The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

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

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

THE WORD

§72 — 25 OCTOBER 2026

On 2028

DEMOCRAT

TWICE

REPUBLICAN

2028

"I keep a little card with the dates, because otherwise I'd lose track. March of last year: "No, no, I'm not joking... There are methods which you could do it." October: "I'm not allowed to run. It's too bad." July of this year, in Georgia: "I'm only kidding." Two days later, at the correspondents' dinner, in the hat: "my intention to run for a fourth term." August: "the law is very strong." I'm sorry, you've been very patient. Which of those five is the one the hat is selling?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W72

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

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

Senator calls California 'guilty' of ballot harvesting, names zero cases prosecuted under it

BY MITCH
Investigations

The Justice Department wants an appeals court to set aside twenty thousand ballots. The record behind that request runs back weeks before anyone filed anything.

That month, the press surfaced a DHS operation its own staff called the Unlawful Voter Initiative: hundreds of agents working state voter rolls, hunting noncitizens. Three weeks later, on September 25th, the Supreme Court lifted a lower court's block, 6 to 3, clearing DHS to screen those rolls against a database called SAVE — one with a public record of flagging naturalized citizens as noncitizens by mistake. The tool built to catch illegal voters comes with a documented defect: it also catches legal ones.

On October 20th, the Department of Justice charged twenty-eight green card holders in California with fraudulently registering to vote; eleven went into custody. Three days later, the department asked the Ninth Circuit to order California to set aside twenty thousand mail ballots before they could be counted at all, filed as an emergency.

The court gave it a hearing — on a Sunday, which is itself rare — and did

... Continued on Page B45

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

White House goes to extraordinary lengths to free the one person convicted of election fraud

BY LOU
One More Question

Baltimore, it says. A shipyard, six point six billion dollars. The company that owns the thing is Anduril Industries — I didn't have to look that part up twice, it's right there in the piece. Who paid for the factory, and whose name is on it as the owner? Those aren't the same name. I wrote that down and then felt foolish for writing down something I could just read.

Did I mention who runs Anduril? A man named Palmer Luckey. He raises money for the president's party — that's not me saying it, that's the paper, I just read it back like a man at the counter reading his own grocery list to the cashier. Does the company that got the factory and the company that gets the fundraising dinners happen to be the same company?

I keep a glovebox like everybody else — two years of registration stickers in there, a toll receipt from a bridge I couldn't swear I crossed. I hang onto paper. You never know when somebody's going to ask you to prove where you were. The next morning after the shipyard story — I checked the date, it was the next morning — another page landed on top of it. Companies backed by Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, six billion dollars in Pentagon con-

... Continued on Page A222

DOJ sues to void an election only the Republican could lose, nine days before Alaska votes

BY LOU
One More Question

I had the registration renewal in my coat pocket — not for any reason, that's just where it's lived since August, the one that says if it's not mailed back by the fifteenth they can flag the plate — and I had it out on the counter at the corner store this morning, next to the coffee, when the radio behind the register started in on Alaska. I left the renewal right there on the counter the whole time I listened, which tells you something about my priorities, or maybe just about the coffee.

Here's how we got here, in the order it happened. On October 14th the President told reporters the Senate race up there had a "fake" Dan Sullivan in it — a longshot candidate he said was a Democratic plot to split the vote — and said his administration was looking into it. Two days later, on the 16th, the real Senate debate happened, Sullivan against Mary Peltola, and somewhere in that hour somebody on that stage said "let's have some decorum," which I only mention because decorum is a word you reach for right before you stop having any. Then this past Sunday, the 25th, Senator Thom Tillis went on television and said it was "appropriate to take a look at" the outcome

... Continued on Page B45

Hassett says economy is best ever seen, Hill runs the headwinds he hasn't moved the same day

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On September 9, the Hill's Memo column described the dilemma facing Republican candidates heading into the midterm convention: embrace a president whose approval was already softening, or keep their distance. Two weeks later, on September 23, the same outlet reported the softening had a location — rural voters, Mr. Trump's core, were peeling off over the cost of living.

On October 12, House Speaker Mike Johnson told CBS he intends to remain the Republican leader if "heaven forbid" the party loses its House majority. He had called the prospect a joke the week before, floating a lawn business instead. By October 12 it was a contingency plan.

The next day, October 19, Kevin Hassett, the director of the National Economic Council, went on CNBC to answer the polling directly. He said the polls were wrong, because "we are in a boom." His evidence was that people were taking trips to nice hotels.

On Sunday, heading into the final week, Hassett returned to television and improved on the line. The economy, he said, is "about the best economy

... Continued on Page F127

France deploys 70,000 police to guard a headcount two papers still cannot agree on.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The headcount was born 18 October, when French police counted 1,800 arrests and NBC, counting the same Saturday, counted 1,200 — one weekend, two outlets, six hundred people's difference in whether they existed. It is dead this morning at seven days old.

It was preceded in death by the story it was built to measure: more than half a million people, by NBC's count, protesting rising living costs and poor conditions in the country's schools. On 21 October the Morning Star reported Emmanuel Macron accusing foreign leaders of exploiting that unrest for their own politics, a line aimed across the Atlantic at Donald Trump, who had already told a Kansas rally the rioters were migrants and communists carrying out what "the radical 'Dumocrats' want to do to America." The next day the Guardian watched Fox News and its allies fall in behind that framing, with Republicans' own former campaign manager calling the November map "ugly" and conservative media, in the Guardian's reading, hoping unrest abroad would move votes at home. From that point the headcount had a second job: not to count people, but to sort them into the right villain.

