The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Justice Department counts $2 billion in healthcare fraud, charges zero algorithms deciding seniors' care

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

In September, a nonprofit called Americans for Responsible Innovation opened a fifty-state campaign for rules on artificial intelligence, aimed at what it called threats to workers, kids, and families. Three weeks later, on October 1, the Hill carried the counter-argument in an op-ed: the federal government had opened a new door to obesity treatment, the GLP-1 Bridge program, and six hundred thousand Medicare beneficiaries had walked through it since July 1; keep the door open, the piece argued.

On October 20, ABC News reported that Medicare's open enrollment period had begun the week before, with some changes to the plan. Two days after that, on October 22, federal prosecutors in California charged fifteen people in cases alleging more than two billion dollars in losses, and the state attorney general separately charged 103 providers with defrauding Medi-Cal of $4.5 million. The count for the month, so far: two billion dollars in alleged losses, 118 people charged, zero of them an algorithm.

Because by October 26, the same month, the New York Post reported that a federal pilot now lets an artificial intelligence agent help decide whether a

... Continued on Page H15

THE WORD

§73 — 26 OCTOBER 2026

On tips

DEMOCRAT

37 PERCENT

REPUBLICAN

NO TAX ON TIPS

"I asked the waitress at the diner where I have breakfast, because she'd know better than any of us. She said she heard about it. The government says over seven million people claimed it, average deduction over seven thousand dollars — that's real, I told her. Then I read her the rest: it tops out at twenty-five thousand, it phases out for high earners, it ends after 2028. And the Yale people say thirty-seven percent of tipped workers had incomes too low to owe federal income tax anyway. She poured my coffee and didn't say anything. Sorry — I left a dollar under the saucer. What's no tax worth to somebody who didn't owe any?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W73

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE BADGE DECIDES

The bowling-alley lights were contracted to the cent, $252,876.34, escort extra; the passes that let 78 reporters in without an escort went dark the day after a post.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Anthropic's $80 billion loss is ten times September's figure; its seven founders near billionaire status.

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Eight billion dollars in operating loss, on the twenty-ninth of September. Eighty billion, on Monday. You are waiting for a correction. There is no correction; there is a filing, and the filing stands. Do note what else fell inside that month. On the nineteenth of October a blog post titled "Investing in the public benefit" promised to disburse five percent of the stock into a fund whose structure, in the company's own words, "increases the stake as the company grows." Five percent. Five — and NBC reports a huge spending spree ahead. Grows, mind you. Not earns. The seven founders, who left OpenAI in 2021 over disagreements about how to build the thing safely, bring the offering to the public, and The New York Times notes it could make them billionaires. Jayapal's bill of the first of October would require every AI company to hold a public charter, as a bank does ... a charter is a condition a government imposes before a firm may operate. A pledge is a condition the firm drafts for itself. Five percent was the pledge.

... Continued on Page F127

Senator accuses California of ballot harvesting; Justice Department files charges for registering to vote.

BY MITCH
Investigations

I read charging documents for a living, which means I spend a lot of my week being more polite to the Justice Department than it has earned. This week it earned a little.

Start with the calendar, because the calendar is the whole story. On October 19th, the department charged 28 green card holders in California with fraudulently registering to vote and casting ballots — eleven of them arrested, per the Guardian, the Hill, and the Washington Examiner, three different outlets filing the same number inside two days. That same weekend, a Ninth Circuit panel held a rare Sunday hearing on the department's own emergency request to set aside twenty thousand California mail ballots — and spent it, Fox News reported, questioning the department's lawyers, not the state's. The same weekend, Los Angeles's top federal prosecutor told the New York Post the election was being "corrupted." And on the Senate floor, Thom Tillis called California "guilty" of a ballot-harvesting scheme — and, per the Hill, could not name a single case prosecuted under it.

That was the record as of last Monday: an accusation, a federal court skep-

... Continued on Page A222

Vučić resigns the presidency to outmaneuver the student movement, loses to it anyway

BY LOU
One More Question

Walk me through it, would you? Not the whole election. Just the one part — a sitting head of state steps down to go run for a different office. I don't have a lot to measure that against. The closest thing in my life is a Chevy with a fan belt that quits every spring, and a dog who won't get back in the car once he's out of it, so bear with me.

I wrote the date down. Hang on — here it is — September 27th. The page says the president "stepped down as the country's head of state," and that the same move was "paving the way for him to run as his... party's candidate for prime minister," ahead of the vote on October 25th. Is that the whole sequence? Quit one office on a Sunday in September, file for a different office, same party, by the next election?

I tried to picture it out in my garage, where I keep the toolbox, because some things you have to put your hands on to follow. Say a man runs the floor as foreman and the crew's been filing complaints for two years — never mind about what. Say he hands in his notice as foreman on a Sunday and puts in for crew chief on the Monday, same floor, same crew, same clipboard

... Continued on Page A222

U.S. shut its Brazil consulates, Instagram boosted Bolsonaro, Lula won by four million: markets call it unexpected

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

On Sunday Brazil re-elected Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to a record fourth term, by four million votes over Flávio Bolsonaro in the runoff — a runoff being the election you hold again when the first one did not settle it. Bolsonaro, who narrowly won that first round earlier this month, is refusing to concede.

Most of what went into it came from home. You will need an American social network, a consulate with the shutters down, and a U.S. firm called Elytron, which specialises in election manipulation and which The Intercept Brasil has the Bolsonaro campaign paying 600,000 Brazilian reais, about $119,000.

Clive *Specialises. One of us has a speciality, it runs to eleven pages in verse, and three of you have found reasons to leave the room.*

Lula's campaign asked the top election court to examine that shutdown as part of a broader investigation into alleged "interference" by the Trump administration.

