FROM § EACH

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

Washington seizes Venezuela's oil, then says Venezuela gave it to Americans as a gift.

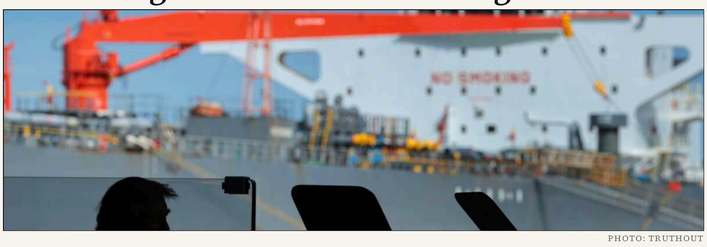


PHOTO: TRUTHOUT

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

A reconciliation needs two entries for the same thing, so start with the thing. Nine months ago the United States removed Venezuela's president. The Energy Secretary came home and told reporters a 30-minute military operation had opened 65 billion barrels of Venezuelan oil to American buyers, 35 percent of it running straight into the Pentagon's own column.

On August 30, Trump posted on Truth Social that he intended to "fill up the Strategic National Reserves," calling the process "topping out" and the whole arrangement "a Gift from Venezuela to the People of the United States."

Two days later, on September 1, a federal watchdog filed a different number. …

… Continued on Page F129

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

Minecraft billionaire lists $70 million mansion seventeen days after Newsom endorsed a measure cancelling the billionaire tax

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will have read that a man is leaving California and you will want to call it protest. Read it as a sale. Seventy million dollars, twenty-two thousand three hundred square feet in Trousdale Estates, a private nightclub — which asks for five percent, once. Five percent. Forty-odd multimillionaires signed a letter on 20 October calling that a "very sensible solution" to a looming healthcare disaster, and volunteered. The tax reaches billionaires, and they are not. On 11 October Newsom endorsed the competing measure, which can-

… Continued on Page F129

Big Ten caps player pay at $49 million six weeks after cheap beer sold the bill that caps it

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

This reporter states for whoever left the small studio microphone live that a chamber elected by zero athletes voted 77 to 22 to let conferences cap what athletes earn, and a conference nobody elected at all moved first, before the House bill that supposedly authorizes it even passed — if the political desk wants a sentence on who the Protect College Sports Act actually protects, assign it before the House does, because this reporter cannot keep fil-

… Continued on Page S20

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The president called previously seized Venezuelan oil a "gift" to Americans.

WHO GETS PAID. The Pentagon, which claimed 35 percent of Venezuela's seized oil, is the named buyer in the receipts.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress has not voted on the seizure or the relabeling, leaving no outside check on where the oil actually lands.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the gift claim goes unchecked, that is what Washington got after 19 February 2025: a padded $55 billion savings claim stood even after an $8 billion contract turned out to be $8 billion.

On Washington seizes Venezuela's oil, then says Venezuela gave it to Americans as a gift. — the column, by Ruth. 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 ☞

ZERO CHARGES FILED

Judge Trump wanted impeached takes over fight to unseal warrant in zero-charge Omar probe, six days before vote.

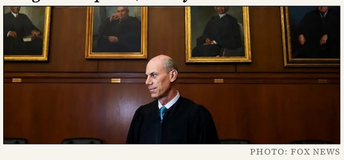


PHOTO: FOX NEWS

BY MITCH
Investigations

I have been reading this file since the raid, and the newest filing is not a charge. It is an assignment memo. All together now, line by line, be-

… Continued on Page A224

Justice Department completes third prosecution this month, convictions zero, a fourth collapsing in court.



PHOTO: THE GUARDIAN

BY LOU
One More Question

I can't put a new fan belt on the car this week. Fourteen dollars for the belt, eighty-five for the install if I don't do it myself in the driveway with a flashlight in my teeth. That's a number I can check — it's taped to the invoice on my workbench, and

… Continued on Page B46

DOJ's noncitizen-voter dragnet produces its first charges: the two men who faked being noncitizen voters.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The Justice Department wants six announcements this month read as momentum, so start where they do. On September 30, ten people were indicted in Minnesota for voting while noncitizens — the sixth such announcement of the month, with Attorney General Todd Blanche and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin signing onto the release. Five days later, on October 5, the Washington Examiner counted sixteen more charges, ten of them again in Minnesota, the same state getting a second round inside a week. On October 17 the department wrote to California, warning election officials that counting a ballot from a suspected noncitizen risked prosecution. Two days after that, twenty-eight people were charged across the state under an operation the department named Protect the Vote.

That's the operation as the department describes it. Here is what it actually caught, six days before the vote.

… Continued on Page B46

> *"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

Flávio Bolsonaro Lands In Miami, Declares Himself President-Elect Of The Election He Lost

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a president-elect out of a man who lost, which has no name over here, so I shall go slowly. You will need a runoff settled on Sunday, a losing candidate ordered to surrender his passports, two borders he crossed instead of handing them over, and a visa in Washington that was never in doubt.

Brazil's Supreme Court had ordered Flávio Bolsonaro to surrender his passports after Sunday's defeat. He did not, crossing into Argentina by land and on toward Ecuador, leaving Guayaquil on a Gulfstream IV, registration LV-JQW — a plane tied to a man accused of trafficking cocaine.

Clive *Borders. I am drafting a sonnet about the ones Flávio crossed, though mine has more rhymes than his had passports.*

Brazil's Federal Police are investigating the American companies accused of aiding the campaign he lost, among them an organisation founded with the involvement of JD Vance. Brazil's attorney general called that meddling "intolerable." Washington's visa was waiting for him regardless of either inquiry.

