FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · ❋ WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

Alexandria pulls down license-plate cameras city hired; cameras Congress could defund nationwide stay plugged in



PHOTO: WASHINGTON EXAMINER

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

Alexandria, Virginia, picked Tuesday, October 28th, to say what the neighbors already knew: the automated license-plate readers bolted to street poles would be switched off, and by December hauled away entirely, after council objections and residents who did not sign up to have their plates logged every time they left for groceries. City staff set the deadline. The contract with Flock Safety goes in the shredder with it.

The trouble didn't start in Alexandria. The chief, reading that dispatch, saw the job before anyone assigned it: a local fix, repeating.

Eight days after Arlington's vote, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism convened a hearing on Flock's nationwide surveillance network — live testimony, a subcommittee with subpoena power, watching the company that watches the cars. …

… Continued on Page A224

THE WORD

§75 — 28 OCTOBER 2026

On invasion

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
	
3.1 PERCENT	*INVASION*

"The small thing that bothers me is the word, so I read the proclamation. March of last year: 'an invasion or predatory incursion against the territory of the United States.' Then the Border Patrol's own figures: July of this year, nine thousand two hundred ninety-five apprehensions, '94% lower.' Then the Supreme Court, twice: notice first, and a day's notice with no instructions 'surely does not pass muster.' Then the people on the flights: two hundred thirty-eight, and eight of them with violent convictions. Excuse me — I'll let you get back to it. If the crossings are down ninety-four percent, what's the invasion now?" — Lou

… Continued on Page W75

Money on a ballgame gets an NBA guard a guilty plea and Kalshi a Platinum loyalty tier

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Two men had money on a ballgame this week. One of them is a defendant.

Malik Beasley agreed to plead guilty to federal charges over fixing performances in a betting scheme. Kalshi's chief executive said money riding on the Brewers to win is not gambling. You will look for the difference in the money. It is in the filing. A sports-event contract escapes state gambling law only as a "swap" — a contract on a price, on a regulated exchange, rather than a wager on a score. On 25 September the Sixth Circuit found Kalshi had not shown that. Unanimous, that one. Ohio and Tennessee may regulate the platform as gambling.

… Continued on Page F129

Cornell promises a 'serious look' at fraternity rape allegations, then questions the woman who made them.

BY LOU
One More Question

I was sitting in the drive-through line at the bank this morning, doing arithmetic on the back of a deposit slip, the way you do when the car in front of you won't move and you've got nothing else to look at. Forty-one dollars. That's what came out, after the fan belt and before Thursday. No complaints — just the number. I mention it only because of what came on the radio while I was sitting there, something about a university in Ithaca and a vote on Wednesday, and I thought: there's a school where tuition costs more in a semester than I'll clear in a

… Continued on Page A224

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Kalshi's chief executive said money riding on the Brewers to win is not gambling.

WHO GETS PAID. Kalshi, the country's biggest prediction market, which keeps the sports wagering money and the VIP program it is defending.

WHAT SLIPS. State gambling laws, passed by legislatures and enforced by state regulators, do not reach a company whose contracts clear as federal financial products.

WHAT'S NEXT. New Jersey's attorney general asked the Supreme Court on September 2 to decide whether state gambling laws apply to Kalshi at all; if the justices say no, no state rule reaches it.

On Money on a ballgame gets an NBA guard a guilty plea and Kalshi a Platinum loyalty tier — the column, by Sterling. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

"
Shut down Delaney Hall, free them all!"
— PROTESTORS OUTSIDE THE DELANEY HALL ICE FACILITY, NEWARK

❦ FROM THE MAILBAG ❦

Dear Vivian,

Hey Viv, love the column. If I were the next Democratic president, I'd revoke every federal firearms license in the country and make them reapply for a new fee of $1 million a year.

⁂

— Million-Dollar License in Lancaster. Vivian answers on E5 ☞

THE ACCOUNTING

Trump vows Iran war ends 'whenever I want,' tells Gulf allies when: after the vote.



PHOTO: NEW YORK POST

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The rule against timing bombs to ballots died in September. It stays dead this week, survived by the senators who asked the Pentagon in October for a full accounting of the war's cost and are still waiting for a reply.

… Continued on Page B46

SOURCED OR SILENT
Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.

PULL UP A STOOL
Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.
— this paper

Jet Tied To Accused Cocaine Trafficker Flies Bolsonaro Toward A US Visa Already Waiting

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making an arrangement with no English word for it. You will need Brazil's Federal Police, an organisation founded with the involvement of JD Vance, a private jet, an alleged cocaine trafficker, two borders, and a visa that was never in doubt.

Brazil had already cancelled Flávio Bolsonaro's passports for defying a Supreme Court order to surrender them; he crossed into Argentina anyway and on toward Ecuador. Brazil's attorney general called the meddling that aided his movement "intolerable." Washington's visa was wait-

… Continued on Page A224

Judge discusses 'serious consequences' for Omar probe that has filed zero charges, six days before vote.

BY MITCH
Investigations

I have been reading the paperwork on this one for six weeks, and the newest filing is a judge's remark, not a charge. Walk it with me, because the order of the documents is the whole story.

On 13 September, Fox News quoted border czar Tom Homan confirming an ongoing criminal investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar; he added that he knew "things" about the case he would not describe. Five days later, a separate Fox News piece carried Omar's answer: Homeland Security, she said, had not contacted her about any investigation at all. The confirmation and the denial live in two different articles, five days apart.

