FROM § EACH

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

Alaska pipeline unveiled, fast-tracked past review, secretly financed by Russia — now a bargaining chip in Ukraine peace talks.



PHOTO: THE NEW YORK TIMES

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 unmentioned from the podium.

Eight days later, on October 8th, the administration exempted winter exploration projects on Alaska's North Slope from environmental review. The Washington Examiner's own word for the move was "accelerating" — the agency's approvals outrunning the agency's paperwork by a little over a week.

Today, The New York Times reports, citing interviews and records, that a Russian energy giant secretly financed the U.S. ...

... Continued on Page F125

California billionaires bankroll ad campaign to defeat tax on California billionaires

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Proposition 40 asks about 250 people in California to hand over 5 percent of their net worth, one time, to fund the state's health care system. Two of those 250 — Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel — are already paying. Just not into the account the measure names.

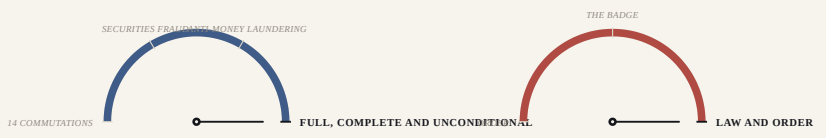
... Continued on Page F125

THE WORD

§70 — 23 OCTOBER 2026

On law and order

DEMOCRAT — REPUBLICAN



FULL, COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL — *LAW AND ORDER*

... Continued on Page W70

Vance calls the ad a preview of 2028 'venom' already costing Republicans the Ohio governor's race.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The Guardian asked this week whether JD Vance's rising midterm travel amounts to a dry run for a 2028 campaign of his own. On October 21st, in Ohio, that travel produced a specific answer.

... Continued on Page F125

White House's third ceasefire of the fall outlasts a day; its city still eats weeds to survive.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Ceasefire, a word, was born October 11, in a post reading "ENERGY CEASEFIRE, effective immediately." It has since been survived by two more printings of itself inside thirteen days, each one announced before the obituary for the last had run.

The first printing covered Russian and Ukrainian energy strikes. Zelensky learned of it from the same post everyone else did and called it "news to me." Within a day, Russian strikes were still landing on Ukrainian energy sites — Zelensky said they never stopped — and by October 16 Trump was calling Ukraine's retaliation a "disgrace."

The second printing covered a diesel deal the Czech president called "so close." It expired in missiles over Kyiv, hours after talks on it had resumed. Close enough, it turned out, to die on contact.

Melania Trump's office says she secured it.

... Continued on Page B43

■ 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 U.S. firm folded into the Alaska LNG project gets the Russian financing and the administration's fast-tracked permit exemption.

WHAT SLIPS. The environmental review meant to catch a project like this gets waived before the public ever sees the financing behind it.

WHAT'S NEXT. The financing is already sitting inside the talks meant to end the war in Ukraine, and those talks remain open.

On Alaska pipeline unveiled, fast-tracked past review, secretly financed by Russia — now a bargaining chip in Ukraine peace talks. — the column, by Mitch. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

THE SAME WORD

Netanyahu unveils a West Bank demolition model, plans to expand it to other cities.

BY LOU
One More Question

Hang on, I've got it here somewhere — I write everything down, which is half the reason the glovebox doesn't close right anymore. Here. August 31st. Common Dreams, retired Israeli generals, touring the West Bank, telling the New York Times what they'd seen. They weren't describing the army. Write this part down twice if you have to — they were describing their own government, for permitting what the settlers have been doing to Palestinian families living there. "Ethnic cleansing" is the phrase the generals used.

... Continued on Page A221

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

NETANYAHU'S GOVERNMENT CALLED UNPERMITTED SETTLER SHACKS "dismantlement" in September and used the same word this month while bulldozing homes outside Hebron and floating a full invasion. That is not a legal process, it is a label the government moves onto whatever structure it wants gone that week. A government that gets to decide which building lacks a permit decides whose paperwork is valid, which is how a renewal notice sitting on your hallway table with your name already printed on it stops being a formality and starts being a decision somebody else already made.

On Netanyahu unveils a West Bank demolition model, plans to expand it to other cities. — *the column, by Lou*

PULL UP A STOOL

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.
— this paper

THE THIRD STATE

Justice Department demands verification for ballots it is also asking a federal court to stop counting.

BY LOU
One More Question

I keep a notebook because I don't trust myself to remember exact words, and this week I needed the exact words, so hold on while I find the page. I wrote "improperly" in quotes because the Attorney General said it like it was doing a lot of work, and I wanted to remember that it was Blanche who put it there, not me.