Gary *Three of us left because the shutters in the back room came off in my hand, and I was being useful, which is more than eleven pages.*

... Continued on Page F127

Israel's army sealed the West Bank and ran its largest drill in years; neither was on Tuesday's ballot

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will have been told that Tuesday is a reckoning, and in one narrow sense it is: the first Israeli election since October 7th, 2023, with Likud lagging in the polls. Hold that, because nothing else in the week required a vote. On September 27th the attorney general moved the E1 settlement deadline past the election, and the finance minister fumed. Moved, mind you, not cancelled — in abeyance, which is to say the deadline still exists and now falls after the ballot. On Friday gunmen in Hebron killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three. By Sunday the army had ordered new restrictions on Hebron and the West Bank crossings were to be closed before the vote. And what had to be passed for that? Nothing whatever. A closure is an order, and an order is signed. Someone will say that Tuesday answers it. Tuesday elects a Knesset. Then the drill: multiple divisions, the largest in years, an analyst reaching for the Yom Kippur War of 1973 ... and not one line of it on a ballot paper. Three disastrous years for Israelis, the Times has it, and the core support remains strong. Tuesday may change the name over the ministry. The gates at Hebron it does not touch.

... Continued on Page A222

ICE deports Texas father to Ghana, which puts them on a flight to the country a judge banned.

BY SAL
Staff Writer

A Texas father spent months fighting deportation to the one country a U.S. judge said could get them killed: Mali. Ghana's airport read that paperwork differently.

The State Department warns Americans not to travel to several of the places the agency has been treating as deportation receiving docks all year. In September, CNN found the Central African Republic had taken in dozens of men with protection orders just like this one, the same month CBS traveled to Liberia and found deportees who said they had never heard of the country before ICE put them on the plane.

The common thread through Liberia, the Central African Republic, and now Ghana-by-way-of-Mali is the same missing document: a signed agreement showing the receiving government actually agreed to take someone, and agreed to keep them. Nobody has produced one. Not the Ghanaian government, not the State Department, not ICE. The only paper trail that exists is the agency's own file, and the only reason the public has even that much is that CBS News got it — not ICE, not a court, not a congressional committee

... Continued on Page T30

Meta pays forty-two billion dollars for data privacy violations, changes zero lines of code.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On August 26, a coalition of fifty-one state and territorial attorneys general proposed a settlement requiring Meta to pay up to $17.1 billion over claims its platforms were built to addict children. California's attorney general called it a deal that would make social media "less dangerous for our kids."

By October 21, Meta's business was still generating paperwork problems on a much smaller scale. A California judge that day rejected the company's request to let artificial intelligence review its own internal files, and criticized Meta for stamping "attorney-client privilege" on documents tied to the same child-safety claims — printed, according to the court record, on branded promotional hats.

That same Wednesday, in a different courtroom, a jury in New Mexico had already found Meta liable for misleading users about its privacy and content policies, in a case stemming from the Cambridge Analytica scandal: a political consulting firm tied to the 2016 Trump campaign had obtained data from millions of Facebook users without their consent. State District Judge Francis Mathew ordered the company to pay $25 billion. New Mexico's attorney gen-

... Continued on Page F127

"Read the page top to bottom and notice what connects it: somebody priced something you thought was yours — your ballot, your checkup, your tank of gas — and mailed you the bill with a flag stamped on it. I started circling the good news. Still holding the pen."

— *Sal*

"Every story on this page is a success that hasn't been explained to you properly yet."

— *Chip*

By spring the dog sleeps in the shed.
A man finds fewer hens at dusk.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE LOSS LEDGER

Anthropic's $80 billion loss is ten times September's figure; its seven founders near billionaire status.

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Anthropic files IPO to take company public", 26 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

Eight billion dollars in operating loss, on the twenty-ninth of September. Eighty billion, on Monday. You are waiting for a correction. There is no correction; there is a filing, and the filing stands. Do note what else fell inside that month. On the nineteenth of October a blog post titled "Investing in the public benefit" promised to disburse five percent of the stock into a fund whose structure, in the company's own words, "increases the stake as the company grows." Five percent. Five — and NBC reports a huge spending spree ahead. Grows, mind you. Not earns. The seven founders, who left OpenAI in 2021 over disagreements about how to build the thing safely, bring the offering to the public, and The New York Times notes it could make them billionaires. Jayapal's bill of the first of October would require every AI company to hold a public charter, as a bank does … a charter is a condition a government imposes before a firm may operate. A pledge is a condition the firm drafts for itself. Five percent was the pledge.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

ANTHROPIC FILED TO GO PUBLIC WITH AN EIGHTY-BILLION-DOLLAR LOSS ON THE BOOKS. That five percent is not a gift to the public; it is the public being handed a nameplate on a hole it is about to buy. The offering is public, so the shares go into the ordinary funds that hold working people's savings; because the loss rides along with the shares, the people who buy them carry it; and the seven founders price their stake on the way out while the number that moves is the one on the quarterly 401(k) statement with your name printed at the top.

At first frost the farmer sells the pen. The fox stays with the pen.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They put an eighty-billion-dollar loss in the paperwork and the seven guys who ran it are walking out of this as billionaires — that is not a company, that is a door. And the public's cut is five percent of the stock, into a fund the company built and named itself, announced one week before the filing landed. They tell you there is no money for your kid's school; there is eighty billion for compute."
— Sal

"Losses are investment, that is just what building a frontier lab costs, and honestly five percent of the equity to a public benefit fund is more than anyone — did I say anyone? That does not sound like me. The structure increases the stake as the company grows, so the public does better when we do better, which is, you know, alignment, and nobody is asking the founders to apologize for a stock price."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Anthropic files IPO to take company public

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:24 EDT*

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic filed paperwork Monday to go public, setting the stage for what could become one of the largest initial public offerings in history as Wall Street prepares to invest in one of the industry's biggest players. The San Francisco-based company, known for its Claude AI chatbot, submitted a…

AI giant Anthropic files to make stock market debut

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:47 EDT*

Anthropic publicly filed for an initial public offering (IPO) on Monday morning in what is expected to be a historic stock market debut. The S-1 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) brings the Claude maker a step closer to becoming the first large frontier AI lab to go public. It is expected to…

Meet Anthropic's Seven Founders as the A.I. Firm Prepares for an IPO

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *11:24 EDT*

Former OpenAI employees started the company in 2021 after disagreements over how to safely build artificial intelligence. An I.P.O. could make them billionaires.