On 12 October, Homeland Security agents searched Omar's home in Washington. CBS News reported the probe centers on immigration paperwork her late father filled out when she was a child. The same agency whose border czar had confirmed a "criminal" case in September spent

… Continued on Page A224

"
Get them out quick. Open those beds up for more detainees."
— BORDER CZAR TOM HOMAN, CNN STATE OF THE UNION, 30 AUGUST 2026

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE HOUSE IS A PARK

Chapter 9: The Columns Run Backward

You are looking at page 1081 of a PDF: the Appendix to the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2027, the chapter for the Executive Office of the President, posted in April 2026. Find the heading EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE, because underneath it is the price of running the house. Operating expenses, asked for 2027: $17,668,000. For the year we are in, Congress gave $15,453,000 — it is in the

… Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Super PAC answers Marc Andreessen's donations to Husted with thirty seconds of digital advertising

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

The bill has a title, and the title does the work: to protect taxpayers from additional costs posed by AI-driven data centers. Handsome drafting. Husted of Ohio wrote it, House Democrats voted for it overwhelmingly, and on the 28th of September the Senate Democratic leader set about killing it, his own caucus not fully behind him. You are thinking the politics have gone sideways. The money has not moved an inch. Andreessen's donations to Husted's Senate run sit on the record; Husted's support for data centers sits on the record; and a campaign donation is not consideration — nothing is bargained for, nothing is owed, nothing binds. So what does a super PAC put against a venture portfolio? Wednesday it puts … thirty seconds of digital advertising. Thirty seconds. Thirty. In Ohio a lifelong Republican leads the fight against the buildout, and candidates of both parties spend the midterms easing voter concerns. On the 11th of September the Interior Department had the Bureau of Land Management drawing up lists of public land "ripe for data center development." The offer, in a column of the 29th of September: "great job creators," good neighbours, a new high school football field. The buildout keeps the land. You keep the advertisement.

… Continued on Page F129

North Carolina asked for storm help, got ICE agents, then $858 million at a campaign stop.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The invoice from Western North Carolina has sat open since Hurricane Helene hit in 2024. Two years is long enough to expect either a check or an explanation. The region got neither, on schedule.

On August 29, as the G20 convened in Asheville, The Intercept reported what the recovery actually looked like on the ground: communities still rebuilding from Helene living under an immigration surge, the help they had asked Washington for arriving instead as agents. The request read storm aid. The fulfillment read ICE.

… Continued on Page F129

"
Don't let anybody tell you that people running Congress right now are looking out for the rich. Actually, I think we should do a little more for them"
— REP. GLENN GROTHMAN (R-WI), AUGUST 2026

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE PENTAGON'S NUMBER WENT FROM FORTY-TWO BILLION TO FORTY-seven point one this month, Qatar's written proposal got handed to Tehran and handed back marked unacceptable, and American officials told Gulf states to pencil in a blitz for after November 3rd. That's not a stalled peace process, that's a war with its invoice paid late on purpose so the bill clears after the ballots do. Because the fighting waits for Wednesday, the gas truck doesn't raise its price until Wednesday either, and the surcharge lands on the receipt he's already got folded in the glovebox, dated the day after he voted.

⁂

On Trump vows Iran war ends "whenever I want," tells Gulf allies when: after the vote. *— the column, by Mort*

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News, continued	A2
The Wire	A3
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The Ledger	F2
The Business Desk	F3
The Money Pages, continued	F4
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The Service	B3
Obituaries	B4
Entertainment	D1
The Marquee	D2
Food	K1
The Kitchen	K2
Health	H1
The Outbreak Ledger	H2

"
The United States of America has just entered into an Agreement with the Country of Venezuela on, THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY!"
— DONALD TRUMP, TRUTH SOCIAL, 28 AUGUST 2026

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

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

— Sal

FOR SALE One White House ballroom, $600 million, half already on your tab. *"Donor-funded." See the fine print.* **— Classifieds**

FOR SALE Military parade, gently used, one afternoon. $45 million, plus $16 million in street repair. *Six in ten said don't. We did.* **— Classifieds**

FOR SALE Frontier AI, government price: one dollar. *The first one's free. You know what we call that.* **— Classifieds**

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

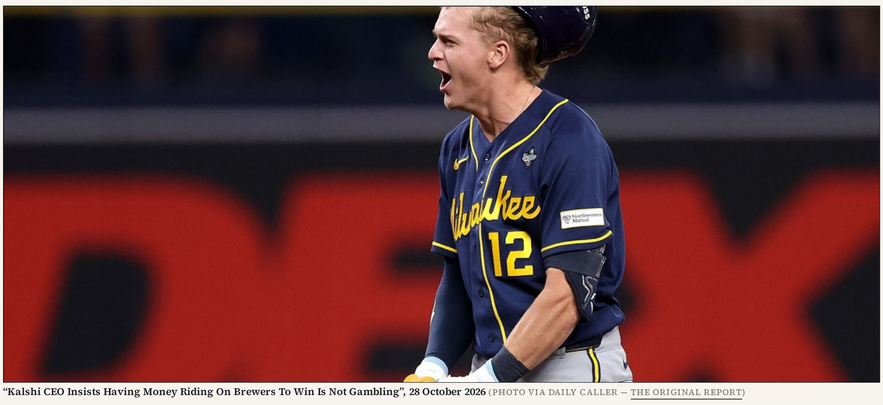
— Chip

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Money on a ballgame gets an NBA guard a guilty plea and Kalshi a Platinum loyalty tier

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Kalshi CEO Insists Having Money Riding On Brewers To Win Is Not Gambling", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA DAILY CALLER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Kalshi's chief executive said money riding on the Brewers to win is not gambling.

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WHAT'S NEXT. New Jersey's attorney general asked the Supreme Court on September 2 to decide whether state gambling laws apply to Kalshi at all; if the justices say no, no state rule reaches it.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Two men had money on a ballgame this week. One of them is a defendant.