The notebook runs backward from that page, so let's start there. September 2nd: the Department of Homeland Security opens something it calls, internally, the Unlawful

... Continued on Page B43

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



PHOTO: THE GUARDIAN

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

September 23: Marion County charges five current and former Indianapolis police officers with fraud and official misconduct. An internal audit of the department's

... Continued on Page A221

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

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

BY MITCH
Investigations

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

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

On September 25th, the Court lifted a lower court's block and let the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls through the appeal

... Continued on Page A221

Today

News, continued A2
The Wire A3
The Word W70
Finance F1
The Ledger F2
The Business Desk F3
The Money Pages, continued F4
The Record B1

ASK VIVIAN

"Hey Viv, love the column. If I were the next Democratic president, I'd revoke every federal firearms license in the..." She answers on E5.
— this paper

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.
— this paper

SOURCED OR SILENT

Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.
— this paper

"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

California billionaires bankroll ad campaign to defeat tax on California billionaires

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



“Are California voters about to impose 'world's first' tax on billionaires?”, 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. California voters decide whether to tax billionaires to fund healthcare.

WHO GETS PAID. Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel, who are funding the ad campaign against the tax aimed at their own fortunes.

WHAT SLIPS. The voters' independent judgment on the measure slips under an ad campaign funded by the billionaires it would tax.

WHAT'S NEXT. Voters decide November 3, ten days from today; the result itself is the next entry on this record.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Proposition 40 asks about 250 people in California to hand over 5 percent of their net worth, one time, to fund the state's health care system. Two of those 250 — Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel — are already paying. Just not into the account the measure names.

In August, Common Dreams reported that groups backed by mega-billionaires, including Brin and Thiel, had launched an advertising blitz against the measure, run through two organizations: Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes....

...(cont) By September, the fight had drawn a letter from Nobel-winning economists calling the measure "a turning point in the battle between democracy and oligarchy." The same dispatch that carried their quote also reported the measure polling at 52 percent — a number from the reporting, not from the letter, sitting next to it in the same piece.

Roughly 250 Californians hold an estimated $2.3 trillion in combined wealth. A one-time 5 percent tax on it could raise up to $100 billion. Ninety percent of that goes to healthcare; the rest splits between education and food assistance. The tax reaches 250 names. The ad campaign against it was funded, in part, by two of those same names.

Voters decide this on November 3 — ten days from today. Until then, some of the people Proposition 40 would tax are paying to make sure it doesn't pass, under organization names that describe themselves as fighting waste.

The gap here isn't complicated, hon. It's the gap between what a measure is called and whose money shows up opposing it. Building a Better California doesn't put Brin's or Thiel's name on its letterhead. Proposition 40 doesn't put their names on the ballot either — it just sets a threshold, $1 billion in net worth, that both men clear by a wide margin.

Ten days out, the ledger reads the way ledgers usually read. The tax has a target list. So does the opposition's checkbook. They are the same list.

“Two guys named Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel are bankrolling ads telling the rest of us that taxing billionaires is a bad idea, and wouldn't you know it, they're billionaires. The group calls itself "Californians Against Wasteful Spending" — turns out the waste they mean is their own money going toward somebody else's hospital bill. Ten days before the vote, and the only people spending real money on this fight are the 250 people who'd have to write the check.”
— Sal

“This isn't about protecting two guys' net worth, it's about protecting California's tax base from capital flight — wealthy people leave states that tax them, that's just basic economics. Though I guess if they were planning to leave, they wouldn't still be here funding ad campaigns to stop the tax... did I say that? Forget I said that. The point is uncertainty is bad for business, full stop.”
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Are California voters about to impose 'world's first' tax on billionaires?~~

Billionaires, not taxpayers, would fund California's healthcare gap

BBC News MAINSTREAM 19:11 EDT

Voters are about to decide if the mega-rich among them should hand over billions of dollars to pay for improvements to healthcare.

~~A Wealth Tax on Billionaires? California Voters to Decide Prop 40~~

250 billionaires hold $2.3 trillion. California is asking for 5%.

Democracy Now! 08:47 EDT

As voters across the United States cast ballots on November 3, Californians are weighing whether to approve a one-time 5% tax on the wealth of billionaires in the state. The tax would apply to roughly 250 Californians who now hold an estimated $2.3 trillion in wealth. Supporters say the wealth tax could raise up to $100 billion, with...

· Nobel-Winning Economists Say California Billionaire Tax Could Be ‘Turning Point in the Battle Between Democracy and Oligarchy’ *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Billionaire-Backed Groups Launch Ad Blitz Against California Wealth Tax *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.

Vance calls the ad a preview of 2028 'venom' already costing Republicans the Ohio governor's race.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Vance Defends 'Vile' Ramaswamy Ad, Offering Preview of 'Venom' He's Likely to Deploy in 2028 Race", 21 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Ramaswamy's campaign ran a $4 million ad starring his opponent's estranged mother, which Vance called his 2028 preview.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. Ohio's governor's race goes before voters on November 3rd, ten days from today; that is the only date the record carries for what happens next.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Guardian asked this week whether JD Vance's rising midterm travel amounts to a dry run for a 2028 campaign of his own. On October 21st, in Ohio, that travel produced a specific answer. The vice president told reporters he was "disgusted" — not by an ad that put his candidate's opponent's estranged mother on camera calling her daughter a liar, but by the Republicans "whining" about it. Vivek Ramaswamy's campaign had just put $4 million behind that ad. Amy Acton's mother, Donna Arthur, appears in it; Acton's own account, already on the record, names Arthur's husband as the man who raped her as a child. Vance did not dispute any of that. Coverage of his remarks framed them as a preview of the "venom" he is prepared to bring to a campaign of his own in 2028.

