table is supposed to end. The money stayed off the backdrop so the review could move fast; the review moved fast so the deal could close before anyone asked whose name belonged on it; the only name you will find on any of it, in the end, is yours, on the heating bill.

"They didn't put the financing on the backdrop because the backdrop is the only paperwork most people ever read. The review got waived in eight days flat, and the receipt didn't show up for sixteen more — from a newspaper, not the agency that signed the waiver. That's not a loose end, that's the business model."
— Sal

"Look, international capital in American energy infrastructure is a feature, not a bug — of course money moves across borders on a project this size, that's just how energy markets work. The disclosure timing is really a paperwork sequencing question that any big infrastructure deal runs into, nothing more. ...did I just call a waived environmental review a sequencing question? That's not usually my line, but sure, we'll go with it."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Alaska pipeline unveiled, fast-tracked past review, secretly financed by Russia — now a bargaining chip in Ukraine peace talks.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 24 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~In U.S. Gas Talks With Kremlin, Hidden Financing for Alaska Project Emerges~~

Russian state energy giant secretly bankrolled the U.S. firm now in Ukraine peace talks

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 09:20 EDT

Interviews and documents show a Russian energy giant secretly funded a U.S. firm. The deal has been discussed in talks to end the war in Ukraine.

· Trump puts Sullivan at center stage during Alaska pipeline reveal *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

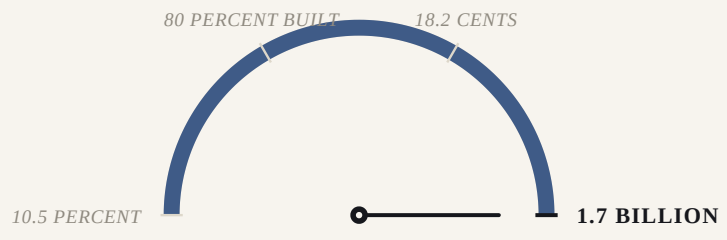
· Trump fast-tracks Alaska drilling, exempting some projects from environmental reviews *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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On windmills

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



1.7 BILLION

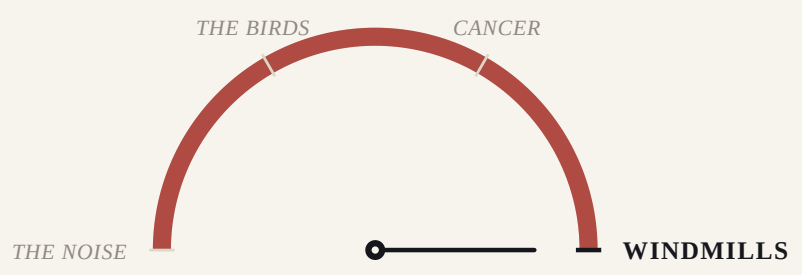
The graveyard, counted. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates put annual U.S. bird deaths from wind turbines at 140,438 to 327,586; from power lines, 8 to 57.3 million; from vehicles, 89 to 340 million; from windows, 365 to 988 million; and from cats, 1.7 to 3.4 billion [1]. Wind generated 464 billion kilowatt-hours in 2025, about 10.5 percent of U.S. utility-scale electricity [2].

And the farm that got stopped. In August 2025 the Interior Department issued a stop-work order to Revolution Wind, a $6.2 billion, 704-megawatt project off New England that was 80 percent complete; in September a federal judge enjoined the order, finding the developer "demonstrated likelihood of success on the merits" [3]. The government now forecasts residential electricity at 18.2 cents a kilowatt-hour this year, up from 17.3 cents in 2025 [4]. The windmill is a graveyard for birds by one ten-thousandth of the cat.

SOURCES

1. Annual bird deaths, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates: turbines 140,438–327,586; power lines 8–57.3 million; vehicles 89–340 million; windows 365–988 million; cats 1.7–3.4 billion — E&E News ↑
2. Wind generated 464 billion kWh in 2025, about 10.5 percent of U.S. utility-scale generation — Energy Information Administration ↑
3. Stop-work order on the $6.2 billion, 704-megawatt Revolution Wind project, 80 percent complete; enjoined on 22 September 2025 — Utility Dive ↑
4. Residential electricity forecast at 18.2 cents per kWh in 2026, up from 17.3 cents in 2025 — EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook, 9 September 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



WINDMILLS

The case against, in his own words at a Republican dinner in April 2019: "If you have a windmill anywhere near your house, congratulations, your house just went down 75 percent in value. And they say the noise causes cancer." And on birds: "It's like a graveyard for birds ... the windmills, they wipe them all out" [1]. In September 2025: "Any Country that relies on Windmills is DEAD" [2].

The strongest version of the administration's case is not the birds but the radar. In December the Interior Department paused leases on five offshore projects, citing turbine "clutter" that "obscures legitimate moving targets and generates false targets" on military radar; the secretary said "the prime duty of the United States government is to protect the American people" [3]. A national-security reason is a real reason, and it is stated plainly. The birds and the cancer are on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "Your house just went down 75 percent in value. And they say the noise causes cancer"; "It's like a graveyard for birds" — NRCC dinner, 2 April 2019 — FactCheck.org ↑
2. "Any Country that relies on Windmills is DEAD" — Truth Social — Newsweek, 8 September 2025 ↑
3. Leases paused on five offshore wind projects over radar "clutter" that "obscures legitimate moving targets and generates false targets"; "The prime duty of the United States government is to protect the American people" — U.S. Department of the Interior, 22 December 2025 ↑

“I'm a bird man, a little. I keep a feeder on the porch, and the thing that gets the birds at my house is my neighbor's cat, Duchess. So when he said the windmills "wipe them all out," I looked it up. The wildlife numbers: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. Vehicles, eighty-nine to three hundred forty million. Cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Sorry, I'm going — Duchess is probably on the feeder right now. Of the things on that list, which one got the executive order?” — Lou

“Windmills, he says, are "a graveyard for birds." So somebody counted the graveyards: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. House cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Windows, up to nearly a billion. If he wanted to save the birds, he'd have signed an order against the cat. Instead he stopped a wind farm that was eighty percent built, and a judge restarted it. The birds are still waiting on the cat.”

— Sal

“The president's concern for the birds is sincere and ongoing, and the fact that cats kill ten thousand times more of them only proves the cats have better lobbyists.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