The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

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.

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

... Continued on Page F129

THE WORD

§74 — 27 OCTOBER 2026

On the mantle

DEMOCRAT

TACO

REPUBLICAN

THE MANTLE

"I'm the guy who can't afford the thing, so I read the invoice twice. Thirty-five days. Eleven billion dollars, says the Congressional Budget Office, three billion of it not coming back. Wall money in the deal he signed: zero. This year: a stopgap, 370 to 48, signed September 2, good through December 11. Bills finished out of twelve: none. Sorry — I forgot my pen — the vote is in a week and the cliff is in six. Who picked those two dates?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W74

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE HOUSE IS A PARK

The house costs $15.5 million a year to run and $600 million this year to add a room; Congress voted on the first number.

... 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

... Continued on Page F129

Trump calls fraud rampant on a dragnet judges halted twice that flagged 400 names, six days out

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The president's word was "rampant," and I will defend it, because the alternative is a party that would rather nobody counted at all.

Start in September, when the Times described the Unlawful Voter Initiative: hundreds of Homeland Security agents going through voter rolls the states maintain. That is an audit. You audit a bank and nobody calls it a raid.

On September 25th the Court let that database run against the rolls inside the last ninety days — the window federal law otherwise keeps a program like this out of — which tells you the Court saw no harm in it, or saw the harm and found the appeal more interesting, and I'd like the second half of that sentence back.

October 9th: Judge Sparkle Sooknanan, seventy-eight pages, holds the Justice Department's policy of collecting states' unredacted voter rolls to run against a federal immigration database unlawful under privacy law. A paperwork ruling. It goes to the method, not the — all right, it was the method, and the method was the program, and we are now using a different method. Call

... Continued on Page B46

Trump terminates three-week-old methane proposal, claims $45 billion saved, at rally for oil-state Senate hopeful

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The filing starts in the first week of October, when the Environmental Protection Agency said only that it intended, in the coming days, to propose loosening federal limits on methane leaking from oil and gas wells. No draft. No number. Just intent, announced in a press release.

Nine days later, a different agency finished its own paperwork. The Fish and Wildlife Service closed out a rule saying fossil fuel companies drilling the Beaufort Sea would no longer carry legal liability for killing polar bears or Pacific walruses, so long as the killing was called "unintentional." The rule covers "year-round oil and gas industry activities." Eight days after that, a third filing let hunters on federal land in Alaska bait bears with doughnuts, bacon, and other human food, a practice wildlife managers had restricted because it draws bears toward people.

The methane proposal did not catch up to its own agency's promise until October 28th, in Lubbock, Texas, at a campaign rally for Senate candidate Ken Paxton. There the president did not describe a proposal in progress. He described a completed act. "Tonight, I'm officially terminating Biden's expen-

... Continued on Page F128

Senators demand the Iran war's accounting; Pentagon's reply is a bigger bill.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The rule against scheduling ordnance around a ballot died the last Sunday in September, survived by a bombing campaign rescheduled for after the midterms and by a U.N. ambassador who told a cable audience, the same week, that six-dollar diesel was Ukraine's doing. That was the funeral. What continues now is the reading of the estate, and the estate turns out to be larger than anyone disclosed at the service.

In July the Congressional Budget Office put the war's cost at nearly forty billion dollars and called its own number conservative. On August 13 the Pentagon gave Congress a separate figure — just over forty-two billion, a four-and-a-half-billion-dollar jump measured against the department's own prior estimate, not the CBO's, which is the kind of bookkeeping malarkey that only matters to the people trying to follow the money. That omission is what brought the senators, and the shit of it is that omissions are how these numbers start small.

On October 19 Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee wrote the Pentagon asking it to make the full accounting public, citing what they

... Continued on Page B46

State Department Issues Visa To Flávio Bolsonaro Days After Brazil Canceled His Passport

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today the State Department confirmed that Flávio Bolsonaro and his family will get American visas, passport or no passport. You will need two cancelled passports, a Supreme Court order he ignored, stops in Argentina and Ecuador, and a department that never changed its answer.

Brazilian police had asked him to hand over his passports over links to a money-laundering investigation; the Supreme Court had already nullified them for his failure to comply.

Clive *Did not obey. That's my position on the gas bill — an order I regard as advisory, and there's a response in verse half drafted already.*

Gary *You've a verse half drafted; he's got a jet booked to Ecuador. One of you is actually moving.*

Begin with what was already in the pan. On 1 October, after the Guardian reported Washington funding a campaign against Brazil's Supreme Court, Jorge Messias called it something that "cannot be tolerated." On 23 October, Bernie Sanders and Pramila Jayapal asked Meta's chief executive about alleged interference in the runoff. Lula da Silva won anyway; days after the de-

... Continued on Page A223

Pretti family demands Justice Department release evidence file it stopped sending four days earlier

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

The chief lays the file on the table first: in January, federal agents in Minneapolis shot Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse and U.S. citizen, and in the same crackdown shot Renee Good. Two bodies, one state, and by March Minnesota had already sued the federal government just to see what its own officers wrote down.

For seven months the only paperwork that moved fast was the smear: by August, Pretti's family was hearing officials describe their son as an "assassin" and a "domestic terrorist," a label applied to a man they'd just finished calling a nurse.

Then came the part with the receipts. On October 23, Minnesota told a court that the flow of evidence had not slowed — it had stopped. The federal government, the state said in a filing, is no longer sharing anything related to either shooting. Four days later, Pretti's parents stood in front of cameras and asked the Department of Justice "to do what is right," saying the government had ignored them, then misled them.

The planner studies that timeline and likes what it reveals: the state's law-

... Continued on Page T30

Pollster fakes polls to expose zero scrutiny; GOP leaders prove it, call the real ones fake too.

BY LOU
One More Question

I want to start with a word, not a number, if that's all right with you.

The Washington Examiner printed the word "fake" twice in six days. I know because I've got both copies — not framed, nothing like that, just folded under a coffee cup at the corner store where I do my reading some mornings, and when I finally laid them side by side on the counter the clerk thought I was comparison shopping. On the 21st, "fake" described a polling company. On the 27th, it described the polls everybody else runs. Same paper. Same word. Six days apart.