Two days later, on October 23rd, Ramaswamy offered NBC a different defense: the ad, he said, had nothing to do with the abuse allegations at all. That does not reconcile with the preview his running mate had just offered reporters. Either the ad is venom worth rehearsing for a national campaign, or it has nothing to do with the thing that would make it venomous. A campaign gets to claim one of those, not both....

...(cont) By October 24th, Ramaswamy was accusing Acton of lying about the ad outright; court records, per that day's reporting, contradict her mother's version of events. The same day, the Cook Political Report — which on October 20th had been moving Minnesota toward the GOP and South Carolina away from it on ordinary polling grounds — moved Ohio's governor's race from "Toss-Up" to "Leans Democrat." The forecaster named its own reason: a week of backlash over the ad.

The receipts carry no figure for what it costs a party to buy back a race once a nonpartisan forecaster reclassifies it. They carry only the reclassification — Toss-Up to Leans Democrat — with the ad named as the cause, four years before the man who called the travel a dry run is a declared candidate for anything.

What Vance billed as an audition for 2028 produced its first line item in 2026, in Ohio, against his own party. The dry run already has a price. The campaign hasn't started.

"You send your running mate out to call an attack on a rape survivor's own family history "venom" and a preview of the next four years, and a scorekeeper who doesn't root for either side marks your own race a loser for it. That's not an ad buy, hon, that's a bill for what honesty costs when you skip it. The guy auditioning for 2028 just found out what his playbook costs in 2026, in somebody else's governor's race."
— Sal

"Look, it's about trust, it's a mother's own words on camera, that's testimony, not venom — wait, did Vance say venom? I didn't see that part. The real point is Cook's just one forecaster, toss-up ratings move around all the time, that's not a verdict, it's a Tuesday. Did I just spend three sentences defending a race I'm about to say doesn't matter? Forget I said any of that."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Vance Defends 'Vile' Ramaswamy Ad, Offering Preview of 'Venom' He's Likely to Deploy in 2028 Race~~

Vance wasn't disgusted by an ad attacking a rape survivor - just by Republicans criticizing it

Common Dreams | *17:41 EDT*

A day after the Republican gubernatorial candidate in Ohio, Vivek Ramaswamy, stunned political observers by releasing an ad that featured the estranged mother of his opponent, Amy Acton, calling Acton "a liar," Vice President JD Vance told reporters during an appearance in the state that he was "disgusted." But the vice president, widely...

Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – as it happened

The Guardian MAINSTREAM | *22:01 EDT*

This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email With less than two weeks until the midterms, my colleague Jonathan Freedland and Guardian US columnist Moira Donegan are answering your questions in this week's episode of Politics Weekly America. They break down the final stretch ahead of these hugely consequential...

~~Cook Political Report shifts Ohio governor race in favor of Democrat after Ramaswamy ad controversy~~

Ramaswamy's ad on his opponent's estranged mother moves Ohio from Toss-Up to Leans Democrat, 10 days out

Washington Examiner RIGHT | *21:52 EDT*

Election forecaster Cook Political Report shifted Ohio's gubernatorial race toward Democratic candidate Amy Acton on Friday after a week of backlash over an ad Republican Vivek Ramaswamy ran featuring her estranged mother. The outlet shifted the race between Ramaswamy and Acton from a "Toss-Up" to "Leans Democrat."

Vance front and center in Republican midterms push – is this a dry run for a White House bid?

The Guardian MAINSTREAM | *05:00 EDT*

Vice-president's visibility has risen as Trump's popularity wanes, but path to inherit Maga throne is more complicated than it may seem A day after JD Vance suggested Donald Trump would endorse him if he runs for president, the vice-president shifted awkwardly in the Oval Office as his boss was asked about the remark. "He's a very...

Ramaswamy says ad featuring Acton's mother had nothing to do with allegations of sexual abuse

NBC News MAINSTREAM | *19:50 EDT*

Ohio Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy is defending the ad featuring his opponent Amy Acton's estranged mother despite backlash from both parties. NBC News' Priscilla Thompson explains.

