The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Oklahoma's oil regulator skips a thousand pollution fines, finds its enforcement tool for the city's drinking water.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

The chief opens the file on an Oklahoma oil company with about 1,000 pollution violations stacked against its name and a fine total of zero. Before anyone touches the file, there is one page already marked: October 5, when the same company plugged a disposal well that was headed for a city's drinking water. That page is the whole plan, because it is the only time the state's oil and gas regulator ever used the tool it has carried the entire time.

The planner spreads both beats on the table. On one side: a single disposal well, ordered shut because it threatened water a city actually drinks. On the other, arriving three weeks later: ProPublica's count of roughly 1,000 incidents and violations tied to the same operator, and a regulatory record with no fine attached to any of them. The planner does the math out loud — one enforcement action, one thousand chances, and the one that happened is the one where a city's water was the thing at stake. The tool was never missing. It was filed.

The tinkerer takes the well-plugging order apart to see what it is made of, and it turns out to be nothing exotic: a regulator's own standing authority to

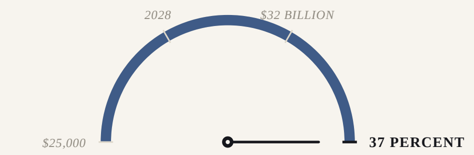
... Continued on Page A223

THE WORD

§73 — 26 OCTOBER 2026

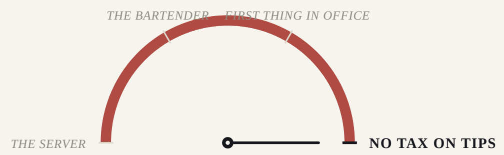
On tips

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 RATION LINE

Tehran meters gasoline at a 110-liter monthly quota and prices a sangak loaf by provincial order; Washington keeps the lettered list that says which cargo crossing the strait a U.S. insurer may cover.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Valkyries one win from WNBA title, may have to clinch it on a practice court.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Let this reporter say what the red light is supposed to keep private: a league commissioner's office that writes the anthem into its own rulebook, then watches two franchises skip it three straight Finals games without a word of enforcement, is not protecting the flag — it is renting it out for the broadcast window. Somebody hand this off to the political desk before sports has to adjudicate the First Amendment between timeouts.

... Continued on Page S19

Israel lobby routed $13.1 million under other groups' names; the open question is a registration form

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Thirteen point one million dollars, and not one dollar of it spent under the name of the people who spent it. You will want to know which law that breaks. None. The Lever's reporters, Katya Schwenk and Luke Goldstein, traced the sum this week: routed, through intermediary groups. Routed, mind you. Not hidden, not laundered — routed, which is what one does with a parcel one means to arrive.

Five days before, a documentary put the other question — whether any of this warrants scrutiny under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Dion Nissenbaum, in that film, states the statute's test: "It says that you have to register under this law if you are acting at the request of a foreign government." A handsome test. Nobody has been required to sit it.

And in August the lobby lost yet another House race it had poured millions into, against a candidate who had barely mentioned Israel. Other millions, those. The seat went elsewhere ... and the name went nowhere at all. That is what the arrangement delivers without fail, and it is not a seat. You will vote without being told whose money asked you to.

... Continued on Page F128

Official who enrolled her daughter proposes a mortgage funded by a donor's stock pledge and a claim form.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The pitch leans on an account program whose own paperwork, read in order over the past three weeks, does not yet hold what it says it holds.

Start with October 7th. In the Oval Office, President Trump said the accounts would have a "huge effect" limiting young Americans' sympathy for socialism and communism — the first stated dividend on a program that had, by then, enrolled nearly 8 million children in three months. The same day, the administration announced an expansion of more than 70 million additional accounts, automatically opened for every child under 18, bringing the declared total to roughly 78 million. The same announcement carried the fine print: a parent has to file a claim before any of it reaches a child's hands.

Twelve days later, on October 19th, the marquee asset arrived. President Trump thanked Elon Musk for "pledging" SpaceX stock to every enrolled child, calling it "incredible generosity." A pledge is a promise to transfer shares, not a transfer of them. The receipts record the thank-you. They do not record a wire, a share count per account, or a price.

That is the asset the commissioner is now proposing the government lend

... Continued on Page F128

Netanyahu presses for action against Iran his own military chief already resisted, days before election.

BY LOU
One More Question

Here's the order, before anybody tells me what it means. I'm not saying anything yet, I'm just putting the dates down.

October 7, 2023: the Hamas-led attack. October 7, 2026: Netanyahu faces renewed questions over whether he had advance warning. October 16: settlers beat a Washington Post photographer while attacking Palestinian olive farmers. October 17: Netanyahu praises Trump's "wicked sense of humor," defends the alliance. October 23: the West Bank goes under what critics call a full lockdown, condemned as collective punishment. October 26: a UN-mandated commission calls the occupation's conduct crimes against humanity, the same week Israel bars a group of European lawmakers who'd come to watch the olive harvest, the same week three thousand more people are displaced out of Hebron. October 27: the polls open for Israel's first election since October 7.

That's the order. I laid it out, I didn't say anything.

Now here's the one I can't put down, and I apologize in advance, because I'm going to come back to it more than once before I'm through with it.

... Continued on Page A223

DOJ, losing its California ballot fight for the fourth time, asks Washington to set aside hundreds more.

BY MITCH
Investigations

I read dockets for a living, which obligates me to note that the Department of Justice has now lost the same argument four times since September, and has filed it a fifth.

Start with the record, because the record is the whole story. The accusation came first and empty-handed: a senator called California's mail ballots a harvesting operation and could not point to a single prosecuted case. The Justice Department supplied one on October 19th — 28 green card holders charged with registering and voting, 48 voting-crime counts in all, the docket the accusation had been missing. That was last week's column.

This week the department tried to extend the same theory to the ballots themselves. On October 23rd it asked the Ninth Circuit to order California to segregate 20,000 mail ballots within 48 hours, on the theory that the people who cast them might not be citizens. On October 26th a three-judge panel answered, 2 to 1: no. Not on the merits — the majority found it lacked jurisdiction to grant the emergency order at all. California had already refused the 48-hour deadline; the court agreed it didn't have to comply with an order the

... Continued on Page B45

Third Comey indictment rests on a 2016 leak the government investigated and declined to charge

BY LOU
One More Question

Let me put the dates down first, flat, because I keep losing the order and my handwriting is no help.