Garv *Meddling. That's rich, coming from you — you've been meddling with that sonnet a fortnight and it still doesn't scan.*

Today the Gulfstream put him down in Miami. He left the airport under police

… Continued on Page A224

THE DECOY DAN

Peltola's campaign was 'definitely aware' of its decoy scheme; DOJ needs an anonymous analyst to prove it worked.

BY LOU
One More Question

I did the toll plaza this morning in the cash lane, because the attendant booth closed back in March and the transponder I don't have would have cost more up front than I had this week. Cash lane: three dollars and fifty cents, in quarters I keep in the glovebox for exactly this. I mention it because it's the kind of number you can check yourself — open the glovebox, count the coins, that's the toll. Most of what came across the wire this week isn't that simple to

… Continued on Page B46

> *"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 Justice Department ran six rounds of noncitizen-voter charges this month, then charged the two right-wing activists who staged a fake-voter stunt in Minnesota, while threatening a Butte County clerk over a list DHS agents handed him as a poorly formatted Excel spreadsheet. That is not an anti-fraud operation, it is a machine built to manufacture a catch, and when it ran short of noncitizens it started eating its own stunt men and the clerk who checked its math. Because the files are that bad, the net has to drop to the county level to keep the count moving before Election Day, and somewhere on that county's list, in the wrong column, misspelled, sits your own name.

⁂

On DOJ's noncitizen-voter dragnet produces its first charges: the two men who faked being noncitizen voters. *— the column, by Chip*

Today

News, continued	A2
The Wire	A3
The Word	W75
Finance	F1
The Ledger	F2
The Business Desk	F3
The Money Pages, continued	F4
The Record	B1
Legal	B2
The Service	B3
Obituaries	B4
Entertainment	D1
The Marquee	D2
Food	K1
The Kitchen	K2
Health	H1
The Outbreak Ledger	H2
The Exodus	H3
The Withdrawn Formulary	H4

> *"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

ASK VIVIAN

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

— this paper

"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

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**

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

— Chip

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Minecraft billionaire lists $70 million mansion seventeen days after Newsom endorsed a measure cancelling the billionaire tax

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"Minecraft billionaire is latest California resident to flee state — as he offloads $70M Beverly Hills mansion", 28 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Markus Persson is selling his Beverly Hills mansion and leaving California before the vote on a billionaire tax.

WHO GETS PAID. Billionaires: the measure Newsom endorsed cancels the tax on them and bans future ones.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose the power to tax wealth later, whoever they elect.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the ban passes, that power is gone even where voters want it; Denton, Texas voters banned fracking on 4 November 2014 and the state barred cities from regulating oil and gas 195 days later.

You will have read that a man is leaving California and you will want to call it protest. Read it as a sale. Seventy million dollars, twenty-two thousand three hundred square feet in Trousdale Estates, a private nightclub — vacated before a November ballot asks for five percent, once. Five percent. Once. Forty-odd multimillionaires signed a letter on 20 October calling that a "very sensible solution" to a looming healthcare disaster, and volunteered. The tax reaches billionaires, and they are not. On 11 October Newsom endorsed the competing measure, which cancels the billionaire tax and bars any new tax on the ownership of financial assets. Groups backed by Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel began the advertising in August. California's richest residents have put tens of millions of dollars into defeating it. Domicile is the whole of it ... the tax waits for the person who stays. He is not staying.

First frost. Down the road the fox
goes. A man counts the hens anyway.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"Forty-some millionaires signed their names begging to be taxed, and the governor's answer was a ballot measure that cancels the tax and bans the next one — that's not a budget fight, that's a lock on the door. Brin and Thiel money is paying for the ads, and the guy with the private nightclub lists at seventy million and skips town anyway. Healthcare is what was on the table, and they keep telling you there's no money for it."
— Sal

"Look, you put a tax on wealth and the wealth gets on a plane — the mansion is on the market, that's the whole argument right there. Did I say the tax passed? That doesn't sound like me; the governor is with us on this one, his measure cancels it. So nobody is fleeing a thing, which is precisely why he left."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Minecraft billionaire is latest California resident to flee state — as he offloads $70M Beverly Hills mansion

New York Post RIGHT § *16:50 EDT*

Markus Persson is selling his 22,300-square-foot Trousdale Estates property, complete with a private nightclub, a recording studio and two pools.

· 40+ California Multimillionaires Sign Open Letter Backing Billionaire Wealth Tax *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Newsom Endorses Ballot Measure That Would Cancel Out Billionaire Tax—and Ban Future Wealth Taxes *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· 'I Know Where I Want to Live': Ex-Venture Capitalist Explains Why He'd Be Happy to Pay California Billionaire Tax *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Billionaire-Backed Groups Launch Ad Blitz Against California Wealth Tax *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

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

Big Ten caps player pay at $49 million six weeks after cheap beer sold the bill that caps it

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



"Big Ten sets cap for NIL spending, mirroring Protect College Sports Act framework", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA CBS SPORTS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Big Ten capped NIL pay for college athletes at $49 million per school on October 28, 2026.

WHO GETS PAID. College conferences and the NCAA gain tighter control over what they pay the athletes who fill their stadiums.

WHAT SLIPS. Athletes never got a vote on the Senate bill setting the framework, or on the conference rule that followed it.

WHAT'S NEXT. The House has not yet voted on the bill the cap is modeled on; if it holds to the Senate's pace, that vote decides whether $49 million becomes the floor everywhere, the way the Senate's 77-22 passage on September 29, 2026 became this cap six weeks later.

HOT MIC MOMENT

This reporter states for whoever left the small studio microphone live that a chamber elected by zero athletes voted 77 to 22 to let conferences cap what athletes earn, and a conference nobody elected at all moved first, before the House bill that supposedly authorizes it even passed — if the political desk wants a sentence on who the Protect College Sports Act actually protects, assign it before the House does, because this reporter cannot keep filing it from the sports page.