· Vance says he's disgusted with GOP "whining" over anti-Acton ad with her estranged mother *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

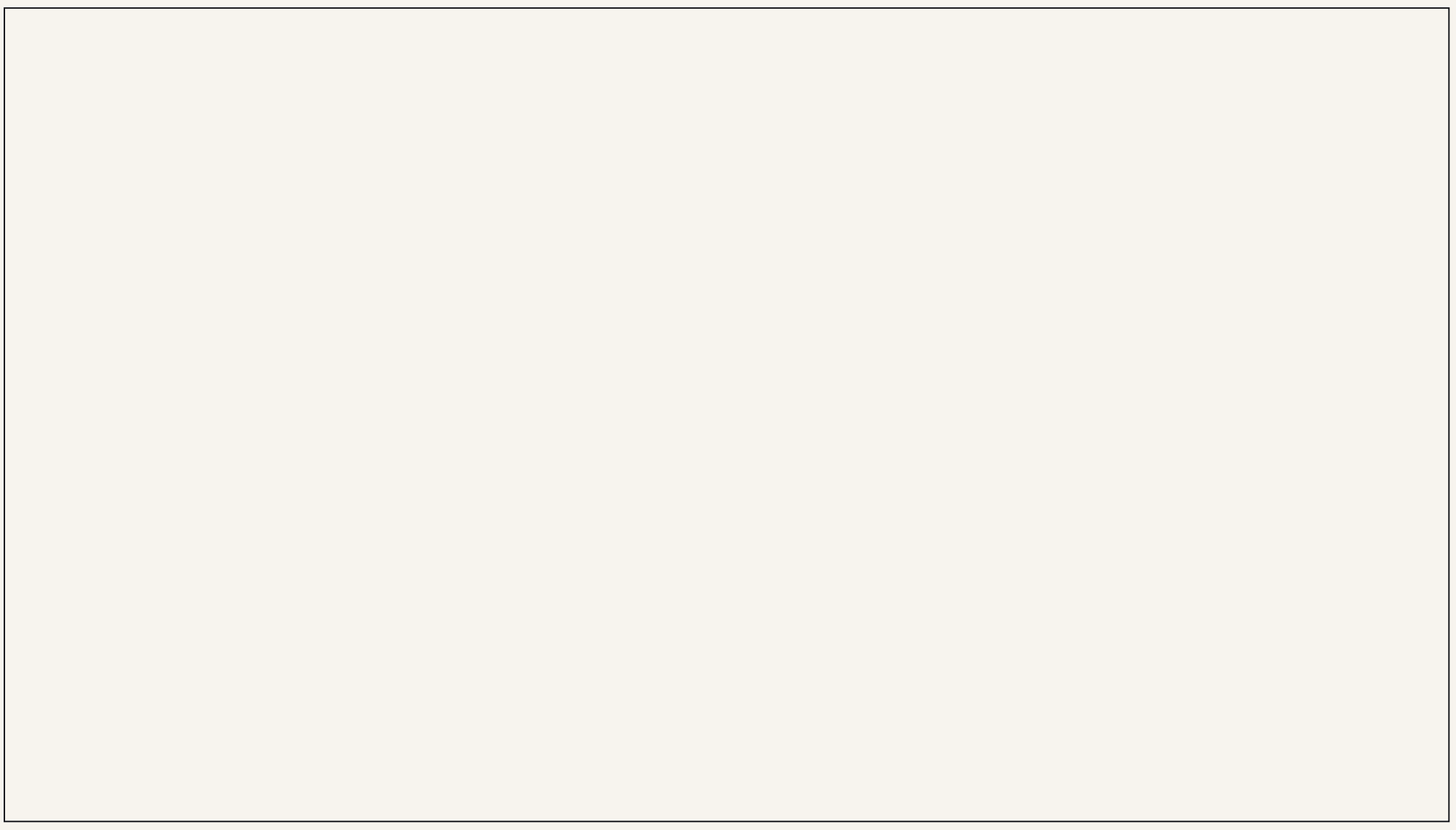
· Ramaswamy pours $4 million into ad featuring Amy Acton's estranged mother *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Cook Political Report shifts Minnesota Senate race toward GOP while South Carolina race moves left *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.

White House's third ceasefire of the fall outlasts a day; its city still eats weeds to survive.

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU



“White House says Melania Trump brokered truce for Ukraine city 'on brink of disaster'”, 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Ceasefire, a word, was born October 11, in a post reading "ENERGY CEASEFIRE, effective immediately." It has since been survived by two more printings of itself inside thirteen days, each one announced before the obituary for the last had run.

The first printing covered Russian and Ukrainian energy strikes. Zelensky learned of it from the same post everyone else did and called it "news to me." Within a day, Russian strikes were still landing on Ukrainian energy sites — Zelensky said they never stopped — and by October 16 Trump was calling Ukraine's retaliation a "disgrace."...

...(cont) The second printing covered a diesel deal the Czech president called "so close." It expired in missiles over Kyiv, hours after talks on it had resumed. Close enough, it turned out, to die on contact.

Melania Trump's office says she secured it.

What the truce pauses, it does not end. Oleshky has been under siege long enough that residents have been reduced to eating garden weeds to survive it. The ceasefire does not feed anyone. It only stops, for now, the shelling that would otherwise interrupt the eating of weeds. That is the whole of what has been won this week, and it is not nothing, and it is not much.

Ceasefire, the word, is survived by its own name, which the White House keeps in reserve for whichever truce needs it next. It is preceded in death by the energy ceasefire of October 11 and the diesel ceasefire that followed it, both interred within the news cycle that announced them.