Let me back up, because the file on this is thicker than one word, and I don't want to leave anything out. On September 2nd, Senate Majority Leader John Thune told reporters he "worries about losing" the Senate majority he runs, and called himself, in his own word, "a realist." Eight days after that, at his own party's midterm convention, the crowd booed him off the stage — I've got that one circled, don't ask me why I circle things, it's a habit from the job. On October 15th, Speaker Mike Johnson said it's hard to get Republicans to respond to "our own" pollsters. His words, our own, like there's a company

... Continued on Page A223

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

— *Sal*

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

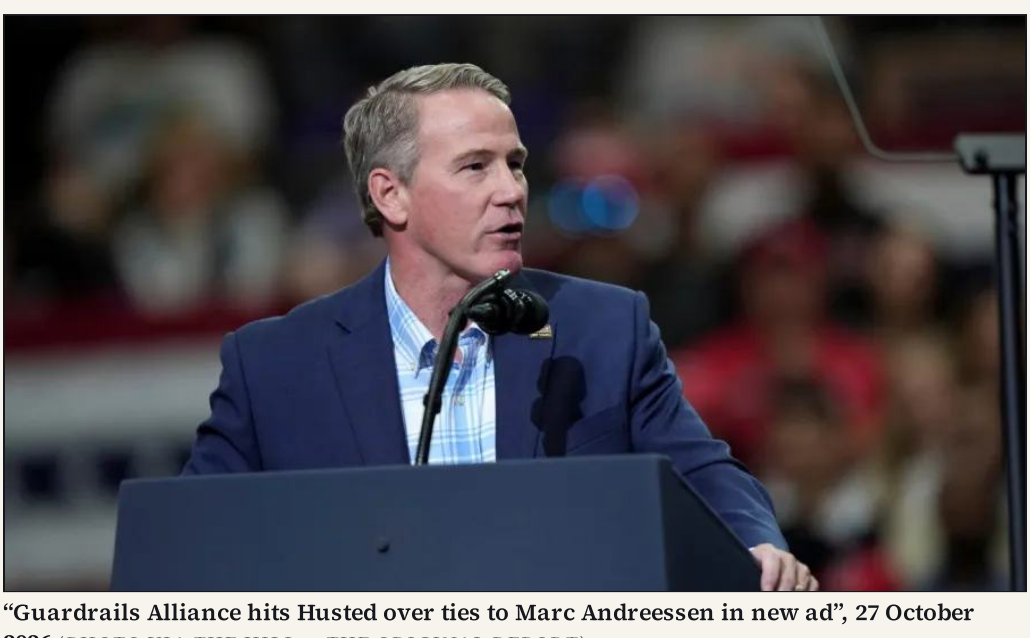
— *Chip*

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

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*

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.

Trump calls fraud rampant on a dragnet judges halted twice that flagged 400 names, six days out

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER

"Ketanji Brown Jackson issues public dissent in New Hampshire voting case", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump called U.S. voter fraud rampant while federal judges twice blocked his administration's noncitizen-voter investigation.

WHO GETS PAID. Trump's Republican Party, which the Washington Examiner counts on the winning side of the smaller election cases already decided.

WHAT SLIPS. Deciding who stays on a state's voter list moves from state officials to federal agents working from data a judge found full of errors.

WHAT'S NEXT. If flagged names drive purges and new ID rules, eligible voters get turned away; that is what Texas got after 1 March 2022, when a new ID-number rule rejected 12.4 percent of mail ballots against 0.8 percent in 2020.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The president's word was "rampant," and I will defend it, because the alternative is a party that would rather nobody counted at all.

Start in September, when the Times described the Unlawful Voter Initiative: hundreds of Homeland Security agents going through voter rolls the states maintain. That is an audit. You audit a bank and nobody calls it a raid....

...(cont) On September 25th the Court let that database run against the rolls inside the last ninety days — the window federal law otherwise keeps a program like this out of — which tells you the Court saw no harm in it, or saw the harm and found the appeal more interesting, and I'd like the second half of that sentence back.

October 9th: Judge Sparkle Sooknanan, seventy-eight pages, holds the Justice Department's policy of collecting states' unredacted voter rolls to run against a federal immigration database unlawful under privacy law. A paperwork ruling. It goes to the method, not the — all right, it was the method, and the method was the program, and we are now using a different method. Call that refinement.

October 15th, Texas: a computer failure leaves almost 600,000 registration applications unprocessed days before early voting opens. A glitch. Nobody designed it. Though if a person were designing one — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me.

October 22nd, Oakland: Judge Martínez-Olguín orders the nine-state investigation halted, finds the data full of errors, finds agents going door to door asking people about their immigration status and whether they voted, finds the Voting Rights Act violated and voter-assistance groups intimidated. Two blocks in thirteen days. Which is either persecution of an audit, or an audit failing the same test twice, and I know which one I am paid for.

Then New Hampshire: a student ID is not good enough, with twelve days on the clock, over Justice Jackson's dissent. Ninety days was room enough for the database. Twelve days was too tight for the card. I want those two numbers kept apart, because they look better apart.

Four hundred is a number. Rampant is an adjective. One state, forty-two years, four hundred names, all of it alleged — that is the iceberg, that is the entire iceberg. Strike that. Early data.

After. Congressional Democrats and good-government groups spent this week drafting their response to fraud claims that have not been made yet about ballots that have not been counted yet.

Six days.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE COURT LET THE HOMELAND SECURITY DATABASE RUN AGAINST STATE VOTER ROLLS ninety days out and blocked the student ID twelve days out. That isn't list maintenance, it's a sorting office with a court order: the machine that strikes names gets a full season to work, and the card that puts a voter in the booth gets a countdown. So the kid at your kitchen table pays tuition with that ID, eats lunch on it, sleeps behind a door it unlocks, and because the Court ran the clock one way for the database and the other way for the card, it is the one piece of plastic in your house that works everywhere except the polling place.

"They told us the fraud was rampant, then went looking with hundreds of agents and a federal immigration database, and two judges stopped them inside two weeks for running on bad numbers. What came back is four hundred names in one state, alleged, reaching back to 1984 — and the same Court that gave that hunt ninety days of runway wouldn't let a student ID into a booth with twelve days left. They don't need to find the fraud; they need the word on television six days before you vote."

