FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

THE WORD

§76 — 29 OCTOBER 2026

On roaring back

DEMOCRAT | REPUBLICAN





MINUS 35,000 | *ROARING BACK*

"My nephew does his homework on these charts, so I borrowed two. Manufacturing jobs: twelve million six hundred seventy-three thousand in January of last year. Twelve million six hundred thirty-eight thousand this August. And the other chart, the one that shows what's being built, factories under construction: two hundred thirty-seven and a half billion a year, then a hundred sixty-nine point eight. He drew a little arrow on the first chart where it turns up in December, and it does turn up. Sorry, I'm going. If it's roaring back, when does it get back to January?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W76

Trump carried South Carolina by 18 points; Fox News rated the seat a toss-up with a week left.

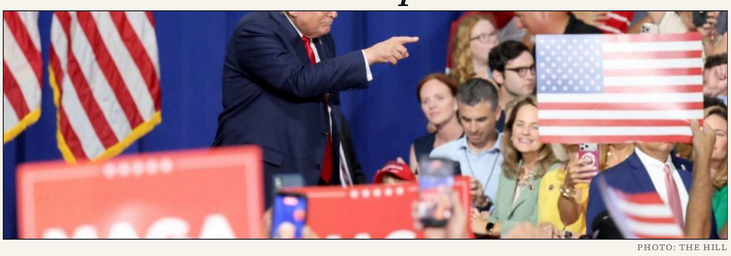

PHOTO: THE HILL

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

South Carolina's safe Republican Senate seat died this week, at the hands of the people paid to take its pulse. It was twenty-eight years old.

It was born in 1998, the last year the state elected a Democrat to the Senate, and it had an easy life after that. Donald Trump carried South Carolina by nearly eighteen points in 2024. The seat belonged to Lindsey Graham, and it is held now by his sister, Darline Graham, with the president's endorsement. For years nobody wrote anything about it, because there was nothing to write.

The decline shows up in the paperwork on September 23, when the Cook Political Report shifted South Carolina toward the Democrats — the same notice that moved Kansas from "likely Republican" to "lean Republican." On October 6, Sabato's Crystal Ball shifted South Carolina toward the Democrats too, in the bulletin that moved Alaska from "toss-up" to "leans Democrat." On October 20, Cook moved South Carolina left a second time. ...

... Continued on Page B47

Thirty-seven days after agreeing to pay $115 million for underpaying its drivers, DoorDash finds $17 billion for Instacart

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

September 22, New York City. DoorDash agreed to pay the city $131 million to settle a case over underpaying delivery workers, or waiting too long to pay them. Of that, $115 million is to go directly to the workers who were short-changed. Mayor Zohran Mamdani called it the largest settlement for food delivery workers ever secured in American municipal history. Largest ever is a measurement, not a compliment. It tells you no one has found more money owed to these workers in one place before. That is a fact about the ceil-

... Continued on Page F130

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Fox News moved the South Carolina Senate race to toss-up, and Trump scheduled a Rock Hill rally.

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Darline Graham gets the president's final campaign stop out of it; she was already his endorsed candidate.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The calendar is all that is left: the rally is Thursday afternoon, and the vote is Tuesday, November 3.

On Trump carried South Carolina by 18 points; Fox News rated the seat a toss-up with a week left. — the column, by Mort. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

America Next paid an adviser's firm $250,000 for canvassing and influencer marketing; his son heckled El-Sayed

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

America Next paid Timmy Teepell's firm $250,000 for canvassing and influencer marketing. On October 20 the Guardian reported that the man who had tried to ambush Abdul El-Sayed with a question about his supposed allegiance to the Muslim Brotherhood — an exchange El-Sayed parlayed into a viral clip for his own campaign — is Teepell's son. I am not going to tell you the contract bought the question; the filings do not say that. I will tell you that the contract has two lines, canvassing and influencer marketing, that America Next has been working, the Guardian reports, to gin up organic opposition to El-Sayed, and that influencer marketing is the industry term for a message built to read as though it arrived by itself.

... Continued on Page F130

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

WHO PICKS THE JUDGE

Chapter 1: The Spit Tube

Pick up the box. You ordered it online, or somebody gave it to you for a birthday, and inside it is a plastic tube. You spit into the tube, which takes longer than you expect, you seal it, and you send it back. Some weeks later a website shows you a list of people you have never met, each with a guess beside the name: second cousin, third cousin, distant relative. Now — hold the stranger at the top of that list, because the

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Pentagon watchdog declines to investigate the Ukraine internet slowdown its contractor already admitted ordering, calling it contractual.

BY LOU
One More Question

Can I come back to something you already straightened out for me? I know you did.

The question was just: who turned it down.

So, the fourteenth. The Guardian, a Wednesday. Common Dreams has the same day under concerns about the government's reliance on one man. And then there's the clip from Thursday the fifteenth. The headline over it reads "Ukraine Blames Elon Musk for Internet Outage Amid Russian Strike." The address of the page itself says Musk

... Continued on Page A225

Since a senator asked Trump to fire Hegseth: top planner fired, fifth of brass to go, Hegseth staying.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Start with the table, because the department does not publish one.

On August 31, The Hill reported the Pentagon was seething over a Washington Post account of a classified assessment: top military leaders had warned Secretary Pete Hegseth against extending large-scale Iran war operations. That is the leak this file has a date on — the one where the warning got out. That was also the day Army Secretary Dan Driscoll announced his resignation, after what The Hill called a months-long turf war with

... Continued on Page F130

Today

News, continued	A2
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The Business Desk	F3
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Legal	B2
The Service	B3
Obituaries	B4
Entertainment	D1
The Marquee	D2
Food	K1
The Kitchen	K2

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

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE FILE OPENED IN 2016, CLOSED IN 2021, AND CAME BACK SIX DAYS before the midterms. That is not an investigation, it is a filing cabinet wired to the election calendar. And because the paper they pulled was a form a parent filled out for a child, the standard set this month reaches the folder in your own hall closet — the immigration paperwork in your mother's handwriting with your name misspelled on the first line, a document that closes when they close it and opens in whatever October they need it.

⁂

On Probe Obama opened in 2016, Biden's appointee closed in 2021, Trump reopened six days before the vote *— the column, by Mitch*

THE FILE

Probe Obama opened in 2016, Biden's appointee closed in 2021, Trump reopened six days before the vote



PHOTO: FOX NEWS

BY MITCH
Investigations

I keep a copy of this file on the desk because it is the rare federal document that has survived three administrations without producing a single charge.

All together now, in order, because the order is the whole story.

