The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Bolsonaro loses Brazil's election, flees to US with Trump's help, declares himself its leader.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a president who is not a president, which is not a dish you can get over here. Flávio Bolsonaro lost Brazil's run-off, left for the United States with his family, and called himself leader of Brazil.

You will need one senator, Flávio Bolsonaro, defeated and facing multiple criminal investigations in Brazil; Trump and his aides, who saw to it that he could enter the United States; and a letter, posted briefly under his name, whose "president elect" phrasing an ally later blamed on ChatGPT.

Clive *An ally explaining his words for him. I have never needed an ally for mine — the verse stands on its own, which is more than this letter can say.*

Gary *Stands on its own. Like the shed door, until I took it off for standing on its own all wrong.*

A tip, since we are at the stove: a phrase borrowed from a machine rarely survives a second reading.

On 5 October other Bolsonaros were already taking seats down the ballot as the far right surged; France 24 asked whether Brazilians subscribe to the family's "God, Homeland, Family" mantra and left it open. On 26 October

... Continued on Page A225

THE WORD

§76 — 29 OCTOBER 2026

On roaring back

DEMOCRAT

MINUS 35,000

REPUBLICAN

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

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

WHO PICKS THE JUDGE

The 2022 map put all 382 of Kansas City's Jackson County precincts in one U.S. House district; the 2025 map spreads them across three and cuts 20 of them apart block by block.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Nvidia calls its CEO's China intelligence ties debunked, then defends those same ties.

BY LOU
One More Question

I asked this already, didn't I? Same case, same page, same question, and I wrote the answer down the first time: was the matter debunked. Yes. Clean, one word, filed. I'm asking it again today, exact same words, and this time it doesn't come out the same shape at all.

Here's what I mean. I wrote this down — hold on, it's in here somewhere — Thursday, Nvidia, on the record: "thoroughly investigated and debunked last year." That's the sentence. I read it three times this morning making sure I had it right, because it's a tidy sentence, the kind you file and move on from. A company says a thing was investigated, a company says it was debunked, a company says it happened last year, which means it's settled, which means there's nothing left to ask about it. That's the whole point of a sentence like that.

So then why'd the same company put out a second statement the same day?

I've got that part written down too. The second one wasn't about the investigation. The second one was about the relationship — Jensen Huang's rela-

... Continued on Page F130

Government reports fastest growth in a year, same month it posted wage growth at a five-year low.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The government filed its own growth number on Thursday: gross domestic product rose at an annualized 3.4 percent in the third quarter, the fastest pace in a year, the Bureau of Economic Analysis said. That is the headline. The ledger underneath it is thinner.

Four weeks earlier, on October 2, the same government's Bureau of Labor Statistics had filed the quarter's labor numbers: 29,000 jobs added in September, well under the 90,000 economists expected, with July revised down to a net loss of 10,000 jobs. Wage growth in that report came in at a five-year low. The quarter that grew 3.4 percent is the same quarter that produced the weakest month of hiring and the weakest wage growth in five years — one government, two numbers, filed four weeks apart.

Back up further, to August 26, and the gap gets a shape. A Groundwork Collaborative analysis of that month's GDP data found labor's share of national income — the slice that shows up as paychecks rather than profit — at 54.7 percent in the second quarter of 2026, the lowest share ever recorded by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. That reading covers the three months end-

... Continued on Page F130

Trump's third rally in a state he carried by 18 points opened on culture war, not the economy.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

South Carolina's safe Republican Senate seat died this week at the hands of its own pollsters, and was eulogized Thursday afternoon in Rock Hill, where the subject at the microphone was not money.

It was twenty-eight. It was born in 1998, the last year the state sent 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 was Lindsey Graham's; his sister, Darline Graham, holds it now, with the president's endorsement. For years nobody wrote anything about it, because there was nothing to write.

The decline is in the paperwork. On September 23 the Cook Political Report shifted South Carolina toward the Democrats, the same notice that moved Kansas. On October 20 Cook moved the race again. On October 26 two Republican former governors of the state endorsed the Democrat, Dr. Annie Andrews. Then Fox News' own power rankings called the seat a toss-up, which is the sort of thing a family hears from the second opinion.

The president came three times. The third and final visit was Thursday, in

... Continued on Page B47

Trump revives the Omar probe Obama's FBI opened in 2016, calls her claim to constitutional rights "arrogance"

BY MITCH
Investigations

I keep the file itself on the desk, because it is the only party to this story with a continuous employment history.

All together now — from the top, in order, because the order is the argument. 2016: the FBI, then run by the Obama administration, opens an inquiry into whether Rep. Ilhan Omar married a man suspected of being her brother. The New York Times reported this week that current and former law enforcement officials said that inquiry found some evidence of a sham marriage. 2021: a U.S. attorney appointed by President Biden closes it. No charge filed, then or since.