October 2016: a story runs in the New York Times. May 2019: the Justice Department charges Julian Assange under the Espionage Act, seventeen counts, including conspiring to obtain, receive and disclose national defense information. September 25 this year: a judge delays the first Comey case, the one about seashells, to early 2027, motions still pending, one of them asking her to throw it out as driven by the president's animus. October 5: a new case against the same man starts moving under seal. October 24: federal authorities arrest a contractor, 42, for allegedly passing national defense information to his girlfriend. October 26: a judge rules the administration illegally fired Maurene Comey, a federal prosecutor, who believes she lost the job because of who her father is. The same day, the documents unseal. Two counts. Disclosing information related to the national defense. 2016.

That's the order. I'm not drawing anything from it. I just like the dates in a row where I can see them.

... Continued on Page B45

U.S. shut consulates, moved to fund a campaign against Brazil's court, lost by four million, calls it rigged

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a foreign election, American-style, which means it is cooked at home and eaten somewhere else. On Sunday Brazil re-elected Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the runoff, 51.7 percent against Flavio Bolsonaro's 48.2, a margin of four million votes, with the results published overnight on Monday. On Monday the American president called the election likely rigged. Bolsonaro is demanding the victory be annulled.

You will need an American social network's algorithm, a consulate with its shutters suddenly down, and a push from Washington to put money into a campaign against Brazil's supreme court.

Clive *Shutters down. Mine have been down a fortnight and nobody at this table has knocked to ask what is being written behind them.*

Gary *Nothing is behind them. The shutter came off in spring and it is under the bike. I could have that door off in four minutes.*

Begin at the end of September, when Brazil's own spy agency confirmed the existence of interference from the United States as well as Russia, the first round four days off. On 1 October the Guardian revealed the funding plan,

... Continued on Page A223

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

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

Snow held the fox's prints till the thaw,
while the farmer mended the door.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

The futures file ← →

Valkyries one win from WNBA title, may have to clinch it on a practice court.

By **GUS**
THE SPORTS DESK

Albert
DREAM
5

“WNBA championship celebration could be moved to practice court in unfortunate twist”, 26 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Golden State Valkyries beat the Atlanta Dream to move one win from the WNBA title.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next event on the calendar is Game 6 of the Finals, and the record already has Chase Center's availability for any clinching celebration in question.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Let this reporter say what the red light is supposed to keep private: a league commissioner's office that writes the anthem into its own rulebook, then watches two franchises skip it three straight Finals games without a word of enforcement, is not protecting the flag — it is renting it out for the broadcast window. Somebody hand this off to the political desk before sports has to adjudicate the First Amendment between timeouts.

GUS HIS SIDE

This reporter has watched championship corridors collapse under their own velvet rope before, but never has this reporter seen a franchise stand two wins from immortality only to learn the building itself may not be free. By this reporter's count, the Golden State Valkyries need two more victories to claim the WNBA crown after a workmanlike 68-55 triumph over the Atlanta Dream Monday night in Game 5 at Chase Center.

Correction noted, though this reporter maintains the final digit is a technicality beside the larger drama: for the second consecutive Finals contest, the plucky gals of both ballclubs failed to appear for the national anthem, a vanishing act this reporter finds almost patriotic in its brevity.

Regardless, this reporter turns to the matter of the coronation itself, which this reporter is reliably informed may not occur at Chase Center at all, owing to a scheduling conflict this reporter traces back to roughly the Carter administration.

TRUDY HER SIDE

One win, Gus, not two — the Post and the Guardian both have Golden State up three games to two, a single victory from the trophy. And it was 64-55. Keep the box score in front of you, not behind the bar.

Third straight game, not second — Fox News had it October 22nd, the Valkyries and the Dream skipping the anthem in Game 3 same as Games 1 and 2, same as the league's own rulebook says they're supposed to stand for. And they're not "plucky gals," Gus — they're the two best rosters left in a championship series. Try "professionals."

Rebuke first: Gus, nobody's litigating the First Amendment at a bar ten minutes after you swore the mic was dead. Now the receipt — the Post reported October 26th the title celebration could get bumped to a practice court because Chase Center's already got another show booked, and the league's own anthem mandate is real too, same Fox News, October 22nd. Go lie down, sugar, and let somebody else count the wins before Game 6.

“Golden State's selling out a championship series and the people who own the building still might bump the trophy ceremony for somebody else's concert — that's the tell: the lease runs on whoever pays the venue, not whoever built the moment. The Valkyries could end up becoming champions in a practice gym because the building had a better offer, and that's not bad luck, that's priorities.”

— Sal

> “Look, it's not a snub, it's just basic business — whoever's paying for the building that week gets the building, and if that happens to land on a championship clincher, well, that's efficient scheduling, not disrespect. Call it the free market doing exactly what it's designed to do. Did I just defend somebody else's concert over a championship? That doesn't sound like me.”
>
> — Chip

THE RECEIPTS

WNBA championship celebration could be moved to practice court in unfortunate twist

New York Post RIGHT § *19:34 EDT*

The Valkyries and Dream square off in Game 5 of the WNBA Finals Monday. The series is tied at two games a piece, making Monday’s matchup a critical turning point. If Golden State or Atlanta manage to win back-to-back contests, then Game 6 would be the clincher.

Valkyries one win from WNBA crown after shutting down Dream in Game 5

New York Post RIGHT § *23:35 EDT*

The Valkyries are one win away from a WNBA championship. Golden State took care of business against the Dream in Game 5 of the WNBA Finals with a 64-55 victory Monday night at the Chase Center. Ballhalla was booming after the Valkyries protected home court and gained a 3-2 lead over Atlanta in the series....

Golden State Valkyries one win from WNBA title after Game 5 win over Atlanta Dream

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:39 EDT*

WNBA finals Game 5: Dream 55-64 Valkyries Golden State lead best-of-seven series 3-2 Valkyries could win title in second WNBA season Kiah Stokes kept swatting shots on the interior, while Veronica Burton disrupted the Dream with her own quick hands to alter shots. And that crazed, violet-clad “Ballhalla” home crowd roared at every chance...

· Atlanta Dream and Golden State Valkyries skip national anthem for third straight WNBA Finals game *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

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

· Steph Curry reps Valkyries star Veronica Burton’s jersey as Golden State begins WNBA Finals *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

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

PAGE F128 FROM§EACH THE EVENING EDITION — 27 OCTOBER 2026

Israel lobby routed $13.1 million under other groups' names; the open question is a registration form

By **STERLING**
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

“Lever Live: Behind AIPAC’s $13.1M Money Trail”, 27 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE LEVER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Reporters traced millions the Israel lobby spent on elections through other groups instead of under its own name.

WHO GETS PAID. AIPAC, which gets to spend on House races without its name appearing on the ads voters see.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose the one fact that lets them weigh an ad: who paid for it.