2016: the FBI opens an investigation into whether Rep. Ilhan Omar married a man suspected of being her brother. Fox News filed that beat today. The New York

... Continued on Page A225

THE INVESTIGATIONS

Governor opens criminal probe into the one Alaska candidate whose win a federal suit seeks to void

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Three instruments in seven days, and every one of them points the same way. On 23 October the Department of Justice went into federal court to stop Alaska certifying its Senate result — if the Republican incumbent does not win. Only then. A condition precedent, you see, and the condition is a Republican defeat. Senator Tillis said on Sunday that the outcome was "appropriate to take a look at." On Wednesday Senator Scott asked that same Department to investigate Mary Peltola's

... Continued on Page B47

Sanctions waiver meant to cut diesel prices leaves automakers paying more for diesel.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The filing starts in September, before Russia even enters this ledger. On September seventeenth the Transportation Department gave diesel truckers a ninety-day waiver to drive up to sixteen hours a day, because, the department said, fuel costs were already running high on account of the war in Iran. That is one war, already blamed, three weeks before the war we are discussing today gets its turn.

On October sixth the White House tried the supply side again, this time from the other end: the president announced steps to widen access to red-dyed, tax-exempt diesel, aimed at bringing the retail number down. Two days later the number had

... Continued on Page F129

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

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

§

"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

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

— Sal

FOR SALE 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**

FOR SALE Eight straight failed Pentagon audits, one careful owner. *Payment plan: another budget increase.* **— Classifieds**

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

— Chip

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Thirty-seven days after agreeing to pay $115 million for underpaying its drivers, DoorDash finds $17 billion for Instacart

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"DoorDash to buy Instacart for $17bn in major grocery delivery consolidation", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

September 22, New York City. DoorDash agreed to pay the city $131 million to settle a case over underpaying delivery workers, or waiting too long to pay them. Of that, $115 million is to go directly to the workers who were short-changed. Mayor Zohran Mamdani called it the largest settlement for food delivery workers ever secured in American municipal history. Largest ever is a measurement, not a compliment. It tells you no one has found more money owed to these workers in one place before. That is a fact about the ceiling. It is not a fact about the floor.

Thirty-seven days later, on Thursday, DoorDash announced it will buy Instacart for around $17 billion. The Instacart board approved unanimously. The brand stays. The app stays. Instacart shoppers can keep filling Instacart orders, and grocers can choose which of the two to work with. Nothing is combined. A purchase was announced, and the Federal Trade Commission has it in front of it....

...(cont) Set the two figures beside each other, since they belong to the same company five weeks apart. One hundred fifteen million dollars for the workers. Seventeen billion dollars for the competitor. Divide and the second is about a hundred and forty-eight times the first.

What the $17 billion buys the customer, according to the companies: 50,000 additional stores. Instacart shoppers will be able to order from 150,000 stores where they could order from 100,000. DoorDash's chief executive said grocery delivery is "one of the hardest things to get right online."

What it buys the company is harder to itemize, because nobody has published that schedule. One date is public. On Wednesday, the day before the announcement, the FTC ordered DoorDash, Instacart and other companies to turn over detailed information about their "use of personal data to set prices and compensation." The agency asked the two companies on Wednesday how they set pay. On Thursday the two companies proposed to become one company. That is a one-day gap, and one day is the count that matters here.

Lee Hepner, senior legal counsel at the American Economic Liberties Project, called the merger brazen and pointed to the investigations both companies face at the state and federal levels. Opponents asked the FTC to block it. Their phrase was "food delivery monopoly."

A settlement is paid once and closes. A network of 150,000 stores is a position, and it does not close. The person carrying the bags up the stairs appears in both documents, hon, on the same line, which is the expense line.

"They're calling it "expanding customer options," which means the two outfits that competed over who skims your delivery fee have agreed to stop competing. In September DoorDash agreed to pay $115 million for shorting the guys on the bikes; in October it came up with about a hundred and forty-eight times that for the rival — so the money exists, it just isn't for the people on the stairs. And the FTC asked both companies on Wednesday how they use personal data to set prices and pay, and on Thursday one of them announced it was buying the other."

— Sal

"Nobody is losing anything here — Instacart users go from 100,000 stores to 150,000 stores, which is, you'll notice, more stores. The settlement was September, this is October, different quarter entirely — did I say quarter? That doesn't sound like me, I meant it's resolved, they settled, that's accountability working. And the board approved it unanimously, so if there were a problem, somebody on that board would have, you know, said something."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Washington seizes Venezuela's oil, then says Venezuela gave it to Americans as a gift.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
- *North Carolina asked for storm help, got ICE agents, then $858 million at a campaign stop.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- *Nine months after seizing 35 percent of Venezuela's oil, Washington offers the country statehood, gas still at $4.15.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 27 October 2026
- *Prosecutors charge 15 in a Medicare fraud scheme built over years; a two-day-old bounty program gets the credit.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- *Administration calls Venezuela oil deal a gift, keeps the contract secret.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 21 October 2026
- *Pentagon's oil stake stays untouched; the Maduros' docket just added a torture charge.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 8 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

DoorDash to buy Instacart for $17bn in major grocery delivery consolidation

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *09:41 EDT*

Acquisition will supercharge DoorDash's grocery delivery, 'one of the hardest things to get right online', CEO says DoorDash is gobbling up Instacart in a $17bn acquisition that will supercharge its grocery delivery business. DoorDash said the Instacart brand name and app will remain, and Instacart shoppers can continue fulfilling orders...

~~Trump FTC Urged to Prevent 'Two of the Biggest Ripoff Machines in America' From Merging~~

DoorDash-Instacart's $17 billion merger would hand one company the power to set pay for 9 million workers

Common Dreams § *11:05 EDT*

The US Federal Trade Commission on Thursday faced immediate calls to block DoorDash's proposed $17 billion acquisition of rival Instacart, with opponents of the merger arguing it would create a "food delivery monopoly" with disastrous consequences for workers, consumers, and small businesses. "This is a brazen merger given the amount of...

DoorDash buying Instacart for $17B

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:12 EDT*

DoorDash announced Thursday it will acquire Instacart, buying the grocery delivery company for around $17 billion. Instacart will keep its brand name, and customers will be able to continue using the app for their grocery shopping orders, DoorDash said in a statement. The acquisition received unanimous approval from Instacart's board of...

Doordash to buy Instacart in $17bn deal it says will expand customer options

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *11:05 EDT*

Instacart shoppers will be able to buy from 150,000 stores, compared to the 100,000 currently available on the platform, the firms said.

· DoorDash reaches $131M deal with NYC for underpaying delivery workers: 'We screwed up' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Mamdani Hails Landmark DoorDash Deal as 'Largest Settlement for Food Delivery Workers Ever' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 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*

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.

America Next paid an adviser's firm $250,000 for canvassing and influencer marketing; his son heckled El-Sayed

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Could Abdul El-Sayed's plan for AI companies stave off catastrophe?", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

America Next paid Timmy Teepell's firm $250,000 for canvassing and influencer marketing. On October 20 the Guardian reported that the man who had tried to ambush Abdul El-Sayed with a question about his supposed allegiance to the Muslim Brotherhood — an exchange El-Sayed parlayed into a viral clip for his own campaign — is Teepell's son. I am not going to tell you the contract bought the question; the filings do not say that. I will tell you that the contract has two lines, canvassing and influencer marketing, that America Next has been working, the Guardian reports, to gin up organic opposition to El-Sayed, and that influencer marketing is the industry term for a message built to read as though it arrived by itself.