Then the file gets a second career. On October 12, CBS News reported the revived federal probe centers on her childhood immigration paperwork — not the marriage now, the paperwork she would have been a child for. On October 13, immigration authorities raided her home. On October 18, the border czar said on Fox News that the congresswoman could "of course" be denaturalized and deported, the first time the administration put those two words next to her name on the record. Obama, whose FBI opened the thing,

... Continued on Page A225

Justice Department's voter list, rejected in three courts, promoted to grand jury subpoenas five days before the election.

BY LOU
One More Question

I asked a question last week and somebody answered it and I was satisfied, which with me is usually the first sign of trouble. The question was: when a court tells the lawyers no, what do the lawyers do next? The answer I got was, you appeal. I wrote it down — hold on, it's in the notebook, I've got the dog's shot record in the same pocket, she's overdue — here it is. "You appeal." So Wednesday I asked it again, and the answer came out a different shape. Wednesday the answer was, you subpoena.

Let me come at it from the other side, and I apologize for circling. Wednesday a federal judge in California turned down the Justice Department's request to set aside twenty thousand mail ballots the department says were likely cast by noncitizens. That's the ruling Truthout put under the headline "Our Democracy Is in Danger." Then, before that order was a day old, the New York Times reported the department had issued grand jury subpoenas to local election officials in the state, part of what the Times calls a widening effort to prove unsubstantiated claims about large numbers of illegal voters. The no came first. The subpoenas came after. Does the order of

... Continued on Page B47

Sullivan tells Alaskans to mark Decoy Dan, the candidate at the center of Thursday's grand jury subpoenas.

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will have read that the Justice Department prepares dozens of fresh grand jury subpoenas on Thursday, and you will have taken that for a development. Take it again. On 23 October that same Department asked a federal court to block certification of Alaska's Senate result — if the Republican incumbent loses. Only then. Senator Tillis found the outcome "appropriate to take a look at" on Sunday the 25th. By Thursday Chairman Comer had an Oversight investigation open and Governor Dunleavy was on television worrying aloud about a "cover-up". Four instruments in six days, and not a ballot among them. And Senator Sullivan, whose seat this grubby apparatus guards — what does he ask of Alaskans? That they decline to rank Mary Peltola, and fill in the bubble for the retired teacher whom a progressive super PAC was funding as of 19 October. Do mind what that instruction does. A ranked ballot with no surviving choice left on it is exhausted: set aside, unread, in the round that decides. He is not asking them for a vote. He is asking them for ... a bubble they do not get back. Peltola calls the report a "distraction". CBS News staff met it with "significant resistance". Tuesday counts what is left.

... 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 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.

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.