... Continued on Page B45

"Nothing up there is a conspiracy. That's the part that should worry you — it's all on the record, filed, stamped, and in a couple of cases notarized."

— *Sal*

"Nothing here is a scandal. A scandal requires surprise, and I can assure you nobody involved was surprised."

— *Chip*

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

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.

Senator calls California 'guilty' of ballot harvesting, names zero cases prosecuted under it

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

"LA's top federal prosecutor scorches California after noncitizen voters battle", 26 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department asked the Ninth Circuit on October 23 to set aside twenty thousand California mail ballots.

WHO GETS PAID. The Justice Department and Senate Republicans making the noncitizen-voter claims against California ahead of the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. Votes already cast by registered voters risk going uncounted while the lawsuit over them continues.

WHAT'S NEXT. If a Voter ID or ballot-screening rule follows here, that is what Texas got after March 2022: a twelvefold jump in mail-ballot rejections, to 12.4 percent, under a new ID-number rule.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Justice Department wants an appeals court to set aside twenty thousand ballots. The record behind that request runs back weeks before anyone filed anything.

That month, the press surfaced a DHS operation its own staff called the Unlawful Voter Initiative: hundreds of agents working state voter rolls, hunting noncitizens. Three weeks later, on September 25th, the Supreme Court lifted a lower court's block, 6 to 3, clearing DHS to screen those rolls against a database called SAVE — one with a public record of flagging naturalized citizens as noncitizens by mistake. The tool built to catch illegal voters comes with a documented defect: it also catches legal ones....

...(cont) On October 20th, the Department of Justice charged twenty-eight green card holders in California with fraudulently registering to vote; eleven went into custody. Three days later, the department asked the Ninth Circuit to order California to set aside twenty thousand mail ballots before they could be counted at all, filed as an emergency.

The court gave it a hearing — on a Sunday, which is itself rare — and did not give it an easy one. Judge Mark Bennett told the government's own lawyers, "I don't see how we have jurisdiction." The panel spent the session asking the Justice Department to justify an order it wanted before a single ballot in question had been tabulated.

The same weekend, the top federal prosecutor for Los Angeles said the election was at risk of being "corrupted." And on that same Sunday, on television, Senator Thom Tillis called California "guilty" of running a ballot-harvesting system "ripe for abuse."

All together now: the senator's quote, on the record, carries one case number. Zero. Not a single prosecution is named in it — not in his sentence, not anywhere in the item that quotes him.

The next morning, with the Ninth Circuit's skepticism still fresh, this city's other paper published its verdict anyway: Voter ID is "the only cure" for California's election system. The cure arrived before the court it was citing had even ruled.

Twenty thousand ballots. Six to three. Zero cases named for the "system ripe for abuse" a sitting senator said, on a Sunday show, the state is guilty of running. Every other number in this story is on the record. That one is missing from it, and nobody on the record was asked to produce it.

🍺

"They built a fraud database that flags naturalized citizens as noncitizens, charged twenty-eight people, and used that to ask a court to freeze twenty thousand ballots two weeks before the midterms — and the senator selling "guilty" on television can't cite one case. That's not a prosecution, that's a headline wearing a badge. Weeks before an election, in a state they keep losing, that's the whole play."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, the Ninth Circuit asking tough questions just means they're doing their job, it doesn't mean the underlying fraud isn't real — twenty-eight arrests is twenty-eight arrests. Senator Tillis said "ripe for abuse," he didn't say "here's my evidence binder," that's just — okay, that's not great, but a system can be ripe for abuse without a conviction, that's literally why you fix it before — did I say "before"? We're not pre-judging anything here."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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

LA's top federal prosecutor scorches California after noncitizen voters battle

New York Post RIGHT § *22:25 EDT*

Los Angeles' top federal prosecutor has warned the upcoming midterm elections are under serious risk of being "corrupted" in California.

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)*

Appeals court hears arguments in Trump admin's voting suit against California

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *19:48 EDT*

A federal appeals court had a rare Sunday hearing in the Justice Department's voting lawsuit against California.

Appeals court resists DOJ's bid to immediately segregate 20k California ballots

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:02 EDT*

A federal appeals court appeared unlikely to immediately agree to the Trump administration's bid to segregate 20,000 California ballots it says are likely noncitizen voters, expressing skepticism at a rare Sunday hearing that a trial judge needs to move quicker. "I don't see how we have jurisdiction," said U.S.

~~DOJ asks appeals court to intervene for California mail-in ballot lawsuit~~

DOJ asks court to block 20,000 ballots it claims are noncitizen votes

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *23:12 EDT*

The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Thursday asked an appeals court to intervene in its lawsuit against California to temporarily block the state from counting more than 20,000 mail-in ballots cast by what the Trump administration claims are from non-U.S. citizens. The request, made to the Ninth U.S.

New York voters need more genuine general-election choices — or democracy is doomed

New York Post RIGHT § *05:00 EDT*

If New York can't somehow return to the days of competitive elections where politicians actually have to earn the majority's votes, the state will keep spiraling down.

Absurd court farce on noncitizen ballots leaves Voter ID as the only cure

New York Post RIGHT § *22:30 EDT*

Voter ID is the only way to fix California's broken election system. That's the only reasonable conclusion from Sunday's extraordinary hearing at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ninth Circuit questions Trump DOJ's emergency request to set aside 20,000 California mail ballots

Fox News RIGHT § *21:26 EDT*

A Ninth Circuit panel grilled Justice Department lawyers over forcing California to set aside mail-in ballots tied to suspected noncitizens.