Run the question itself against the record. On October 15 the President called El-Sayed "100% Muslim Brotherhood." The Guardian reported Thursday that the line goes back eight years, to Laura Loomer, who has said since El-Sayed entered politics in 2018 that his signature on a 2012 open letter supporting democracy in Egypt was a pledge to the Egyptian Islamist group. The Guardian read the letter. It does not mention the Muslim Brotherhood once. Mike Rogers has carried the claim through the fall, and on October 26 said he had not called El-Sayed a terrorist, which answers one word and leaves the sentence around it standing....

...(cont) Thursday the New York Post advanced the file to the candidate's father, who sits on the board of an Islamic charity the FBI once raided over cash sent to Saddam Hussein. Reconciled: a board seat, held by a man who is not on the ballot, at an organization whose troubles predate the campaign by decades.

Wednesday, Representative Haley Stevens said her fiancé would be voting for Rogers; Fox reported he used the word antisemite about El-Sayed and said he endangers Jews. Stevens is still supporting El-Sayed. She called it a household divided, which is a generous reading of a Democratic household supplying the closing argument for the Republican.

Thursday also brought Truthout's accounting of who is paying for the season: billionaires, corporations and AIPAC spending millions against progressive candidates in these midterms. Mehdi Hasan laid out AIPAC's part in this particular race on October 22. The attack lines and the money sit on the same tables.

El-Sayed, meantime, published a plan to put artificial intelligence companies under public ownership — the Guardian's Thursday read calls it an antidote to ideological gridlock. It has gone largely undiscussed, hon. There are five days left, and the only line item anybody has itemized in public is the $250,000.

"They spent a quarter million on canvassing and influencer marketing to make the opposition look like it grew in somebody's backyard, and the actual question came from the operator's kid. Then the same donor rolls that fund that outfit turn up funding the whole campaign against every progressive on the ballot this year. Five days out, a guy who wants to put the AI companies under public ownership is answering for a letter from 2012 that doesn't say what they say it says."
— Sal

"Look, nobody paid anybody to ask a question, and I never said the contract was for questions — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. The man signed a letter, people have concerns about the letter, and if the Guardian wants to read the letter out loud, well, fine, that's their business; the concerns are still out there, which is the point, and I'd say the same thing about anybody."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- Jewish Democrat defects to the campaign calling El-Sayed a jihadist, says it protects Jewish Michiganders. By Ruth · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- Health Secretary RFK Jr.'s false Arab-prize claim and Rogers' Muslim Brotherhood smear hit the same Michigan stage. By Sal · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
- Trump calls fraud rampant on a dragnet judges halted twice that flagged 400 names, six days out By Chip · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- 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 RECEIPTS

El-Sayed's faith, family under scrutiny in campaign. Here's what we know.
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *10:42 EDT*

If elected, Michigan Democrat Abdul El-Sayed would become the first Muslim U.S. senator in American history.

~~Mehdi Hasan on AIPAC's Role in El-Sayed vs. Rogers Race in Michigan & Trump's Targeting of Illhan Omar~~

Trump-backed Rogers smears Muslim opponent with unproven Brotherhood claim
Democracy Now! | *08:14 EDT*

One of the most closely watched races in the midterm elections is in Michigan between Democrat Abdul El-Sayed and Republican Mike Rogers. El-Sayed is a former public health official who is campaigning on a platform of Medicare for All, ending military aid to Israel, and getting corporate money out of politics. Rogers is a former...

Could Abdul El-Sayed's plan for AI companies stave off catastrophe?
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *09:00 EDT*

The Michigan Senate candidate is calling for public ownership and other reforms, offering a potential antidote to ideological gridlock The Michigan senatorial candidate Abdul El-Sayed, a Democrat, occupies a strange but increasingly common place in modern American politics. He's praised by progressives, begrudgingly tolerated by moderate...

~~Meet the Rich and Powerful Entities Aiming to Defeat the Rising Electoral Left~~

Billionaires, AIPAC and corporations are spending millions to crush the progressive left
Truthout | *10:45 EDT*

Billionaires, AIPAC, and corporations have spent millions trying to crush progressive candidates in the midterms.

Haley Stevens' fiance hammers El-Sayed, says he'll vote for Rogers
Fox News | RIGHT | *09:23 EDT*

Rep. Haley Stevens' Jewish fiance says he cannot vote for Abdul El-Sayed, calling the Michigan Senate nominee an antisemite who endangers Jews.

Abdul El-Sayed's dad sits on board of Islamic charity accused of funneling cash to Saddam Hussein
New York Post | RIGHT | *10:55 EDT*

Michigan Senate hopeful Abdul El-Sayed's father sits on the board of an Islamic charity that was once raided by the FBI for sending cash to notorious late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Stevens on fiance voting for Rogers: 'We're a household divided'
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *09:43 EDT*

Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.) said Wednesday she is still supporting Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed after her fiance announced he would back the GOP candidate, former Rep. Mike Rogers (Mich.), in the contest.

How Laura Loomer and Trump allies amplified 'Muslim Brotherhood' lie dogging Abdul El-Sayed
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *08:13 EDT*

Michigan US Senate candidate signaled support for Egypt's pro-democracy movement in 2012, not Islamist group The Republican campaign to defeat Democrat Abdul El-Sayed in the Michigan Senate race by casting him as an Islamic extremist is based on a false claim first made by the conspiracy theorist Laura Loomer eight years ago, a Guardian...

- Trump links Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed to Muslim Brotherhood: 'He's a con man' *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Man who heckled El-Sayed is son of Republican adviser who was paid for 'influencer marketing' *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*
- 'My Name Is Abdul': El-Sayed Confronts Trump's Racist, Anti-Muslim Attacks Head-On in New Ad *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

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Pentagon watchdog declines to investigate the Ukraine internet slowdown its contractor already admitted ordering, calling it contractual.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Pentagon inspector general declines to investigate Starlink disruptions in Ukraine", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Can I come back to something you already straightened out for me? I know you did.

The question was just: who turned it down....

...(cont) So, the fourteenth. The Guardian, a Wednesday. Common Dreams has the same day under concerns about the government's reliance on one man. And then there's the clip from Thursday the fifteenth. The headline over it reads "Ukraine Blames Elon Musk for Internet Outage Amid Russian Strike." The address of the page itself says Musk suggests Trump is behind the internet outage in Ukraine. Same clip, two names on it. That's the first shape of the answer: you ask who turned it down and you get pointed at the government.

Thursday is also the letter. Four Republican senators signed on — today's Examiner calls the group bipartisan, so take your pick — expressing "grave concern" over Ukraine's sudden loss of access to intelligence-sharing and high-speed Starlink data, which it needs to intercept Russian drones. Here's the part I kept going back over in the shop lot. They asked the inspector general to investigate whether senior Defense officials played a role. Officials. Their word. Not mine, I wouldn't know one from the other.