... Continued on Page F130

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

— *Sal*

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

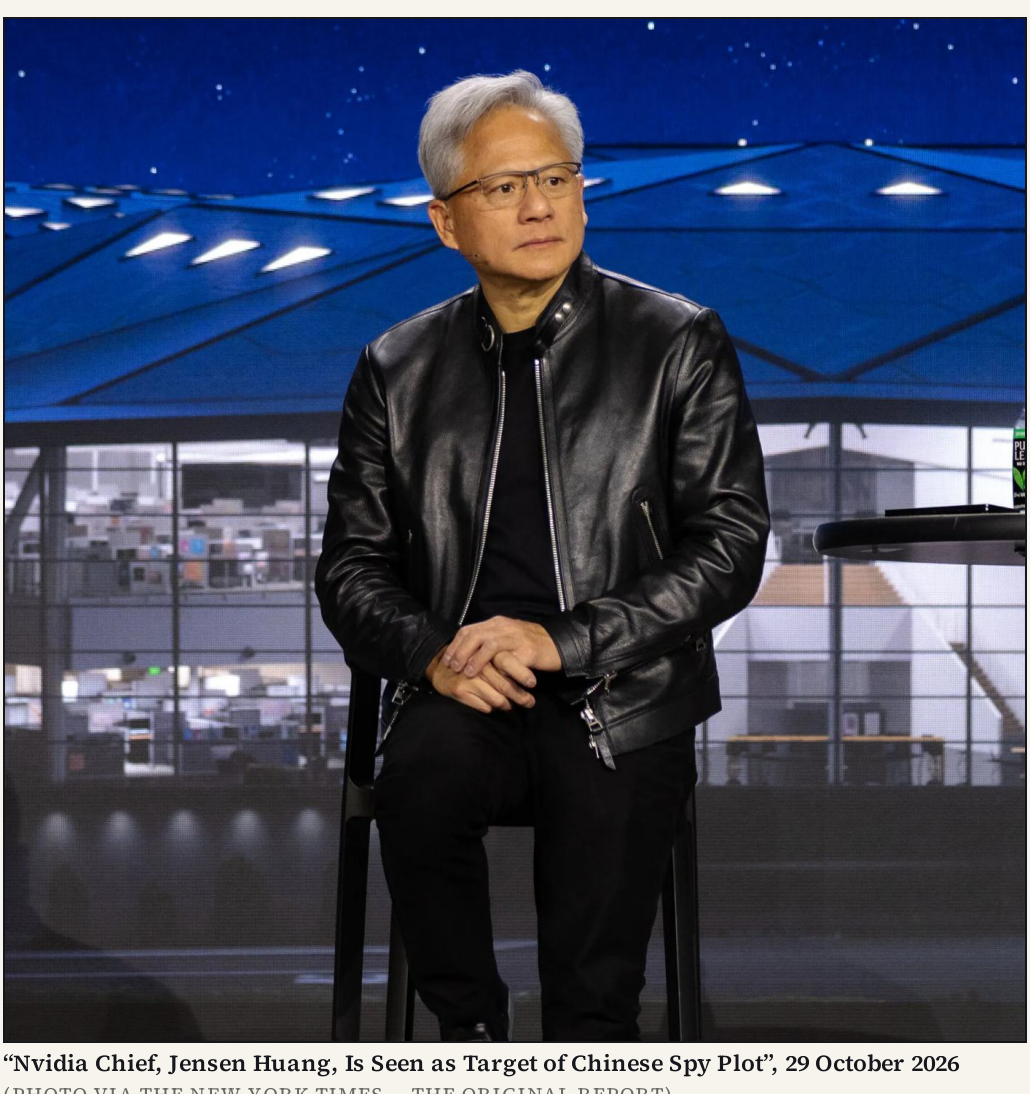
— *Chip*

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Nvidia calls its CEO's China intelligence ties debunked, then defends those same ties.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Nvidia Chief, Jensen Huang, Is Seen as Target of Chinese Spy Plot", 29 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Nvidia called its CEO's China intelligence ties debunked, then defended that same relationship anyway.

WHO GETS PAID. Nvidia itself: its Beijing-linked data-center partnership stays intact after the president was briefed and did nothing.

WHAT SLIPS. Presidential oversight slips: intelligence agencies flagged the relationship to the president, who took no action on it.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing, review or vote on the briefing is on the calendar; the record stops at the president's decision not to act.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I asked this already, didn't I? Same case, same page, same question, and I wrote the answer down the first time: was the matter debunked. Yes. Clean, one word, filed. I'm asking it again today, exact same words, and this time it doesn't come out the same shape at all.

Here's what I mean. I wrote this down — hold on, it's in here somewhere — Thursday, Nvidia, on the record: "thoroughly investigated and debunked last year." That's the sentence. I read it three times this morning making sure I had it right, because it's a tidy sentence, the kind you file and move on from. A company says a thing was investigated, a company says it was debunked, a company says it happened last year, which means it's settled, which means there's nothing left to ask about it. That's the whole point of a sentence like that....

...(cont) So then why'd the same company put out a second statement the same day?

I've got that part written down too. The second one wasn't about the investigation. The second one was about the relationship — Jensen Huang's relationship with the executive, a woman the paper says U.S. intelligence agencies have accused of gathering information for Beijing. Nvidia defended that relationship. Not by saying the allegation was false, not by saying the case was closed — the company stood behind the connection itself, the same connection the first sentence said had already been investigated and put away.

Can a thing be settled and also still need defending?

I've got a toll transponder in the glovebox of a car that needs a fan belt worse than it needs gas, and every so often a bill shows up for a toll I already paid. The agency's letter says the account's clear. Then the next envelope's a notice about the same stretch of road. Nobody at the toll authority tells you which letter was wrong. They just send both.

The paper's sourcing here is American intelligence agencies, not a blogger, not a rival — agencies, on the relationship between the CEO of the most valuable chipmaker in the country and a Singapore-based data center executive the agencies say was funneling information to Beijing. The president was briefed on it. I've got that part down word for word because it's short: briefed, and took no action.

No action on what, is my question. On the relationship Nvidia just finished calling settled, or on the relationship Nvidia then turned around and defended the same week — and if it's the second one, is that the same relationship as the first, or a different one that happens to have the same two names attached to it?

I'm not the only Chinese-national case open this month. Three weeks back it was a California construction man accused of helping surveil a Taiwanese president's son. Different file, different agency, same month, same country doing the accusing. I'm not saying they're the same case. I'm saying they're the same month.