Tillis accuses California of being 'guilty' of ballot harvesting: 'They have a system there that is ripe for abuse'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:18 EDT*

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) on Sunday accused the state of California of being "guilty" of ballot harvesting, claiming that the Golden State has "a system there that is ripe for abuse." "Face the Nation" host Margaret Brennan asked about the Department of Justice's (DOJ) legal battle with the state over potential noncitizens on their...

~~Court ruling fails to end wait for thousands of immigrants stuck abroad without visas~~

Trump administration is slow-walking visas for thousands from 75 banned countries, attorneys say

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

A federal judge struck down a Trump administration ban on issuing immigrant visas to people from 75 countries, but immigrants continue to be stuck in their countries. Attorneys say the federal government is slow-walking the processing of visas on purpose.

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

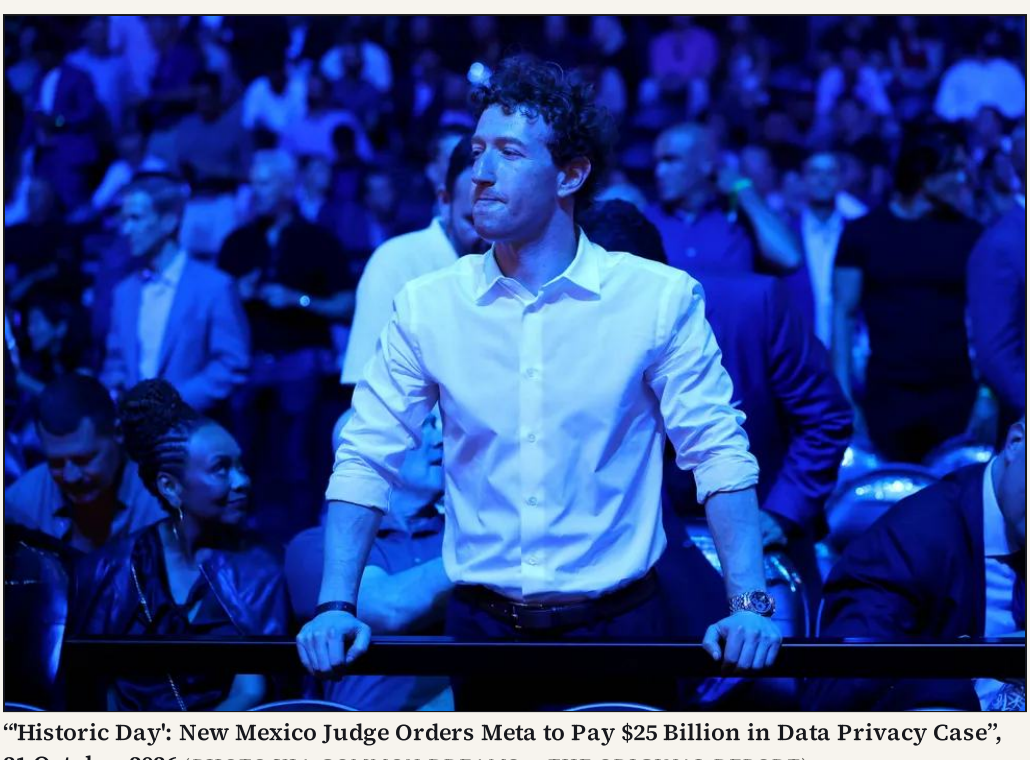
· US Citizens 'Could Lose Their Right to Vote' After Supreme Court Gives Green Light to Trump's Voter Purge Database *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 2 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.

White House goes to extraordinary lengths to free the one person convicted of election fraud

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The White House pressured Colorado's governor to commute the sentence of Tina Peters, an election official convicted of breaching voting machines.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Investigators, not voters, now hold the only check on whether anything was traded for her release.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the administration keeps declining to say what it offered, that is what happened with the efficiency office's savings claims: Washington, 24 November 2025, a program closed with numbers nobody could verify standing as the final word.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Baltimore, it says. A shipyard, six point six billion dollars. The company that owns the thing is Anduril Industries — I didn't have to look that part up twice, it's right there in the piece. Who paid for the factory, and whose name is on it as the owner? Those aren't the same name. I wrote that down and then felt foolish for writing down something I could just read.

Did I mention who runs Anduril? A man named Palmer Luckey. He raises money for the president's party — that's not me saying it, that's the paper, I just read it back like a man at the counter reading his own grocery list to the cashier. Does the company that got the factory and the company that gets the fundraising dinners happen to be the same company?...

...(cont) I keep a glovebox like everybody else — two years of registration stickers in there, a toll receipt from a bridge I couldn't swear I crossed. I hang onto paper. You never know when somebody's going to ask you to prove where you were. The next morning after the shipyard story — I checked the date, it was the next morning — another page landed on top of it. Companies backed by Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, six billion dollars in Pentagon contracts, most of it running through a firm called 1789 Capital that made the president's son a partner. Is that six billion the same six billion as the shipyard, or is that a second six billion?

I was at the corner store this week, paying for cigars I probably shouldn't smoke, and the owner was complaining about what the bank takes off the top no matter whose hand the money started in. Does it matter where the money begins if it ends up buying the same thing? Because that's what got me about the super PAC story. Facing the backlash, the president said taxpayers wouldn't pay for his ads anymore — a political committee would. Is a dollar from a super PAC a different dollar than a dollar from the Treasury, or is it the same dollar with its shirt changed?