WHAT'S NEXT. No agency has said it will act. The question raised on October 22 is whether the lobby must register as a foreign agent; until someone requires a filing, the spending stays nameless through the coming House races.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Thirteen point one million dollars, and not one dollar of it spent under the name of the people who spent it. You will want to know which law that breaks. None. The Lever's reporters, Katya Schwenk and Luke Goldstein, traced the sum this week: routed, through intermediary groups. Routed, mind you. Not hidden, not laundered — routed, which is what one does with a parcel one means to arrive.

Five days before, a documentary put the other question — whether any of this warrants scrutiny under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Dion Nissenbaum, in that film, states the statute's test: "It says that you have to register under this law if you are acting at the request of a foreign government." A handsome test. Nobody has been required to sit it....

...(cont) And in August the lobby lost yet another House race it had poured millions into, against a candidate who had barely mentioned Israel. Other millions, those. The seat went elsewhere ... and the name went nowhere at all. That is what the arrangement delivers without fail, and it is not a seat. You will vote without being told whose money asked you to.

The lane, the fox walks at noon
now. A man bolts an empty shed.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

“Thirteen million bucks and not one envelope with their name on the outside — that's not a loophole somebody found, that's the whole build. You don't need a bank in Zurich when "intermediary group" does the same job for free and legal. And the hardest question anybody is asking is whether they ought to fill out a form.”

— Sal

“Look, moving money through other organizations is completely lawful, so it isn't routing, it's — it's participating. Did I say routing? That doesn't sound like me. And they lost a House race in August, so plainly nobody's getting what they paid for, which if you think it through is the strongest case for letting them keep paying.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *The Treasury secretary told a House committee the department is* *examining whether it needs Congress at all to mail the $5,000 the president promised adults for keeping Congress Republican, in the same week 750,000 people lost their health coverage with no vote required.* By Mitch · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Should AIPAC Register as a Foreign Agent? Zeteo Examines Pro-Israel Lobby's Influence on Elections~~
>
> ### Zeteo's filmmaker says AIPAC acts at Israel's request - the standard that triggers forced foreign-agent registration
>
> *Democracy Now!* § *08:25 EDT*
>
> The growing controversy over AIPAC's impact on U.S. politics is the subject of a new Zeteo documentary titled Night Flower: Inside AIPAC's Fight for Influence . The film examines AIPAC's history and its role in shaping U.S.

Lever Live: Behind AIPAC's $13.1M Money Trail

The Lever § *21:32 EDT*

David Sirota sits down with Lever reporters Katya Schwenk and Luke Goldstein to dive into their investigation that traces how the Israel lobby is furtively routing millions.

· AIPAC Loses Yet Another House Race It Poured Millions of Dollars Into *from the morgue, 21 Aug 2026*

· The Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Election *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· 'Sickening and Unacceptable': Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000 *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign? *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's $5K dividend promise *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker' *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut $5,000 checks without Congress *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of $40 trillion debt *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

· Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling $5,000 dividend a bribe *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out $5,000 checks *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy? *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Trump sees backlash over $5K dividend pledge *from the morgue,* *10 Sep 2026*

- Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*
- 5 things to know about Trump's $5K dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Vance strikes back at concern $5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: ‘Wealth will go back to the people’ *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Marshall backtracks on support for $5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*
- Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He’s a Senator. *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Conservatives would scream ‘bloody murder’ if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women? *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Trump’s promised $5,000 ‘dividend’ checks: What to know *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump’s Reckless $5,000 ‘Dividend’ *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Republicans bet the House on Trump *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed $5000 ‘Trump dividend’ *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump pledges $5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump says $5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent' *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's $5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not $5K checks *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- Susan Collins calls Trump’s $5,000 dividend proposal with no cap ‘extraordinarily costly’ *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump $5K dividend payment support *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Gavin Newsom calls Trump’s $5K voter payout ‘bulls—’ and a ‘desperate’ power grab *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Trump pitches $5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump's $5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Why Trump's promised $5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- GOP leaders blindsided by Trump’s promise of $5K checks *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Steve Scalise says details of $5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress" *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump’s $5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

- Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie $5,000 dividends to GOP wins *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's $5,000 Midterm Bribes *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Trump's Plan To Cut $5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's $5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend $3,800 More on Essentials *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Why not to bank on Trump's $5,000 dividend checks happening *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump shares details on $5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Some Republicans Balk at Trump's $5,000 'Dividend' Offer *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- The political risk behind Trump's $5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's $5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Trump vs. the Bond Market *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- The United States House of Representatives passes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by 227 votes to 203. After being sent to the United States Senate for a vote, the Senate's parliamentarian found tha *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2017*
- The attorney general of New York announces she is suing the Donald J. Trump Foundation and its directors, President Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. (CNBC) *from the morgue, 14 Jun 2018*
- Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Trump promises $5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump claims $5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump's $5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label $5K promise a

'socialist vote-buying scheme' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump’s proposed $5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: ‘A dangerous arms race’ *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump Wants to Give Out $5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than $1 Trillion. *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump Promises Americans $5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans $5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Republican midterm convention included $5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to $6 billion *from the morgue, 9 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.

Official who enrolled her daughter proposes a mortgage funded by a donor's stock pledge and a claim form.

By **RUTH**

THE MONEY DESK

“Trump Accounts are just the beginning. Young Americans need a path to homeownership”, 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A former FHA commissioner who enrolled her own daughter in a Trump Account proposes a taxpayer-backed mortgage program built on it.

WHO GETS PAID. Elon Musk's SpaceX gets public credit for funding millions of children's accounts without yet transferring any stock or cash.

WHAT SLIPS. No one checks whether the pledged stock ever reaches an account; each of roughly 78 million families must file their own claim to find out.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pledge goes unverified, the claimed wealth will not match what families actually receive; that is what Washington got after 19 February 2025, when the efficiency office's itemized receipts were cut in half while the headline savings number stood.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The pitch leans on an account program whose own paperwork, read in order over the past three weeks, does not yet hold what it says it holds.

Start with October 7th. In the Oval Office, President Trump said the accounts would have a "huge effect" limiting young Americans' sympathy for socialism and communism — the first stated dividend on a program that had, by then, enrolled nearly 8 million children in three months. The same day, the administration announced an expansion of more than 70 million additional accounts, automatically opened for every child under 18, bringing the declared total to roughly 78 million. The same announcement carried the fine print: a parent has to file a claim before any of it reaches a child's hands....

...(cont) Twelve days later, on October 19th, the marquee asset arrived. President Trump thanked Elon Musk for "pledging" SpaceX stock to every enrolled child, calling it "incredible generosity." A pledge is a promise to transfer shares, not a transfer of them. The receipts record the thank-you. They do not record a wire, a share count per account, or a price.