The honest shit of it: officials have found it easier to reissue the same word three times than to explain, once, why the first two did not hold. The people of Oleshky, meanwhile, are still counting weeds, not days.

In lieu of flowers, send food to Oleshky.

“They keep handing out the same word like a coupon that bounced twice already, and calling the third bounce a win because the check didn't clear until Tuesday. A city is eating weeds under a truce that pauses the shelling but not the starving — that's the con, right there, in plain sight. Nobody's getting fed by a press release.”

— Sal

“Look, three ceasefires isn't a failure rate, it's persistence — the administration kept trying until one stuck, and this one's held a whole day longer than the others, which, if you chart it, is actually a positive trend. The weeds thing is — okay, I'm not going to defend the weeds thing. Did I say "positive trend"? That's not — let's just say diplomacy is iterative.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *White House announces Ukraine's third cease-fire this month, one day after the second died in missiles over Kyiv.* By Mort · the morning edition, 23 October 2026
- *Diesel deal that got 'so close' to a ceasefire ends with missiles on Kyiv hours after talks resume.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 22 October 2026
- *Trump credits the sanctions he waived for producing the talks he says enforcing them would have blocked.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 22 October 2026
- *Ukraine's only leverage against Russia, cut by its own satellite provider, ends in a freeze offer.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 21 October 2026
- *Trump waives Russia sanctions he signed, then calls enforcing them the thing that would have stopped Hubbard's release.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 21 October 2026
- *Starshield slowdown Rubio insisted wasn't deliberate was, CBS sources say, Musk's own deliberate choice.* By Lou · the morning edition, 21 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Melania Trump secures "temporary ceasefire" in Ukrainian city

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *22:12 EDT*

First lady Melania Trump's office says she secured a localized ceasefire for the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Oleshky.

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

White House says Melania Trump brokered truce for Ukraine city 'on brink of disaster'

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *03:17 EDT*

Ukraine and Russia confirm the truce in Russian-occupied Oleshky, where residents have had to eat garden weeds to survive.

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THE SAME WORD

Netanyahu unveils a West Bank demolition model, plans to expand it to other cities.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Netanyahu's threat to invade West Bank would test America's dwindling patience for Israeli conflict", 24 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Netanyahu's government began demolishing Palestinian homes near Hebron and threatened to expand the demolitions to other cities.

WHO GETS PAID. Netanyahu's governing coalition, campaigning into Israel's elections, gets a hardline response to run on.

WHAT SLIPS. The power of filmed evidence to hold Israeli forces accountable slips, now that the Prime Minister's office calls tape of a settler attack "unclear."

WHAT'S NEXT. No case in the ledger matches a government doubting its own video to dodge accountability, so here is what is on the calendar instead: Netanyahu has ordered a full lockdown of Hebron and is weighing a full invasion of the West Bank.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Hang on, I've got it here somewhere — I write everything down, which is half the reason the glovebox doesn't close right anymore. Here. August 31st. Common Dreams, retired Israeli generals, touring the West Bank, telling the New York Times what they'd seen. They weren't describing the army. Write this part down twice if you have to — they were describing their own government, for permitting what the settlers have been doing to Palestinian families living there. "Ethnic cleansing" is the phrase the generals used. Their own government. I got that backwards the first time I read it, and I don't like getting a thing backwards twice.

Sixteen days after that — September 16th — a human rights group out of Israel, B'Tselem, puts out a report titled "The Elimination Project." A man named Ori Givati, who's with them, says the policies in that report aren't a stack of separate incidents. His exact words, because I checked them twice — "one very coherent logic." Very coherent. That's not a word I added. That's his....

...(cont) A month later, October 16th, a photojournalist for the Washington Post, Heidi Levine, sixty-three years old, is attacked by settlers near a place called Abu Falah. There's film of it. And the Prime Minister's office puts out a statement saying the facts "remain unclear and are under investigation." Is a camera unclear? I don't know whose job it is to answer that.

Three days after that — October 19th — another American, a man named Mohammed Sakat, in a town called Turmus 'Ayya. Settlers burn his house, beat him. I won't call it a report, because it isn't one — it's a journalist on the ground, Jasper Nathaniel, who posted what he saw, and the wire carried his count: over a dozen masked men. I'll leave the number where he left it.

Four days after that — Friday just gone — two Israeli soldiers are shot dead near Hebron Junction. Within hours the Prime Minister is standing at the scene, and I wrote down what he said because I wanted it exact: "We will destroy this place and completely transform it." House to house. Evacuate the residents. Remove the weapons. And then the part I keep flipping back to: "We will consider expanding this model to other cities as well."

How many houses is that? I don't know. Nobody's put a number on it yet, and I'd rather have the number than the word he reached for instead — something "that has never been done before." Has it not? Or has nobody counted the times?

I was putting the notebook away — had it half in my coat pocket already, standing out by the car, the one that won't turn over under forty degrees — when it came back to me. You dismantle things in a garage. A shelf. An engine block somebody left half-finished. Plywood, usually — something nobody downtown signed a permit for.