So here I am with three soft pages in my coat, and I haven't even gotten to the one that sent me out tonight. CBS is reporting the White House went to what they call extraordinary lengths to get Colorado's governor to commute the sentence of an election official — Tina Peters, convicted of helping breach the very voting system she was sworn to protect. The administration that pushed for her release is now being investigated over how hard it pushed. This is the same administration that calls election fraud the gravest threat to the republic. Did it also spend its political capital springing the one person a jury found guilty of committing it?

CBS asked the White House what it offered Colorado in exchange for this, if anything, and the administration declined to say. Declined — their word, I read it twice standing at the mailbox to make sure I had it right. Does a man decline to answer a question he likes the answer to?

Oh — before you go. The one who actually signed the commutation was Governor Jared Polis. Nobody's asked him yet, far as I can find, what Colorado got for saying yes. I've got the page. I just don't have that answer written on it anywhere.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE WHITE HOUSE BUILT A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR A $6.6 BILLION FACTORY WITH YOUR tax dollars, let the fundraiser keep the deed, and leaned on a governor to spring the one election worker a jury actually convicted of fraud, then refused to say what it traded to get it done. That's not clemency, that's a receipt with the price blacked out. You hand the government your ballot and your tax return and your sworn word, they hand a donor a shipyard and hand a felon a pardon, and the only document in this whole transaction that stays sealed is the one with your name on it — the jury duty summons sitting on your kitchen table, the one that still assumes you're the one who has to prove you didn't cheat.

🍺

"You get it now? The same month the government builds a $6.6 billion shipyard for a GOP fundraiser's company and the Trump kids rack up $6 billion in Pentagon deals through their own VC shop, the White House is twisting a governor's arm to spring the one person a jury convicted of election fraud — and won't say what it paid for the favor. That's not conviction, that's inventory: who gets the factory, who gets the contract, who gets the commutation, and what it cost you is the one number they won't print. Everybody in this story gets paid except the guy at the end of the bar."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, the president is allowed to express an opinion about a sentence he thinks is unjust, that's just — did I say "allowed"? He went around a sitting governor with what CBS itself calls extraordinary lengths, over a conviction for breaching voting machines, and now there's an actual investigation into it. There's nothing to see here because the administration hasn't told anyone what there is to see, which, now that I say it out loud, is kind of the whole problem."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Investigating claims Trump tried to strong-arm Colorado into releasing Tina Peters

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:00 EDT*

Tina Peters, an election conspiracy theorist who supported President Trump's voting fraud claims, had her Colorado prison sentence commuted by Gov. Jared Polis after a White House pressure campaign.

The lengths Trump went to for Tina Peters after her sentencing

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:00 EDT*

President Trump went to extraordinary lengths for Tina Peters, a former election official convicted of helping to breach the very voting system she swore to protect.

~~60 Minutes transcript: Trump, Tina Peters and funds for Colorado~~

The White House pressured Colorado into freeing an election fraud conspiracist

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:00 EDT*

Tina Peters, an election conspiracy theorist who supported President Trump's voting fraud claims, had her Colorado prison sentence commuted by Gov. Jared Polis after a White House pressure campaign.

· Trump announces $6.6bn defense shipyard owned by top Republican donor's firm *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Swapping One Illegal Scheme for Another, Trump Says Super PAC Cash Will Now Fund His Propaganda Ads *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

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TRIGGER CLAUSE

DOJ sues to void an election only the Republican could lose, nine days before Alaska votes

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Todd Blanche challenges Dana Bash for only citing part of Constitution during heated election clash", 26 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department sued to block certification of Alaska's Senate race, but only if the Republican incumbent loses.

WHO GETS PAID. The lawsuit protects the sitting Republican senator's seat and the administration that ordered the suit filed.

WHAT SLIPS. The courts, not voters, could end up deciding whether a finished election count stands.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, courts override finished vote counts when the preferred side loses; that is what Venezuela's Supreme Court did on 10 September 2015, declaring an election-related ruling "unenforceable" after the courts had already ordered otherwise.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I had the registration renewal in my coat pocket — not for any reason, that's just where it's lived since August, the one that says if it's not mailed back by the fifteenth they can flag the plate — and I had it out on the counter at the corner store this morning, next to the coffee, when the radio behind the register started in on Alaska. I left the renewal right there on the counter the whole time I listened, which tells you something about my priorities, or maybe just about the coffee.

Here's how we got here, in the order it happened. On October 14th the President told reporters the Senate race up there had a "fake" Dan Sullivan in it — a longshot candidate he said was a Democratic plot to split the vote — and said his administration was looking into it. Two days later, on the 16th, the real Senate debate happened, Sullivan against Mary Peltola, and somewhere in that hour somebody on that stage said "let's have some decorum," which I only mention because decorum is a word you reach for right before you stop having any. Then this past Sunday, the 25th, Senator Thom Tillis went on television and said it was "appropriate to take a look at" the outcome in Alaska, where, he noted, there happen to be two men named Dan Sullivan on the ballot. The lawsuit he was defending — filed by his own Justice Department — asks a court to block certification of that race over "voter confusion," and here is the part I had to read twice: it only does anything if the Republican loses. If Sullivan wins, there's no confusion. When a reporter asked who ordered the suit filed, the Attorney General wouldn't say. The President, asked the same question, said, "I'm the one that said do it."...

...(cont) Now, I don't have a law degree, I have a glovebox, and I want to tell you what's in it. Two guys on my street are both named Dan — have been for eleven years, long as I've lived there — and the mail carrier sorts by house number, not name, and it has never once required a lawsuit. The bank does it by account number. The guy at the DMV does it by the number on the renewal that was sitting on the counter this morning. Is the Alaska Division of Elections using a different number than everybody else on my street? Does a ballot not carry one?