That is the asset the commissioner is now proposing the government lend against. Her plan treats the Musk pledge as capital sturdy enough to underwrite a national mortgage rate cut, in the same month reporting confirmed the program's headline wealth is a stock pledge rather than cash, and the same three weeks in which the government has told the roughly 78 million families enrolled that they must file a claim form themselves to collect anything at all.

Hon, if a bank teller told a customer their account was funded by a stock certificate nobody has priced, dated, or transferred, and then handed the customer a form to fill out before they could draw on it, a state examiner would have a word for that. Here it is called expanding opportunity. The commissioner's own daughter holds one of these accounts. The receipts do not say whether the stock has reached it, or whether the paperwork has been filed. They do say that roughly 78 million other children's accounts sit in the identical condition, and that the next line of credit the government is proposing to build runs through the same unfiled form.

> “They put a kid's name on a brokerage statement, tell you it's wealth, and now they want to borrow against it to cut your mortgage rate — that's not a nest egg, that's a pledge card from a guy who just got thanked by name. The paperwork to actually collect falls on the parent, not the government, so the families who don't have time to chase a claim form get the account number and nothing else. Follow the stock: it's still sitting with the company that pledged it, and the only thing that's moved so far is the press release.”
>
> – Sal

> “This is generous — Elon stepped up, gave American kids a stake in the future, and a former commissioner with actual housing experience wants to build on it. Sure, it's a pledge and not a wire transfer, but — did I say "not a wire transfer"? That's not — look, the accounts exist, the claim form exists, the mortgage idea exists, that's three things that exist.”
>
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Brazil's fix for mayors shutting down election-day buses: two extra hours to vote.* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
- *Washington shuts its own Brazil consulates two days before the election it swears it isn't touching.* By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
- *Prices rose 3.7 percent in September; the same report set Social Security's 2027 raise at 3.6 percent.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 14 October 2026
- *CBS exclusively obtained drone-strike video the Army still hasn't shown the dead soldier's parents.* By The Wrecking Crew · the early evening edition, 7 October 2026
- *Carlson doubts Britain should have fought WWII; Cruz answers that the UK is better off for winning it.* By Mort · the matinee edition, 7 October 2026
- *Senate Democrats ask for the war's cost; a senator is barred from the base that would prove it.* By Mort · the sunrise edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> *But:* NAR puts the median first-time homebuyer at 40 years old - a record - and first-time buyers at a record-low 21% of the market *National Association of Realtors, 2025 Profile*
>
> Trump Accounts are just the beginning. Young Americans need a path to homeownership
>
> *Fox News* RIGHT § *05:00 EDT*
>
> A former FHA commissioner who enrolled daughter Margot in a Trump account in March of 2025 proposes a Trump mortgage to slash homebuyer rates.

· Trump predicts 'Trump Accounts' will limit spread of socialism, communism *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Trump thanks ‘legendary friend’ Musk for pledging SpaceX stock to Trump Accounts *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Trump expands Trump Accounts access: Here’s how you can claim it on behalf of your child *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Trump celebrates all kids under 18 having a Trump Account — but parents must claim it for financial benefits *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran: 'Do I want to go in and annihilate them' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN investigators conclude 'reasonable grounds' to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a 'big decision coming up' on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world's No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces

'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

- U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to Massie saying Johnson is sending the House home early to prevent Hegseth impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- ‘You’re Elected to Fight and Kill the Other Side’: How Congress Lost Its Way *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- 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*
- Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

- Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

- Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- As gas averages $4.31 nationwide, diesel fuel hits all-time high: "It's painful. It's real hard" *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

- Costco Raises Motor Oil Price, Caps Customer Purchases As Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

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

- European Union member states agree to a natural gas price cap in an attempt to limit economic damage from the global energy crisis. The price cap can be triggered beginning on February 15, if for thre *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2022*

- Spike on 10-year bond yields renews concerns over U.S. debt *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- 10-Year Treasury Yield Reaches 5%, Highest Level in Years *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

- Treasury reveals $6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

- Trump blames rise in diesel prices on Ukrainian strikes against Russian oil refineries *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

- Trump blames rising diesel price on Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

- What Is Driving Diesel Prices Up? Energy Chaos Caused by Two Wars. *from the morgue, 14 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.

Netanyahu presses for action against Iran his own military chief already resisted, days before election.

By **LOU**

ONE MORE QUESTION

ELECTRA
חוצות זהב
הליכוד
יש לנו הזדמנות אחת
לנצח!
מחל
הליכוד
בהנהגת בנימין נתניהו
לראשות הממשלה

"Netanyahu Pushed for Attack on Iran Ahead of Israeli Election, Officials Say", 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Israel voted for the first time since October 7 after barring olive-harvest observers and pressing a resisted Iran option.

WHO GETS PAID. Netanyahu's own campaign gets the harder line on Iran it wanted, delivered days before the vote it needed.

WHAT SLIPS. The military chief's objection stops working as a check once the Prime Minister can press ahead without any public vote overruling it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If a resisted military option goes ahead without a public vote, the operation continues anyway; that is what Washington got after April 16, 2019: the Senate's override of the Yemen war-powers veto failed 53 to 45, and the war went on 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's the order, before anybody tells me what it means. I'm not saying anything yet, I'm just putting the dates down.

October 7, 2023: the Hamas-led attack. October 7, 2026: Netanyahu faces renewed questions over whether he had advance warning. October 16: settlers beat a Washington Post photographer while attacking Palestinian olive farmers. October 17: Netanyahu praises Trump's "wicked sense of humor," defends the alliance. October 23: the West Bank goes under what critics call a full lockdown, condemned as collective punishment. October 26: a UN-mandated commission calls the occupation's conduct crimes against humanity, the same week Israel bars a group of European lawmakers who'd come to watch the olive harvest, the same week three thousand more people are displaced out of Hebron. October 27: the polls open for Israel's first election since October 7....

...(cont) That's the order. I laid it out, I didn't say anything.

Now here's the one I can't put down, and I apologize in advance, because I'm going to come back to it more than once before I'm through with it.

The New York Times reported this week that Israel's military chief resisted the prime minister on a strike against Iran; the prime minister then pressed, in recent days, for a separate action short of an overt strike — that's according to an official and a person briefed on the matter, not the general himself. I want that sourcing attached every time, because it matters who's saying it and who isn't.

First time through, and I'm sorry, it's the date that gets me. "In recent days" puts the pressing somewhere in that same stretch of calendar as the lockdown, the barred lawmakers, the UN report — the same stretch where the ballots were already printed. Somebody was pressing for something short of a strike in the very week the country was being told to go vote.