So — hold on, before I put this away for good — forty-six days before the shooting at Hebron Junction, the word on the wire was "dismantlement," and the thing being dismantled was a handful of outposts nobody had a permit for. Structures. And this week a deputy of his used the same word on something that was never built with anyone downtown's permission at all — the government the Palestinians live under. A shed, then a government, and now a city. What hasn't that word been pointed at yet?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

Netanyahu's government called unpermitted settler shacks "dismantlement" in September and used the same word this month while bulldozing homes outside Hebron and floating a full invasion. That is not a legal process, it is a label the government moves onto whatever structure it wants gone that week. A government that gets to decide which building lacks a permit decides whose paperwork is valid, which is how a renewal notice sitting on your hallway table with your name already printed on it stops being a formality and starts being a decision somebody else already made.

"This isn't a counterterrorism operation, it's a word laundering itself through the news cycle: outposts got "dismantled," then it was a government, now it's homes outside Hebron. Two soldiers are dead and the response, in his own mouth, is "a model to expand to other cities" — that's a rollout, not a crackdown. Watch what gets called "unclear" the next time there's a camera running."

— Sal

"Look, two soldiers are dead, the Prime Minister has every right to secure the area — that's just security policy, full stop. The "model" language, every government describes its operations in confident terms, that doesn't mean — did I say "model"? That's his word, I'm not defending the word choice, I'm defending the operation. Which, yes, involves demolishing homes, but that's — it's complicated."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Unauthorized settler outposts and the Palestinian Authority receive the same verdict from Netanyahu's government: dismantlement.* By Lou · the morning edition, 23 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Netanyahu's threat to invade West Bank would test America's dwindling patience for Israeli conflict
Washington Examiner RIGHT · *05:00 EDT*

The murder of two Israeli soldiers in the West Bank is the jumping-off point for a large-scale invasion of the Palestinian territory, a move that would further test the nation's fraying relationship with the United States. In the wake of the soldiers' deaths on Friday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is promising to search and seize [...]

Israeli Occupation Forces Ramp Up Ethnic Cleansing in West Bank After Palestinian Resistance Attacks
Common Dreams · *21:02 EDT*

Israeli forces on Friday began demolishing homes and businesses and forcibly evacuating residents near Hebron in the illegally occupied West Bank following a Palestinian resistance attack that killed two Israeli soldiers. "First, we will destroy this place and completely transform it, but we will do something that has never been done...

· 'This Is Ethnic Cleansing': Retired Israeli Generals Decry Settler Terrorism Against West Bank Palestinians *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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

· US Officials Face Fresh Pressure After Another American 'Brutalized' by Israeli Settlers in West Bank *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

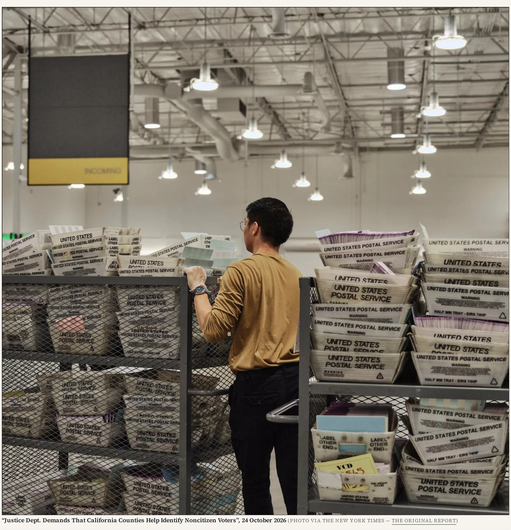
· 'Monstrous': Netanyahu Casts Doubt on Filmed Israeli Settler Attack of American Journalist *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

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.

THE THIRD STATE

Justice Department demands verification for ballots it is also asking a federal court to stop counting.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

● THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department moved to block elections in two states this week before either state finished counting ballots.

WHO GETS PAID. The buyer is the Republican Party, which keeps contested seats in play in Alaska and California if the challenged ballots never get fully counted.

WHAT SLIPS. What slips is a state's own right to finish counting and certify its own results before the federal government steps in to stop it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If these challenges hold, expect the same jump seen in Texas after its 1 March 2022 ID-number rule, when mail-ballot rejections went from 0.8 percent to 12.4 percent, a twelvefold rise, before falling back only after months of voter education.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I keep a notebook because I don't trust myself to remember exact words, and this week I needed the exact words, so hold on while I find the page. I wrote "improperly" in quotes because the Attorney General said it like it was doing a lot of work, and I wanted to remember that it was Blanche who put it there, not me.

The notebook runs backward from that page, so let's start there. September 2nd: the Department of Homeland Security opens something it calls, internally, the Unlawful Voter Initiative — hundreds of agents checking state voter rolls for names that shouldn't be there. October 13th, a Tuesday: the Justice Department sends Los Angeles County a thumb drive with a handwritten password taped to it. County officials decline to confirm anyone's citizenship off the list. Two days later, Thursday the 15th, the department sues the state, asking a federal court to stop certain ballots from being counted....