I was folding the renewal back into my coat, about done with the whole thing, when something else came to me — not about Alaska, about the renewal itself, which is the part I almost walked out without asking. If the suit only moves if the Republican loses, and the Attorney General won't say who ordered it filed, and the President says he's the one who said do it — is there anyone left in that chain of command who was asked and answered "no"?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS SUED TO BLOCK CERTIFICATION OF AN ELECTION THAT HAS not finished happening, in a case that only proceeds if the Republican loses it. That is not a lawsuit, it is a parachute packed for one man and labeled "emergency" for everyone else. You fill out your ballot, you drop it in the box, you drive home believing the count decides it — and nine days from now, in Alaska, whether that count means anything depends on whose name comes out on top, the same way the renewal in your glovebox only gets flagged if the number on it is wrong, except nobody's checking the number, they're checking the winner.

"They filed a lawsuit that only does anything if their own guy loses — that's not a voter-confusion case, that's an insurance policy with a filing fee. The AG goes on TV and calls three different hosts "misleading," "crazy," and refuses to even engage the January 6th comparison, but the one guy who answers the only question that matters — who ordered it — is the President, unprompted. Nine days out, and the only people not confused about what this is are the ones running it."

— Sal

"Look, two candidates with the same name on a ballot, that's a legitimate — Senator Tillis called it "appropriate to take a look at," that's not an accusation, that's due diligence. The lawsuit's conditional on the outcome because — well, because that's when voter confusion would actually matter, if you think about it, which, okay, saying it out loud it only matters if he loses, that's not — did I just say that? That's not what I meant."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Attorney general calls three hosts misleading, crazy, and not a real question; the one from Trump remains unanswered.* By Lou · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
- *Attorney general declares Alaska's Senate race unfair; ballots challenged: zero, with nine days until the vote* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
- *Justice Department asks a court to block Alaska's Senate certification only if the Republican loses, challenging zero ballots* By Sterling · the evening 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)*

Todd Blanche challenges Dana Bash for only citing part of Constitution during heated election clash

Fox News RIGHT § *20:11 EDT*

Todd Blanche demanded CNN show the full Elections Clause in the Constitution on air after Dana Bash highlighted only the first portion during a tense legal debate.

~~Blanche defends DoJ's pre-emptive suit to block Alaska Senate results certification~~

Trump claims credit for DOJ's bid to block Alaska election certification

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:48 EDT*

US attorney general calls CNN 'crazy' for suggesting Trump's attempt to overturn election could lead to January 6 repeat Sign up for The Stakes 2026: your weekly guide to the US midterms Todd Blanche , Donald Trump 's attorney general, lashed out during an interview on Sunday while defending the justice department's pre-emptive lawsuit...

Tillis says it's 'appropriate to take a look at' Alaska ballot with two Dan Sullivans running

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *19:46 EDT*

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) on Sunday said it was "appropriate to take a look at" the outcome of the Alaska Senate race with two candidates with similar names on the ballot, which prompted a Department of Justice (DOJ) lawsuit. "Alaska has a candidate who just coincidentally happens to be the same name as my friend...

· Peltola, Sullivan spar in fiery final Alaska Senate debate: 'Let's have some decorum' *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

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

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Hassett says economy is best ever seen, Hill runs the headwinds he hasn't moved the same day

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

“Axelrod: Trump’s ‘I don’t give a damn’ remark on gas prices is no winning message”, 25 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Hassett and Johnson told voters the economy is the best ever on October 25.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters' ability to get a straight accounting from their own party's messengers slips here.

WHAT'S NEXT. Republican pollsters already admitted on October 18 they were "taken aback" that rural voters blame billionaires, not Democrats, for prices; that reaction has not changed the closing message as of October 25, nine days before the midterms.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 9, the Hill's Memo column described the dilemma facing Republican candidates heading into the midterm convention: embrace a president whose approval was already softening, or keep their distance. Two weeks later, on September 23, the same outlet reported the softening had a location — rural voters, Mr. Trump's core, were peeling off over the cost of living.

On October 12, House Speaker Mike Johnson told CBS he intends to remain the Republican leader if "heaven forbid" the party loses its House majority. He had called the prospect a joke the week before, floating a lawn business instead. By October 12 it was a contingency plan....

...(cont) The next day, October 19, Kevin Hassett, the director of the National Economic Council, went on CNBC to answer the polling directly. He said the polls were wrong, because "we are in a boom." His evidence was that people were taking trips to nice hotels.

On Sunday, heading into the final week, Hassett returned to television and improved on the line. The economy, he said, is "about the best economy we've ever seen." The same day, Speaker Johnson doubled down on what the Daily Caller called an "extraordinary record," even as, the Caller's own headline noted, an affordability crisis threatens the House majority he leads.

The Hill, the outlet that carried Hassett's quote, ran a second story the same day: gas, diesel and food prices are high and are expected to stay high through Election Day. The president's diesel deal with Russia, the piece reported, has had little lasting impact on pump prices. That is the gap this column exists to measure — not between two campaigns, but between two headlines filed by the same wire service on the same date, one from the National Economic Council, one from the Hill's own reporters, who had already told readers the headwinds have not moved.

David Axelrod gave the gap a human shape on Saturday. He called Mr. Trump's "I couldn't care less" about gas prices — because the administration is "making an absolute fortune" on oil — no winning message.

The two men closing the argument for Republicans, hon, are the two men the record already shows did not move the number. That is not a prediction. That is the receipts, filed by the same reporters, on the same day, under the same editor's name.