— *Sal*

"Look, two judges blocking the same program in thirteen days is a sign the program is working, because nobody sues you over nothing — nobody sues you over nothing that's succeeding, is what I meant, which is a different sentence, I'll grant you. Four hundred names in Washington state is the tip of the iceberg, and the rest of the iceberg is forthcoming, and if it isn't forthcoming by Tuesday the point was never the iceberg. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Netanyahu presses for action against Iran his own military chief already resisted, days before election.* By Lou · the evening edition, 27 October 2026
— *Israel bars European lawmakers who came to watch the olive harvest its settlers are burning; it votes Tuesday* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 26 October 2026
— *Israel's army sealed the West Bank and ran its largest drill in years; neither was on Tuesday's ballot* By Sterling · the evening edition, 26 October 2026
— *The Supreme Court found ninety days enough room to run a voter-purge database and twelve days too few to read a student ID.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~SCOTUS Says New Hampshire Can Close Student ID 'Loophole' In Elections~~

Supreme Court allows New Hampshire to bar student IDs as voter ID

The Federalist RIGHT 19:03 EDT

The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily greenlit a New Hampshire directive on Thursday that prohibits the use and acceptance of student IDs in elections. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was the lone dissent in the case.

Here's how Democrats in Congress are preparing for election fraud claims
NPR MAINSTREAM 05:00 EDT

Congressional Democrats are working with good governance groups to create an action plan for any potential claims of election fraud.

~~Ketanji Brown Jackson issues public dissent in New Hampshire voting case~~

Supreme Court lets New Hampshire block student ID voting ahead of the midterms

The Hill MAINSTREAM 14:43 EDT

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson publicly broke with her Supreme Court colleagues in a Thursday ruling allowing New Hampshire to fully block voters from using student IDs in the upcoming midterms. Jackson, the high court's most junior liberal justice, wrote in a short dissent that she would have left in place a lower court decision that...

Federal officials identify 400 noncitizens registered to vote in Washington state: 'Tip of the iceberg'
Fox News RIGHT 20:56 EDT

Acting U.S. Attorney Neil Floyd told Fox News Digital some noncitizens identified in the probe cast ballots as many as 27 times, with alleged votes dating back to 1984.

Supreme Court allows New Hampshire to bar student IDs for voting
Washington Examiner RIGHT 19:31 EDT

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

~~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...

Election lawsuits to watch one week before the midterm elections
Washington Examiner RIGHT 05:00 EDT

Less than a week before polls close, courts are still weighing a growing array of election-related lawsuits over voter identification, citizenship checks, access to registration records, and the federal government's authority to intervene in state election procedures. For some smaller cases already adjudicated, President Donald Trump's...

Judge to appoint special master in California voting case in setback to Trump admin
ABC News MAINSTREAM 00:17 EDT

The judge appeared skeptical of the DOJ's request for a restraining order.

Judge Questions Trump Administration's Need to Target Noncitizen Voters
The New York Times MAINSTREAM 22:31 EDT

In the legal tangle between the Justice Department and California, a federal judge on Tuesday deferred a ruling but said the government already had a remedy it could use after the election.

~~US judge orders Trump administration to halt noncitizen voting investigation~~

A federal judge says Trump's noncitizen-voter hunt runs on bad data and is scaring off voter-aid groups

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 13:38 EDT

Federal judge says government's investigation into alleged noncitizen voting in nine states is relying on flawed data A federal judge in California has ordered the Trump administration to halt investigations in nine states into whether noncitizens are registered to vote. US district court judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín in Oakland found...

Supreme Court blocks use of student IDs as voter identification in New Hampshire
Fox News RIGHT 02:44 EDT

The Supreme Court allowed New Hampshire to reject student IDs at the polls ahead of midterm elections, warning of voter confusion too close to an election.

~~Supreme Court rules New Hampshire can ban use of student IDs for voters~~

Supreme Court blocks student IDs from New Hampshire's ballot box — 11 days before the vote

CBS News MAINSTREAM 19:53 EDT

The Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for New Hampshire to fully ban the use of student IDs for voting during the midterm elections.

~~AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name~~

AIPAC is hiding its millions inside women's and Latino advocacy groups

The Lever 14:01 EDT

A Lever investigation traces how the Israel lobby is routing millions through groups promoting women, reproductive rights, and Latino candidates — and how AI interests and other power brokers are adopting the strategy.

Trump says US voter fraud is 'rampant' – evidence suggests it is extremely rare
BBC News MAINSTREAM 17:46 EDT

As the US president casts doubt on the security of the midterm elections, BBC Verify examines his claims.

· Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Democrats sue Trump administration over efforts to clean illegal registrants off voter rolls *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· Federal judge rules against Trump DoJ's policy of collecting state voter rolls *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· Texas sued after glitch delays almost 600,000 voter registrations *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Election deniers stoke Trump-driven ballot security fears before midterms *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Abdul El-Sayed: Democrats must 'win by massive numbers' to fend off Trump election denial *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk's 'Absolutely Insane' $276 Million Midterm Spending Exposed in New Report *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· 'Take the Open Shot': Democrats Rebuked for Refusing to Target Elon Musk Over $100 Million Midterm Spending Spree *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· 'Major Win' for Democracy as Supreme Court Rejects Trump Attack on Mail-In Voting *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court slams brakes on Trump's mail-in voting plan *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trump terminates three-week-old methane proposal, claims $45 billion saved, at rally for oil-state Senate hopeful

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

“Trump drastically rolls back oil and gas methane rules”, 28 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA LE MONDE — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The filing starts in the first week of October, when the Environmental Protection Agency said only that it intended, in the coming days, to propose loosening federal limits on methane leaking from oil and gas wells. No draft. No number. Just intent, announced in a press release.

Nine days later, a different agency finished its own paperwork. The Fish and Wildlife Service closed out a rule saying fossil fuel companies drilling the Beaufort Sea would no longer carry legal liability for killing polar bears or Pacific walruses, so long as the killing was called "unintentional." The rule covers "year-round oil and gas industry activities." Eight days after that, a third filing let hunters on federal land in Alaska bait bears with doughnuts, bacon, and other human food, a practice wildlife managers had restricted because it draws bears toward people....

...(cont) The methane proposal did not catch up to its own agency's promise until October 28th, in Lubbock, Texas, at a campaign rally for Senate candidate Ken Paxton. There the president did not describe a proposal in progress. He described a completed act. "Tonight, I'm officially terminating Biden's expensive and unnecessary methane regulations," he said, and attached two figures to the termination: $45 billion in savings for consumers and producers, and 210 million barrels of oil unlocked, about ten days of national consumption.