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: The following Monday the Senate obliged him, passing the Protect College Sports Act 77 to 22, bolstering the NCAA's hand over athletes nationwide, and the president called it, in a phrase this reporter will not soon forget, "a really big deal."

GUS: And so, six weeks to the day after the president's visit, the Big Ten Conference on Wednesday capped each member school's NIL spending at ninety-four million dollars, mirroring the framework that bill now sets for the whole of college sports.

GUS: A cap this reporter notes was set not by the Senate, which merely passed the bill, nor by the House, which has yet to vote on it, but by the conference office itself, mirroring a law not yet law.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

One op-ed is right. Ellie Mystal's 'We Need to Protect College Sports from Ted Cruz' ran that same Friday, The Nation's own dateline. A pregame show is not a courtroom, but the count holds: the senator got the microphone, and the players got the parking lot.

It was 2026, sugar. The Washington Examiner's dateline reads September 26th, 2026 — 'Bipartisanship for the Protect College Sports Act.' You're two years off twice a column by house rule, so pace yourself.

The Hill has both the tally and the quote exact. Note what nobody in that chamber was: a scholarship athlete.

Forty-nine million, not ninety-four — CBS Sports has it flat, approved Wednesday. You doubled a salary cap nobody at Neyland got to vote on, which is almost worse than the cap itself.

Go lie down, Gus, before you editorialize your way off this broadcast entirely — but you're not wrong that the cap landed before the law did. CBS Sports confirms the Big Ten acted Wednesday while the House vote the bill still needs sits unscheduled. Take the mushrooms. We'll talk about your memory for scores tomorrow.

"They sold cheap beer to pack the stands for a speech about "protecting" college sports, and six weeks later the conference puts a price ceiling on the kids who sold out the stadium. Nobody on that field got a vote in the Senate or a seat at the conference table that capped their pay. Follow the money: it always ends up somewhere above the players, never in their pockets."
— Sal

"Look, a cap brings order to the market, that's just sound conference governance — wait, did I say "market"? These are student-athletes, there's no market, there's — okay there's clearly a market, it's $49 million a school, I just said the number. The point is the Senate passed this 77-22, bipartisan, that's basically the players voting by proxy. Through their senators. Who they didn't elect either. I'm going to stop talking now."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Half-price beer moved the crowd through security early for a president who came to Neyland to sell a bill none of the players below him could vote on.* By Gus · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Big Ten sets cap for NIL spending, mirroring Protect College Sports Act framework~~

Big Ten caps athlete pay at $49 million before Congress even votes on it.

CBS Sports · 15:47 EDT

The Big Ten approved a rule on Wednesday that limits each school's investment in athlete NIL deals to $49 million, as the Senate-approved college sports bill awaits a potential House vote

· Senate passes 'Protect College Sports Act' with sweeping bipartisan vote *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump touts Senate passage of Protect College Sports Act: 'Really big deal' *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· We Need to Protect College Sports from Ted Cruz *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Hurricane Isaias threatens Georgia vs. Alabama SEC showdown as Trump plans Tuscaloosa visit *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Possible hurricane threatens Alabama-Georgia game Trump slated to attend: 'Nightmare scenario' *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Trump reveals he will return to Alabama in a week to watch Crimson Tide face Georgia *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump says he will attend Georgia-Alabama football game in Tuscaloosa *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump says he will attend Alabama vs Georgia college football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: 'Bipartisanship for the first time in a while' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump trolls reporter: I don't want fake news 'like you' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

· GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Live updates: Trump attends Texas-Tennessee football game in Knoxville; US, China to cut tariffs on $30 billion worth of goods *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation. *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· College football pressure index: Four coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4 *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

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DOJ's noncitizen-voter dragnet produces its first charges: the two men who faked being noncitizen voters.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER



"Minnesota Prosecutor Slaps James O'Keefe, Cam Higby With Felony Charges After They Expose Election Security Loopholes", 28 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA DAILY CALLER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department charged two conservative activists who staged a fake noncitizen-voting stunt in Minnesota.

WHO GETS PAID. The Justice Department's six-announcement fraud narrative gets its two most publicized defendants, timed six days before the vote.

WHAT SLIPS. A county clerk's own judgment of his voter rolls slips to a federal agent waving an error-filled spreadsheet and a prosecution threat.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Denlay sets aside those 47 ballots under that threat, that is what Texas got after its 2022 ID rule: mail-ballot rejections jumped twelvefold, from 0.8 percent to 12.4 percent, overnight.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Justice Department wants six announcements this month read as momentum, so start where they do. On September 30, ten people were indicted in Minnesota for voting while noncitizens — the sixth such announcement of the month, with Attorney General Todd Blanche and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin signing onto the release. Five days later, on October 5, the Washington Examiner counted sixteen more charges, ten of them again in Minnesota, the same state getting a second round inside a week. On October 17 the department wrote to California, warning election officials that counting a ballot from a suspected noncitizen risked prosecution. Two days after that, twenty-eight people were charged across the state under an operation the department named Protect the Vote.

That's the operation as the department describes it. Here is what it actually caught, six days before the vote....

...(cont) On October 28, the department's two most prominent Minnesota defendants turned out to be James O'Keefe and Cam Higby, charged with — I want to say exposing a security loophole, that's the line the Daily Caller ran — no. Charged with unlawfully voting. They wore costumes and used the names of registered state voters to start the "vouching" process in the August 11 primary. That is the exact fraud six announcements promised to find, and when the department finally found it, it was wearing a disguise and writing election-security commentary under its own byline.

The other catch is quieter. A federal agent hand-delivered Butte County clerk-recorder Keaton Denlay a list of forty-seven people the department called "likely" noncitizens unlawfully registered — a document Denlay says arrived as a poorly formatted Excel spreadsheet with missing and jumbled information. He declined to set the ballots aside. He is now the official facing a threat of criminal prosecution if he didn't take action, full stop, over a list the department's own agents could not format correctly.