I'm sorry, I keep going back to this, but the second time it's the sourcing that bothers me. Not the general. An official. A person briefed on the matter. Two people, neither one wearing the uniform — which means the resisting and the pressing both come from the same two unnamed sources, and I don't know how to weigh one against the other.

Third time, and I promise I'm getting somewhere. I was out in the garage this weekend — the fan belt's going again — and the replacement part I had was a half-inch short of what the car needed. Not wrong. Short. My guy at the shop can refuse to put in a part that's a half-inch short — that's resisting — or he can rig the thing to turn over anyway, which isn't the repair, it's a separate action, short of the repair, and from the driveway you cannot tell which one he did. I carried that belt back and forth across the garage twice before I worked out which.

Fourth time, I'm sorry, it's the word "overt" now. Overt just means out in the open. Short of overt means not out in the open. I keep asking what a person presses for, days before his own election, that isn't supposed to be out in the open.

Here's the sentence one more time, and this is the last time, I promise, exactly the way it was written: Israel's military chief resisted the prime minister, who then pressed in recent days for a separate action, short of an overt strike, according to an official and a person briefed on the matter. I wanted it whole.

Okay. I'll let you go.

Oh — excuse me, one more thing before you go. This pressing, the "recent days" part — was that before this morning's polls opened, or after?

The paper says ahead of the election. So: before.

Short of an overt strike. Before the vote. That's the order I started with, and I still haven't said what it means.

FROM THE CORNER

Dutch

A UN-mandated commission called the occupation's conduct crimes against humanity the same week Israel barred the European lawmakers who'd come to watch the olive harvest its settlers are burning. That isn't border security, that's a government making sure the only people left to describe the harvest already work for it. Because the observers got turned back at the bridge, because that leaves only the barring government's own account of the harvest, the olive oil on your own shelf back home carries a label only that government ever confirmed.

> “Netanyahu's "separate action, short of an overt strike" isn't restraint, it's a strike with the paperwork removed so this doesn't need a ballot-box sign-off. The one guy whose job is to say no already said it, and the boss found the door his own general wasn't standing in. Days before the vote, somebody wanted a war that doesn't show up on the news, and an exit poll isn't built to catch that.”
>
> — Sal

> “Look, the general didn't refuse anything, he "resisted" — that's just two professionals talking through options, that's the chain of command working the way it's supposed to. And "short of an overt strike" means the Prime Minister actually showed restraint, he didn't go all the way, so if anything this proves... wait, restraint days before his own election isn't really the flex I meant it to be. Let's just call the timing coincidental and move on.”
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Israel bars European lawmakers who came to watch the olive harvest its settlers are burning; it votes Tuesday* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 26 October 2026
- *Israel's army sealed the West Bank and ran its largest drill in years; neither was on Tuesday's ballot* By Sterling · the evening edition, 26 October 2026
- *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 preserve evidence of alleged genocide in Gaza** *ICJ*
>
> *provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*
>
> Netanyahu faces first national election since Oct. 7, 2023
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *21:05 EDT*
>
> Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing his country's first national election since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terror attack. Matt Gutman takes a look at what's at stake and who might unseat Netanyahu.

These factors could decide Netanyahu's fate in Israel's election

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *04:08 EDT*

Israelis are choosing their next government. The race is wide open, and Benjamin Netanyahu's political fate could hinge on a couple key factors.

Netanyahu Pushed for Attack on Iran Ahead of Israeli Election, Officials Say

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:34 EDT*

Israel's military chief resisted the prime minister, who then pressed in recent days for a separate action, short of an overt strike, according to an official and a person briefed on the matter.

Two Visions, Two Israels, One Nation in the Balance

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *05:06 EDT*

As Israel votes, hard-right nationalism competes with the country's founding ideals. The outcome could shape Israel's identity for years.

A quick guide to Israel's high-stakes elections

NPR MAINSTREAM § *00:54 EDT*

Israel is holding its first elections since the Hamas-led attacks of 2023 triggered a chain of conflicts across the region — a quick guide the key players, issues and when to expect a result.

Polls open in Israel for country's first election since October 7 attacks

New York Post RIGHT § *04:25 EDT*

More than 7.3 million Israelis are eligible to vote at 12,018 regular polling stations nationwide.

Israel heads into deeply divided election as Oct. 7 reckoning looms: What to know

Fox News RIGHT § *04:00 EDT*

Will Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold power? Israel's election becomes a referendum on Oct. 7 failures as no bloc secures a clear majority.

· Netanyahu claims Israel gave UK intelligence about Iranian-sponsored attack shortly before being sanctioned *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Netanyahu criticized by opponents for Oct. 7 attacks weeks before Israeli election *from the morgue, 7 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.

20,000 BALLOTS

DOJ, losing its California ballot fight for the fourth time, asks Washington to set aside hundreds more.

By **MITCH**

INVESTIGATIONS

“Appeals court declines to step in on Trump administration's California voting case”, 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department asked courts to set aside mail ballots in California then Washington state, and courts said no.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican candidates in the competitive House and Senate races the ballots could decide.

WHAT SLIPS. State election officials' sole control over counting ballots is what the Justice Department keeps asking federal courts to override.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, ballots get challenged up to certification; that is what Texas got after 1 March 2022: mail-ballot rejections jumped from 0.8 percent to 12.4 percent before officials fixed it.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I read dockets for a living, which obligates me to note that the Department of Justice has now lost the same argument four times since September, and has filed it a fifth.

Start with the record, because the record is the whole story. The accusation came first and empty-handed: a senator called California's mail ballots a harvesting operation and could not point to a single prosecuted case. The Justice Department supplied one on October 19th — 28 green card holders charged with registering and voting, 48 voting-crime counts in all, the docket the accusation had been missing. That was last week's column....

...(cont) This week the department tried to extend the same theory to the ballots themselves. On October 23rd it asked the Ninth Circuit to order California to segregate 20,000 mail ballots within 48 hours, on the theory that the people who cast them might not be citizens. On October 26th a three-judge panel answered, 2 to 1: no. Not on the merits — the majority found it lacked jurisdiction to grant the emergency order at all. California had already refused the 48-hour deadline; the court agreed it didn't have to comply with an order the court itself wasn't empowered to issue.

All together now — count the losses. September 10th, the First Circuit called the administration's mail-in voting order "likely unlawful." September 14th, the Supreme Court declined to enforce it before the midterms anyway. September 24th, the California Supreme Court ordered a sheriff who'd seized 650,000 ballots to give them back, calling the seizure unlawful under a statute that says ballots do not leave election officials' custody, ever. October 26th, the Ninth Circuit, 2-1. Four courts, four no's, one filing office.