Run that against the filing. Three weeks before the rally, the same administration had not released a specific proposal, only a press release saying one was coming. The rule a crowd in Lubbock was told had been terminated had not yet been written down anywhere the public could read it. A number that precise, $45 billion, attached to a document that does not exist in public form yet, is not a savings estimate. It is a number assigned to a feeling, hon.

Grist ran its own ledger against the same proposal and put the industry side in the billions. The other side of that ledger, the methane that keeps leaking and the warming it adds, Grist measured in decades. Decades do not fit on a stage next to $45 billion, so they did not go up.

Three agencies, three weeks, one column of beneficiaries. Oil and gas companies get a liability shield for dead polar bears, a bait rule that helps hunters find more of them, and a $45 billion number read aloud before the underlying rule exists. The column for what the public gets back has no entry yet. That is not an oversight in the filing. That is the filing.

🍺

“They floated a methane rule three weeks ago, never wrote it down, and tonight it's "terminated" like it was already law on the books - that's not deregulation, that's a magic trick staged in Lubbock to help Ken Paxton's Senate race. Same month, the bears lose their liability shield and the oil companies gain one, so somebody's getting protected out there, and it isn't the bears, and it isn't you at the pump.”

— Sal

🚬

“Look, lower energy costs are lower energy costs, and the president said forty-five billion dollars, so that's a real number on the table. Okay, there's no published rule behind it yet, but that's just paperwork catching up to the announcement, that's not the same as the number not being true. Did I just defend a dollar figure with no document attached to it? That's not usually my beat.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Trump’s EPA is letting America’s leakiest oil and gas companies off the hook~~

Trump’s EPA saves oil and gas companies billions - by letting them leak more methane for decades

Grist § *22:07 EDT*

The proposal would save the oil and gas companies billions by letting them leak more methane. It could also worsen global warming for decades.

Trump drastically rolls back oil and gas methane rules

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *03:01 EDT*

The US president is pushing ways of bringing down energy costs ahead of the midterms, amid voter anger over soaring oil costs caused by his war on Iran.

Trump says government to ‘terminate’ Biden-era methane emissions rules

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:45 EDT*

Critics warn of climate danger as president in Texas claims change will save companies and consumers billions Donald Trump announced his administration is “terminating” Biden-era regulations holding oil and gas companies accountable for large leaks of planet-warming methane during a rally in Lubbock, Texas, on Tuesday evening. Trump said...

Trump says he's ending restrictions on climate-warming methane from oil drilling

NPR MAINSTREAM § *02:15 EDT*

President Donald Trump said that his administration is "terminating" a Biden-era rule that aimed to cut planet-warming emissions of methane from oil and gas drilling.

Trump says he’ll roll back Biden-era methane rules for oil and gas companies

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *21:37 EDT*

The EPA plans to ease regulations aimed at curbing methane leaks, Trump said. The potent greenhouse gas is a major contributor to climate change.

Trump tells Texas campaign rally crowd he’s rolling back environmental rules to curb methane pollution – as it happened

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:00 EDT*

This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email US voters: tell us what issues will decide your vote? Speaking to reporters on the tarmac before departing for a campaign event in Michigan, JD Vance responded to a question about President Trump’s remarks branding Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed as a...

~~Trump unveils plan to loosen methane rules for oil and gas industry~~

Trump eases methane rules for oil producers at a rally to boost Paxton’s Senate bid

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:31 EDT*

President Donald Trump announced a proposed rule easing methane emission requirements for oil and gas producers as part of his latest effort to boost domestic production and lower fuel prices. Trump unveiled the proposed rule in Lubbock, Texas, on Tuesday at a campaign rally meant to boost Senate candidate Ken Paxton just a week before...

New Trump rule allows hunters to bait bears in Alaska with doughnuts, bacon and more

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *07:00 EDT*

Critics decry Trump administration rule that lets hunters lure bears with human foods on federal lands in Alaska A new Trump administration rule allows hunters to bait bears on federal lands in Alaska with bacon, doughnuts, meat scraps or other human foods typically used to help kill the trophy animals at close range. Opponents say the...

~~Trump announces proposal to loosen methane rules for oil and gas production~~

Trump loosens methane rules at a rally to boost Paxton’s Senate bid

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:35 EDT*

President Trump announced plans to loosen methane regulations from the oil and gas sector during a Lubbock, Texas rally Tuesday night. The announcement came during the president's second campaign stop of the day in Texas, during which he aimed to assist the Senate campaign of Republican Ken Paxton, the state attorney general, in the...

· Trump to propose relaxing oil and gas methane rules *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Trump to propose relaxing methane rules for oil and gas industry *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Trump Rule Change Allows for ‘Unintentional’ Killing of Polar Bears by Fossil Fuel Companies *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

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THE TALLY

Senators demand the Iran war's accounting; Pentagon's reply is a bigger bill.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Iran war cost increases to $47 billion", 27 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Pentagon raised its Iran war cost estimate again, without answering Congress's request for the full accounting.

WHO GETS PAID. The munitions industry, which the Pentagon says takes more than sixty percent of the war's cost.

WHAT SLIPS. The Senate's power to see the real cost before voting again slips, since the accounting it demanded has not arrived.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the Senate again takes no vote and the war continues, that is what happened after Congress voted to end the Yemen war in 2019: the president vetoed it and the war ran 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The rule against scheduling ordnance around a ballot died the last Sunday in September, survived by a bombing campaign rescheduled for after the midterms and by a U.N. ambassador who told a cable audience, the same week, that six-dollar diesel was Ukraine's doing. That was the funeral. What continues now is the reading of the estate, and the estate turns out to be larger than anyone disclosed at the service.

In July the Congressional Budget Office put the war's cost at nearly forty billion dollars and called its own number conservative. On August 13 the Pentagon gave Congress a separate figure — just over forty-two billion, a four-and-a-half-billion-dollar jump measured against the department's own prior estimate, not the CBO's, which is the kind of bookkeeping malarkey that only matters to the people trying to follow the money. That omission is what brought the senators, and the shit of it is that omissions are how these numbers start small....

...(cont) On October 19 Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee wrote the Pentagon asking it to make the full accounting public, citing what they called ongoing efforts to hide the true cost. On October 27 and 28 the number arrived anyway, through channels that were not the senators': forty-seven billion one hundred million dollars, as of mid-October, better than three billion dollars higher than a month before, munitions alone accounting for more than sixty percent of it. The itemized breakdown the senators asked for was not part of the release. In Lubbock the day the figure ran, the president told a crowd, "You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks, if you don't mind."