Ten days on, Saturday the twenty-fourth, Ukraine's military says the connection is stable again. Guardian carries it. And then hours after that announcement — hours — the man who owns the company accuses the Ukrainian military of violating the company's terms. And that same Saturday he says he gave the order. Morning Star has it in Sunday's paper, and I'm reading off the page here: he "admitted on Saturday that he gave the order for his company SpaceX to restrict the speed" on the service in Ukraine. President Zelensky had already said the Starlink and Starshield links were back to the speeds they ran before restrictions that disrupted front-line operations for more than a week. So there's the second shape: the owner says he did it.

Now today. Thursday the twenty-ninth. Five days after that. The inspector general writes back to the lawmakers and declines to open the investigation, and the phrase ABC reports is that it was a contractual matter.

And here's where I'm slow, so bear with me. Last winter the car wouldn't turn over in the cold, so I brought it in. Kid takes it around back, I sit in the lot with the dog and a coffee, and the next morning the thing won't go over twenty-five. First day I call: nobody touched it. Second day: probably your gas. Third day the kid tells me he set it down himself, because I'd been running it wrong, which is in the ticket I signed, apparently. So I ask for the service manager, because what I want is a name — which one of them turned my car down, and whether anybody in that building told him to. And the manager hears me out, very patient, nice man, and tells me it's a contractual matter between me and the shop. He works for the shop.

So I'd like to ask it the third time and then I'll go. The letter asked which Defense officials played a role. Does the sentence that came back name an official? And if the restriction was a contract question, who are the two parties to it — the page says the company owns the service, so who is the other one?

Hold the elevator a second, would you. One thing. The senators asked which officials. The owner says he gave the order himself. Both of those are on paper, in front of me, right here. Which of them is the contractual matter?

"A guy says out loud that he throttled the internet soldiers were using to shoot down drones, four senators ask the department's own watchdog which officials knew, and the watchdog writes back that it's a contract question. That's the con: call it a contract and nobody has to be named, nobody testifies, and the only person who can turn the service back on is the same one who turned it down. Ukrainian crews spent more than a week on degraded links while that sentence was being drafted."

— Sal

"It's a contract. Contracts have terms, the terms were violated, and an inspector general is not a referee for — did I say violated? That's not my characterization, that's the company's. Look, the service is restored, speeds are back where they were, and I genuinely don't understand why we're relitigating a week that already ended."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Musk blamed Trump and the U.S. military for Ukraine's throttled battlefield internet, then said Saturday the throttle was SpaceX's and lifted it.* By Lou · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

Pentagon inspector general declines to investigate Starlink disruptions in Ukraine

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *11:00 EDT*

The watchdog told lawmakers it was a contractual matter.

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

Pentagon inspector general declines to open Starlink investigation

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:50 EDT*

The War Department Office of Inspector General has declined a request from members of Congress to open an investigation into this month's controversial slowdown of SpaceX platforms used by Ukraine. The decision comes about two weeks after a bipartisan group of senators urged the inspector general to investigate which U.S. officials were...

· 4 GOP senators join letter demanding Pentagon inspector general investigation of Ukraine's Starlink outage *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· 4 GOP senators join letter demanding Pentagon IG investigation of Ukraine's Starlink outage *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk admits to restricting Ukraine's use of Starlink *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine's military says Starlink satellite connection stable after recent restrictions *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk says SpaceX throttled Ukraine Starlink speeds over drone strikes *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says Starlink is back to normal after disruptions *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says Starlink satellite access is fully back after weeklong disruption *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine's Starlink, Starshield back at full power after Elon Musk and White House blame game *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Starshield systems unlocked in Ukraine after uproar about military restrictions *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Ukrainian military's access to Starlink satellite internet suddenly restricted *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine Blames Elon Musk for Internet Outage Amid Russian Strike *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine blasts Russian missile-parts plant as drones ground flights in Moscow *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine reports Starlink operating again after slowdown *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine launches 650 drones toward Moscow in large-scale aerial attack *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine carries out 'largest ever' drone attack on Moscow *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Musk ordered Starlink slowdown in Ukraine: WSJ *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky says Starshield still restricted in Ukraine as Musk and White House refuse to take responsibility *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· U.S. may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian missile attack *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine that Zelensky warns will cost lives *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Musk says US govt responsible for any Starshield restrictions affecting Ukraine *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*

· A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*

· Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*

· Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Musk blames Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield restrictions *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decisions to restrict Starshield up to president *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cries foul over intel and Starlink reports *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian cities after it was revealed that Starlink satellite communications interfered with a drone operation by disabling a communicat *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2023*

· What Is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On? *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russians launch brutal attacks *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says SpaceX's Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says new Starlink restrictions disrupt military as it reels from intel gaps and Trump clash *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection unit colonels recruited by Russia's Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of President V *from the morgue, 7 May 2024*

· Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 60 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drap *from the morgue, 1 Jun 2025*

· With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return as 2026 juggernaut *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· An Elon Musk insider shares what he found in Washington — and it should terrify you *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump says tech CEOs signed 'morally binding' document to self-regulate artificial intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· READ IN FULL: Trump and tech leaders' White House Accord on Super Intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Soaring diesel prices take their toll on US farmers in midwest corn belt *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Inflation Could Soon 'Get a Lot More Painful' as Trump's Iran War Drives Diesel Over $6 a Gallon *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

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

· States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Since a senator asked Trump to fire Hegseth: top planner fired, fifth of brass to go, Hegseth staying.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Hegseth fires top Pentagon strategist accused of leaking classified Iran, Ukraine war information", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth fired the Pentagon's top military planner over alleged leaks about the Iran and Ukraine wars.

WHO GETS PAID. Hegseth keeps his job and picks who plans the wars.

WHAT SLIPS. The leak that reached the public was the generals' warning against extending the Iran war; the next warning is less likely to get out.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress holds no vote on the Iran war, the war outlasts the complaint: after the House rejected both a Libya authorization and a limit on its money on June 24, 2011, that operation ran four more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the table, because the department does not publish one.

On August 31, The Hill reported the Pentagon was seething over a Washington Post account of a classified assessment: top military leaders had warned Secretary Pete Hegseth against extending large-scale Iran war operations. That is the leak this file has a date on — the one where the warning got out. That was also the day Army Secretary Dan Driscoll announced his resignation, after what The Hill called a months-long turf war with Hegseth. Line one of the ledger, departures column....

...(cont) Two days later, September 2, Sen. Thom Tillis, Republican of North Carolina and a former member of the Armed Services Committee, asked President Trump to fire Hegseth over what Tillis called "inept management" of the military. Enter that on the other side as a pending item.

On September 10, CBS published an interview Hegseth had given Norah O'Donnell the month before, in which he said "we have all the control in the world" over the outcome of the Iran war and called the devastation to Iran's military capabilities historic. Management, as described by management.