The fifth filing came the same week as the fourth no. On October 27th, less than two weeks after the California demand, the department asked Washington state to set aside more than 400 ballots on the identical theory: suspected noncitizens, named by the government, unverified by any court. Washington has competitive House and Senate races. So did California's targeted counties. The document does not explain the coincidence. The document never explains anything; it just asks, again, for a bigger list, in a new state, before the count that decides who holds the chamber.

Four denials have not produced a different filing. They have produced the same filing with a new venue line. All together now — that's the whole case, clause by clause, state by state, and it still hasn't named one proven vote.

FROM THE CORNER

Dutch

Four federal courts have told the same filing no since September, the fourth coming Monday by a single vote. That isn't a lawsuit anymore, it's a list-building operation with a courtroom for a waiting room. Because California said no, the list moved to Washington state; because Washington has a Senate race worth winning, the next list moves to whichever state is closest when the counting starts, until the "set aside" stamp lands on the mail ballot with your name already printed on the envelope.

> “They couldn't name one prosecuted case, so they built forty-eight, and when forty-eight wasn't enough they went after twenty thousand mail ballots outright — got told no four times and just moved the ask to Washington state. This isn't about finding noncitizen voters, it's about building a list the government can point at the day the count gets close. Four strikes in, they're not slowing down, they're expanding — and the next list has your state's name on it if your race is close enough to matter.”
>
> — Sal

> “The administration is simply asking states to double-check a few names before the count — that's basic election integrity, not an assault on anybody's ballot. Four courts said no on jurisdiction, not on the merits, so the underlying concern stands untouched. And look, moving the same ask to Washington right after losing in California isn't a pattern, it's just — okay, I hear it now, that is exactly what a pattern sounds like.”
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Senator accuses California of ballot harvesting; Justice Department files charges for registering to vote.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 26 October 2026
- *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

~~Appeals court declines to step in on Trump administration's California voting case~~

Appeals court rejects DOJ bid to flag 20,000 California ballots over citizenship

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *22:35 EDT*

Appeals court rejects DOJ request for immediate order demanding California segregate 20,000 mail-in ballots from those Trump administration says are likely non-citizens.

~~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.

~~Appeals court rejects DOJ's expedited bid to set aside 20,000 California mail ballots~~

DOJ tried to strip 20,000 ballots on suspicion alone

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *19:51 EDT*

A federal appeals court Monday evening dismissed the Trump administration's emergency appeal seeking to require California to set aside mail ballots associated with more than 20,000 people the government suspects are noncitizens or illegal immigrants ineligible to vote. In a 2-1 order, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found it...

~~California judges deal huge blow to DOJ's bid to strip 20,000 voters from next week's elections — despite stunning court revelations~~

DOJ tried to purge 20,000 voters days before the election. Judges said no.

New York Post RIGHT § *20:11 EDT*

The DOJ's lawsuit accused state officials of not meeting a 48-hour deadline to review the thousands of names the administration deemed suspicious.

Court blocks bid by Trump DoJ to stop California from counting mail-in ballots

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *20:31 EDT*

Newsom accuses Trump of ‘assault on democracy’ as DoJ claims 20,000 registered voters in state are non-citizens A US federal appeals court rejected the Trump administration’s move to block California from counting the ballots of 20,000 registered voters that the justice department claims are non-citizens. The court on Monday ruled 2-1...

Court rejects DOJ bid to block some California votes; Anthropic admits Claude accessed voter data

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:07 EDT*

Anthropic admitted that its Claude chatbot accessed voter statistics in Georgia without being instructed to do so. Also on Monday, an appeals court ruled against the Trump administration's bid to block certain votes in California. CBS News election law expert and contributor David Becker has more.

> ~~Trump administration asks Washington to set aside hundreds of ballots from suspected noncitizen voters~~
>
> ### *Trump administration targets ballots in states that could decide control of Congress*
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *21:26 EDT*
>
> This is the latest sign of the administration’s attempts to challenge states with competitive midterm races that could determine control of Congress The Trump administration on Monday asked Washington state to set aside any ballots received from more than 400 people it alleges are registered to vote without US citizenship, less than two...

DOJ asks Washington state to set aside 400 ballots from voters it says may be noncitizens

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *21:08 EDT*

The move is the Trump administration’s latest attempt to involve itself in ballot counting and certification that’s handled by state officials.

> ~~Appeals Court Declines to Intervene in California Ballot Lawsuit~~
>
> ### *Trump administration tried to toss 20,000 mail ballots. A court said no.*
>
> *The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *20:04 EDT*
>
> By a 2-1 vote, a federal appeals court panel denied the Trump administration’s request that it immediately order the state to set aside 20,000 mail-in ballots.

Court dismisses DOJ's request to force California to set aside ballots

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:37 EDT*

A federal appeals court on Monday dismissed the DOJ's effort to force California election officials to set aside thousands of ballots that the Trump administration claims may have been cast by alleged noncitizens.

· Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court denies Trump’s emergency request to enforce mail-in ballot restrictions *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· California Supreme Court rules sheriff who ran for governor must return seized ballots *from the morgue, 24 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.

THIRD PROSECUTION

Third Comey indictment rests on a 2016 leak the government investigated and declined to charge

By **LOU**

ONE MORE QUESTION

“Trump administration illegally fired James Comey's daughter, judge rules”, 26 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department charged James Comey a third time over a 2016 leak to a newspaper.

WHO GETS PAID. Trump's Justice Department, which now has three open criminal cases against one of the president's loudest critics.

WHAT SLIPS. A career prosecutor can lose her job over her father's name, and the check comes only when a judge rules months later.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the charges fall apart and the public pays the settlement: Castle Hills, Texas arrested a councilwoman in July 2019, dropped the charge, and settled for $500,000 in October 2025.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Let me put the dates down first, flat, because I keep losing the order and my handwriting is no help.

October 2016: a story runs in the New York Times. May 2019: the Justice Department charges Julian Assange under the Espionage Act, seventeen counts, including conspiring to obtain, receive and disclose national defense information. September 25 this year: a judge delays the first Comey case, the one about seashells, to early 2027, motions still pending, one of them asking her to throw it out as driven by the president's animus. October 5: a new case against the same man starts moving under seal. October 24: federal authorities arrest a contractor, 42, for allegedly passing national defense information to his girlfriend. October 26: a judge rules the administration illegally fired Maurene Comey, a federal prosecutor, who believes she lost the job because of who her father is. The same day, the documents unseal. Two counts. Disclosing information related to the national defense. 2016....

...(cont) That's the order. I'm not drawing anything from it. I just like the dates in a row where I can see them.