The senators are still waiting on the letter they sent. The war is not waiting on anything. An unwritten restraint, a committee's letter still unanswered, and a number that rises faster than the paperwork meant to explain it are not three stories. They are one bill, overdue, with the interest compounding past Election Day.

In lieu of flowers, the Pentagon can release the accounting it already promised the committee that pays for the war.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE PENTAGON HAS GIVEN CONGRESS THREE DIFFERENT PRICE TAGS ON THIS WAR SINCE July, each one higher, and the itemized version the Senate Armed Services Committee asked for on October 19th still has not arrived. That is not a cost estimate, it is an invoice sent after the purchase, to a customer who did not get to approve the order. Skip the vote on a war and the accounting does not land on a senator's desk; it lands later, itemized at last, as the line marked withholding on your paycheck, after the election that was supposed to let you say no.

"This is the oldest trick in the ledger: ask for the receipts, get handed a bigger bill instead, and the billions come out of accounts most of us don't get to audit. They scheduled the next round of bombs for right after the vote, so the price keeps climbing while the people who could stop it ran out the clock."

— Sal

"Wartime accounting is complicated — classified munitions data, operational security, you can't hand the Senate a line-item breakdown without tipping off the enemy. And "you'll see Iran in a couple of weeks" isn't a strike order, it's — okay, it's sort of a strike order, but the Pentagon revises the number upward because it's being thorough, not evasive. Did I say thorough? That's not the word I meant."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *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
— *Trump demanded Ukraine stop bombing Russian refineries over diesel costs, then agreed to import the diesel himself.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 9 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Iran war cost increases to $47 billion~~

Trump weighs new Iran strikes, timed for after Election Day
The Hill MAINSTREAM 19:32 EDT

The cost of the U.S.'s war against Iran has gone up to $47 billion, an increase of more than $3 billion since last month, as President Trump mulls launching strikes against the Islamic Republic after the U.S. midterm elections. The biggest chunk of the cost is munition replacement at $29 billion, according to an Oct....

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 has cost $47 billion, U.S. military says
CBS News MAINSTREAM 23:29 EDT

The war with Iran has cost the U.S. military at least $47.1 billion as of mid-October, according to a new estimate from U.S. Central Command obtained by CBS News.

~~'We May Be Another Little Epic Fury,' Trump Says After Claiming Not to Know About Possible Strike on Iran~~

Friday morning: Trump denies knowing of an Iran strike. Friday night: he threatens 'another little epic fury.'
Common Dreams 17:06 EDT

When President Donald Trump landed in Florida for a Friday campaign rally, he dismissed comments from one of his own ambassadors that the US could strike Iran this weekend as part of his illegal nearly eight-month war—but once the commander-in-chief took the stage, he changed his tune, threatening more bloodshed. In an interview with...

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 Cost Rises to $47.1 Billion, Pentagon Told Lawmakers
The New York Times MAINSTREAM 21:09 EDT

The estimate through Oct. 16 shows that bombs, missiles and other munitions accounted for more than 60 percent of expenses.

But: Trump promised a 24-hour end to the Ukraine war and made the same promise 53 separate times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
Trump is in a corner and likely to lash out at Iran again. Here's how to avert that disaster
The Guardian MAINSTREAM 02:00 EDT

Once the midterms are over, Trump will be free to pursue vendetta politics. But with will and diplomacy, he can be reined in As another Iran catastrophe looms, one question matters more than any other: how to stop it before it's too late? Whatever the eventual outcome of Israel's election and next week's US midterm polls, Donald Trump...

But: Trump promised a 24-hour end to the Ukraine war - CNN counted 53 such promises he hasn't kept *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
Trump hints at post-midterm strikes on Iran: 'You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks'
Washington Examiner RIGHT 22:32 EDT

President Donald Trump alluded to the likelihood that the Iran war will resume in earnest after next week's midterm elections. "You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks, if you don't mind," Trump told a crowd on Tuesday during a rally in Lubbock, Texas.

· Pentagon tells Congress Iran war cost at least $42 billion *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Senate Democrats Demand Public Release of Pentagon's Secret Data Detailing Costs of Iran War *from the morgue, 19 Oct 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*

· 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*

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

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

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

· Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran: 'Do I want to go in and annihilate them' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN investigators conclude 'reasonable grounds' to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision coming up' on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world's No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· The Hitchhiker's Guide to Massie saying Johnson is sending the House home early to prevent Hegseth impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'You're Elected to Fight and Kill the Other Side': How Congress Lost Its Way *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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

· Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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State Department Issues Visa To Flávio Bolsonaro Days After Brazil Canceled His Passport

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

"Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro leaves Argentina for alleged US asylum after defeat", 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The State Department confirmed it will issue American visas to Flávio Bolsonaro and his family despite Brazil canceling his passports.

WHO GETS PAID. Flávio Bolsonaro and his family get US shelter that keeps Brazil's money-laundering investigation from reaching him.

WHAT SLIPS. Brazil's Supreme Court loses its hold on him the moment the United States lets him in without a passport.

WHAT'S NEXT. There's no hearing date set; Brazil's money-laundering investigation into him continues without him in the country.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today the State Department confirmed that Flávio Bolsonaro and his family will get American visas, passport or no passport. You will need two cancelled passports, a Supreme Court order he ignored, stops in Argentina and Ecuador, and a department that never changed its answer.

Brazilian police had asked him to hand over his passports over links to a money-laundering investigation; the Supreme Court had already nullified them for his failure to comply....

Clive *Did not obey. That's my position on the gas bill — an order I regard as advisory, and there's a response in verse half drafted already.*

Gary *You've a verse half drafted; he's got a jet booked to Ecuador. One of you is actually moving.*

Begin with what was already in the pan. On 1 October, after the Guardian reported Washington funding a campaign against Brazil's Supreme Court, Jorge Messias called it something that "cannot be tolerated." On 23 October, Bernie Sanders and Pramila Jayapal asked Meta's chief executive about alleged interference in the runoff. Lula da Silva won anyway; days after the defeat, the senator left the country.