...(cont) That's the same week, more or less, the department also sued to block Alaska's Senate certification if the Republican running there loses — a filing that doesn't name a single disputed ballot, just a theory about confusion between two men with the same last name. I mention it here only because it's in the same notebook, four pages before California, written in the same week as the vow.

October 17th: the department warns county ballot counters they could face criminal prosecution for processing ballots tied to what it's calling twenty thousand suspected noncitizen voters. October 19th through the 21st: twenty-eight people, green card holders, charged under an operation called Protect the Vote — eleven of them arrested, one man from Belize accused of lying on a voter form. These are two different lists, far as I can find written down — the twenty thousand and the twenty-eight — and nothing in my notebook says whether they overlap.

Here's where I want you to picture your own bank line for a second, not because it's a perfect comparison, just because you've stood in one. A teller marks your deposit "hold for review." You don't get shown a counterfeit bill, and you don't get the money, until somebody, somewhere, decides the hold was right. Multiply that by each ballot a county registrar is now being told to set aside.

Which brings me to Thursday — a different Thursday, the 22nd — when the U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles asked a federal court to halt the count, citing that same twenty-thousand figure. "Every minute that goes by," Essayli said, "American citizen votes are being diluted." The next day, Friday the 23rd, letters went out — not just to Los Angeles County, but to registrars across the state — demanding they set aside and verify any ballot the department calls "likely" noncitizen, under threat of what the letters call "significant federal scrutiny."

Zero. That's how many of the ballots named in either the Thursday motion or the Friday letters anyone has shown, in open court, to have actually been cast by a noncitizen. Not flagged — shown. I wrote that number down plain, no circle around it, and I'm leaving it alone.

So: two states, three filings, one week, the word "improperly" sitting on a page four entries back from all of it. Before you close this — one more thing I can't find in my own notebook, maybe you can find it in yours: the letter that went out Friday to registrars across California never says how many ballots are on its list. The motion from Thursday does — twenty thousand. Does the Friday letter put a number on how many ballots it's asking your county to pull and set aside?

▼ FROM THE CORNER ▼
DETCH

This week the Justice Department sued to block Alaska's certification if the Republican loses, sued to stop California's count, ordered counties there to set aside ballots it calls "likely noncitizen," and asked a federal court to halt that count outright, with no proven fraudulent vote in either state. That is not an investigation, it is a standing order to stop counting whenever the arithmetic comes out wrong, stamped with the department's own letterhead. Because the letters don't name a verified fraudulent ballot, and because the office writing the label "likely noncitizen" is the same office asking the court to stop the count, the confirmation email sitting in your inbox right now, the one that says your ballot already arrived, is the only paperwork in this whole operation with your name actually on it.

"They tell you the Justice Department doesn't meddle in elections it hasn't lost yet, and then in one week it sues to block a Senate seat in Alaska, sues to block ballots in California, and mails counties across the state a threat with the word "noncitizen" doing work no court filing has done yet. That's not law enforcement, that's a hedge against losing, and you're the one paying the legal bills either way. The count isn't finished in either state, and the agency trying to stop it is the one that loses if it finishes."
— Sal

"Look, nobody's blocking an election, the department is just making sure every vote counted is a legal vote, that's not controversial — okay, "nobody" might be doing some work there, let me circle back. The letters, the lawsuits, the thumb drive, that's just due diligence, due diligence that happens to land in the two states with the closest margins, which, sure, is a coincidence I guess I'm now defending. Did I say coincidence? That doesn't sound like me."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

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

Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *02:21 EDT*

Election officials across the state received letters from the agency saying if they fail to comply, they "risk significant federal scrutiny."

DOJ demands that California counties help identify noncitizen voters
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *01:13 EDT*

The Department of Justice is warning local election officials in California to cooperate with the administration to identify noncitizens on a list of registered voters or face potential legal action, according to a letter obtained by NBC News.

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

DOJ demands that some California counties set aside alleged noncitizen ballots
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *22:54 EDT*

Federal prosecutors sent letters to county registrars across California demanding that local officials set aside and verify ballots that the Justice Department said may belong to noncitizens.

California officials ordered by DoJ to set aside 'likely' noncitizen ballots
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *22:00 EDT*

Letters from federal prosecutors represent latest escalation as Trump continues to make claims of voter fraud Federal prosecutors sent letters to county registrars across California on Friday demanding that local officials set aside and verify ballots that the Department of Justice said may belong to noncitizens, according to the Los...

LA feds move to halt ballot counting over 20K suspected noncitizen voters
New York Post | RIGHT | *19:26 EDT*

"Every minute that goes by, American citizen votes are being diluted in the state of California," Essayli said Thursday.

- Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*
- Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Trump DOJ issues stark warning to California ballot counters after suing state over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

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

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



"Indiana police officer arrested for using Flock cameras to search wife", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Georgetown, Indiana, officer is charged with running his wife's and an ex-acquaintance's plates through Flock cameras hundreds of times.