Six announcements, one judge, one clerk, and two defendants who work for the side that ordered the search. That's the record, filed under the department's own name, six days before anyone votes.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

The Justice Department ran six rounds of noncitizen-voter charges this month, then charged the two right-wing activists who staged a fake-voter stunt in Minnesota, while threatening a Butte County clerk over a list DHS agents handed him as a poorly formatted Excel spreadsheet. That is not an anti-fraud operation, it is a machine built to manufacture a catch, and when it ran short of noncitizens it started eating its own stunt men and the clerk who checked its math. Because the files are that bad, the net has to drop to the county level to keep the count moving before Election Day, and somewhere on that county's list, in the wrong column, misspelled, sits your own name.

"They spent six weeks announcing busloads of "noncitizen" voters, and their best catch, six days out, is two right-wing operatives in Halloween costumes and a county clerk who read their own spreadsheet better than they did. That's a metal detector going off on the guy who built it, not an investigation. Six days to the vote, and the only people this dragnet actually stopped are the ones trying to help it."
— *Sal*

"Look, the Justice Department is just closing loopholes here — six announcements, that's diligence, not persecution. And if two of the people it caught happen to be our own election-integrity guys, well, that just proves the system doesn't play favorites, it catches fraud wherever it finds it, which means it found it on — wait, it found our own side committing the fraud. That's not the talking point. Forget I said that."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Judge Trump wanted impeached takes over fight to unseal warrant in zero-charge Omar probe, six days before vote.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
- *Judge discusses 'serious consequences' for Omar probe that has filed zero charges, six days before vote.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
- *Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification only if the Republican loses; the election is ten days away.* By Lou · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows not to improperly block any election, tries to block three this month.* By Lou · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department demands verification for ballots it is also asking a federal court to stop counting.* By Lou · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Minnesota Prosecutor Slaps James O'Keefe, Cam Higby With Felony Charges After They Expose Election Security Loopholes
Daily Caller RIGHT § *16:24 EDT*

'Now they want to TAKE MY RIGHT TO VOTE AWAY'

~~Judge Blocks Error-Riddled Effort by Trump DHS to Crack Down on Vanishingly Rare Voting by Noncitizens~~

Judge: DHS's door-to-door search for 'vanishingly rare' voter fraud broke the Voting Rights Act
Common Dreams § *08:03 EDT*

A federal judge in California ruled late Wednesday that the US Department of Homeland Security has violated the Voting Rights Act by sending agents door-to-door and demanding information from people about their immigration status and whether they've voted in recent elections—part of President Donald Trump's perennial effort to prove the...

~~Right-wing activists James O'Keefe, Cam Higby charged with unlawfully voting in Minnesota~~

O'Keefe and Higby's 'vouching' stunt was itself the crime, prosecutor says.
New York Post RIGHT § *17:21 EDT*

Mary Moriarty said O'Keefe, 42, of West Palm Beach, Florida, and Higby, 26, of Covington, Washington, wore costumes and used the names of registered state voters while starting the "vouching" process in the Aug. 11 primary.

California election official says federal agents threatened him over 'voter fraud'
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *17:04 EDT*

Keaton Denlay says agents handed him 'poorly formatted Excel spreadsheet' and threatened to criminally prosecute him A California county elections official is speaking out about the Department of Justice's campaign against purported "voter fraud", saying federal officials provided him a disorganized list of names filled with inaccuracies...

· Trump DoJ indicts 10 individuals on noncitizen voting related charges in Minnesota *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump administration threatens California officials if noncitizens vote in midterms *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· DOJ charges 16 illegal immigrants with voting crimes, including 10 in Minnesota *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

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Justice Department completes third prosecution this month, convictions zero, a fourth collapsing in court.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Two ex-FBI officials charged with lying about investigation into Hunter Biden's laptop", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department brought cases this month against James Comey, Cassidy Hutchinson and two former FBI officials, winning no convictions.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, the charges against Hutchinson and the FBI officials keep collapsing in court; that is what Newton, Iowa got after October 2022: a man charged twice for calling officials fascists was acquitted, had the second charge dropped, and won judgment on the city's liability by February 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I can't put a new fan belt on the car this week. Fourteen dollars for the belt, eighty-five for the install if I don't do it myself in the driveway with a flashlight in my teeth. That's a number I can check — it's taped to the invoice on my workbench, and the part number on the box matches the part number in the manual. I bring it up because this is a column about numbers, and that's the only kind I trust: the kind where you can put the box next to the receipt and see if they match.

Here's what doesn't match, as best I can tell from this month's wire....

...(cont) The Justice Department filed charges against James Comey for a third time, the Times reported on the 27th, over a 2016 leak the FBI already investigated once before. The new filing added counts. A third filing, with new counts, on a leak the government already closed once.

Before that, on October 9th, a grand jury began hearing the case the department built against Cassidy Hutchinson, the former Meadows aide, over her 2022 testimony to the January 6th committee. On October 27th, the grand jury declined to indict her. Eighteen days, start to finish, and the people in that room looked at what the government had and chose not to sign their name to it.

On October 23rd, two former FBI counterintelligence officials, Nikki Floris and Bradley Benavides, were charged with lying to Congress about their part in the 2020 investigation into Hunter Biden's laptop. They surrendered that morning and stood for their first court appearance the same day. One of them wept in the courthouse hallway afterward. That's not me editorializing; that's what the Post put in print.

Then the department added a second charge against the same two people — obstruction, on top of the first — and the judge hearing it called the new charge, for the record, "a sideshow on top of a sideshow." I don't know many judges who reach for a phrase like that twice in a career. I looked. I couldn't find one.