Malik Beasley agreed to plead guilty to federal charges over fixing performances in a betting scheme. Kalshi's chief executive said money riding on the Brewers to win is not gambling. You will look for the difference in the money. It is in the filing. A sports-event contract escapes state gambling law only as a "swap" — a contract on a price, on a regulated exchange, rather than a wager on a score. On 25 September the Sixth Circuit found Kalshi had not shown that. Unanimous, that one. Ohio and Tennessee may regulate the platform as gambling....

...(cont) And the company's answer? A letter, Tuesday, telling Democratic lawmakers that Kalshi Platinum carries no "predatory incentives" because the business model is "fundamentally different" ... from a sportsbook's.

Beasley paid with a guilty plea. Kalshi paid with a letter.

Autumn now. The lane, the kits keep.
A man walks the long way round.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"Two guys put cash on a game. One is signing a plea deal with federal prosecutors, the other is handing out VIP perks and telling Congress his loyalty tier is "fundamentally different" from the sportsbook loyalty tier it looks exactly like. A court in September said states can treat this outfit as gambling, so the only thing standing between a market and a felony is which forms got filed first."
— Sal

"These are event contracts, federally regulated, that is price discovery, not betting — did I say price discovery? That does not sound like me. The Platinum program is fundamentally different; nobody has produced a single predatory incentive, and look, the Sixth Circuit is one panel, and the Supreme Court has not spoken on any of it."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Kalshi CEO Insists Having Money Riding On Brewers To Win Is Not Gambling

Daily Caller RIGHT § *10:29 EDT*

'Quacks like a bet'

Kalshi defends Platinum program against scrutiny from Democrats

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:12 EDT*

Kalshi argued Tuesday that its VIP program and platform are "fundamentally different" from those offered by sportsbooks, after several Democratic lawmakers expressed concerns over loyalty programs at both prediction markets and sportsbooks. In a letter shared first with The Hill, the company suggested Kalshi Platinum has no "predatory...

Malik Beasley agrees to plead guilty for role in gambling scandal in about-face

New York Post RIGHT § *10:50 EDT*

Veteran NBA guard Malik Beasley has reversed course and agreed to plead guilty to federal charges after being indicted for fixing performances in a sports betting scheme.

· Appeals court rules against Kalshi, says prediction markets can be regulated like gambling *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Kalshi subject to state gambling laws, appeals court finds — major blow to prediction market giant *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· New Jersey attorney general wants to bring prediction market Kalshi to Supreme Court *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.

Cornell promises a 'serious look' at fraternity rape allegations, then questions the woman who made them.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Cornell Faculty Senate preps for no confidence vote on president after Jane Doe's allegations: What to know", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I was sitting in the drive-through line at the bank this morning, doing arithmetic on the back of a deposit slip, the way you do when the car in front of you won't move and you've got nothing else to look at. Forty-one dollars. That's what came out, after the fan belt and before Thursday. No complaints — just the number. I mention it only because of what came on the radio while I was sitting there, something about a university in Ithaca and a vote on Wednesday, and I thought: there's a school where tuition costs more in a semester than I'll clear in a year, and I still couldn't tell you, with the money I don't have, who's telling the truth up there. So I figured I'd read what they wrote instead. That's free.

I wrote some of this down. Give me a second — here it is, October 4th. The university's president said Cornell would take what the paper called a "serious look" at the fraternities on campus. This came after a lawsuit, filed the month before, from a woman who says she was drugged and raped in 2024 by members of a fraternity there. A serious look — those are the words, I didn't add anything. Promised out loud, in public, with a date on it....

...(cont) Eleven days later, on the 15th, the Faculty Senate sat down with him to talk about it, and the account of that meeting — I've got it here too — describes it as contentious. Sharp questions. That's somebody else's word, "contentious," not mine; I just copied it down off the page. A room full of people the university employs, asking the man who runs the place hard questions about a promise he'd already made in the newspaper.

Then five days after that — the 20th of October — the woman herself, the one who filed the lawsuit, wrote a letter. Not to the newspapers. To the Faculty Senate, the same room that had just finished asking the hard questions. And her letter wasn't about her own account of that night. It was about somebody else's account — a secondhand telling, is how it's described — of how the president had responded to her allegations. And what she says that response appeared to do, in her words, was question what she'd already told them.

I keep that letter next to the other one — the serious look, the first one — and go back and forth between them the way you'd check a receipt against what's actually in the bag. One of them is a promise, made to everybody, that the school would look hard at what happened. The other is an account of how the man making that promise responded when the person it happened to came forward. I'm not a lawyer. I couldn't afford one if I wanted to be. But I can read two pages side by side and ask which one a faculty is supposed to believe when it's deciding whether it still believes him.

Oh — one more thing, since I've got the page open. Today's the vote, the paper says, the second time the Faculty Senate has sat down over this. More than 75 of them, same room, for the second meeting, because the first one didn't settle anything. I don't know what they'll decide. But is that what seventy-five people are doing in that room this afternoon — laying the promise next to the letter, and asking which one was true?

"They put out a press release promising a serious look at a gang rape case, and then somebody's letter shows up telling the faculty the woman might be the one who's got it wrong — that's not an investigation, that's a defense brief wearing a university seal. Seventy-five professors noticed the gap between the two; the only question left is whether the trustees notice it too."
— Sal

"Look, nobody has a document where the president himself says he doubts her — that's a secondhand account, in somebody else's letter, so technically there's nothing here but hearsay about a reaction nobody's produced in writing. Although if there were a letter like that, from him, in writing, I suppose that'd be different. There isn't. I'm told there isn't. We're moving on."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Cornell Faculty Senate preps for no confidence vote on president after Jane Doe's allegations: What to know

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:07 EDT*

The Cornell University Faculty Senate is set to debate a no confidence vote on Wednesday against President Michael Kotlikoff after allegations of a 2024 gang rape at a campus fraternity that resulted in no criminal charges caused uproar around the country. The more than 75 members of the body will have their second meeting debating the...