On September 29, The Hill reported the department's plan to cut 20 percent of its admirals and generals. One in five. No list of names has been published.

Which brings us to October 29. Hegseth fired Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, the Pentagon's top military planner, head of strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, over what a Pentagon official described to CBS as apparent misconduct with classified information on the Iran and Russia-Ukraine wars. Fox News reports Sylvia allegedly failed three polygraph exams tied to classified leaks about the Iran war and Ukraine before the firing.

Three exams. Run them against the calendar, since three is a number and numbers go in a column. The receipts date one leak: the August 31 report that the generals had told the secretary not to extend the operation. Fifty-nine days from that report to this firing, three exams somewhere inside them. The receipts draw no line between the two, and neither do I. I am noting what the file contains, hon, which is one dated leak and one officer out.

Now total the columns. Departures since August 31: one Army secretary, one top military planner, one-fifth of the admirals and generals on the department's own plan. Requests to remove the secretary: one, from a senator of his own party, outstanding fifty-seven days.

The department calls this accountability. It is running in the direction that costs the secretary nothing.

"A senator from his own party went on the record saying the man can't run the building, and two months later the building is emptier and he's still in it — the Army secretary's gone, the top war planner's gone, one in five generals and admirals is on the chopping list. Notice which leak nobody's hunting: the one where the brass told him not to extend the Iran war. We've got an active war with the planning desk being cleared, and the only guy nobody's investigating is the one holding the job a senator asked the President to take away."

— Sal

"Look, leaks are leaks, and three failed polygraphs is three failed polygraphs — I'm not saying polygraphs are science, did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. And cutting twenty percent of the admirals and generals, that's a taxpayer savings, that's the flatter chain of command everybody's been asking for, so if you're counting departures you should really be counting it as efficiency, which is what I've been saying the whole time, basically."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Hegseth fires his own top planner for leaks, two months after a senator urged firing Hegseth instead.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *White House loses three court battles and a poll, then calls the retreat mercy.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Trump cancels the livestream, keeps the firing squad.* By Sterling · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Hegseth fires top Pentagon strategist accused of leaking classified Iran, Ukraine war information

Fox News RIGHT § *09:08 EDT*

Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia allegedly failed three polygraph exams tied to classified leaks about the Iran war and Ukraine before Pete Hegseth fired him.

Hegseth fires top general over apparent media leaks

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:24 EDT*

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth fired Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, who was head of strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for apparent misconduct with classified information on the Iran and Russia-Ukraine wars, a Pentagon official told CBS News.

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

Hegseth fires top Pentagon strategist amid Iran planning who allegedly failed polygraph tests

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *08:55 EDT*

Secretary Pete Hegseth has removed Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, the Pentagon's top military planner, according to a Pentagon official.

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

Hegseth fires Pentagon's top military planner over alleged leaks

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:54 EDT*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has fired the Pentagon's top military planner, Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, a Pentagon official told CBS News.

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

· Pentagon erupts over classified leak of Iran war dissent *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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

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THE FILE

Probe Obama opened in 2016, Biden's appointee closed in 2021, Trump reopened six days before the vote

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Nearly 40 House Dems skip effort to end Ilhan Omar immigration probe", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Trump administration reopened a closed FBI investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar's childhood immigration paperwork.

WHO GETS PAID. The president's party, which gains a sitting critic under federal investigation days before the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. The choice of who gets investigated moves from career prosecutors to the officials she criticizes.

WHAT'S NEXT. If no charge comes, taxpayers pay later: Castle Hills, Texas arrested a councilwoman in 2019, the charge was dropped, and the city paid $500,000 in 2025.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I keep a copy of this file on the desk because it is the rare federal document that has survived three administrations without producing a single charge.

All together now, in order, because the order is the whole story....

...(cont) 2016: the FBI opens an investigation into whether Rep. Ilhan Omar married a man suspected of being her brother. Fox News filed that beat today. The New York Times filed the next clause the same day: several current and former law enforcement officials said the Obama-era investigation found some evidence of a sham marriage. Note the adjective on "Obama-era." It is doing a great deal of work and it is accurate.

2021: a Biden-appointed attorney closes it. Fox reports the opening and the closing in the same breath, which is a courtesy to anyone keeping a ledger.

12 October 2026: federal immigration agents search Omar's home in Washington. CBS News reported the probe centers on her childhood immigration paperwork — the forms completed by her late father, when she was a child. France 24 filed the raid the same week; Omar called it political intimidation by the government's own institutions.

23 October: a Justice Department court filing refers to the congresswoman as "Ilhan Nur Said Elmi," without explanation. The president posted that her name is not her name. Her answer, on the record: "My name has always been Ilhan Omar." By last week the live legal question was not a charge at all but whether the public may read the warrant that authorized the search — a fight now in front of the same judge the president once called a radical left lunatic and wanted impeached.

Back up five days to 18 October, line by line. Obama writes that the effort to strip her citizenship and remove her from the country is "so appalling," and that the government "can't selectively target individuals simply because of their political beliefs or what they say." The file he is describing is the file his FBI opened in 2016. Both sentences are true at the same time. That is the document's entire trick: it has outlasted the administration that started it, the administration that stopped it, and the explanation each one gave.

Today's last clause is the quietest. Rep. Pramila Jayapal circulated a letter asking that the probe be ended. Nearly 40 House Democrats did not sign it. Fox News lists Nancy Pelosi and Steny Hoyer among the non-signers.

So: ten years, three administrations, one search, no one charged, and a letter nearly forty members found easier not to put a pen to. The paper underneath all of it was filled out by a father for a daughter who was a child. Six days from now, it remains the most durable object in Washington.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦
DUTCH

THE FILE OPENED IN 2016, CLOSED IN 2021, AND CAME BACK SIX DAYS BEFORE THE MIDTERMS. THAT IS NOT AN INVESTIGATION, IT IS A FILING CABINET WIRED TO THE ELECTION CALENDAR. And because the paper they pulled was a form a parent filled out for a child, the standard set this month reaches the folder in your own hall closet — the immigration paperwork in your mother's handwriting with your name misspelled on the first line, a document that closes when they close it and opens in whatever October they need it.

"For ten years they told us there was nothing in this file; this month they told us there was, and the only thing that changed in between was the calendar. They searched her house over a form her father filled out when she was a kid, filed no charge, and nearly forty members of her own party couldn't locate a pen. Six days before you vote, the lesson on the table is that paperwork your parents signed for you is a case the government can reopen the minute you become inconvenient."

— Sal

"Look, this investigation started under Obama — Obama, their guy — so if it's political, it's their politics, not ours. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. Nobody is targeting anybody; the file was simply reactivated, by career professionals, in October, and I'd point out that nearly forty House Democrats declined to sign a letter defending her, which tells you something, though I'm not going to say what it tells you."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *DOJ's noncitizen-voter dragnet produces its first charges: the two men who faked being noncitizen voters.* By Chip · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Nearly 40 House Dems skip effort to end Ilhan Omar immigration probe
Fox News RIGHT | *10:30 EDT*
Nancy Pelosi and Steny Hoyer were among nearly 40 House Democrats who did not sign Pramila Jayapal's letter defending Ilhan Omar's probe.