Rob *Moving. The last thing that moved here was the damp, up the wall, and it's still winning.*

Keith *Winning. There's an angle in that — Winning Damp, a mug with his face on, ready Thursday.*

Reduce the whereabouts to what is known, which is less than it sounds. Argentina's government said he travelled there before flying on to Ecuador, said to be seeking asylum in the US. Infobae, as Common Dreams had it, said only that the family may have crossed into Argentina — run by his ally Javier Milei — before a private jet to the US; it did not know where they landed.

Now bring the official answer back to the heat. A State Department official told CBS News, en route to Ecuador, that the family would get American visas. A senior official told CBS News, and another told ABC News, the same despite his corruption charges at home: the whole family let in, a plan the Times also confirmed. The Intercept had it plainest: Brazil's Supreme Court tried to strip his passport, and Washington granted him a visa regardless.

You will be looking for the condition — the charge answered, the court satisfied, something asked first. There is no condition; that is what the visa is instead of.

Gary *A mug, right, because what this house needs is more clutter and less rent paid.*

RTÉ had it as the department issuing visas "amid reports he has left Brazil after refusing to accept election defeat." At home, CBS and ABC had simply that visas would be issued — no mention of the refusal.

Rob *Twice — same as the rota, and the kitty's still not caught up. Some people aren't listening.*

"This is the whole racket: a guy under investigation for money laundering gets his passport pulled, and America's got a visa sitting there before he even lands. Brazil's attorney general can call it intolerable all he wants — the State Department already decided the paperwork doesn't matter. That's the access rich friends get when the other country runs out of patience with them."
— Sal

"Look, this is about due process — the man's getting railroaded by a hostile court that moved to strip his travel documents before any trial, and we don't just hand out visas to people, there's a whole process, we fast-tracked it in like two days. Did I say fast-tracked? That's not — it's a normal visa. A very normal, very fast visa."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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

Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro leaves Argentina for alleged US asylum after defeat

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *12:33 EDT*

Brazilian former presidential candidate Flávio Bolsonaro travelled to Argentina before flying to Ecuador, Argentina's government said Wednesday, days after his election defeat to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. He is en route to the US where allegedly he will seek asylum following his passports being nullified after failure to...

~~The Bolsonaro Family Playbook: Lose, Cry Fraud, and Run to Trump's America~~

Brazil tried to seize Flavio Bolsonaro's passport. The Trump administration gave him a visa instead.

The Intercept § *23:11 EDT*

Brazil's Supreme court tried to strip Flávio Bolsonaro's passport, but the Trump administration granted him a visa, according to reports. The post The Bolsonaro Family Playbook: Lose, Cry Fraud, and Run to Trump's America appeared first on The Intercept .

US to issue Bolsonaro visa amid reports he fled Brazil

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *12:30 EDT*

The US State Department has said it would issue visas to Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro and his family amid reports he has left Brazil after refusing to accept election defeat.

~~Flávio Bolsonaro Leaves Brazil for the U.S. After Election Defeat~~

Flávio Bolsonaro fled Brazil after police ordered him to hand over his passports

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *20:26 EDT*

The U.S. plans to issue a visa to Mr. Bolsonaro, a U.S.

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*

Brazil's Flávio Bolsonaro heading for Ecuador, Argentina says

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *03:04 EDT*

Flávio Bolsonaro, who lost Brazil's presidential election, was en route to Ecuador after stopping off in Argentina with his family, an Argentine agency said. Earlier, a State Department official told CBS News they would receive U.S. visas.

~~'Rats Run Away': Facing Criminal Probe, Flávio Bolsonaro Flees Brazil to US After Loss to Lula~~

Second Bolsonaro flees to the US to dodge Brazilian prosecution

Common Dreams § *19:39 EDT*

Just one day after vowing he would remain in Brazil to disprove allegations of money laundering, corruption, and other crimes, far-right Brazilian Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro followed in his disgraced father's footsteps by fleeing to the United States after losing a presidential election. Bolsonaro, his wife Fernanda Bolsonaro, and their two...

~~Bolsonaro lands in US days after election defeat. Sources~~

State Department issued Bolsonaro family's US visas, official says

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *04:15 EDT*

The State Department will allow Flávio Bolsonaro and his family to enter the U.S. and issue them visas, a senior department official told ABC News Tuesday.

~~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.

~~U.S. granting visas to Brazil's Bolsonaro and his family after election loss, official says~~

U.S. grants Bolsonaro family visas despite corruption charges at home, official says

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:42 EDT*

A senior State Department official tells CBS News the U.S. will issue visas to Brazilian Senator Flávio Bolsonaro and his family as he faces corruption charges at home. Reuters correspondent Gram Slattery joins CBS News to share more.

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

· Thousands March Against Far Right in Brazil Ahead of Runoff Election *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Brazil attorney general says meddling 'cannot be tolerated' after Trump funding plans revealed *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Lula and Bolsonaro face off in Brazil presidential race *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Brazil: A portrait of Flavio Bolsonaro *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

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

NO ANSWER

Pretti family demands Justice Department release evidence file it stopped sending four days earlier

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK

"Minnesota officials say US government stopped sharing evidence on fatal ICE shootings", 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The chief lays the file on the table first: in January, federal agents in Minneapolis shot Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse and U.S. citizen, and in the same crackdown shot Renee Good. Two bodies, one state, and by March Minnesota had already sued the federal government just to see what its own officers wrote down.

For seven months the only paperwork that moved fast was the smear: by August, Pretti's family was hearing officials describe their son as an "assassin" and a "domestic terrorist," a label applied to a man they'd just finished calling a nurse....

...(cont) Then came the part with the receipts. On October 23, Minnesota told a court that the flow of evidence had not slowed — it had stopped. The federal government, the state said in a filing, is no longer sharing anything related to either shooting. Four days later, Pretti's parents stood in front of cameras and asked the Department of Justice "to do what is right," saying the government had ignored them, then misled them.

The planner studies that timeline and likes what it reveals: the state's lawsuit was never going to be enough on its own, because a civil suit only forces the other side to hand over what it already decided to hand over. Which is where the tinkerer goes to work. The federal government did not need Minnesota's cooperation, a new statute, or an act of Congress to open a second track — the civil-rights pattern-or-practice review the Justice Department is already authorized to launch on its own agencies, no state subpoena required, no family request necessary. It sits in the same building as the evidence that stopped moving. Nobody has touched it.