Cornell to start vote on no-confidence resolution over response to alleged frat gang rape

New York Post RIGHT § *11:22 EDT*

Cornell faculty will vote on a no-confidence resolution against President Michael Kotlikoff over his handling of a 2024 fraternity gang rape case.

· Cornell University to take 'serious look' at fraternities after rape allegations *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Jane Doe says Cornell president appeared to question her allegations in letter to Faculty Senate *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Cornell president faces contentious faculty senate meeting over Jane Doe allegations *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

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Judge discusses 'serious consequences' for Omar probe that has filed zero charges, six days before vote.

By MITCH
INTERROGATIONS

'Serious consequences' Ilhan Omar could face as immigration probe is thrown into spotlight: judge', 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THIS ORIGINAL REPORT)

- **THE SHORT VERSION**

TYPED by Ray

WHAT HAPPENED. Homeland Security searched Rep. Ilhan Omar's home over immigration paperwork her father filled out when she was a child.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no lawyer yet.

WHAT'S OLDER. Voters cast ballots without ever seeing a charge, only a judge's talk of consequences.

WHAT'S NEXT. No case in the ledger matches a probe discussing consequences before filing a charge; the next date on the calendar is the election itself, six days after the judge's comments.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I have been reading the paperwork on this one for six weeks, and the newest filing is a judge's remark, not a charge. Walk it with me, because the order of the documents is the whole story.

On 13 September, Fox News quoted border czar Tom Homan confirming an ongoing criminal investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar; he added that he knew "things" about the case he would not describe. Five days later, a separate Fox News piece carried Omar's answer: Homeland Security, she said, had not contacted her about any investigation at all. The confirmation and the denial live in two different articles, five days apart.

...[cont] On 12 October, Homeland Security agents searched Omar's home in Washington. CBS News reported the probe centers on immigration paperwork her late father filled out when she was a child. The agency whose border czar had confirmed a "criminal" case in September spent October searching a sitting congresswoman's home over a form completed before she could vote, let alone hold office.

On 23 October, President Trump posted on Truth Social that Omar's "name is not Ilhan Omar," citing a Justice Department court filing that referred to her as "Ilhan Nur Said Elmi" without explanation. The filing supplies a name. It does not supply a charge. Omar answered with a post of her own, titled "My Name Has Always Been Ilhan Omar," and called the president a "creep." The filing's silence on why it used that name has not been addressed by whoever wrote it.

Today, the New York Post reports that a judge is on the record discussing the "serious consequences" Omar could still face from the same probe.

All together now — the consequences arrived in print before the crime did.

Six days remain before the election. The record, to date, consists of a form filled out by a man who is no longer alive, a Truth Social post about a name, and a judge speaking of consequences for a case that has not yet produced a single count.

> "Six weeks, one home search, zero charges, and now a judge is already talking consequences five days before people vote — that is not a prosecution, that is a clock with a robe on it. They did not need an indictment to make news; the search and the quote were the headline, timed to land the week ballots go out."
>
> — *Sol*

> "Look, this is just about an old form, paperwork integrity, full stop — the father filled it out, forms matter, that's... okay, I'll grant that sounds worse when a judge is on record talking consequences for a case with zero charges. I did not say consequences, I said questions, I just read it out loud."
>
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification only if the Republican loses; the election is ten days away*, by Lea · the evening edition, 14 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows not to improperly block any election, tries to block three this month*, by Lea · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department demands verification but before it is also asking a federal court to stop counting*, by Lea · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification* by Lea · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
- *Trump calls for Omar's ouster over a 'fake name' that federal investigators already built into her salary probe*, by Ruth · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
- *Federal investigators call Omar's legal name fake the same week they open a probe into her $174,000 salary*, by Lea · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Serious consequences Ilhan Omar could face as immigration probe is thrown into spotlight: judge

New York Post | $11.95 | *10-A ED/T*

Rep. Ilhan Omar is under investigation for alleged immigration fraud related to the way she or her late father filled out her citizenship paperwork.

Omar Derangement Syndrome

He's packing to deport her over a conspiracy theory. She calls him a 'creep.'

Common Dreams | *11-24 ED/T*

As the Trump administration tries to have her deported, US Rep. Ilhan Omar shot back at President Donald Trump on Friday after he accused her of having lived under a fake identity. In a post to Truth Social, Trump referenced a federal court filing by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) that referred to the Minnesota congresswoman as...

- Federal probe into Rep. Ilhan Omar centers on her childhood immigration paperwork, sources say *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers" in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*
- U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*
- In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*
- Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*
- Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*
- Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 Sep 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 'Trumph 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, 4 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, 13 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, 13 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*

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.

Jet Tied To Accused Cocaine Trafficker Flies Bolsonaro Toward A US Visa Already Waiting

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK



"Bolsonaro Escape Jet Tied to Alleged Cocaine Trafficker", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA PAYDAY REPORT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Brazil's Federal Police investigated US companies, including a JD Vance-founded group, over Bolsonaro's campaign.

WHO GETS PAID. Flávio Bolsonaro's campaign and the JD Vance-founded organisation are the ones the alleged collusion is said to have helped.

WHAT SLIPS. The check that slips is Brazil's ability to hold anyone accountable before Washington's visa carries him out of its reach.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing date or deadline is on record yet; the Federal Police's inquiry and Washington's visa are simply running on separate tracks.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making an arrangement with no English word for it. You will need Brazil's Federal Police, an organisation founded with the involvement of JD Vance, a private jet, an alleged cocaine trafficker, two borders, and a visa that was never in doubt.

Brazil had already cancelled Flávio Bolsonaro's passports for defying a Supreme Court order to surrender them; he crossed into Argentina anyway and on toward Ecuador. Brazil's attorney general called the meddling that aided his movement "intolerable." Washington's visa was waiting for him regardless....