Obama admin first launched the investigation into Ilhan Omar's alleged brother marriage
Fox News RIGHT | *11:05 EDT*
The FBI probe into whether Ilhan Omar married her brother began under Barack Obama in 2016, but a Biden-appointed attorney shut it down in 2021.

Ilhan Omar Investigation Involves New Scrutiny of Long-Disputed Marriage
The New York Times MAINSTREAM | *08:30 EDT*
Several current and former law enforcement officials said an Obama-era investigation found some evidence that Ms. Omar had entered into a sham marriage with a man suspected of being her brother.

· 'This Is So Appalling': Barack Obama Delivers Blistering Rebuke of Trump's Ilhan Omar Deportation Plot *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· 'My Name Has Always Been Ilhan Omar': Congresswoman Calls Out 'Creep' Trump *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Federal probe into Rep. Ilhan Omar centers on her childhood immigration paperwork, sources say *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· US immigration authorities raid home of Democratic Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

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THE INVESTIGATIONS

Governor opens criminal probe into the one Alaska candidate whose win a federal suit seeks to void

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"What comes next for Mary Peltola as her campaign faces decoy investigation", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Alaska's governor ordered state investigators to open a criminal case into Democrat Mary Peltola's Senate campaign.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican Senator Dan Sullivan, the incumbent whose seat the Justice Department suit would shield from a certified loss.

WHAT SLIPS. Whether Alaska's votes get certified moves out of the state's hands and into a federal judge's and the governor's investigators'.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the suit holds, the result waits on a court rather than a canvass. That is what the president's election order got after 25 March 2025: a judge blocked part of it within 30 days and its mail-voting provisions for good fifteen months later, long after people had voted.

Three instruments in seven days, and every one of them points the same way. On 23 October the Department of Justice went into federal court to stop Alaska certifying its Senate result — if the Republican incumbent does not win. Only then. A condition precedent, you see, and the condition is a Republican defeat. Senator Tillis said on Sunday that the outcome was "appropriate to take a look at." On Wednesday Senator Scott asked that same Department to investigate Mary Peltola's campaign. On Thursday Governor Dunleavy directed the Department of Public Safety to determine "whether this scheme violated Alaska's laws and whether criminal charges or civil action are warranted." Two men named Dan Sullivan sit on that ballot, one of them the sitting senator, and the count every one of these documents concerns has not happened … nor has a single page of it been turned the other way. Peltola denied the allegations. The Washington Examiner had the whole affair on 31 August, before anything was filed anywhere. Alaska votes Tuesday. Six days.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKED A FEDERAL COURT ON 23 OCTOBER TO BLOCK CERTIFICATION OF ALASKA'S SENATE RESULT IF THE REPUBLICAN INCUMBENT LOSES, THE GOVERNOR ordered state investigators this week to open a criminal file on his opponent's campaign, and a senator asked Washington to open one as well. That is not an inquiry into a ballot, that is a result written down in advance with three offices hired to stamp it. The suit bites only if one side loses, so the side that loses decides whether the counting stood for anything, and that puts the last hands on the envelope you signed at your kitchen table in a federal courtroom instead of a count.

Two foxes at the fence now. The farmer latches the shed at dusk.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They filed the remedy on the twenty-third and went looking for the crime on the twenty-ninth — that is the whole trick, in order. Three offices aimed at the Democrat who might win, and not one of them aimed at the Republican who might lose. Six days from now Alaskans vote, and a federal judge is sitting on a motion that says the result only counts if it comes out one way."
— Sal

"Nobody is investigating a candidate, they are investigating a scheme — there is a difference, and I am not being defensive, you are being defensive. Did I say the lawsuit only takes effect if our guy loses? That does not sound like me. Look, if Democrats had not gone and found a second Dan Sullivan there would be nothing to look at, which is exactly why the Department filed before anyone looked."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Peltola's campaign was 'definitely aware' of its decoy scheme; DOJ needs an anonymous analyst to prove it worked.* By Lou · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
- *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

~~What comes next for Mary Peltola as her campaign faces decoy investigation~~
GOP governor orders probe of Democratic rival's campaign days before the vote
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:18 EDT*
Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R-AK) has ordered an investigation into whether Alaska Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola's campaign illegally recruited a spoiler candidate to siphon votes from Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), escalating a controversy that could reshape one of the country's most competitive Senate races days before Election Day.

Peltola's Alaska Senate race controversy; final midterms forecast: Live discussion
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *11:01 EDT*
Will former Rep. Mary Peltola (D) lose the Alaska Senate race after reports her campaign recruited "spoiler" candidates to interfere in the race against incumbent Sen. Dan Sullivan (R)?

Alaska gov. orders probe into Peltola over 2nd Dan Sullivan on ballot
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:07 EDT*
A report alleged that people aligned with Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign helped recruit a candidate with the same first and last name as Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan. Peltola denied the allegations.

~~Facing an electoral wipeout, Trump goes after the system~~
DOJ would block Alaska's Senate count only if the Republican loses.
Politico MAINSTREAM § *07:00 EDT*
The move by the Justice Department to try and preemptively block Alaska's Senate results if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses stunned officials in both parties.

Accusations fly over 2 candidates named Dan Sullivan on Alaska ballot
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:13 EDT*
Alaska Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign recruited a second Dan Sullivan to run for Senate, a report from The New York Times alleges. CBS News' Ed O'Keefe explains more, plus Weijia Jiang has more midterm headlines.

But: **Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *MultiState Elections, 2026 special-election tracking*
Live Updates: Alaska's ballot controversy and more from campaign trail
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:07 EDT*
President Trump will campaign Thursday in South Carolina for Republican Sen. Darline Graham.

Alaska GOP officials angered by controversy over two candidates named Dan Sullivan
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:20 EDT*
Republicans are outraged by a New York Times report that Alaskan Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign helped find a man named Dan Sullivan to run on the midterm ballot against Republican incumbent Sen. Dan Sullivan. Ed O'Keefe reports.

But: **Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department** *NBC News, May 2026*
Courts Reject Trump's Attempt at Deploying ICE to Intimidate Voters
Truthout § *09:18 EDT*
A judge ordered Homeland Security to stop sending agents door to door in nine key states to hunt for "voter fraud."

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)*
Tim Scott calls for DOJ investigation of Peltola campaign
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *08:54 EDT*
Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) on Wednesday called on the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign over reports that it sought to recruit "spoiler" candidates in Alaska to affect next week's election. "There's no doubt that Mary Peltola has been, at least her campaign and the Democrat apparatus, they are…

Alaska Democrat Peltola scouted man with same name as opponent Dan Sullivan to run, NYT report says
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:40 EDT*
Alaska's Republican governor is calling for a state investigation into Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola after a report from The New York Times alleged that her campaign recruited a man with the same name as her opponent, Dan Sullivan, to run. CBS News political contributor Joel Payne has more.