This week, the lawyers representing Floris and Benavides did what defense lawyers generally do last, not first: they told the wire services that the evidence behind the case doesn't hold up, and neither do the motives behind it. That's the CBS story, dated today. The strength of the evidence. The motives behind the charges. Not my words. Theirs, on the record, about a case the government is still trying to make.

In my garage, I don't put a part in the car until I've checked the number on the box against the number in the manual, because a part that doesn't match costs you the tow twice — once for the part that didn't fit, once for hauling it back. The government has brought four cases this month tied to one administration's list of grievances: Comey, Hutchinson, the first charge against Floris and Benavides, and the second. The fourth is the one the lawyers stood up this week to say doesn't match the number in the manual either.

That's the only number I'm giving you today, and I'm giving it to you once: three prosecutions, zero convictions. A fourth is cracking while the lawyers for the accused are still the only ones standing up to talk about it.

Hold on — one more thing before you go. The CBS story doesn't quote the government answering the defense's doubts about the evidence. It quotes the defense raising them. So which side, in this case, this week, is the one doing the explaining — the government that brought the charges, or the lawyers for the people it charged?

"They've run three cases this month on people who testified or did their jobs, and all three came back empty — a grand jury said no, a judge called one a sideshow, and now the fourth is falling apart in open court too. That's not prosecutors working through tough cases, that's the government spending public money chasing the same list of names and losing every time. When the score is zero convictions in four tries, the question is who at Justice keeps signing off on the next one."
— Sal

"Look, prosecutors bring hard cases, that's the job — a grand jury declining to indict isn't an exoneration, it's just one stage of the process working as designed. The obstruction charge, the fresh one, that's just diligence, following the evidence wherever it — wait, the judge called it a sideshow on top of a sideshow? I didn't say that. That's not in my notes."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Three Trump-era prosecutions collapse in one week; a judge calls one "a sideshow on top of a sideshow."* By Mitch · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- *DOJ charges Comey a third time over a 2016 leak it once declined to prosecute* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 27 October 2026
- *Third Comey indictment rests on a 2016 leak the government investigated and declined to charge* By Lou · the evening edition, 27 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

2 former FBI officials charged for allegedly lying to Congress about Hunter Biden laptop probe

CBS News MAINSTREAM 17:23 EDT

Nikki Floris and Bradley Benavides, two former senior FBI counterintelligence officials, are facing criminal charges for allegedly making false statements to Congress during their 2023 testimony on the Hunter Biden laptop probe. CBS News' Sarah Lynch reports.

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)*

Two ex-FBI officials charged with lying about investigation into Hunter Biden's laptop

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 12:00 EDT

Contents of laptop of Joe Biden's son were part of a bizarre saga in the final weeks of 2020 presidential election Two former FBI intelligence officials who specialized in foreign election interference were charged on Friday with making false statements about their roles in investigating the origins of Hunter Biden 's laptop in the...

~~Lawyers question case against ex-FBI officials over Hunter Biden probe~~

Trump's DOJ charged the ex-FBI agents; their own lawyers doubt the evidence.

CBS News MAINSTREAM 17:24 EDT

Defense attorneys for two former FBI counterintelligence officials accused of lying to Congress raised doubts about the strength of the evidence and the motives behind the charges.

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.

ZERO CHARGES FILED

Judge Trump wanted impeached takes over fight to unseal warrant in zero-charge Omar probe, six days before vote.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"My Name Has Always Been Ilhan Omar': Congresswoman Calls Out 'Creep' Trump", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Homeland Security searched Rep. Ilhan Omar's home over immigration paperwork her father filled out in her childhood.

WHO GETS PAID. Homeland Security and the Justice Department gain leverage over a sitting opposition congresswoman six days before the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's right to see the warrant that justified the search sits sealed, waiting on one judge's ruling.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, the probe ends without a charge while the costs land later; that is what Castle Hills, Texas got after its 2019 arrest of a council critic: a dropped charge, a Supreme Court win, and a $500,000 settlement six years on.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I have been reading this file since the raid, and the newest filing is not a charge. It is an assignment memo. All together now, line by line, because the order of the paperwork is the whole story.

On 12 October, Homeland Security agents searched Rep. Ilhan Omar's home in Washington. CBS News, the New York Times, ABC News and France24 each filed the raid the same week; ABC quoted the Justice Department calling it part of "an ongoing criminal investigation." Sources told CBS what the investigation was actually about: immigration paperwork filled out when Omar was a child, paperwork she did not write and could not have signed....

...(cont) On 23 October, a Justice Department filing referred to the congresswoman as "Ilhan Nur Said Elmi." President Trump referenced the filing on Truth Social, writing that "it was just revealed that Ilhan Omar's name is not Ilhan Omar." Omar answered the same day. Common Dreams ran her response under the headline "My Name Has Always Been Ilhan Omar," and quoted her calling the president a "creep." The filing produced a second name. It did not produce a charge.

On 28 October, the New York Post reported that a federal judge was discussing the "serious consequences" Omar could still face. Sixteen days after the search, the investigation has produced zero charges and one judicial remark about consequences — a strange order for a case to run in, consequence ahead of the charge that would explain it.

And today, Fox News reports who holds the next filing. The fight to unseal the warrant behind the raid now sits with Judge James Boasberg, described by Fox as "a frequent Trump legal foe" — the same judge the president has called a "radical left lunatic" and wanted impeached. The judge the president tried hardest to remove is the one now deciding whether the public gets to read the document that started this.