The muscle goes first on the excuse, because the excuse is load-bearing: "ongoing investigation" cannot cover an investigation that, by Minnesota's own filing, isn't being shared with anyone investigating it. Knock that wall down and there is nothing behind it but the choice not to open the drawer.

The pilot's job is simpler than it sounds: fly the file to where the family already is. Nine months after a nurse died on a Minneapolis street, the tool that doesn't need the state's permission, doesn't need a new vote, and doesn't need the file Minnesota can't get — is still sitting closed, in the one office that owns the key.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CAN OPEN A CIVIL-RIGHTS REVIEW OF ITS OWN AGENTS WITHOUT asking Minnesota's permission, the state has been suing since March for the same file, and this month that office told the court it had stopped sending anything at all. That is not an investigation sitting on pause, it is an investigation the government chose not to start because the subject would be itself. Because that drawer stays shut, the state attorney general's office has to build the Pretti and Good file one subpoena at a time, and subpoenas get billed by the hour, so the invoice for investigating a federal shooting lands on your property tax statement instead of Washington's budget.

"They didn't lose the file, they stopped sending it — same office that was calling the man they shot an assassin. The tool that opens that office without needing Minnesota's lawsuit or the family's request has sat on a shelf nine months. That's not a gap in the system, that's the system deciding not to look at itself."

— Sal

"There's an open investigation, you don't just hand over evidence mid-process, that's standard protocol. ...Although the state's filing says sharing didn't slow, it stopped completely, so that's — that's probably a staffing hiccup, not a decision. Did I just call a total stop a staffing hiccup? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Minnesota officials say US government stopped sharing evidence on fatal ICE shootings

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *08:46 EDT*

State authorities investigating killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti said federal officials paused transfer of evidence The federal government has stopped sharing evidence with Minnesota authorities who are investigating the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal officers during a violent anti-immigration, anti-protest...

~~Federal government stopped sharing information in Good, Pretti killings, Minnesota officials say~~

DOJ hid evidence on killings by its own agents, Minnesota says

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:38 EDT*

Minnesota officials said the Department of Justice (DOJ) has stopped sharing evidence related to the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good by immigration officers earlier this year. Minnesota officials said in a court filing reviewed by The Associated Press that the federal government stopped sharing evidence related to the two shooting...

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*

Alex Pretti's parents demand DOJ release evidence of fatal ICE shooting

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *15:24 EDT*

The parents of Alex Pretti, the ICU nurse and U.S. citizen who was killed in Minneapolis said they were "begging" the Justice Department "to do what is right."

Alex Pretti's Parents Say Federal Government Is Silent on Investigation

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:20 EDT*

The parents of the Minneapolis nurse who was fatally shot by federal agents in January said on Tuesday that the government had ignored and misled them.

· 'What Did He Do to Deserve to Be Murdered?' Alex Pretti's Family Speaks Out Months After Fatal ICE Shooting *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.

Pollster fakes polls to expose zero scrutiny; GOP leaders prove it, call the real ones fake too.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

“Johnson and Thune adopt Trump’s messaging on ‘fake’ polling as GOP looks to project midterm optimism”, 27 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Thune called midterm polling that shows Republicans losing "fake" on television this week.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican congressional leadership gets a ready-made excuse that protects its own hold on the top two jobs ahead of a predicted loss.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose a clear read on whether the party's own leaders believe their own numbers, the first check before anyone casts a ballot.

WHAT'S NEXT. With no comparable case yet on record, here is what's on the calendar: the midterm elections, seven days off, on November 3rd, when the real numbers get tested whether anyone calls them fake or not.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I want to start with a word, not a number, if that's all right with you.

The Washington Examiner printed the word "fake" twice in six days. I know because I've got both copies — not framed, nothing like that, just folded under a coffee cup at the corner store where I do my reading some mornings, and when I finally laid them side by side on the counter the clerk thought I was comparison shopping. On the 21st, "fake" described a polling company. On the 27th, it described the polls everybody else runs. Same paper. Same word. Six days apart....

...(cont) Let me back up, because the file on this is thicker than one word, and I don't want to leave anything out. On September 2nd, Senate Majority Leader John Thune told reporters he "worries about losing" the Senate majority he runs, and called himself, in his own word, "a realist." Eight days after that, at his own party's midterm convention, the crowd booed him off the stage — I've got that one circled, don't ask me why I circle things, it's a habit from the job. On October 15th, Speaker Mike Johnson said it's hard to get Republicans to respond to "our own" pollsters. His words, our own, like there's a company line and a separate truth running underneath it. On October 19th, that same newspaper ran a piece asking whether losing ought to have consequences for Johnson. So going into last week, the record already had a Speaker blaming his own side's numbers and a Majority Leader telling reporters, on the record, that he might lose.

Now here's the part that sent me back to the newsstand. By the next day the Examiner had its own headline up about an industry that keeps falling for fake polls. Fair enough. That's one use of the word, and it comes with a confession attached.

On the 27th — the same week, the same paper — Johnson and Thune are reported to have both adopted the president's line that the polling showing Republicans behind is "fake," the same week Johnson's office put out a wire of endorsement statements for a leadership job he already holds.

I've worn the same raincoat through more elections than I can count on one hand, and the lining's never needed a label to tell me it keeps the water out. A poll works or it doesn't. So when I had both Examiners on the counter, the 21st and the 27th, same typeface, same word, I had to wonder: is there a difference between a poll a company admits, in writing, to inventing, and a poll two party leaders call fake without admitting anything at all? And if there's exactly one outfit in this whole stack whose business is confirmed, on the record, to be making numbers up, and it isn't the one Johnson and Thune are pointing at — which one are they pointing at?

Oh — before I let you go, one more thing, and then I'll get out of your hair. The other story — the one with Johnson and Thune and the word "fake" — has no correction running against it yet, far as the stack in front of me shows. So if a paper prints two stories with the same word in the same week, and only one of them has somebody owning up to making the numbers up, which one would you check first?

🍺

“You got a company that admits, in writing, to inventing poll numbers just to prove nobody checks — and six days later the Speaker and the Majority Leader borrow that company's own word for the polls that are actually real. That's not confusion, that's a script: when the truth shows up losing, you reach for the one word a confessed liar handed you for free. Whoever loses the majority next week, the word "fake" already won.”