Now, the notebook. His lawyers — hold on, I had this — here. They say the case centers on an issue "that had already been investigated and had not led to charges." That's the Times, quoting them, about a leak to the Times. Investigated, no charges. NPR has them adding it's outside the time limit. A decade-old leak, is the phrase.

I'm sorry, I keep coming back to 2016, but it's the year the whole thing hangs on. Ten years. This one has had ten years and two previous tries at it.

One more thing about that year and then I'll move along. The Guardian says the filing "provides few details" about what was actually leaked, and that he conspired with a person the government doesn't name. So what's in hand is a year, two counts, and an unnamed person.

Here's where I get stuck, and it isn't clever, it's a box.

I keep a box of papers in my garage. Summer before last I sat out there on an upturned bucket and went through every sheet in it, and when I finished I wrote on the lid with a marker: checked, nothing here. My dog sleeps on that lid now. Twice since, I've moved the dog, carried the box across the yard and into the house, and gone through it again — once when the car needed a fan belt and I was sure the receipt was in there, once because I'd forgotten I ever wrote on the lid.

That's me, with a bucket and a marker, and it costs me an afternoon. Forgive me for circling, but what I can't put down is that somebody in that building walked to a drawer, pulled the 2016 file, carried it across a room, set it on a desk, and read the part where it says the matter had not led to charges. And then the counts got typed. Somebody carried that file across a room.

Excuse me — before you go, there's one page left and then I'm out of your way.

The same Monday those counts unsealed, the judge ruled the firing of his daughter illegal. She worked the sex crimes case against the president's dead former friend. The wire gives one reason for her losing the job, and the reason is her father. Two counts, one defendant, one person the filing won't name: I count her name in that zero times.

So here's the last one, and the answer is on the page. Of the two counts the department filed Monday, how many name the prosecutor a judge said that same Monday was fired illegally — and what's the one year the filing does name? I'm sorry. I keep coming back to 2016.

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILED TWO COUNTS OVER A 2016 LEAK ITS OWN PEOPLE investigated and declined to charge, the same Monday a judge ruled the administration illegally fired Comey's daughter from her job as a federal prosecutor. That isn't a case file, it's a family bill with a docket number. And once a department can reopen a closed year because of a name and take a prosecutor's paycheck because of her father, the name is the charge, which is why when your daughter signs your last name at the bottom of her first job application, she is handing somebody a document about you.

“Third time is not a legal standard — they looked at this 2016 leak when it was fresh and brought no charges, and now it's the whole case. The seashells one is parked until 2027, so they went back to a ten-year-old file and found two counts in it. And the same Monday a judge says they broke the law taking his daughter's job, a prosecutor who worked the Epstein case: every career lawyer in that building just learned what a last name costs.”

— *Sal*

“Look, the department doesn't bring a third case over nothing — they bring cases when the evidence, when the career people, when the... did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. The daughter is a personnel matter, different office, different paperwork, and the department isn't saying the two are connected; they just landed on the same Monday, which happens to Mondays.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Trump administration illegally fired James Comey's daughter, judge rules

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *15:27 EDT*

Maurene Comey believes she was let go from her job as a federal prosecutor because her father is the former FBI director.

~~Justice Dept. Brings More Charges Against Comey, Accusing Him of Leaks~~

DOJ revives a Comey leak case it already investigated and declined to charge

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:36 EDT*

Lawyers for James B. Comey said the case centered on an issue that had already been investigated and had not led to charges, of a purported leak of national security information to The Times in October 2016.

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)*

Trump administration attempting to prosecute former FBI Director James Comey again

NPR MAINSTREAM § *20:31 EDT*

The Trump administration is attempting to prosecute James Comey for what it calls a decade-old leak of classified information. Comey's lawyers immediately dismissed the effort as invalid and outside the time limit.

~~Trump DOJ Charges Ex-FBI Chief James Comey a Third Time~~

DOJ charges Comey a third time, same day court rules it illegally fired his Epstein-prosecutor daughter

Common Dreams § *19:29 EDT*

President Donald Trump's administration has charged former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey a third time, according to documents unsealed on Monday—the same day a US judge ruled that the administration unlawfully fired Comey's prosecutor daughter, who worked on the sex crimes case against the president's dead...

> *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)*
>
> Why DOJ's attempt to charge James Comey again is highly unusual
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *20:24 EDT*
>
> The Department of Justice took steps to charge former FBI director James Comey for the third time on Monday. CBS News senior Justice Department reporter Sarah Lynch explains why the situation is so unusual.

> *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 seeking to charge Comey with conspiring to disclose national defense information
>
> *ABC News* MAINSTREAM § *22:04 EDT*
>
> The case relates to disclosures published in the New York Times in 2016.

Government contractor arrested for allegedly leaking national defense information

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:58 EDT*

Federal authorities arrested a government contractor and charged him with leaking classified national defense information, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced on Friday. FBI investigators have accused 42-year-old Ian Brinksman, an employee of a third-party company which provided services to a government agency, of leaking national...

> *But:* The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team and ordered investigations closed in April 2025, while the president's family runs a crypto business *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*
>
> Justice department charges ex-FBI director James Comey for third time
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *18:17 EDT*
>
> Comey, an outspoken critic of Donald Trump, accused of leaking information related to US national defense The justice department charged former FBI director James Comey on Monday with two counts of leaking information related to national defense, the third time the Trump administration has filed criminal charges against one of Donald...

> *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)*
>
> Legal analysis of DOJ taking steps to charge James Comey again
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *20:20 EDT*
>
> The Trump administration is attempting to charge former FBI director James Comey again. Comey said he remains innocent. CBS News legal contributor Rebecca Roiphe has more.

> *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)*
>
> Ex-FBI chief James Comey faces federal charges for third time
>
> *BBC News* MAINSTREAM § *22:01 EDT*
>
> Comey's lawyers say the case stems from alleged disclosure of classified information to the New York Times in 2016.

Ex-FBI chief Comey faces third Trump prosecution attempt

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *02:36 EDT*

Former FBI director James Comey has been charged with allegedly disclosing national defence information, the third criminal case brought against him.

> *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 takes steps to charge James Comey again
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *00:38 EDT*
>
> The DOJ took steps to charge James Comey with leaking information earlier this month, in its third attempt to bring criminal charges against the former FBI director and Trump foe.

· The United States Department of Justice charges WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange with 17 counts of violating the Espionage Act, including provisions that prohibit a conspiracy to obtain, receive and d *from the morgue, 23 May 2019*

· James Comey seashells case delayed until early 2027 *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

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U.S. shut consulates, moved to fund a campaign against Brazil's court, lost by four million, calls it rigged

By **THE LODGERS**

THE EURO DESK

“Trump says Brazil election likely ‘rigged’ as Bolsonaro demands Lula’s victory be annulled”, 26 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump called Brazil's election likely rigged after his ally lost the runoff to Lula.