Anthropic reveals $80 billion loss, huge spending spree ahead of IPO

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *09:12 EDT*

Artificial intelligence startup Anthropic unveils its first public IPO filing ahead of what is expected to be one of the largest stock debuts in history.

· Anthropic pledges 5 percent of stock to public benefit initiative *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Anthropic says it will commit small percentage of stock to 'public benefit' fund *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Anthropic IPO Prospectus Reveals $8 Billion Operating Loss *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Under Jayapal Bill, Every AI Company Would Need a Public Charter to Operate in the US *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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

Senator accuses California of ballot harvesting; Justice Department files charges for registering to vote.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"DOJ charges 48 noncitizens with federal voting crimes, including 28 in California", 26 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department charged 48 noncitizens with federal voting crimes, 28 of them in California.

WHO GETS PAID. A senator's unproven ballot-harvesting accusation gets a docket number to point to before the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. Twenty thousand California mail ballots sit on a court's desk waiting on a ruling that has not come down.

WHAT'S NEXT. The Ninth Circuit panel that spent its Sunday hearing grilling the Justice Department's own lawyers over the twenty-thousand-ballot request has not ruled yet; that ruling decides whether those ballots count.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I read charging documents for a living, which means I spend a lot of my week being more polite to the Justice Department than it has earned. This week it earned a little.

Start with the calendar, because the calendar is the whole story. On October 19th, the department charged 28 green card holders in California with fraudulently registering to vote and casting ballots — eleven of them arrested, per the Guardian, the Hill, and the Washington Examiner, three different outlets filing the same number inside two days. That same weekend, a Ninth Circuit panel held a rare Sunday hearing on the department's own emergency request to set aside twenty thousand California mail ballots — and spent it, Fox News reported, questioning the department's lawyers, not the state's. The same weekend, Los Angeles's top federal prosecutor told the New York Post the election was being "corrupted." And on the Senate floor, Thom Tillis called California "guilty" of a ballot-harvesting scheme — and, per the Hill, could not name a single case prosecuted under it....

...(cont) That was the record as of last Monday: an accusation, a federal court skeptical of the government's own filing, and a crime with no docket number attached to it.

This Monday the docket arrived. The Justice Department announced 48 people charged nationwide with federal voting crimes — 28 of them in California, the rest in Florida, Nevada, New York, and Pennsylvania, per the Washington Examiner. Here is the accusation finally getting a case number. All together now — the California complaint, the one piece of this the receipts actually describe clause by clause: fraudulent voter registration, illegal voting. Not harvesting. Not the word the senator used on the floor. The filing answers the speech by charging something the speech never alleged, for the 28 defendants the record lets us check.

I want to be fair to the other 20 names on the sheet — Florida, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania — because the wire that reached my desk doesn't say what they're charged with, and a federal complaint deserves to be read before it's summarized, not after. So I'll say only what the document says: a senator accused a state of a scheme, named zero prosecutions under it, and a week later the department he was vouching for filed a case that fills the blank with a different crime. The docket exists now. It just isn't the one he was pointing at.

"Here's the con, plain: you say the state is "guilty" of harvesting, you can't name one case, and a week later the feds hand you a docket — except it's not harvesting, it's people accused of registering to vote. You take the W on cable anyway, because nobody checks the charge sheet. That's the whole play — accuse first, let the filing catch up later, and hope the gap between the word and the complaint never makes it past the headline."

— Sal

"Nobody's rounding up legal voters — nobody said round up, I said charge. Twenty-eight in California, that's not a sweep, that's a docket, which is what everybody kept asking for. Fine, it's not the word "harvesting," but the Justice Department doesn't have to charge the exact word a senator used on cable to prove the senator was right. Did I say "prove"? I meant "gesture toward." That's not the same as nothing."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Senator calls California 'guilty' of ballot harvesting, names zero cases prosecuted under it* By Mitch · the evening edition, 26 October 2026
- *Attorney general vows fair Cornell probe, hires someone else to be fair, then won't discuss it* By Lou · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
- *Attorney general vows fair Cornell probe, hires outside lawyer to be fair for her* By Lou · the morning edition, 25 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)*
>
> DOJ charges 48 noncitizens with federal voting crimes, including 28 in California
>
> *Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *11:16 EDT*
>
> The Justice Department has charged 48 non-U.S. citizens with illegal voting, fraudulent voter registration, and other election-related federal crimes as the Trump administration cracks down on illegal voting ahead of the midterm elections. The DOJ announced Monday morning that it arrested and charged four dozen people across California...

· Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· DoJ charges 28 green card holders in California over alleged voter fraud *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Justice Department targets and charges 28 alleged noncitizen California voters *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

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Vučić resigns the presidency to outmaneuver the student movement, loses to it anyway

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



“Will Serbia elections break Vucic’s grip on power?”, 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Serbia's student-led party won the October 25 parliamentary election, defeating Aleksandar Vučić's Progressive Party.

WHO GETS PAID. The student-led opposition list wins control of parliament, projected to hold 135 to 140 of 250 seats to the Progressive Party's 105.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The student list must now form Serbia's next government out of a parliament of mostly first-time politicians; the record does not yet set a date for that.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Walk me through it, would you? Not the whole election. Just the one part — a sitting head of state steps down to go run for a different office. I don't have a lot to measure that against. The closest thing in my life is a Chevy with a fan belt that quits every spring, and a dog who won't get back in the car once he's out of it, so bear with me.

I wrote the date down. Hang on — here it is — September 27th. The page says the president "stepped down as the country's head of state," and that the same move was "paving the way for him to run as his… party's candidate for prime minister," ahead of the vote on October 25th. Is that the whole sequence? Quit one office on a Sunday in September, file for a different office, same party, by the next election?…

…(cont) I tried to picture it out in my garage, where I keep the toolbox, because some things you have to put your hands on to follow. Say a man runs the floor as foreman and the crew's been filing complaints for two years — never mind about what. Say he hands in his notice as foreman on a Sunday and puts in for crew chief on the Monday, same floor, same crew, same clipboard on the wall. I don't know if that's done anywhere else. I just know it's what the page says happened here.