~~Alaska governor orders probe into Democratic campaign's alleged links to same-name candidate~~
Republican governor orders a state probe based on a New York Times report
BBC News MAINSTREAM § *11:15 EDT*
The Republican governor was responding to allegations in the New York Times that Democrats recruited a spoiler candidate, Dan Sullivan.

Alaska governor orders investigation into Peltola camp after report they recruited second Dan Sullivan
NBC News MAINSTREAM § *10:50 EDT*
Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy announced Thursday that he is ordering an investigation into Democrat Mary Peltola's Senate campaign after a report that it recruited a candidate with the same name as her Republican rival, Sen.

~~Alaska governor orders investigation into Democrat Mary Peltola's Senate campaign~~
GOP governor orders criminal probe of Democratic rival over mere accusation
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *09:10 EDT*
Republican Mike Dunleavy plans search after Peltola accused of recruiting Dan Sullivan to confuse voters The Republican governor of Alaska announced plans to launch a criminal investigation after a report accused the campaign of the Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola of trying to confuse voters by recruiting a candidate with the…

- Tillis says it's 'appropriate to take a look at' Alaska ballot with two Dan Sullivans running *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*
- DoJ sues to block certification of Alaska Senate results if Republican incumbent loses *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt': Joe Concha *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Alaska Democrats couldn't beat Dan Sullivan, so they ran their own *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- DOJ sues to block Alaska Senate certification if Sullivan loses *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Alaska Election Gambit Shows Justice Dept. Has Bowed to Trump's Demands *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Donald Trump challenges Alaska Senate trace *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- The controversy surrounding convicted former election official Tina Peters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Tina Peters turns down job with California county's registrar of voters *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Election deniers stoke Trump-driven ballot security fears before midterms *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Sabato's Crystal Ball shifts Alaska and South Carolina Senate races in favor of Democrats *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Trump knocks Alaska voting system: 'How stupid are we to do this?' *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*
- Corey Lewandowski Always Found His Way Back to Trump. Until Now. *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump announces $6.6bn defense shipyard owned by top Republican donor's firm *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- DOJ demands that California counties help identify noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- DOJ demands that some California counties set aside alleged noncitizen ballots *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*
- California officials ordered by DoJ to set aside 'likely' noncitizen ballots *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- LA feds move to halt ballot counting over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*
- Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Trump DOJ issues stark warning to California ballot counters after suing state over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Intel Democrats on how they'll react if Trump alleges election meddling *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump told DOJ to sue to block Alaska Senate results if Republican narrowly loses *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*
- Trump says he personally ordered DOJ lawsuit intervening in Alaska Senate election *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – live *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Trump-Ordered DOJ Lawsuit in Alaska Seen as First Salvo in GOP Effort to Undermine Midterm Elections *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump on the Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one that said, "do it"' *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump previews trip to Alaska to campaign for Dan Sullivan, ripping into the other Dan Sullivan *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Trump urges Alaskans to vote for the 'real' Dan Sullivan in tight midterms battle *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Sullivan trails Peltola in Alaska Senate contest: AARP poll *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Trump vows to probe other Dan Sullivan in alleged Dem plot to sabotage 'real' Alaska GOP senator *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- AGs v. Trump: How an AWOL Congress made hundreds of lawsuits possible *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*
- The Electoral College meets in the state capitals to officially elect the next President. Joe Biden, the presumptive president-elect, is officially elected president after securing California's 55 ele *from the morgue, 14 Dec 2020*
- US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers' in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*
- U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*
- In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*
- Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*
- Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*
- Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

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.

Sanctions waiver meant to cut diesel prices leaves automakers paying more for diesel.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The White House lifted sanctions on Russian diesel, intending to lower fuel prices.

WHO GETS PAID. Russian diesel refiners gain a reopened U.S. market under the sanctions waiver.

WHAT SLIPS. No committee has made Senator Marshall explain why the three fixes before his testimony did not lower the price.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the price keeps moving on its own regardless of the fix; that is what Washington got after 22 June 2022: a gas tax holiday Congress never passed, while the average fell anyway by June 30.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The filing starts in September, before Russia even enters this ledger. On September seventeenth the Transportation Department gave diesel truckers a ninety-day waiver to drive up to sixteen hours a day, because, the department said, fuel costs were already running high on account of the war in Iran. That is one war, already blamed, three weeks before the war we are discussing today gets its turn.

On October sixth the White House tried the supply side again, this time from the other end: the president announced steps to widen access to red-dyed, tax-exempt diesel, aimed at bringing the retail number down. Two days later the number had not moved. The Washington Examiner reported on October eighth that the diesel average kept climbing despite the administration's own order suspending diesel fuel tax payments. The fix shipped. The price did not follow it out the door....

...(cont) Two days after that, on October tenth, the administration reached for Russian diesel directly and lifted the sanctions on it, the fuel this desk has been pricing since the war in Ukraine began. President Zelensky objected, on the record, to buying from refineries he is also being told not to strike, and was advised to find his country a new president. The waiver carried the same stated purpose as the tax order and the truck-hour order before it: bring the number down for the driver paying at the pump.

Twelve days after that waiver, on October twenty-second, Senator Roger Marshall of Kansas told the record the cause, no equivocation: the war in Ukraine is why diesel costs what it costs. The senator did not reconcile that against his own party's calendar — three federal interventions in five weeks, none of them Ukrainian, all of them built to bring that same number down.

The invoice arrived this week, October twenty-ninth, from the people who buy the fuel by the fleet. NPR reported that American automakers are paying more for computer chips, steel and copper, plus the diesel that moves the finished product — and the wire's own headline led with tariffs, not Ukraine. Since the September high of five dollars and eighty-five cents, the national diesel average has added another sixty-three cents, to six-forty-eight, across three domestic fixes sold as the cure. That gap lands in the invoice of the same voters the waiver was sold to, hon — the drivers, the dealers, and now the people who build the trucks.

🍺

"They told us the fix was pulling Russian diesel sanctions so the price at the pump would come down, and five weeks and two other fixes later the number went up anyway. The guy at the end of the bar doesn't absorb that first — the automaker does, and it rides home in the sticker price of his next truck. Washington has yet to show him one receipt proving any of this worked."

— Sal

🚬

"The waiver secures energy stability for the whole hemisphere, that's the real win here, and diesel would be even higher without it — we just can't show you the counterfactual, obviously. The senator's right that the war in Ukraine is driving this, the timing on our own fixes is, uh, a separate conversation. Did I just say that? That's not the line, forget the line."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump waives Lindsey Graham's sanctions law; his sister broke with him before 320 drones hit the grid.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 17 October 2026
- *Russia hits the power grid with over 320 drones hours after sanctions meant to protect it are waived.* By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 17 October 2026
- *Trump signs Russia sanctions law named for Lindsey Graham, then waives it the day before it takes effect.* By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 17 October 2026
- *Trump calls Ukraine's strikes on the Russian refineries he just legalized buying from "a disgrace."* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 16 October 2026
- *Trump's Russian diesel deal paused the war five days, longer than any Senate hopeful will defend it.* By Chip · the morning edition, 15 October 2026
- *Deal meant to cut pump prices promotes refineries from liabilities to goldmines* By Ruth · the morning edition, 14 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Tariffs, diesel and computer chips are driving up costs for automakers

NPR MAINSTREAM $ *05:00 EDT*

American auto companies say they are paying more for key components like computer chips, steel and copper — plus the fuel needed to transport their products.