WHO GETS PAID. The Bolsonaro camp, which now has an American president's word to use while demanding the result be annulled.

WHAT SLIPS. Whether a count stands stops being the voters' and the courts' business and becomes a foreign president's opinion.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the monitors reach polling stations next month, the courts rule on them after people have already voted; that is what Washington got after 25 March 2025, when the president's election order was partly blocked within thirty days and its mail-ballot rules were not permanently blocked for fifteen months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a foreign election, American-style, which means it is cooked at home and eaten somewhere else. On Sunday Brazil re-elected Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the runoff, 51.7 percent against Flavio Bolsonaro's 48.2, a margin of four million votes, with the results published overnight on Monday. On Monday the American president called the election likely rigged. Bolsonaro is demanding the victory be annulled.

You will need an American social network's algorithm, a consulate with its shutters suddenly down, and a push from Washington to put money into a campaign against Brazil's supreme court....

Clive *Shutters down. Mine have been down a fortnight and nobody at this table has knocked to ask what is being written behind them.*

Gary *Nothing is behind them. The shutter came off in spring and it is under the bike. I could have that door off in four minutes.*

Begin at the end of September, when Brazil's own spy agency confirmed the existence of interference from the United States as well as Russia, the first round four days off. On 1 October the Guardian revealed the funding plan, and Brazil's attorney general, Jorge Messias, wrote that meddling "cannot be tolerated" and called the report "an important alert for Brazilian sovereignty". Two days later Lula's campaign asked for the sudden shutdown of American consular services to be looked into as interference in Brazilian elections.

Rob *Sovereignty. This kitchen had sovereignty before the rota, and I am the only one who ever kept to it, which no one has once mentioned.*

Keith *You mention it weekly. There is an angle in this, though: somebody out there wants flags printed, and I know a man who prints by Thursday.*

Now fold in the algorithm. On 23 October research showed Meta's was actively boosting Bolsonaro, and Pramila Jayapal and Bernie Sanders put questions to Mark Zuckerberg about it. Then Sunday came and the whole thing went on the floor in front of the kitchen. Gary, hold this.

Gary *I am holding it. I have held everything in this house since the boiler, and the one who writes in the dark has held a pen.*

Le Monde, which is what they read across the Channel, has it as "Trump slams 'rigged' Brazil election after ally loses", and says he had clearly been hoping for a victory for Flavio. At home the Washington Examiner has Lula clinching "victory out of thin air", with the United States declining to comment.

Pick the rigging up by both ends and look underneath: it is the same evidence being offered for the midterms at home, the midterms being the election we hold halfway through a president's term, for the Congress and not for him. You will be looking for the observers who settle such a thing. They are not going to Brazil. On 7 October the NAACP sued over the plan to send "a historic number" of election monitors to polling stations at home, saying it "stands to jeopardize" the elections.

Serves Brazil, which keeps its count and, by France 24's account, an uphill battle to govern. The bill goes to voters at home, where the monitors are being sent next month and the suit over them is still in court.

Rob *Monitors. We had a monitor put on the meter and all it did was watch this house get colder, so I would not count on being watched.*

> "They shut the consular services, pushed money toward a campaign against Brazil's supreme court, let the algorithm do the warm-up — and still lost by four million votes. Now the men who leaned on the scale say the scale is rigged, which is the exact thing they're saying about our own count, and the Justice Department wants a historic number of monitors standing in our polling places next month. That's not a warning about the future, that's a dress rehearsal we already paid to watch."
>
> — Sal

> "Look, the United States declined to comment on the result. That's restraint. Did I say rigged? I didn't say rigged — likely rigged is a question, and asking questions is literally what observers do. And the monitors are there to protect voters, which is why we want a historic number of them, protecting you. Why is that strange? You think that's strange?"
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *U.S. shut its Brazil consulates, Instagram boosted Bolsonaro, Lula won by four million: markets call it unexpected* By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 26 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump says Brazil election likely 'rigged' as Bolsonaro demands Lula's victory be annulled

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *17:10 EDT*

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva clinched victory out of thin air in Brazil's weekend election, spurring his challenger to deny the results and the United States to demur from commenting on them. Lula won reelection in the results published overnight Monday, claiming 51.7% of the vote against Flavio Bolsonaro's 48.2% share. It was an...

> ~~Trump Has Yet to Recognize Lula's Election~~
>
> ### Trump still won't recognize Lula's win. Bolsonaro calls it stolen.
>
> *Payday Report* § *15:35 EDT*
>
> Bolsonaro is claiming that the election was stolen!

Trump slams 'rigged' Brazil election after ally loses

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *16:36 EDT*

The US president spoke out on Monday after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva defeated Flavio Bolsonaro in Sunday's runoff. An ally of the Bolsonaro family, Trump had clearly been hoping for a victory for Flavio, who had pledged to join a wave of conservative Latin American leaders cozying up to Washington.

- Brazil attorney general says meddling 'cannot be tolerated' after Trump funding plans revealed *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- Alarm Grows Over 'Clearly Illegal' Trump-Rubio Election Meddling in Brazil *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

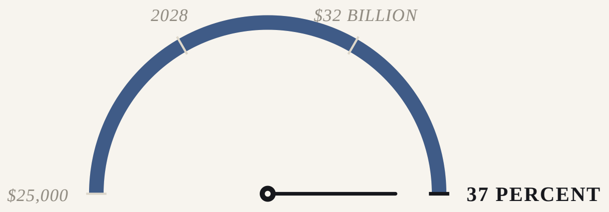
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§73 — 26 OCTOBER 2026

On tips

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



37 PERCENT

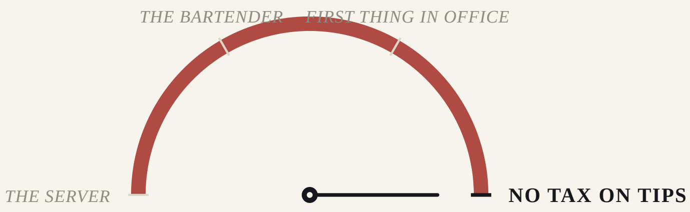
The fine print, from the IRS: the deduction is up to $25,000 a year, phases out above $150,000 of income for single filers and $300,000 for joint filers, requires a Social Security number, and applies for 2025 through 2028 [1]. The Joint Committee on Taxation scored it at $32 billion over ten years [2].

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 — 👍 👎