And here's the part I keep setting the toolbox down to look at again. Sunday, October 25th — the day he's on the ballot for the new chair — the same crew that had been filing complaints for two years turned out to vote, more of them than in years, 69.34 percent of them, the page says, the highest turnout in years for that parliament. And the list they voted for wasn't his. Fifty-three percent of them, near enough, went to a list of first-time candidates picked by student assemblies — a hundred thirty-some seats, against a hundred and five for the party whose man had just changed chairs to get in front of them. If changing chairs was supposed to put distance between him and that crowd, what does a turnout number like that say about how much distance he got?

Because I went back to where the crowd came from, and there's a word in that part of the page I can't stop circling. Two years ago a railway station roof came down in a city called Novi Sad. Sixteen people were under it when it did. The station, the way the page describes it, had been newly renovated. Not old. Not neglected. Was that the word on the ribbon they cut?

I don't have an answer for what a family does with a word like that once the roof's already on the ground. I'm not saying the word was a lie when somebody wrote it down. I'm saying it's the word I've got sitting next to the fan belt and the dog in my notes, and it won't come loose.

Oh — before you go, one more thing, excuse me. The move from president to prime minister, the whole plan to swap chairs and keep the same hold on the floor — was there a word for that too, in their language, the way there was a word for the station? Was that, by any chance, called renovated?

“He didn't resign, he reshuffled — quit the presidency on a Sunday in September so he could run for prime minister five weeks later, same man, same party, new ballot line. Didn't work: turnout hit the highest mark in years, and the students who started marching over a train station roof that killed sixteen people just beat him at the only move he had left. When switching chairs is the whole strategy, the chair wasn't the problem.”

— Sal

“This is exactly how it's supposed to work — a leader steps down from one office to seek a fresh mandate in another, totally standard. He conceded Sunday night, peaceful, orderly — orderly for a party that's held power fourteen years. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Will Serbia elections break Vucic’s grip on power?

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *13:33 EDT*

As voters head to the polls on Sunday, students are once again at the center of Serbian politics. Their movement began two years ago, in November of 2024, when the concrete canopy of the newly renovated railway station in Novi Sad, the country’s second largest city, collapsed and killed 16 people. Many Serbians saw the […]

~~Serbia's Student-Led Movement Ousts Strongman Aleksander Vučić in Shock Election Result~~

A roof collapse killed 16. Two years later, students ousted the government they blamed.

Democracy Now! § *08:37 EDT*

Serbia’s longtime leader Aleksander Vučić has been swept out of power by a historic student-led opposition movement against Vučić’s right-wing Serbian Progressive Party. Candidates from the Student List, who are not students themselves but largely first-time politicians selected by student-led popular assemblies, won a majority of seats…

Lula beats Bolsonaro; Israel expels 3,100+ Palestinians in Hebron; Student-led movement defeats Vučić in Serbia

Drop Site News § *11:26 EDT*

Drop Site Daily: October 26, 2026

~~Student-led Serbian movement ousts right-wing leader Aleksandar Vucic in seismic win~~

Two years of student protest just ended Serbia’s longest-serving strongman, on the highest turnout in years

Morning Star § *09:14 EDT*

THE long-serving right-wing leader of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, conceded defeat on Sunday in an election that pitted him and his party against a diverse student-led opposition movement that spent two years protesting against his government. The students were on course to win 52.9 per cent of the vote from a 69.34 per cent turnout, the…

· Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic resigns to run for prime minister in October elections *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Georgia shows what could follow Serbia’s election *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Student Protests Are Making Their Mark on Serbia’s Election *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

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U.S. shut its Brazil consulates, Instagram boosted Bolsonaro, Lula won by four million: markets call it unexpected

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

"Lula wins Brazil election but faces uphill battle to govern", 26 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The United States suspended consular services across Brazil days before the vote, and Meta's algorithm boosted the Bolsonaro campaign.

WHO GETS PAID. Elytron, the American election-manipulation firm the Bolsonaro campaign paid, and Meta, whose platform carried the boost.

WHAT SLIPS. What Brazilian voters saw was set by an American company, not by Brazil's election court, which was only asked to look afterward.

WHAT'S NEXT. On the calendar: Brazil's Superior Electoral Court has been asked to examine both the shutdown and the platform, and the lawmakers' 23 October letter asks Meta for answers. Bolsonaro is refusing to concede.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On Sunday Brazil re-elected Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to a record fourth term, by four million votes over Flávio Bolsonaro in the runoff — a runoff being the election you hold again when the first one did not settle it. Bolsonaro, who narrowly won that first round earlier this month, is refusing to concede.

Most of what went into it came from home. You will need an American social network, a consulate with the shutters down, and a U.S. firm called Elytron, which specialises in election manipulation and which The Intercept Brasil has the Bolsonaro campaign paying 600,000 Brazilian reais, about $119,000....

Clive *Specialises. One of us has a speciality, it runs to eleven pages in verse, and three of you have found reasons to leave the room.*

Lula's campaign asked the top election court to examine that shutdown as part of a broader investigation into alleged "interference" by the Trump administration.

Gary *Three of us left because the shutters in the back room came off in my hand, and I was being useful, which is more than eleven pages.*

Now fold in the algorithm. On 23 October researchers at the nonprofit Ekō opened a new Instagram account and found Instagram "actively boosting" Bolsonaro and conservative content in the days before the runoff. Meta has insisted its algorithms treat the two candidates equally. Take that by both ends and turn it over: the company says the scales are level, and the fresh account came out tilted.

Rob *Useful. Nothing in this house is level either, and the bucket under the boiler has been mine to empty since February.*

Keith *Buckets. There is money in a tilt if you know which way it leans, and a fortnight from now the kitty could be paying the meter itself.*

You will be looking for the rule that stopped any of this before Sunday. There is no rule in here; a letter and two requests to a court are what there is instead.