— Sal

🚬

“Look, the polling industry has a credibility problem, that's just a fact, Wedgewood proved it themselves — did I say "proved"? I mean one company admitted to one stunt, that's hardly the whole industry. The Speaker and the Leader are just raising legitimate questions about methodology, same as any — okay, calling Nate Silver's numbers fake isn't exactly a methodology critique, is it. I'll check my notes and get back to you on this one.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Republicans call the polls wrong on Fox, call themselves realists about losing on local TV.* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 27 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Johnson and Thune adopt Trump’s messaging on ‘fake’ polling as GOP looks to project midterm optimism~~

Republicans call the polls ‘fake’ because the polls show them losing.

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *14:26 EDT*

The top two Republicans in Congress are getting on board with President Donald Trump’s attacks on polling for the midterm elections, as nationwide surveys indicate the GOP is likely to perform poorly next week. Trump has railed against polling as “fake,” particularly after it was revealed that a group included by multiple top polling...

Nate Silver on What the Polls Say — and What His Gut’s Telling Him

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *16:41 EDT*

The election forecaster Nate Silver breaks down the likelihood of a G.O.P. wipeout.

· The polling industry keeps falling for (and promoting) fake polls *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Pollster admits to fabricating data for ‘social experiment’ to expose flaws of industry *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

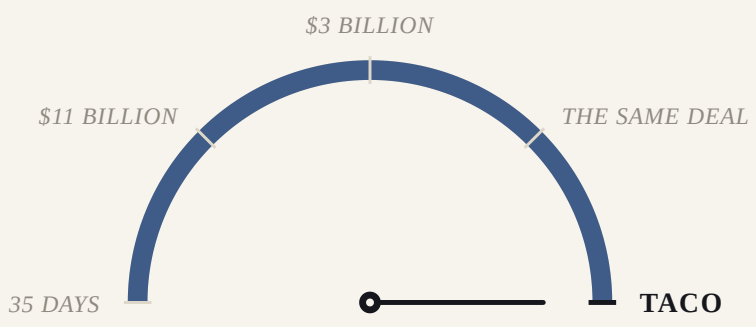
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§74 — 27 OCTOBER 2026

On the mantle

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



TACO

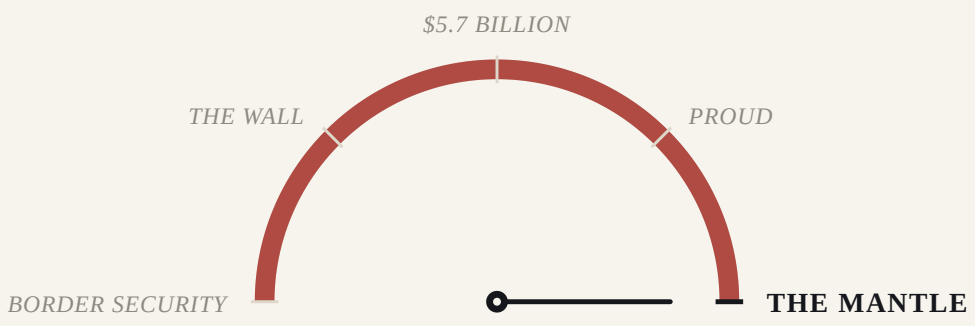
The bill for the mantle, from the government's own accountant: the Congressional Budget Office put the cost of the shutdown at $11 billion, about $3 billion of it never recovered [1]. Wall money obtained: zero; the bill signed to end it was the one on the table before it started [2]. That is the oldest entry on this ledger with a dollar figure: the threat cost more than the fold recovered, and the fold was to the original offer.

Now the callback, seven days before the vote. The fiscal year turned October 1 with no shutdown, because a stopgap passed the House 370 to 48, the Senate's version 90 to 6 in July, and the president signed it September 2 [3][4]. The continuing resolution runs to December 11; of the twelve appropriations bills, none has been enacted [3]. The mantle stayed in the closet through the election, and the cliff was moved to five weeks after it. The last time it came out it cost $11 billion and bought the deal already on the desk.

SOURCES

1. The partial shutdown cost about $11 billion, of which about $3 billion is not expected to be recovered — Congressional Budget Office, 28 January 2019 ↑
2. The shutdown ended with no wall funding, on the deal previously rejected — NBC News, January 2019 ↑
3. The House passed the stopgap 370–48, following the Senate's 90–6 in July; the continuing resolution runs to 11 December 2026 with none of the twelve appropriations bills enacted — Government Executive, 1 September 2026 ↑
4. The president signed the funding bill on 2 September 2026, avoiding a shutdown ahead of the midterms — Fox News, 2 September 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



THE MANTLE

The sentence was said on camera in the Oval Office on December 11, 2018, to the two Democratic leaders, and it is rare in the genre for asking for the blame in advance: "I am proud to shut down the government for border security, Chuck … I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down" [1]. The demand was $5.7 billion for the wall. The case as made: a border is a line, a line needs a barrier, and a government that will not fund the barrier can close until it does.

That is a coherent position, and taking the mantle is the honest way to hold it — you own the shutdown so the other side cannot. The shutdown ran 35 days, the longest in the country's history, and ended when the president signed a bill reopening the government with no wall money in it: the same deal he had rejected before it began [2]. The mantle was taken. What it was worn for is priced in the next column.

SOURCES

1. "I am proud to shut down the government for border security, Chuck … I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down" — CNN, 11 December 2018 ↑
2. The 35-day shutdown ended with a bill containing no wall money — the same deal previously rejected — NBC News, January 2019 ↑

"I'm the guy who can't afford the thing, so I read the invoice twice. Thirty-five days. Eleven billion dollars, says the Congressional Budget Office, three billion of it not coming back. Wall money in the deal he signed: zero. This year: a stopgap, 370 to 48, signed September 2, good through December 11. Bills finished out of twelve: none. Sorry — I forgot my pen — the vote is in a week and the cliff is in six. Who picked those two dates?" — Lou

🍺

"I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down." Thirty-five days, eleven billion dollars, three of it gone for good, and he signs the deal he'd already refused — no wall money in it. This year the stopgap passed the House 370 to 48 and he signed it the next day, no mantle. The next cliff is December 11, after the election, and none of the twelve bills is done. The mantle's in storage till it's useful."

— Sal

🚬

"The shutdown was leadership, ending it was leadership, and signing this year's stopgap without a fight was leadership of a quieter kind, the kind you do before an election so that you can do the other kind after one."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