· Trump administration allows truck drivers hauling gas, diesel to work longer hours *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· How the Russia-Ukraine war continues to contribute to current high diesel fuel costs *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Marshall blames Ukraine war for high diesel prices *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· Trump announces steps to lower high cost of diesel *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Trump rips into Volodymyr Zelensky — insisting it's time for Ukraine to 'get a new president' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine hit by deadly Russian strikes as 'thanks' for Trump diesel deal, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump calls for Ukraine to replace Zelenskyy after clash over Russia diesel deal: 'Get a new president' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Rebuking Ukraine Over Oil Strikes, Trump Says It Should 'Get a New President' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· 'Time for Ukraine to get new president,' says Trump after Zelensky condemns diesel deal *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Ukraine needs new president, blames Zelenskyy for diesel prices *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Trump rips Zelensky amid Russia diesel deal feud: 'I suggest they get a new leader' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Ukraine needs 'a new leader who can make a deal' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Russia will release millions of tons of diesel to help with costs *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Zelenskyy furious as Trump announces deal to buy Russian diesel *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump and Putin sign diesel deal, angering Ukraine and its allies *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump: Russia has 'lost control' of its diesel industry as prices soar *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Ukraine and Russia have agreed to energy target ceasefire *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls on Ukraine to halt strikes on Russian diesel fuel *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames Ukraine for diesel fuel price spike, urges Zelensky to stop hitting Russian refineries *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls out Zelensky over rising diesel prices *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Ukraine persists with Russian oil refinery strikes, defying Trump on fuel price warnings *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Britain in talks with European allies over release of emergency diesel stockpiles amid Trump pressure *from the morgue, 1 Oct 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*

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· 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*

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· 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*

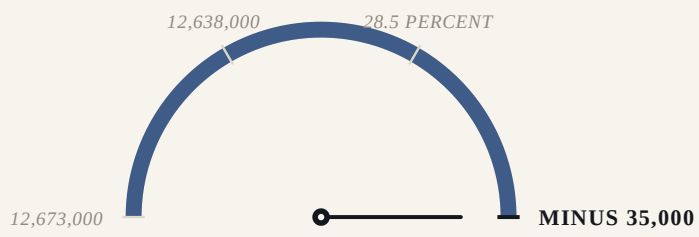
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§76 — 29 OCTOBER 2026

On roaring back

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



MINUS 35,000

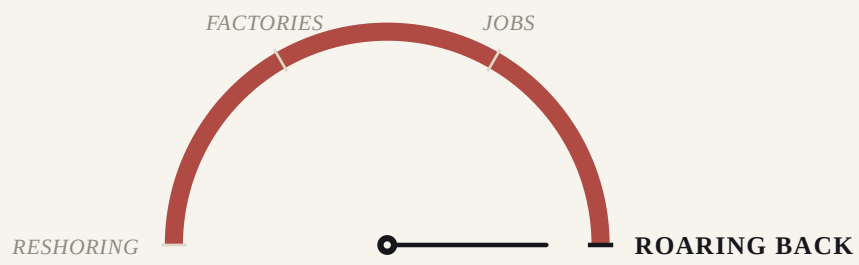
How far back. Manufacturing employment was 12,673,000 in January 2025 and 12,638,000 in August 2026 — 35,000 fewer than at the inauguration, after the recovery from December [1]. The pipeline for future factory jobs is thinner: spending on manufacturing construction ran at an annual rate of $237.5 billion in January 2025 and $169.8 billion in July 2026, down 28.5 percent [2].

And the trillions. Economists at the Peterson Institute found the investment pledges "clouded with uncertainty," with the Gulf states' "nearly $4 trillion" in commitments ones that "strain credibility" [3]. Roaring back was the promise on the day of the tariffs. Seventeen months later the count is still 35,000 short of the day he took office, and the cranes are building less.

SOURCES

1. All employees, manufacturing: 12,673,000 in January 2025; 12,638,000 in August 2026 — Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED, series MANEMP, 4 September 2026 ↑
2. Total manufacturing construction spending, annual rate: $237.5 billion in January 2025; $169.8 billion in July 2026 — Census Bureau via FRED, series TLMFGCONS, 1 September 2026 ↑
3. The pledges "are clouded with uncertainty"; the Gulf states' "nearly $4 trillion" in commitments "strain credibility" — Peterson Institute for International Economics, 27 January 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



ROARING BACK

The line, from the Rose Garden on April 2, 2025, the day of the tariff announcement: "Jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country and you see it happening already" [1].

There is a recent upswing, and it belongs here in full. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in September that manufacturing employment "continued its upward trend (+16,000)," and is "up by 58,000 since a recent low in December 2025" [2]. The Institute for Supply Management's factory index stood at 54.6 in August, its eighth straight month of expansion [3]. The White House keeps a running list of announced investments that it says runs to trillions of dollars [4]. Eight months of growth is a trend, and a trend is what a roar would look like from the inside. How far it has come back is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "Jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country and you see it happening already" — Rose Garden, 2 April 2025 — Roll Call / Factba.se ↑
2. Manufacturing employment "continued its upward trend (+16,000)… up by 58,000 since a recent low in December 2025" — Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Situation, 4 September 2026 ↑
3. Manufacturing PMI at 54.6 percent in August 2026, an eighth straight month of expansion — Institute for Supply Management, 1 September 2026 ↑
4. "President Trump Has Secured Trillions of Dollars in New Investments" — The White House, 8 March 2026 ↑

"My nephew does his homework on these charts, so I borrowed two. Manufacturing jobs: twelve million six hundred seventy-three thousand in January of last year. Twelve million six hundred thirty-eight thousand this August. And the other chart, the one that shows what's being built, factories under construction: two hundred thirty-seven and a half billion a year, then a hundred sixty-nine point eight. He drew a little arrow on the first chart where it turns up in December, and it does turn up. Sorry, I'm going. If it's roaring back, when does it get back to January?" — Lou

🍺

""Jobs and factories will come roaring back." Rose Garden, April of last year. Since the inauguration, factory jobs are down thirty-five thousand, and spending on building new factories is down twenty-eight and a half percent. To be fair, they've been climbing since December — fifty-eight thousand off the bottom, and the purchasing managers say eight straight months of growth. So the roar is real. It's the sound of climbing back toward where they started."

— Sal

🚬

"The jobs are roaring back from the low they reached while they were getting ready to roar, which is how a roar works: first the inhale, then the part everyone hears."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