Clive *A fortnight. I asked this table for twenty minutes on a Tuesday and was handed a form to fill in by the one who holds the kitty.*

France 24, which is what they have here, has it as "Lula wins Brazil election but faces uphill battle to govern," and says the result dealt a blow to Brazil's far right. At home the New York Times has "Brazilian Markets Convulse After Unexpected Election Result." The expectation went on the floor, and the whole trading floor was standing there to see it. A position taken on a result will not keep past the count.

Serves Lula a fourth term, with deep political divisions, economic and security concerns at home and tensions with President Trump still to navigate. The bill went to whoever had bought the other result, and it came due in one morning.

Gary *Bought. I got the back door off a skip, took the old one off with a hammer, and that bill is still sitting with two of you.*

"They shut the consulates two days before the vote and told Americans to stay away from the buildings, the algorithm was shovelling Bolsonaro at an account that was one day old, and the campaign paid a hundred and nineteen grand to an American outfit that does election manipulation for a living. Then the money was shocked — that's the tell, Wall Street had priced in the leaning working. Four million votes says it didn't, and the only thing our side of it produced was a letter from a dozen lawmakers asking Zuckerberg if he'd mind explaining."

— Sal

"Meta says the algorithms treat both candidates equally, and one nonprofit opens one account and now it's interference — did I say equally? That's their position, I'm just relaying it. The consular services closed on a Friday for safety, people were advised to keep away from the facilities, that's a security posture, I don't know why you're the one making it about an election."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Brazil: Lula Wins Stunning Upset Over Flávio Bolsonaro in Blow to Far Right & Trump~~

Amid accusations U.S. tech firms throttled his reach, Lula beat Trump's ally by 4 million votes.

Democracy Now! § *08:16 EDT*

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has won a record fourth term in office, defeating far-right challenger Flávio Bolsonaro by 4 million votes in a runoff election on Sunday. Flávio Bolsonaro is the son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who remains under house arrest for plotting a coup against Lula four years ago. The...

Lula wins Brazil election but faces uphill battle to govern

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *09:38 EDT*

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's narrow election victory on Sunday has dealt a blow to Brazil's far right, but deep political divisions remain. The newly re-elected president must tackle economic and security concerns at home while navigating international tensions with US President Donald Trump.

~~Brazilian Markets Convulse After Unexpected Election Result~~

Investors panic because voters didn't pick their candidate

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *10:42 EDT*

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's re-election victory prompted a sharp reversal in financial markets that had expected his opponent to win.

~~Research Shows Meta Algorithm 'Actively Boosting' Bolsonaro Ahead of Brazil Election~~

Instagram fed new users 74% pro-Bolsonaro content before Brazil's runoff, research finds

Common Dreams § *10:53 EDT*

Meta has insisted that its social media algorithms treat Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and right-wing challenger Flávio Bolsonaro equally, but research published Friday shows that Instagram is "actively boosting" Bolsonaro and conservative content in the days ahead of the country's high-stakes runoff election. To test...

~~Jayapal, Sanders Question Zuckerberg Over Alleged Meta Interference in Brazilian Election~~

Research finds Instagram boosted Bolsonaro; lawmakers demand Zuckerberg explain

Common Dreams § *11:06 EDT*

Over a dozen US lawmakers, led by Rep. Pramila Jayapal and Sen. Bernie Sanders, wrote to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday to demand answers about the social media giant's alleged interference in Brazil's presidential runoff election.

~~Brazil Elections: How AI, Meta and Evangelicals Could Sway the Presidential Race for Bolsonaro~~

Bolsonaro campaign paid US firm $119,000 for 'psychological warfare' as Meta curbed Lula's reach

Democracy Now! § *08:32 EDT*

Brazilian voters are heading to the polls on Sunday for the presidential runoff between incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and far-right Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, with polls showing a tight race that will decide whether Brazil remains led by the left or joins the right-wing surge across Latin America. We speak to reporter Laís...

Brazilian Markets Convulse After Unlikely Election Result

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

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's re-election victory prompted a sharp reversal in financial markets that had expected his opponent to win.

· Lula Campaign Asks to Probe Sudden US Shutdown of Consular Services as 'Interference in Brazilian Elections' *from the morgue, 3 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.

OCCUPATION, ON SCHEDULE

Israel's army sealed the West Bank and ran its largest drill in years; neither was on Tuesday's ballot

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"The Millions of Israelis in Netanyahu's Corner", 26 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Israel's military closed the West Bank crossings and ordered new restrictions on Hebron days before the national election.

WHO GETS PAID. Netanyahu's government and the settlers pushing the E1 project, whose deadline the attorney general moved to after the vote.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters get no say over closures or drills; the army orders them, and the election does not reverse them.

WHAT'S NEXT. The vote is Tuesday. The E1 settlement deadline the attorney general pushed back comes due after it, with the closure orders still in force.

You will have been told that Tuesday is a reckoning, and in one narrow sense it is: the first Israeli election since October 7th, 2023, with Likud lagging in the polls. Hold that, because nothing else in the week required a vote. On September 27th the attorney general moved the E1 settlement deadline past the election, and the finance minister fumed. Moved, mind you, not cancelled — in abeyance, which is to say the deadline still exists and now falls after the ballot. On Friday gunmen in Hebron killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three. By Sunday the army had ordered new restrictions on Hebron and the West Bank crossings were to be closed before the vote. And what had to be passed for that? Nothing whatever. A closure is an order, and an order is signed. Someone will say that Tuesday answers it. Tuesday elects a Knesset. Then the drill: multiple divisions, the largest in years, an analyst reaching for the Yom Kippur War of 1973 … and not one line of it on a ballot paper. Three disastrous years for Israelis, the Times has it, and the core support remains strong. Tuesday may change the name over the ministry. The gates at Hebron it does not touch.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦
DUTCH

GUNMEN KILLED TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS IN HEBRON ON FRIDAY, AND BY SUNDAY THE army had ordered new restrictions on Hebron and the closure of the West Bank crossings before the election, with multiple divisions mobilized for the largest drill in years. That is not an election with a closure around it, that is a closure with an election printed inside it. An officer signs the closure order, the Knesset elected Tuesday never has to vote on that order, so the slip you fold at the polling station changes the name over a ministry and leaves every gate exactly where the army put it.