Rob *Regardless. That's the whole house, that is — the landlord said regardless of the damp and here we still are, paying it.*

Gary *Paying it. You haven't paid the kitty since the Supreme Court had a surrender order out on somebody, which is longer than you think.*

The organisation is taken by both ends now and turned over, looked at underneath: founded with the involvement of JD Vance, and named by the Federal Police as the main focus of its inquiry into dealings with the campaign.

Keith *Main focus. I could get a main focus. Give me an inquiry and a logo and I'll have it licensed by Thursday.*

The inquiry has an older shelf in this kitchen. On 19 October Brazil's top electoral court gave Meta twenty-four hours to prove it was treating Lula's and Bolsonaro's campaign content equally, on pain of a daily fine. Four days later, over a dozen US lawmakers led by Representative Pramila Jayapal and Senator Bernie Sanders wrote to Meta's chief executive demanding answers about the platform's alleged interference in the runoff.

The BBC, which is what they have here, has it as confusion: "Confusion about Flávio Bolsonaro's whereabouts," it printed, after Argentine migration authorities said he had crossed the land border late on Tuesday, with Argentina then saying he had flown on toward Ecuador. Washington, the same week, had only the one word for him: visa.

You will be looking for a condition attached to that visa — some requirement that he first answer to the Federal Police, or to whoever owns the jet. There is none on the record; the visa was confirmed regardless of either investigation, and it still is.

It serves the organisation named in the Federal Police's inquiry. It serves Flávio Bolsonaro, who left Brazil on the jet and has a US visa waiting regardless of either investigation.

Clive *Waiting regardless. That's the boiler engineer's whole philosophy, and mine too, if anyone's offering a visa for it.*

"This is the oldest con there is: an outfit with the vice president's own fingerprints on its founding gets probed for buying somebody an election, that somebody runs for the exit on a plane tied to a cocaine case, and Washington hands him a visa before either case is answered. Nobody's making him prove a single thing first. That's not a loophole, that's the front door."
— Sal

"A visa isn't a verdict — we don't convict people at passport control, that's actually not bad, I should keep that one. Every investigation is "ongoing," the jet's registered to somebody else entirely, and until a court says different he's just a man with excellent timing. Did I say excellent timing? Forget I said that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- State Department Issues Visa To Flávio Bolsonaro Days After Brazil Canceled His Passport By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- Brazil cancels Flávio Bolsonaro's passports for defying a surrender order; he leaves for Florida anyway. By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 27 October 2026
- U.S. shut consulates, moved to fund a campaign against Brazil's court, lost by four million, calls it rigged By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 26 October 2026
- 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

Bolsonaro Escape Jet Tied to Alleged Cocaine Trafficker

Payday Report § *10:02 EDT*

Bolsonaro fled to the US via Argentina on a private jet linked to an alleged cocaine trafficker

Brazil court orders Meta to prove it gives Lula, Bolsonaro campaign content equal treatment

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *10:16 EDT*

Brazil's top electoral court has given Meta 24 hours to prove it is treating campaign content from incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flavio Bolsonaro equally on its online platforms, threatening a daily fine for noncompliance. The ruling follows allegations from Lula's campaign that the social media giant is...

Confusion about Flávio Bolsonaro's whereabouts as Argentina says he flew to Ecuador

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *08:34 EDT*

The defeated presidential candidate crossed a land border into Argentina late on Tuesday, Argentine migration authorities say.

~~Brazil's Federal Police Probe US Companies' Collusion With Bolsonaro's Campaign~~

Brazil's Federal Police probe Bolsonaro campaign's ties to a group JD Vance helped found

Truthout § *10:55 EDT*

The investigation's main focus is on dealings involving an organization founded with the involvement of JD Vance.

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

Research finds Instagram boosted Bolsonaro; lawmakers demand Zuckerberg explain

Common Dreams § *11:06 EDT*

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

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THE ACCOUNTING

Trump vows Iran war ends "whenever I want," tells Gulf allies when: after the vote.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Trump warns Gulf allies to prepare for fresh blitz on Iran after midterm elections: report", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told a Lubbock rally the Iran war ends whenever he decides it ends.

WHO GETS PAID. The party in power, whose midterm candidates face voters November 3rd before any renewed strikes begin, gets a clear run to Election Day.

WHAT SLIPS. The Senate's request for the Pentagon's full accounting of the war's cost goes unanswered, so Congress's oversight of what the war actually costs slips.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress takes no vote on whether this war continues, the bombing resumes on the administration's own timeline instead; that is what happened after the Senate's 2019 Yemen war-powers resolution, which the president vetoed, the override failed 53 to 45, and the war went on 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The rule against timing bombs to ballots died in September. It stays dead this week, survived by the senators who asked the Pentagon in October for a full accounting of the war's cost and are still waiting for a reply.

The estate it left behind keeps growing. In August the Pentagon told Congress the war had cost at least forty-two billion dollars. This week that figure rose to forty-seven point one billion, a jump of more than five billion dollars in two and a half months, with no itemized answer yet for the senators who asked how....

...(cont) The promise around it has grown vaguer on the same schedule. At a rally in Lubbock last week the president told the crowd they'd see Iran "in a couple of weeks." This week, at the same kind of rally, he dropped the deadline altogether — no more malarkey about calendars — the war ends "whenever I want it to end," he said: a timeline with one input, and it is not the Pentagon's ledger or the Senate's questions.

On October 4 Iran's chief negotiator answered that the Strait of Hormuz stays closed until Washington meets Tehran's own seven-day plan, and that "the era of wasting time and dictating unilateral demands is over." On October 7 the vice president told Reuters that Iran still owed a "meaningful" cut to its enriched uranium stockpile. Nine days, three officials, and each one restated the same demand the last one made.