“They send out the two guys whose own numbers didn't move the last three weeks to close the sale — that's not a strategy, that's a confession. Hassett says "boom," the same paper prints the diesel bill the next column over, and the guy in Arthur, Nebraska with a hundred neighbors already knows which one's true.”

— Sal

“Look, "best economy we've ever seen" is a vibes statement, it's not meant to be fact-checked against — did I say vibes statement? That's not messaging guidance, scratch that. The fundamentals are strong, the polling methodology is the real story here, and frankly rural voters have always been cyclical on this.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Forbes billionaire count climbs again. Obama, not any Republican, makes the economy's closing argument.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 25 October 2026
- *Taken aback voters blame billionaires, Republicans make no case for the economy.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 24 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Axelrod: Trump’s ‘I don’t give a damn’ remark on gas prices is no winning message~~

Trump on high gas prices: 'we're making a freaking fortune' on oil

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:29 EDT*

Democratic strategist David Axelrod called out President Trump on Saturday, following Trump's remarks at an evening rally where he told supporters he "did not give a damn" about high fuel prices because “we’re making a freaking fortune" on oil. “HE's making money like he's never made before. And he doesn't give a damn about high...

But: **First-time homebuyers are now a record-low 21% of the market, with median first-time-buyer age at a record 40** *National Association of Realtors, 2025 Profile*

Hassett says the economy is 'best we've ever seen'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *14:18 EDT*

Kevin Hassett, the director of the National Economic Council (NEC), on Sunday said the economy is the "best we've ever seen" as the Trump administration and Republicans make their final pitches heading into the midterm elections. "So the great big picture about the economy is that it's about the best economy we've ever seen," Hassett...

The Fed thinks it’s fighting inflation. It’s starving the cure

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *13:00 EDT*

America’s economic ambition should reach well beyond slowing price increases. We should be expanding what this country can produce and what its people can achieve. The Federal Reserve should hold interest rates steady in October while it assesses September’s increase.

~~Trump fails to change economic headwinds facing GOP candidates~~

Trump's Russia diesel deal failed to lower fuel prices

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:00 EDT*

Gas, diesel and food prices are high and expected to remain elevated through Election Day, creating a strong political headwind for Republicans who are at serious risk of losing control of the House and possibly the Senate, as well. President Trump's diesel deal with Russia has had little lasting impact on fuel prices, according to...

But: **The 2025 reconciliation law cut SNAP by $187 billion, the largest cut in the program's history - SNAP feeds one in five American children** *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*

Mike Johnson Doubles Down On ‘Extraordinary Record’ As Affordability Crisis Threatens GOP’s House Majority

Daily Caller RIGHT § *15:11 EDT*

Mike Johnson Doubles Down On ‘Extraordinary Record’ As Affordability Crisis Threatens GOP’s House Majority

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

‘Prairie Populists’ fight to win back rural voters long ceded to Republicans

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *10:37 EDT*

Democratic and independent candidates stump the US midwest and prairie states, hoping to win over Republican strongholds In this final stretch of the US midterm elections, Democrats and independents could win back communities and towns across America’s rural heartlands through a combination of resurgent “prairie populism”, local despair...

· Hassett dismisses negative economic polls: ‘We are in a boom’ *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Economic frustrations chip away at Trump's rural support *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· The Memo: Trump’s midterm convention presents GOP candidates with stark dilemma *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· GOP Operatives 'Taken Aback' as Rural Voters Blame Billionaires for Economic Woes: Report *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Johnson says he intends to remain GOP leader if Republicans lose majority *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