At noon the fox walks the
yard. The dog does not rise.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They're selling Tuesday as the big reckoning, and sure, Likud's trailing in the polls. But the crossings closed by order, Hebron got new restrictions by order, and the divisions rolled out for the biggest drill in years on a schedule nobody voted on. You can change the prime minister Tuesday and not move one gate."
— Sal

"Look, restricting movement days after gunmen kill two soldiers is standard security, it's not — did I say standard? That doesn't sound like me. The drill was on the calendar, the E1 deadline was moved by the attorney general and not by the prime minister, so if anything you're watching the system function, and the polling still shows his base holding, which, last I checked, is what an election is for."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *The Supreme Court found ninety days enough room to run a voter-purge database and twelve days too few to read a student ID.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to 'prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence' of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*
The Millions of Israelis in Netanyahu's Corner
The New York Times MAINSTREAM *02:24 EDT*
Despite three disastrous years for Israelis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's core support remains strong.

~~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…

Crackdown in the West Bank days ahead of Israeli elections
NBC News MAINSTREAM *19:08 EDT*
The IDF ordered new restrictions on the West Bank ahead of Israeli elections this week. It's focused on the city of Hebron, where Palestinian gunmen killed two IDF soldiers Friday. It comes just days before nationwide elections could determine Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political future.

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to prevent the destruction and preserve evidence of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*
Israeli Jews Across the Spectrum Face an Election of Fears
The New York Times MAINSTREAM *05:24 EDT*
Supporters and opponents of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have expressed intense anxieties about isolation abroad, security at home and the future of Israel's identity.

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to 'prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence' of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*
Netanyahu's party lags in polls ahead of first election since Oct. 7, 2023
CBS News MAINSTREAM *19:44 EDT*
Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party is lagging behind in the polls ahead of Israel's first election since the Oct. 7, 2023 terrorist attacks. Matt Gutman has more details ahead of Tuesday.

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

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

Israel to close West Bank crossings before elections amid military operation
CBS News MAINSTREAM *19:46 EDT*
The Israeli military's operation comes in response to a gun attack that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three others in the West Bank.

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

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

~~AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name~~
AIPAC is hiding its millions inside women's and Latino advocacy groups
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.

Israel drills for surprise attack with massive military exercise as expert invokes 1973 war
Fox News RIGHT *20:42 EDT*
Israel's largest military drill in years mobilizes multiple divisions to counter border infiltrations, as an analyst invokes the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

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

· 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*

· '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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

ICE deports Texas father to Ghana, which puts them on a flight to the country a judge banned.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. ICE deported a Texas father to Ghana, which put them on a flight to Mali the same day.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. A judge's order that this father could not go to Mali stopped mattering the moment they left U.S. custody, and no court has checked what happened to them since.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, more deportees get rerouted to countries with no ties and no signed agreement anyone will show; that is what Liberia already got on September 29, when CBS found deportees sent somewhere they said they had never heard of.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A Texas father spent months fighting deportation to the one country a U.S. judge said could get them killed: Mali. Ghana's airport read that paperwork differently.

The State Department warns Americans not to travel to several of the places the agency has been treating as deportation receiving docks all year. In September, CNN found the Central African Republic had taken in dozens of men with protection orders just like this one, the same month CBS traveled to Liberia and found deportees who said they had never heard of the country before ICE put them on the plane....

...(cont) The common thread through Liberia, the Central African Republic, and now Ghana-by-way-of-Mali is the same missing document: a signed agreement showing the receiving government actually agreed to take someone, and agreed to keep them. Nobody has produced one. Not the Ghanaian government, not the State Department, not ICE. The only paper trail that exists is the agency's own file, and the only reason the public has even that much is that CBS News got it — not ICE, not a court, not a congressional committee with subpoena power, CBS.

That is the whole mechanism now. A court rules a person cannot go to Mali. The agency says, on paper, they're going to Ghana instead. Ghana's own officials, answering to nobody in Washington, decide otherwise within the same day. And when a reporter finally asks who signed what, the only answer on file is the one the agency wrote about itself, filed where only a subpoena or a leak will ever find it. The court order didn't fail. It just stopped being able to follow this father once they left the room.

🍺

"They don't need to deport you to the country that will kill you — they just deport you to the country standing next to it, and let that government do it for them. Every time, the only proof of what got promised is the paperwork ICE wrote about itself, and the only reason we even see it is somebody leaked it to CBS. That is not a mistake happening three times in two months — Central African Republic, Liberia, now Mali by way of Ghana — that is a business model, and the product is a father who legally cannot be sent to the one place they keep ending up."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, Ghana is a sovereign country — what happens on their tarmac is not a State Department matter. Once they're off U.S. soil, that's between them and, uh, whoever is holding the clipboard there. The agreement exists, I've seen references to the agreement — okay, I have not personally seen the agreement, nobody has seen the agreement, but the agency would not write down that a country agreed to something if it did not, agencies do not just... did I say that? That does not sound like me."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~60 Minutes Transcript: Inside Trump's third-country deportations~~

The U.S. sent deportees to countries its own judges ruled unsafe for them

CBS News MAINSTREAM § 19:00 EDT

When immigrants can't be deported to their home countries, the U.S. sometimes sends them to other countries. But some deportees end up in places where U.S.

~~Texas dad deported to Ghana was then forced to go to Mali, he says~~

A judge barred his deportation to Mali. He ended up there anyway, he says.

CBS News MAINSTREAM § 19:00 EDT

A Texas dad was deported to Ghana, where he says local officials forced him onto a flight to Mali. The problem? A U.S.