This week a fourth party tried a different approach. Qatari mediators handed Tehran a written proposal to end the war. Iran rejected it as "unacceptable."

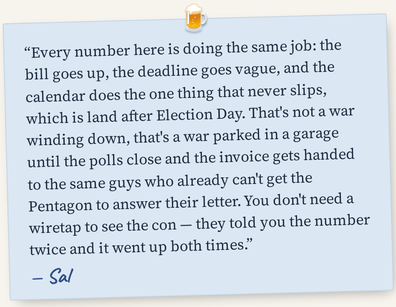
What fills the gap is a date. American officials have told Gulf allies, according to reporting this week, to prepare for a renewed blitz once the midterm votes are counted. The war did not pause for an election; it was scheduled around one, and the schedule survives the rejected proposal, the unanswered invoice, and the rally.

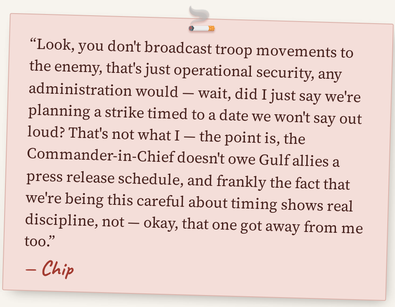
In lieu of flowers, the itemized accounting the senators asked for in October, delivered before the bombing resumes.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE PENTAGON'S NUMBER WENT FROM FORTY-TWO BILLION TO FORTY-SEVEN POINT ONE THIS MONTH, QATAR'S WRITTEN PROPOSAL GOT HANDED TO TEHRAN AND HANDED BACK marked unacceptable, and American officials told Gulf states to pencil in a blitz for after November 3rd. That's not a stalled peace process, that's a war with its invoice paid late on purpose so the bill clears after the ballots do. Because the fighting waits for Wednesday, the gas truck doesn't raise its price until Wednesday either, and the surcharge lands on the receipt he's already got folded in the glovebox, dated the day after he voted.


"Every number here is doing the same job: the bill goes up, the deadline goes vague, and the calendar does the one thing that never slips, which is land after Election Day. That's not a war winding down, that's a war parked in a garage until the polls close and the invoice gets handed to the same guys who already can't get the Pentagon to answer their letter. You don't need a wiretap to see the con — they told you the number twice and it went up both times."
— Sal


"Look, you don't broadcast troop movements to the enemy, that's just operational security, any administration would — wait, did I just say we're planning a strike timed to a date we won't say out loud? That's not what I — the point is, the Commander-in-Chief doesn't owe Gulf allies a press release schedule, and frankly the fact that we're being this careful about timing shows real discipline, not — okay, that one got away from me too."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Senators demand the Iran war's accounting; Pentagon's reply is a bigger bill.* By Mort · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- *Netanyahu predicts cheaper gas once the war ends, the war that already made Trump $4.4 million.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Trump endorses Netanyahu to keep from finishing his own war alone* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Border czar teases 'criminal' probe he won't explain, DOJ explains it by raiding her home.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026
- *Trump lifts sanctions on Russian diesel, tells Ukraine to get a new president for objecting* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 10 October 2026
- *Trump blamed Kyiv for diesel prices, lifted the Russian sanctions, thanked Putin by name at the campaign rally.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 10 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Iran war will end "whenever I want it to end," Trump says as cost tops $47 billion
CBS News MAINSTREAM 11:16 EDT

The Iran war looms over the midterm elections as costs mount and gas prices squeeze voters' wallets. CBS News' Weijia Jiang has more on this, plus Lana Zak reports on races in Iowa.

Qatari mediators hand Iran new proposal to end the war
CBS News MAINSTREAM 11:40 EDT

Iran rejects "unacceptable" ideas after Qatari mediators presented Tehran with a new draft deal to end the war, the Reuters news agency reports.

~~Trump warns Gulf allies to prepare for fresh blitz on Iran after midterm elections: report~~
US tells Gulf states: Iran strikes resume once the midterm votes are counted, report says
New York Post RIGHT 09:55 EDT

The US has reportedly warned "several" Gulf Arab countries to brace for a brief revival of intense attacks on Iran following the Nov. 3 midterm election.

· US accuses Iran of failing to negotiate 'in good faith' *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Iran says Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until the US meets its conditions *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Vance: Iran must make 'meaningful' enrichment reduction to end war *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

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Super PAC answers Marc Andreessen's donations to Husted with thirty seconds of digital advertising

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Guardrails Alliance hits Husted over ties to Marc Andreessen in new ad", 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A super PAC is running an ad tying Senator Jon Husted's support for data centers to donations from tech executives.

WHO GETS PAID. Marc Andreessen and other tech executives who gave to Husted's Senate run, and the data-center industry he has backed.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters are fighting the buildout town by town while the Interior Department picks federal land for data centers, which no local vote touches.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the backlash grows, states can take the choice away from towns; West Virginia did that on 30 April 2025, barring local rules that hinder data centers.

The bill has a title, and the title does the work: to protect taxpayers from additional costs posed by AI-driven data centers. Handsome drafting. Husted of Ohio wrote it, House Democrats voted for it overwhelmingly, and on the 28th of September the Senate Democratic leader set about killing it, his own caucus not fully behind him. You are thinking the politics have gone sideways. The money has not moved an inch. Andreessen's donations to Husted's Senate run sit on the record; Husted's support for data centers sits on the record; and a campaign donation is not consideration — nothing is bargained for, nothing is owed, nothing binds. So what does a super PAC put against a venture portfolio? Wednesday it puts … thirty seconds of digital advertising. Thirty seconds. Thirty. In Ohio a lifelong Republican leads the fight against the buildout, and candidates of both parties spend the midterms easing voter concerns. On the 11th of September the Interior Department had the Bureau of Land Management drawing up lists of public land "ripe for data center development." The offer, in a column of the 29th of September: "great job creators," good neighbours, a new high school football field. The buildout keeps the land. You keep the advertisement.