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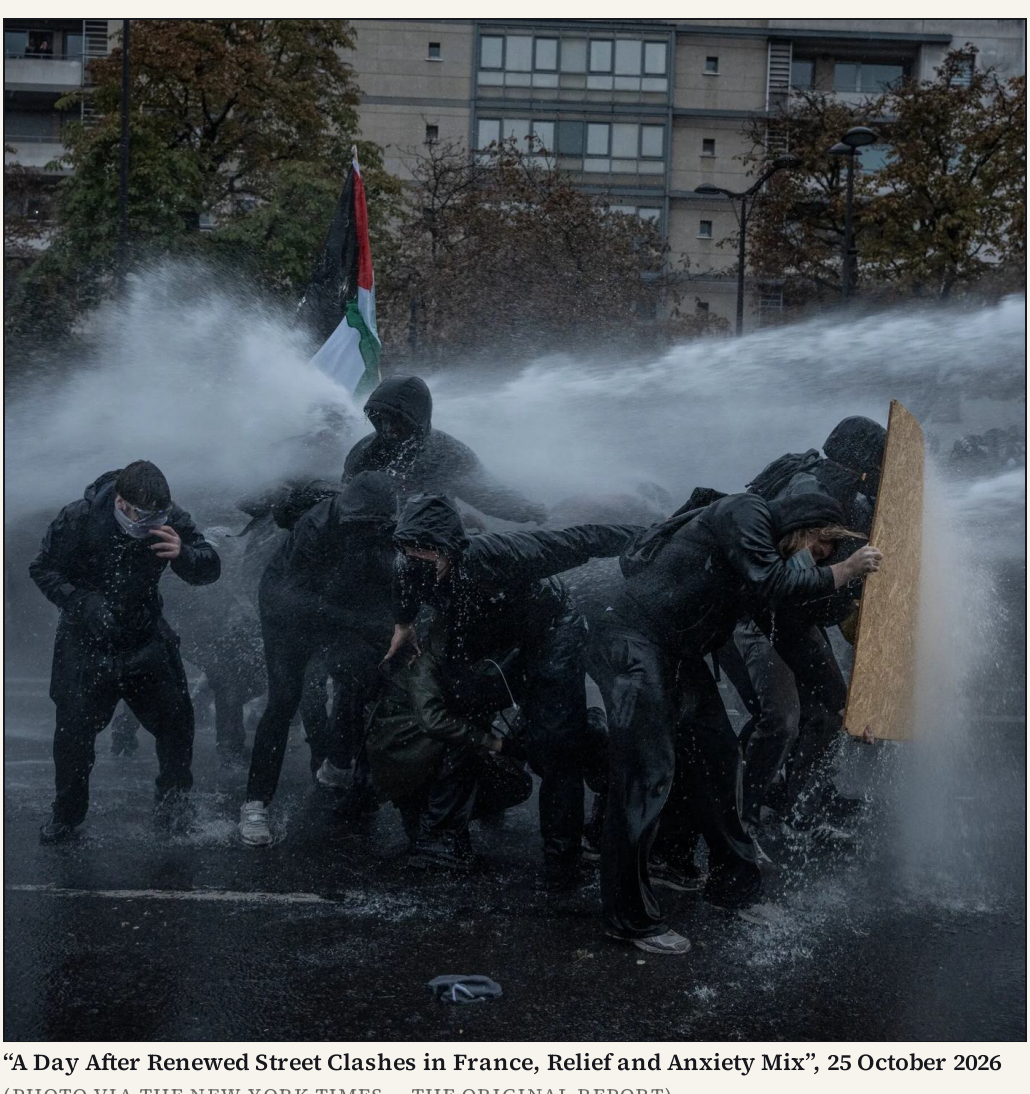
France deploys 70,000 police to guard a headcount two papers still cannot agree on.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"A Day After Renewed Street Clashes in France, Relief and Anxiety Mix", 25 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Wire outlets covering one Saturday of European protests keep reporting shrinking, conflicting arrest and crowd counts.

WHO GETS PAID. Trump's midterm messaging, which turns a foreign riot into proof migrants are invading America.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose one trustworthy number to measure any official's claim about the unrest against.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the count keeps drifting to fit whoever is telling it — the way Washington's savings claim rose from $55 billion to $214 billion before independent tallies, by 24 November 2025, found only a fraction of that total.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The headcount was born 18 October, when French police counted 1,800 arrests and NBC, counting the same Saturday, counted 1,200 — one weekend, two outlets, six hundred people's difference in whether they existed. It is dead this morning at seven days old.

It was preceded in death by the story it was built to measure: more than half a million people, by NBC's count, protesting rising living costs and poor conditions in the country's schools. On 21 October the Morning Star reported Emmanuel Macron accusing foreign leaders of exploiting that unrest for their own politics, a line aimed across the Atlantic at Donald Trump, who had already told a Kansas rally the rioters were migrants and communists carrying out what "the radical 'Dumocrats' want to do to America." The next day the Guardian watched Fox News and its allies fall in behind that framing, with Republicans' own former campaign manager calling the November map "ugly" and conservative media, in the Guardian's reading, hoping unrest abroad would move votes at home. From that point the headcount had a second job: not to count people, but to sort them into the right villain....

...(cont) By today the number cannot do either job cleanly, because it no longer survives contact with a single Saturday's own coverage. Fox News reports nearly 1,000 arrested in France this weekend while the New York Times, covering the same Saturday, offers only "a huge number" and no figure of its own. Italy and Albania already supplied two of those capitals, Rome and Tirana; Belgium supplies nothing but its name, no capital attached, and joins the ledger anyway.

It is survived by six capitals, a seventh country with no capital on the ledger, and a French president promising payment on a tally no two desks can agree exists.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that the next wire story print one number, the method used to get it, and both at once.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

French police logged 1,800 arrests on 18 October and nearly 1,000 on the Saturday just past, with 70,000 officers now patrolling the gap between those two numbers. That isn't a shrinking riot, it's a headcount being filed down to fit whichever broadcast is renting it that week. The softer the number gets in Paris, the louder Fox needs it to sound in Kansas before November third, because a vague riot abroad turns into a hard turnout pitch at home, and that pitch ends up printed on the sample ballot sitting on your own kitchen counter.

"This whole thing is a number-laundering operation: French cops file one headcount, Fox files another, and whichever one lands on American TV the week before the midterms decides whether your neighbor pictures migrants burning Paris or teachers protesting cuts to their kids' schools. Trump's been running this script since the eighteenth: point at a foreign street fight, blame "migrants and communists," let Fox do the arithmetic from there. The people at this bar don't get a vote on which headcount is real, but their ballot gets cast on the strength of it anyway."

— Sal

"Look, the president's just connecting dots for the American people — nearly a thousand arrests in one weekend, that's not nothing, that's a country on fire, and if folks want to call that "migrants and communists" instead of "people mad about their pension," that's a framing choice, not a lie. Macron himself admits it's serious, I mean he's the one who sent seventy thousand cops, so clearly somebody over there agrees with us — wait, he's blaming us for saying that, did I just... no, that's not what I meant. The point is the numbers speak for themselves, whichever numbers you happen to be using."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Same Saturday, Europe's protests get three different tallies — and the mob still makes the New York Post's deadline.* By Mort · the morning edition, 25 October 2026
- *Students protesting rats and falling debris in their schools became footage at Trump's midterm rallies; one Saturday's arrest count was filed at 135, then nearly 1,000.* By Mort · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

A Day After Renewed Street Clashes in France, Relief and Anxiety Mix

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *12:43 EDT*

While the police kept a lid on vandalism, the huge number of protesters and France's fraught politics suggest unrest could grow.