~~ICE deported Texas dad to Ghana because home country was unsafe, Ghana sent him anyway~~

ICE deported him to a country judges said would persecute him

CBS News MAINSTREAM § 19:00 EDT

When immigrants can't be deported to their home countries, the U.S. sometimes sends them to other countries. But some deportees end up in places where U.S.

· U.S. Deports Thousands to Countries They Don't Know Under Secretive "Third Country" Deal *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

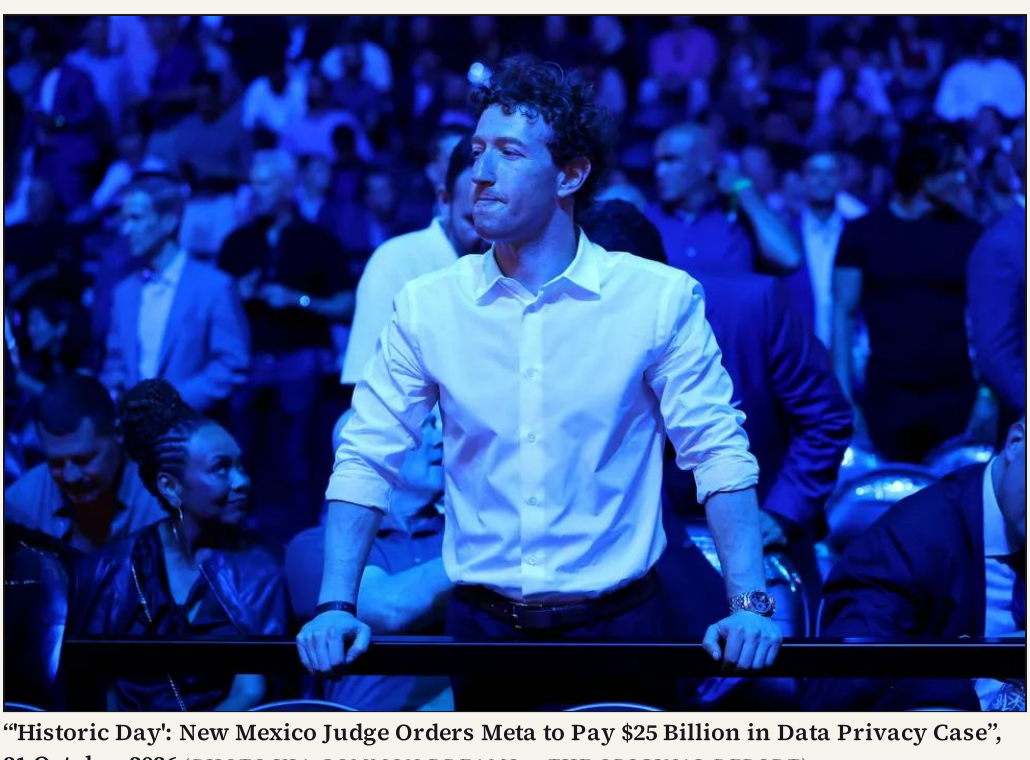
· Inside the Business of Trump's Third-Country Deportations *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Deported to Africa: Migrants describe being sent to a place they "had never heard of" *from the morgue, 29 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.

Meta pays forty-two billion dollars for data privacy violations, changes zero lines of code.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Historic Day': New Mexico Judge Orders Meta to Pay $25 Billion in Data Privacy Case", 21 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A New Mexico judge ordered Meta to pay another penalty for misleading users in the Cambridge Analytica data case.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. Meta can appeal the New Mexico judgment, but the receipts set no hearing date, and the platforms the case is about keep running unchanged in the meantime.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On August 26, a coalition of fifty-one state and territorial attorneys general proposed a settlement requiring Meta to pay up to $17.1 billion over claims its platforms were built to addict children. California's attorney general called it a deal that would make social media "less dangerous for our kids."

By October 21, Meta's business was still generating paperwork problems on a much smaller scale. A California judge that day rejected the company's request to let artificial intelligence review its own internal files, and criticized Meta for stamping "attorney-client privilege" on documents tied to the same child-safety claims — printed, according to the court record, on branded promotional hats....

...(cont) That same Wednesday, in a different courtroom, a jury in New Mexico had already found Meta liable for misleading users about its privacy and content policies, in a case stemming from the Cambridge Analytica scandal: a political consulting firm tied to the 2016 Trump campaign had obtained data from millions of Facebook users without their consent. State District Judge Francis Mathew ordered the company to pay $25 billion. New Mexico's attorney general, Raúl Torrez, called it one of the largest financial penalties ever levied against a corporation in the United States.

Add the $25 billion to the $17.1 billion, and the total owed across two settlements for conduct tied to the same platforms now runs past $42 billion. Nothing filed in either case required Meta to change the product. The children's feeds, the data pipelines, the recommendation engine Cambridge Analytica once tapped — all remain in service, unmodified by either judgment.

The filing under discussion includes a jury finding that Meta misled users about data taken without their consent, and a judge's order to pay for it. The gap between that record and "zero evidence" is the industry's position, not a number in the ledger.

Forty-two billion dollars, two attorneys general, one unchanged app. Whose column a gap like that turns up in is not a mystery; it's the one with the zeros still missing after the money.

"This is the same company getting hit for the same scandal twice now, and both times it writes a check instead of fixing the app your kid's still on. Forty-two billion dollars sounds like money until you remember whose company we're talking about — then it's a cost of doing business, and the business keeps running exactly as before."

— Sal

"Look, any business in this country could get dragged into some backwater courtroom and fined more than it's worth with zero proof anybody got hurt — that's not justice, that's a shakedown. Wait, did I say zero proof? There's a jury finding Meta deceived users about their own data — okay, I'll have to get back to you on that one."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Attorney general behind historic Meta fine says, "we are prepared to do this again."* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~'Historic Day': New Mexico Judge Orders Meta to Pay $25 Billion in Data Privacy Case~~

Meta's 'historic' $25 billion fine is about 11% of what the law allowed

Common Dreams § *17:14 EDT*

A New Mexico judge on Wednesday ordered Meta to pay $25 billion for misleading users about data privacy—and while state Attorney General Raúl Torrez's office touted it as "one of the largest financial penalties against a corporation in US history," it's also just a fraction of the $219.5 billion warranted under the law. The case stems...