Six days remain before the midterms. A child's form, a federal search, a second name, a judge's warning, and now a different judge — the one Trump wanted gone — holding the only copy of the warrant. Line by line, that is the whole file. No charges. Just paperwork, and the open question of who gets to read it first.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

HOMELAND SECURITY SEARCHED A SITTING CONGRESSWOMAN'S HOME OVER A FORM HER FATHER FILLED OUT BEFORE SHE COULD READ IT, AND SIXTEEN DAYS LATER THE ONLY THING filed is a judge's remark about "serious consequences," not a charge. That is not a criminal investigation, it is a standing file kept open on purpose so it can be produced the week it is needed most. A government that can hold paperwork from someone's childhood and bring it out six days before an election can hold yours too, the same way, from the same kind of drawer — the citizenship folder your mother kept in the hall closet.

"This is the oldest con there is: they go through a congresswoman's childhood immigration form, come up with zero charges, and the only thing on the table is the word "consequences." The guy deciding whether the public even sees the warrant is the same judge Trump already tried to get rid of, which tells you plenty about how much this probe is about facts and how much it's about keeping a sitting congresswoman busy six days before an election. That's not oversight, that's leverage with a case number attached."
— Sal

"Look, nobody's disputing there's a process here — the Department found a filing discrepancy and that deserves a look, that's just good government. Did I say "deserves a look"? I mean obviously sixteen days with no charge is completely normal for a complex case, these things take time, time the public doesn't need to watch in real time. And sure, Boasberg's a Trump critic, but judges rule on the law, not on grudges — unless he rules the other way, in which case, well, we'll cross that bridge."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Judge discusses 'serious consequences' for Omar probe that has filed zero charges, six days before vote.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
- *Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification only if the Republican loses; the election is ten days away.* By Lou · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows not to improperly block any election, tries to block three this month.* By Lou · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department demands verification for ballots it is also asking a federal court to stop counting.* By Lou · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026
- *Trump calls for Omar's ouster over a 'fake name' that federal investigators already built into her salary probe.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 23 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~'My Name Has Always Been Ilhan Omar': Congresswoman Calls Out 'Creep' Trump~~

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

Common Dreams | *17:25 EDT*

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 false 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...

~~'Radical Left Lunatic' judge Trump wanted impeached takes up Ilhan Omar warrant fight~~

The FBI raided a sitting congresswoman's home. The search warrant is still sealed.

Fox News RIGHT | *15:31 EDT*

Judge James Boasberg, a frequent Trump legal foe, now oversees the fight to unseal the FBI search warrant used in the raid on Rep. Ilhan Omar's home.

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.

Flávio Bolsonaro Lands In Miami, Declares Himself President-Elect Of The Election He Lost

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK



"Flávio Bolsonaro lands in Miami after defeat in Brazil's presidential election", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Flávio Bolsonaro lost Brazil's election, fled to Miami, and declared himself the country's rightful president-elect.

WHO GETS PAID. The American companies accused of aiding his campaign, including one JD Vance helped found, keep operating while Brazil investigates them.

WHAT SLIPS. Brazil's Supreme Court order for his passports went unenforced the moment he crossed into Argentina, and nothing stopped him before Miami.

WHAT'S NEXT. Brazil's Federal Police investigation into the American companies tied to his campaign continues; no visa review or hearing has been scheduled in Washington.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a president-elect out of a man who lost, which has no name over here, so I shall go slowly. You will need a runoff settled on Sunday, a losing candidate ordered to surrender his passports, two borders he crossed instead of handing them over, and a visa in Washington that was never in doubt.

Brazil's Supreme Court had ordered Flávio Bolsonaro to surrender his passports after Sunday's defeat. He did not, crossing into Argentina by land and on toward Ecuador, leaving Guayaquil on a Gulfstream IV, registration LV-JQW — a plane tied to a man accused of trafficking cocaine....

Clive *Borders. I am drafting a sonnet about the ones Flávio crossed, though mine has more rhymes than his had passports.*

Brazil's Federal Police are investigating the American companies accused of aiding the campaign he lost, among them an organisation founded with the involvement of JD Vance. Brazil's attorney general called that meddling "intolerable." Washington's visa was waiting for him regardless of either inquiry.

Gary *Meddling. That's rich, coming from you — you've been meddling with that sonnet a fortnight and it still doesn't scan.*

Today the Gulfstream put him down in Miami. He left the airport under police escort without speaking to the press, the Guardian has it; the BBC has it as the arrival that ends speculation about his whereabouts, after he failed to comply with the order on his passports.

Rob *Scan. Heavy word. I am still waiting on a police escort for my rent, the way Flávio got one off the tarmac.*

Within hours he declared himself the rightful president-elect, his loss to the sitting president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, recast as an electoral coup d'etat carried out, in his account, by "criminals." Lula da Silva remains president; the declaration is the whole of the office so far.

Keith *Rent. Try calling yourself "rightful president-elect" to the landlord — works about as well, and he still hasn't fixed the damp.*

The BBC, which is what they have here, has it as Flávio Bolsonaro lands in Miami after defeat in Brazil's presidential election. At home the New York Post has it as Flavio Bolsonaro declares himself "elected president" of Brazil, claims "criminals" rigged contest he lost.

You will be looking for the recount, or the court that undoes a declaration like this one. There is no recount; the declaration is what a loss is instead of, once the passports have already gone unsurrendered. A president-elect who was not elected does not improve by sitting out.

This serves the visa already arranged in Washington and the companies Brazil's Federal Police are now investigating. It does not serve the voters who decided Sunday's runoff, left paying for a result the loser will not accept.