~~Trump reveals dire warning to Macron as violent unrest spreads across Europe~~

France arrested nearly 1,000 protesters Saturday

Fox News RIGHT § *13:27 EDT*

Trump says he warned Emmanuel Macron that immigration policies were "destroying France" as nearly 1,000 protesters were arrested on Saturday.

~~From arrests to crackdowns, how Europe's leaders are responding as protests rock the continent~~

Macron deploys 70,000 police against protesters nationwide

Fox News RIGHT § *11:24 EDT*

Emmanuel Macron vows rioters will pay as 70,000 police deploy across France, while Italy, Belgium and Albania face escalating protest violence.

· Macron blasts Trump for blaming unrest on Muslim migrants *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· 'America, this is a warning': pro- Trump Maga media in a froth over Europe protests *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

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

· 1,200 Arrested After Sweeping Protests Turn Violent in France *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

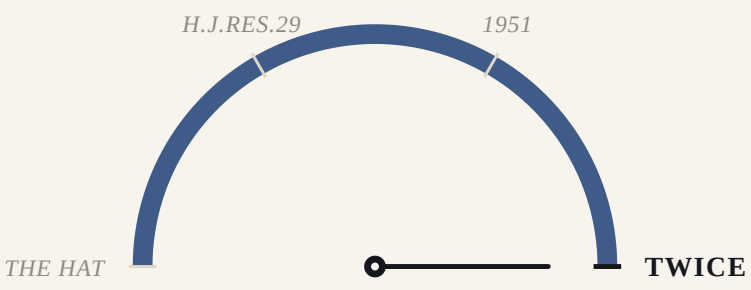
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§72 — 25 OCTOBER 2026

On 2028

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



TWICE

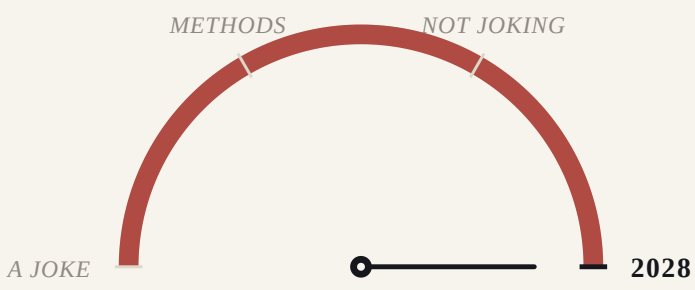
The law. The 22nd Amendment, ratified February 27, 1951: "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice" [1]. In January 2025 a House member introduced a joint resolution to amend it; it was referred to the Judiciary Committee, and there has been no action since [2].

So the record stands like this. Not joking, in March. Not allowed, in October. Only kidding, in July. A fourth term, two days later. Very strong, in August. Five positions in seventeen months, one hat, and one amendment that has not changed a word since 1951. The hat costs $50. The amendment's word is twice.

SOURCES

1. "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice" — 22nd Amendment, ratified 27 February 1951 — National Archives ↑
2. H.J.Res.29 (119th Congress), introduced 23 January 2025, referred to the House Judiciary Committee; no further action — BillTrack50 ↑

REPUBLICAN



2028

The hat went on sale at the Trump Store in April 2025, "Trump 2028," at $50 [1]. The words around it have come in a sequence. To NBC in March 2025: "No, no, I'm not joking … There are methods which you could do it" [2]. In July of this year, "I'm only kidding"; two days later, wearing the hat at the White House Correspondents' dinner, "my intention to run for a fourth term" [3].

And the answer on his side, in his own voice. On Air Force One in October 2025: "If you read it, it's pretty clear. I'm not allowed to run. It's too bad" [4]. In August: "I'd love to run, but the law is very strong" [3]. That is the defense: a man who says the law is clear and strong has said he will obey it, and a hat is a hat. What the law actually says is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. The Trump Store listed a "Trump 2028" hat at $50 — ABC News, 24 April 2025 ↑
2. "No, no, I'm not joking … There are methods which you could do it" — phone interview — NBC News, 30 March 2025 ↑
3. "I'm only kidding" (22 July 2026); "my intention to run for a fourth term" (24 July 2026); "I'd love to run, but the law is very strong" (11 August 2026) — Roll Call, 19 August 2026 ↑
4. "If you read it, it's pretty clear. I'm not allowed to run. It's too bad." — Air Force One, 29 October 2025 — PBS NewsHour ↑

"I keep a little card with the dates, because otherwise I'd lose track. March of last year: "No, no, I'm not joking… There are methods which you could do it." October: "I'm not allowed to run. It's too bad." July of this year, in Georgia: "I'm only kidding." Two days later, at the correspondents' dinner, in the hat: "my intention to run for a fourth term." August: "the law is very strong." I'm sorry, you've been very patient. Which of those five is the one the hat is selling?" — Lou

🍺

"He said he's not joking. Then he said he's only kidding. Then he wore the hat to a dinner and announced a fourth term. Then he said the law is very strong. The hat is fifty dollars at his own store. The Constitution's free, and the word it uses is "twice." You can buy the hat. You can't buy the amendment. Not for fifty dollars, anyway."

— Sal

🚬

"The hat is merchandise, the fourth term was a joke, the methods were hypothetical, and the law is very strong, which is exactly what you'd say about a law you've read very carefully to see how strong it is."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