Midsummer, the kits hunt the lane.
The floor, a man has not mended yet.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"A lifelong Republican is leading the fight against data centers in Ohio — that is how bad it has gotten out there. And the pitch to those towns is a high school football field, while Interior has land managers drawing up lists of public ground for the next one. Andreessen writes checks to Husted's Senate run; Ohio gets a thirty-second digital ad and the costs."
— Sal

"Husted's bill protects taxpayers — his bill, the Republican one, the one Schumer is trying to kill, so you tell me who is on which side here. Donations do not buy votes, that is not how any of this works, did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. These are great job creators. Football fields. Good neighbors."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Guardrails Alliance hits Husted over ties to Marc Andreessen in new ad~~

Ad: Andreessen's donations bought Husted's support for data centers

The Hill MAINSTREAM 19:43 EDT

Super PAC Guardrails Alliance will launch a digital ad campaign Wednesday seeking to tie Ohio Sen. Jon Husted (R)'s past support for data centers to campaign donations he received from tech executives like venture capitalist Marc Andreessen. The 30-second ad, first shared with The Hill, highlights Andreessen's past donations to Husted's...

How a lifelong Republican came to lead the data center battle in Ohio

NPR MAINSTREAM 05:00 EDT

In Ohio, many people are displeased with the state's rapid buildout of data centers. It's a hot issue in the midterms, as political candidates from both parties try to ease voter concerns.

~~The Midterm Battle over Data Centers: Memphis House Candidate Justin Pearson Fights Elon Musk's xAI~~

'Billionaires profit off our pain': Memphis candidate takes on Musk's data center

Democracy Now! 08:32 EDT

The energy needs of the AI boom and the construction of massive data centers in states across the country have created a backlash from both Democratic and Republican voters. The battle against data centers is at the heart of a campaign in Tennessee: Democratic state Representative Justin J. Pearson is opposed to the Colossus data centers...

- Schumer, Dems at odds as leader aims to kill Ohio Republican's data center bill *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*
- Trump Administration Making Aggressive Push to Use Public Lands for AI Data Centers *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Salena Zito explains how data centers are benefiting communities *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

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North Carolina asked for storm help, got ICE agents, then $858 million at a campaign stop.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Vance announced $858 million in storm aid for Western North Carolina at a campaign stop, two years after Hurricane Helene.

WHO GETS PAID. Whatley's Senate campaign gets the credit and the turnout boost; the storm-hit region still waits on the dollars.

WHAT SLIPS. Disaster aid now arrives on the campaign calendar instead of the need calendar, with no accounting of why it took two years.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the $858 million doesn't survive an itemized look, that is what happened in February 2025: a touted $8 billion in federal savings turned out to be $8 million once the receipts were checked.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The invoice from Western North Carolina has sat open since Hurricane Helene hit in 2024. Two years is long enough to expect either a check or an explanation. The region got neither, on schedule.

On August 29, as the G20 convened in Asheville, The Intercept reported what the recovery actually looked like on the ground: communities still rebuilding from Helene living under an immigration surge, the help they had asked Washington for arriving instead as agents. The request read storm aid. The fulfillment read ICE....

...(cont) Twenty-three days later, on September 21, Vice President JD Vance came to Greensboro to campaign for Senate nominee Michael Whatley. The visit followed a stop by President Trump, who had blamed Roy Cooper and his "band of communists" for the state's crime rate. The ledger did not move.

Twenty-eight days after that, on October 19, it moved all at once. Vance returned to the state, this time to Hendersonville, and announced nearly $900 million — $858 million, by the receipt — in Department of Transportation disaster relief for Helene recovery. Republican supporters were bused into the warehouse for the announcement. The money arrived fifty-one days after the ICE report, two years after the storm, in the final stretch of the campaign for Whatley's Senate seat.

Run the subtraction and the pattern holds: the aid showed up at the moment the vote needed it, not at any of the moments the recovery did. Two years of silence, then a number large enough to fill a headline, delivered from a podium at a campaign rally rather than a disbursement from an agency.

By October 28, per Grist, the arithmetic had reached the voters themselves: two years of frustration with the pace of recovery, now a line item in the midterm, the kind of delay that carries a political price whether or not the check clears before the vote.

The filing does not reconcile with the press release, hon. An $858 million number that surfaces at a rally, timed to an election, is not disaster relief running late. It is disaster relief running exactly on schedule — the campaign's.



"This is the oldest con in the book: make them wait two years, then show up right before the election with a check that's really a receipt for their vote. Western North Carolina asked for storm aid and got agents; nobody asked for $858 million, and here it is anyway, right on cue."

— Sal



"This is real taxpayer money going straight to flood victims, exactly when the department said the infrastructure review would be done — timing's got nothing to do with the election, that's just how DOT processes these things. Did I say two years? That's... actually not a great number for us."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Nine months after seizing 35 percent of Venezuela's oil, Washington offers the country statehood, gas still at $4.15.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 27 October 2026
— *Prosecutors charge 15 in a Medicare fraud scheme built over years; a two-day-old bounty program gets the credit.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
— *Administration calls Venezuela oil deal a gift, keeps the contract secret.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 21 October 2026
— *Pentagon's oil stake stays untouched; the Maduros' docket just added a torture charge.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 8 October 2026
— *Pentagon appoints its biggest contractor, a top campaign donor, to help plan the future of war.* By Mitch · the early evening edition, 3 October 2026
— *Pentagon shifts troops from the hemisphere with no oil stake to the one where it claimed 35 percent.* By Ruth · the supper edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Hurricane Helene haunts the midterms in North Carolina

Grist § *03:45 EDT*

Two years after the deadly storm, voters are frustrated with a slow recovery — and that could carry a political price.