Gary *Paying for it. I'll add Brazil to the list of things this house owes money on and still hasn't had a vote about.*

"The guy loses the election, can't be bothered handing over his own passport, and by nightfall he's crowned himself president-elect — must be nice when the visa's already sitting there waiting on you regardless. Meanwhile the companies that allegedly helped his campaign, one of them built with JD Vance's own hands, are the ones Brazil's actually investigating, not him. That's the racket: lose the vote, keep the friends in Washington, let Brazil chase the money guys while you crown yourself king on the tarmac."
— Sal

"Look, the man believes there were irregularities, and when a losing candidate believes that he's entitled to say so — that's just democratic hygiene, questioning a result. And it's not like the United States owes Brazil an explanation for who it lets off a plane, that's just open travel, any private citizen can — wait, did I call him a private citizen, he's a sitting senator, forget I said that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Jet Tied To Accused Cocaine Trafficker Flies Bolsonaro Toward A US Visa Already Waiting* By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
- *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

~~Flávio Bolsonaro lands in Miami after defeat in Brazil's presidential election~~

Bolsonaro's son defied a passport surrender order, then surfaced in Miami

BBC News | MAINSTREAM | *17:07 EDT*

Bolsonaro's arrival in the US ends speculation about his whereabouts after he failed to comply with an order to surrender his passports.

~~Bolsonaro flees Brazil for US after election defeat~~

He defied Brazil's Supreme Court passport order and fled to the US.

France 24 | MAINSTREAM | *15:44 EDT*

Flavio Bolsonaro's clandestine escape to the United States bewildered Brazil and triggered a frantic search for his whereabouts. The Supreme Court had ordered the son of jailed ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro to forfeit his passports after his electoral loss on Sunday, amid fears he would leave the country due to ongoing investigations against...

Flávio Bolsonaro lands in Florida after fleeing Brazil – video

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *15:53 EDT*

A jet carrying the Brazilian far-right senator Flávio Bolsonaro has landed in Miami, Florida, where the losing candidate in Sunday's presidential election runoff left the airport under police escort without speaking to the press. The Gulfstream IV, registered as LV-JQW, left Guayaquil in Ecuador earlier in the day. After losing Sunday's...

Flavio Bolsonaro declares himself 'elected president' of Brazil, claims 'criminals' rigged contest he lost

New York Post | RIGHT | *17:16 EDT*

Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro on Wednesday declared himself the rightful president-elect of Brazil, saying his victory had been denied by an electoral coup d'etat.

~~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.

· Return of the Bolsonaros: Why the far-right surge in Brazilian elections? *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Son of disgraced ex-president Jair Bolsonaro takes election lead in Brazil *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

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THE DECOY DAN

Peltola's campaign was 'definitely aware' of its decoy scheme; DOJ needs an anonymous analyst to prove it worked.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Trump calls for Alaska Dem candidate Mary Peltola to drop out, face prosecution days before midterm election", 28 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department sued to void Alaska's Senate certification, but only if the Republican candidate loses.

WHO GETS PAID. The lawsuit's design protects Republican Senator Dan Sullivan's seat if he loses the vote.

WHAT SLIPS. Alaska voters' own certified result stops being final once the Justice Department can reopen it after election day.

WHAT'S NEXT. No pattern in the record covers a suit that only activates if a candidate loses; the next fixed date is Alaska's own election, five days away.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I did the toll plaza this morning in the cash lane, because the attendant booth closed back in March and the transponder I don't have would have cost more up front than I had this week. Cash lane: three dollars and fifty cents, in quarters I keep in the glovebox for exactly this. I mention it because it's the kind of number you can check yourself — open the glovebox, count the coins, that's the toll. Most of what came across the wire this week isn't that simple to check. That's the story.

I wrote some of it down as it came in. Let me find the page. Here....

...(cont) On October 14th, the Guardian reported, the president told Alaska voters to pick the "real" Dan Sullivan — because by then the ballot already carried two men by that name, the sitting Republican senator and a second filer the wire story never explains a reason for.

Ten days after that, on the 24th, the Justice Department filed suit to block the state's certification of its own Senate race — but only, the filing itself says, if Sullivan, the Republican, loses. CBS and the Times both carried that condition the same day, straight from the document.

A car struck the one carrying her family on the way to a banquet; the Guardian reported minor injuries, and said the schedule would wait.

It waited three more days. This week, on the 28th, the Guardian came back to it, citing new reporting from the Times: Peltola's campaign, the story said, hadn't just recruited one Dan Sullivan. It had gone looking for others across the state, and for men who could, in the Times' own words as the wire carried them, "peel votes away from Peltola's main opponent" — meaning Sullivan, the Republican. Not Peltola.

Same day, the Post ran two more pieces of it. In the first, the president told reporters at Joint Base Andrews that Peltola should resign, and said, "I think she should be prosecuted criminally for what she did." In the second — the one the Post itself called a bombshell — the paper reported that top aides had been instructed to search for men named Dan Sullivan, and that Peltola herself was, in the paper's words, "definitely aware."

And Fox, the same day, the same wire cycle: the lawsuit that only exists if Sullivan loses is running into a problem in court, because legal scholars are asking whether an anonymous ballot analysis can actually prove the "voter confusion" the whole case depends on.

Back in September, the 24th, there's a different piece of paper in the same folder — the Hill, reporting anonymous former aides describing profane outbursts inside the Peltola operation. The campaign pushed back on that story. I bring it up only because it's dated earlier and sits in the same file, not because it explains anything that came after it. Those two stories don't touch, and I'm not going to make them.

Here's what I keep looking at, and it isn't a number this time. It's the toll plaza I was just sitting in. Two lanes open most mornings — cash, and the one for people who paid ahead of time. You cannot run both lanes with the same car at the same minute; the gate lifts for whichever one you actually drove into. The lawsuit is built for one lane: it opens only if the Republican loses. The recruiting, by the campaign's own aides' account, was built for the other lane — finding men who could pull votes away from the Republican before anyone reached the booth. Both lanes open onto the same stretch of road.

Excuse me — before I let this go. The bombshell says Peltola's own people were "definitely aware" they were out looking for men named Dan Sullivan. The lawsuit that depends on "voter confusion" needs an anonymous analyst, after the fact, to tell a court whether that confusion actually happened. If the people who built it already knew what they were building, what is the anonymous analysis actually there to find out?