How a New Mexico lawsuit 'win' vs. Meta could tank the whole US economy

New York Post RIGHT § *19:50 EDT*

Any business in America can be hauled into a New Mexico kangaroo court on some cockamamie theory, with zero evidence anyone ever suffered as a result, and fined more than the value of your entire company — and unable to appeal unless you can cough up even more cash to post bond.

· Meta ordered to pay $25bn to New Mexico in Cambridge Analytica data-privacy case *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Judge orders Meta to pay New Mexico $25B in Cambridge Analytica case *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

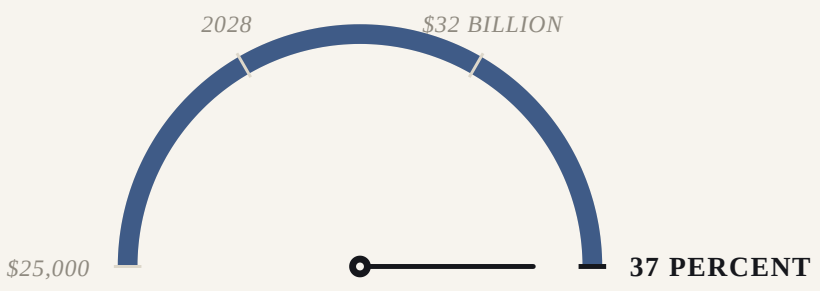
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§73 — 26 OCTOBER 2026

On tips

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



37 PERCENT

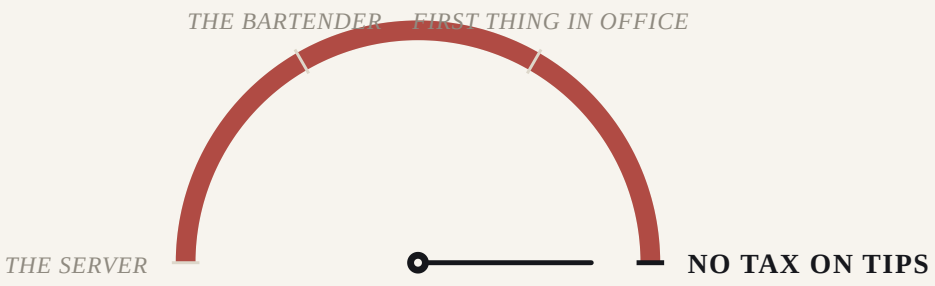
The fine print, from the IRS: the deduction is up to $25,000 a year, phases out above $150,000 of income for single filers and $300,000 for joint filers, requires a Social Security number, and applies for 2025 through 2028 [1]. The Joint Committee on Taxation scored it at $32 billion over ten years [2].

And the workers it was named for. The Yale Budget Lab found that "more than a third — 37 percent — of tipped workers had incomes low enough that they faced no federal income tax in 2022," against 16 percent for workers outside tipped jobs [3]. A deduction reduces taxable income; for a worker who owed no income tax, it reduces nothing. No tax on tips is real for the servers who were paying it, until 2028. For the 37 percent who weren't, it was already true.

SOURCES

1. Up to $25,000 a year; phases out above $150,000 ($300,000 joint); Social Security number required; 2025 through 2028 — Internal Revenue Service ↑
2. "$32 billion over 10 years (fiscal years 2025-2034)," per the Joint Committee on Taxation — Bipartisan Policy Center ↑
3. "More than a third—37 percent—of tipped workers had incomes low enough that they faced no federal income tax in 2022"; 16 percent for non-tipped occupations — Yale Budget Lab, 24 June 2024 ↑

REPUBLICAN



NO TAX ON TIPS

The promise, at a rally in Las Vegas in June 2024: "When I get to office, we are going to not charge taxes on tips … we're going to do that right away, first thing in office" [1]. It became law in the reconciliation bill signed July 4, 2025 [2].

And it is being used. In April the Treasury secretary reported that "over 7 million filers have claimed No Tax on Tips, with an average deduction of over $7,000" [3]. This is the cleanest case in the stockpile of a campaign line becoming a line on a tax form: a specific promise, to a specific group of workers, delivered, and claimed by millions of them in the first filing season. Write it down on this side of the ledger. The fine print is on the other.

SOURCES

1. "When I get to office, we are going to not charge taxes on tips … we're going to do that right away, first thing in office" — rally in Las Vegas — CBS News, 9 June 2024 ↑
2. H.R. 1 enacted as Public Law 119-21 on 4 July 2025 — GovTrack ↑
3. "Over 7 million filers have claimed No Tax on Tips, with an average deduction of over $7,000" — U.S. Department of the Treasury, 22 April 2026 ↑

"I asked the waitress at the diner where I have breakfast, because she'd know better than any of us. She said she heard about it. The government says over seven million people claimed it, average deduction over seven thousand dollars — that's real, I told her. Then I read her the rest: it tops out at twenty-five thousand, it phases out for high earners, it ends after 2028. And the Yale people say thirty-seven percent of tipped workers had incomes too low to owe federal income tax anyway. She poured my coffee and didn't say anything. Sorry — I left a dollar under the saucer. What's no tax worth to somebody who didn't owe any?" — Lou

🍺

"No tax on tips. He said it in Vegas and he did it — seven million people claimed it, averaging seven grand. Credit where it's due; write that down. Now the fine print: capped at twenty-five thousand, gone after 2028, and more than a third of tipped workers already made too little to owe federal income tax at all. For them the deduction is worth exactly what they owed, which was nothing. You can't un-tax a zero."

— Sal

🚬

"No tax on tips means no tax on tips, including for the workers who weren't paying tax on tips, who are now not paying it officially, which is a benefit of formality."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