· Vance announces additional $858 million in disaster funding during campaign stop in North Carolina *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Western North Carolina Pleaded for Hurricane Help. It Got ICE Instead. *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

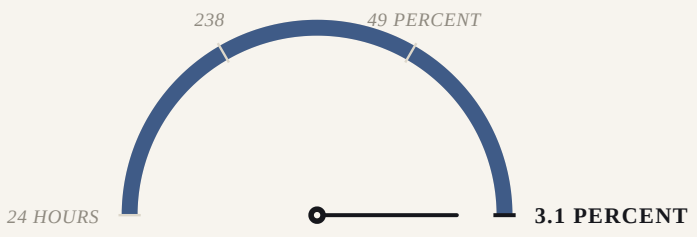
· WATCH LIVE: Vance stumps for Michael Whatley in North Carolina *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

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On invasion

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



3.1 PERCENT

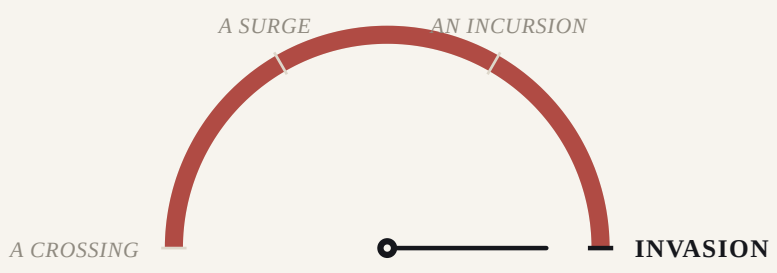
The courts. In April 2025 the Supreme Court held that people facing removal under the act must get notice "within a reasonable time and in such a manner as will allow them to actually seek habeas relief" [1]. In May: "notice roughly 24 hours before removal, devoid of information about how to exercise due process rights to contest that removal, surely does not pass muster" [2]. A Fifth Circuit panel found "neither an invasion nor a predatory incursion"; the full court later dismissed the case as moot after the named plaintiffs were deported, leaving the question undecided [3].

The flights. On March 15, 2025, 238 Venezuelans were sent to the CECOT prison in El Salvador, 137 of them under the act. Of the 226 with ICE data, about 49 percent had no U.S. criminal history, and 8 — 3.1 percent — had violent convictions [4]. In July 2025, 252 were returned to Venezuela in a prisoner exchange [5]. The proclamation said invasion. The records said three percent.

SOURCES

1. Trump v. J.G.G., 7 April 2025: notice "must be afforded within a reasonable time and in such a manner as will allow them to actually seek habeas relief" — Cornell Legal Information Institute ↑
2. A.A.R.P. v. Trump, 16 May 2025: "notice roughly 24 hours before removal … surely does not pass muster" — Cornell Legal Information Institute ↑
3. The panel found "neither an invasion nor a predatory incursion"; the en banc court dismissed the case as moot on 13 August 2026 — Reason / Volokh Conspiracy, 13 August 2026 ↑
4. 238 Venezuelans sent to CECOT on 15 March 2025, 137 under the Alien Enemies Act; about 49 percent of 226 with ICE data had no U.S. criminal history; 8 (3.1 percent) had violent convictions — Human Rights Watch and Cristosal, 12 November 2025 ↑
5. 252 Venezuelans returned to Venezuela in exchange for 10 Americans — CBS News, 18 July 2025 ↑

REPUBLICAN



INVASION

The word is in the law he invoked. The Alien Enemies Act proclamation of March 2025: "I find and declare that TdA is perpetrating, attempting, and threatening an invasion or predatory incursion against the territory of the United States," and "Evidence irrefutably demonstrates that TdA has invaded the United States and continues to invade" [1].

And on the border itself, the numbers are on this side. In December 2025 the Border Patrol recorded 6,478 southwest-border apprehensions and zero releases, against 7,041 released in December 2024 [2]. In July of this year it recorded 9,295 apprehensions, "94% lower than the monthly average of the Biden administration," and a fifteenth straight month of zero releases [3]. Whatever you call what was happening before, it is not happening now at anything like the old scale. That is the administration's strongest receipt, and it is a real one.

SOURCES

1. "Threatening an invasion or predatory incursion against the territory of the United States"; "TdA has invaded the United States and continues to invade" — Proclamation 10903, 14 March 2025 — Federal Register via govinfo ↑
2. December 2025: 6,478 southwest-border apprehensions; zero releases, against 7,041 in December 2024 — U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 16 January 2026 ↑
3. July 2026: 9,295 apprehensions, "94% lower than the monthly average of the Biden administration"; 15 straight months of zero releases — Department of Homeland Security, 13 August 2026 ↑

“The small thing that bothers me is the word, so I read the proclamation. March of last year: "an invasion or predatory incursion against the territory of the United States." Then the Border Patrol's own figures: July of this year, nine thousand two hundred ninety-five apprehensions, "94% lower." Then the Supreme Court, twice: notice first, and a day's notice with no instructions "surely does not pass muster." Then the people on the flights: two hundred thirty-eight, and eight of them with violent convictions. Excuse me — I'll let you get back to it. If the crossings are down ninety-four percent, what's the invasion now?” — Lou

“Invasion. It's in the proclamation — "has invaded the United States and continues to invade." Meanwhile his own Border Patrol says crossings are down ninety-four percent and releases are at zero. So the invasion's over, by his numbers, and the wartime law is still running. Then they flew two hundred thirty-eight Venezuelans to a prison in El Salvador, and when somebody checked the records, about half had no criminal history here and three percent had violent convictions. That's not repelling an invasion. That's a raid with a press office.”

— Sal

“The border is secure because the invasion was repelled, and the invasion must be ongoing because the law remains invoked, and both of those facts together are called deterrence, which works best when no one can tell which one is true.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