I still have the quarters, in the glovebox. In case the booth opens again.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

The Justice Department wrote its lawsuit to nullify Alaska's Senate certification so it only switches on if Dan Sullivan, the Republican, loses, and the Peltola campaign's own aides were, in their telling, "definitely aware" they were recruiting men by that same name to split his vote. That isn't a lawsuit sitting next to a dirty trick, it's one circuit with two switches, built by two different offices, wired to the same outcome. Because the Washington switch only trips if he loses, and the Anchorage switch only works if he loses, both of them are waiting on the same five words — and those five words get decided by your ballot, the one with two Dan Sullivans printed on it, sitting on your counter five days from now.

"They built the trapdoor so it only opens if their guy loses, and the other side built the guy who'd make him lose — same ballot, same race, same week. One side's aides were "definitely aware" of what they were doing; the other side needs a stranger to guess, after the fact, whether it worked. Five days out, and the only people who already know how this seat gets decided are the ones who are supposed to be waiting on you."

— Sal

"This isn't a lawsuit built for one outcome, it's a straightforward voter-confusion case — the Justice Department just happens to only need to file it if Sullivan loses, which, fine, is a detail. The real story here is a campaign recruiting a man named Dan Sullivan to run against Dan Sullivan, that's — okay, hearing it said out loud, that is the exact thing we're accusing them of, so forget I said that. The anonymous ballot analysis doesn't need to survive a courtroom, it just needs to survive until Tuesday."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Justice Department prepares to nullify Alaska's Senate race only if Republicans lose; Democrats spent months engineering that outcome.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
— *DOJ sues to void an election only the Republican could lose, nine days before Alaska votes* By Lou · the evening edition, 26 October 2026
— *Attorney general calls three hosts misleading, crazy, and not a real question; the one from Trump remains unanswered.* By Lou · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
— *Attorney general declares Alaska's Senate race unfair; ballots challenged: zero, with nine days until the vote* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
— *Justice Department asks a court to block Alaska's Senate certification only if the Republican loses, challenging zero ballots* By Sterling · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump calls for Alaska Dem candidate Mary Peltola to drop out, face prosecution days before midterm election
New York Post | RIGHT | *17:24 EDT*

"Mary Peltola should resign from the race. I think she should be prosecuted criminally for what she did," Trump told reporters at Joint Base Andrews.

Peltola campaign's alleged Dan Sullivan spoiler plot takes new turn as DOJ faces major legal hurdle
Fox News | RIGHT | *14:40 EDT*

The Department of Justice's Alaska Senate race lawsuit faces hurdles as legal scholars debate whether anonymous ballot analysis can prove confusion.

Alaska Senate candidate Mary Peltola delays campaign stops after car crash
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *16:28 EDT*

Peltola and her family sustained minor injuries after a driver struck the car transporting group to campaign stop Mary Peltola , a Democrat who is running for US Senate in Alaska , and her family suffered minor injuries in a car crash while driving to a campaign stop on Saturday, her campaign said. The family was on its way to the Alaska...

Mary Peltola 'definitely aware' Dems searched for another Dan Sullivan to confuse voters in Alaska race: bombshell report
New York Post | RIGHT | *16:45 EDT*

Top campaign aides for Alaska Senate hopeful Mary Peltola were instructed to search for people named Dan Sullivan they could recruit for the contest, and she was "definitely aware," a bombshell report revealed.

~~Trump rages at Alaska Democrat whose campaign reportedly recruited man with same name as Republican opponent – live~~

DOJ fights to keep Trump's ally in office after judge rules him illegally serving
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *17:31 EDT*

Trump, citing New York Times report, says actions by Mary Peltola's campaign to recruit a second Dan Sullivan 'illegal' and calls for her disqualification from US Senate race Peltola's campaign reportedly recruited second Dan Sullivan in Alaska Senate race Sign up for the Breaking News US email For months, Mary Peltola's campaign for...

· Trump urges Alaskans to vote for the 'real' Dan Sullivan in tight midterms battle *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

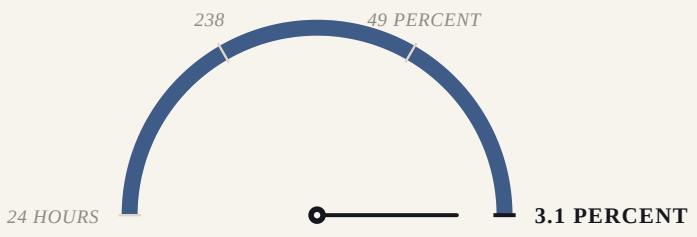
· Peltola campaign rips New York Times report on tumultuous operations *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

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.

On invasion

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



3.1 PERCENT

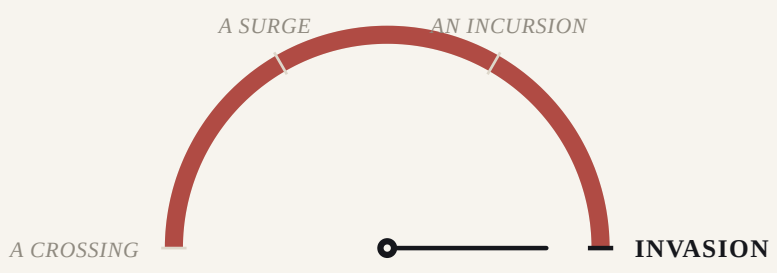
The courts. In April 2025 the Supreme Court held that people facing removal under the act must get notice "within a reasonable time and in such a manner as will allow them to actually seek habeas relief" [1]. In May: "notice roughly 24 hours before removal, devoid of information about how to exercise 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 — 👍 👎