WHO GETS PAID. Flock Safety keeps its nationwide camera contracts no matter how many officers get charged with misusing them.

WHAT SLIPS. The bill that would cut federal money to these camera networks has sat in committee nine days with no hearing set, so Congress's check on the system stays unused.

WHAT'S NEXT. The bill stays in committee with no hearing scheduled; nothing else is on the calendar yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

The planner lays the pieces on the table and admires how little had to be invented — the audit already existed inside the Indianapolis department, the fraud and misconduct statutes already existed in Indiana code, the prosecutors already knew how to file them. Every part of the response to this mess was sitting in a drawer before the mess happened twice.

The one part missing from the table is the part Tlaib already built: a bill that cuts federal funding to the exact systems that let an officer run a plate 250 times with no case attached to it. The muscle doesn't get to swing at anything yet; there's nothing to wreck until the bill moves. The pilot notes the runway is clear and empty: no hearing scheduled, no markup, no vote. The fix is parked where it was parked on October 14, nine days and one more officer ago.

"Same cameras, two departments, two sets of officers, and the one bill written to cut off Flock's money sits in committee doing nothing for nine days straight. Flock keeps every contract no matter how many officers get caught running their own family through the system. That's the business: sell the dragnet, eat the headlines, keep the money."
— Sal

"These audits caught the abuse, which proves the system works, not that it needs defunding. Five officers in one department, one more somewhere else — two isolated incidents, not a pattern, not a crisis. Did I say isolated? There's also the one before that. Anyway, it's working as intended."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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
- *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

Indiana police officer arrested for using Flock cameras to search wife

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:19 EDT*

Justin Craig charged with official misconduct and fraud, after searching plates of wife and 'previous acquaintance' An Indiana police officer has been arrested on allegations that he misused Flock cameras hundreds of times in a case involving his wife and a previous acquaintance of hers. Georgetown police department officer Justin Craig...

· Five Indianapolis police officers accused of abusing Flock license plate readers *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Tlaib Unveils Bill to Ban Federal Funding for Flock Cameras Amid 'Mass Surveillance Crisis' *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Police officers accused of misusing Flock cameras *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

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

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Sal

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

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

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

THE RECEIPTS

~~Ketanji Brown Jackson issues public dissent in New Hampshire voting case~~

Supreme Court lets New Hampshire block student ID voting ahead of the midterms

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *14:43 EDT*

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson publicly broke with her Supreme Court colleagues in a Thursday ruling allowing New Hampshire to fully block voters from using student IDs in the upcoming midterms. Jackson, the high court's most junior liberal justice, wrote in a short dissent that she would have left in place a lower court decision that...

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

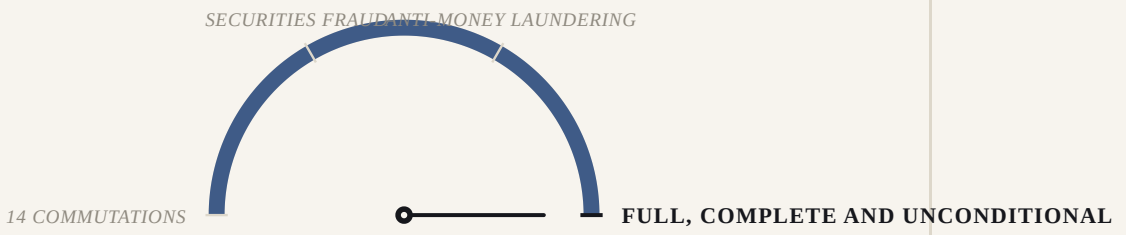
· Supreme Court slams brakes on Trump's mail-in voting plan *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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On law and order

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



FULL, COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL

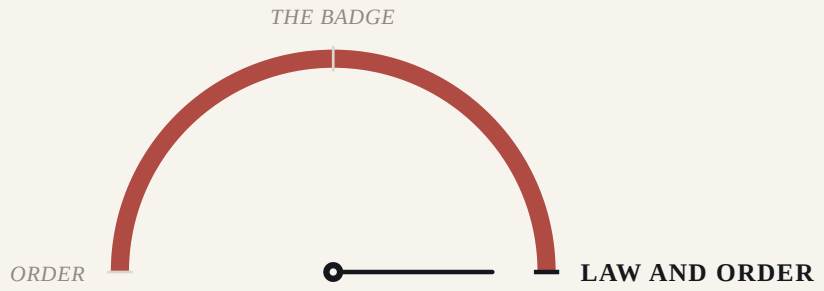
The paperwork. On January 20, 2025, a proclamation commuted the sentences of 14 named January 6 defendants and granted everyone else convicted for the events at the Capitol a "full, complete and unconditional pardon" [1]. The Justice Department's Office of the Pardon Attorney lists the grants since,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

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

SOURCES

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

REPUBLICAN



LAW AND ORDER

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

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

SOURCES

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

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

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

— Sal

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

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