So here's where I'm stuck, and I'd appreciate the help. If the first statement closes the book and the second statement reopens the same page to defend what's written on it, which one do I file the case under — closed, or open?

Oh — before you go. One more thing's been bothering me. The first statement said "last year." The second statement, the one defending the relationship, didn't come with a date on it at all. Is a relationship that still needs defending today the same relationship that got debunked last year, or is "last year" doing a job in that sentence the calendar doesn't actually back up?

"Nvidia's lawyers used the word "debunked" like a receipt, then spent the very next statement re-defending the exact thing they said was closed. That's not a defense, that's a tell. When the guy who got the briefing does nothing about it, the only thing protected is the market cap."
— Sal

"Look, "debunked" means debunked — the investigation happened, it's over, that's just a fact, I don't know what else people want. The second statement is just — that's context, that's not a retraction of anything. Defending a tie you already called clean isn't defending it, it's just... saying it's clean again. Did I just say the same thing twice? That's not what I meant."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Nvidia Chief, Jensen Huang, Is Seen as Target of Chinese Spy Plot~~

Trump was briefed on a Chinese spy targeting Nvidia's CEO — and took no action

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *15:27 EDT*

A Chinese businesswoman who had a close relationship with Jensen Huang was found to be passing intelligence to Beijing. President Trump was briefed and took no action.

Nvidia dismisses report alleging Chinese executive tied to CEO passed intel to Beijing

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *14:31 EDT*

Nvidia dismissed a new report that CEO Jensen Huang was targeted by a Chinese intelligence asset, stating the diversion allegations were "thoroughly investigated and debunked last year." The New York Times published a report Thursday finding American spy agencies last year discovered Alice Huang, an executive at the Singapore-based data...

Nvidia defends CEO's ties to executive accused of aiding Chinese intelligence

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *14:28 EDT*

Nvidia is defending CEO Jensen Huang's relationship with a technology executive whom U.S. intelligence agencies have accused of gathering information for Beijing, raising national security concerns as Washington and China compete for dominance in artificial intelligence. The New York Times reported Thursday that Alice Huang, also known...

· $2.2 Trillion: The Collective Net Worth of 'Big Tech Oligarchs' Invited to Trump-Xi Dinner *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Feds investigate if accused Chinese agent had help in the U.S. *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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

Government reports fastest growth in a year, same month it posted wage growth at a five-year low.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"U.S. GDP Increased 3.4% in Third Quarter", 29 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The government reported strong economic growth the same month it reported weak hiring and falling wages.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next test of this gap comes at the midterm elections, five days away.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The government filed its own growth number on Thursday: gross domestic product rose at an annualized 3.4 percent in the third quarter, the fastest pace in a year, the Bureau of Economic Analysis said. That is the headline. The ledger underneath it is thinner.

Four weeks earlier, on October 2, the same government's Bureau of Labor Statistics had filed the quarter's labor numbers: 29,000 jobs added in September, well under the 90,000 economists expected, with July revised down to a net loss of 10,000 jobs. Wage growth in that report came in at a five-year low. The quarter that grew 3.4 percent is the same quarter that produced the weakest month of hiring and the weakest wage growth in five years — one government, two numbers, filed four weeks apart....

...(cont) Back up further, to August 26, and the gap gets a shape. A Groundwork Collaborative analysis of that month's GDP data found labor's share of national income — the slice that shows up as paychecks rather than profit — at 54.7 percent in the second quarter of 2026, the lowest share ever recorded by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. That reading covers the three months ending in June, not the quarter that just posted 3.4 percent growth. But it is the same ledger, kept by the same agency, and it says the same thing the September jobs report says: when the pie grows, the paycheck's cut of it does not grow with it.

The public noticed before the agencies finished filing. A Harris poll for The Guardian, released October 15, found nearly two-thirds of independents distrustful of the administration's handling of the economy. An AP poll taken the same week found that for about eight in ten respondents, the economy or the cost of living ranked as the top issue in how they will vote. Three in four said they were worried about a recession; six in ten said, wrongly, that the country is already in one.

That is the gap this ledger shows: a growth number stamped "fastest in a year" sitting on top of a wage number stamped "slowest in five," filed by the same government four weeks apart, read by two in three independents as a reason not to trust the people filing it.

"They want you to clap for the 3.4 percent and not notice the paycheck didn't move, hon — same government, same month, two different stories about the same quarter. When the slice going to wages hits a record low while the pie's getting bigger, that's not a glitch, that's where the money's actually going, and it ain't your kitchen table."

— Sal

"Look, 3.4 percent is 3.4 percent, that's a real number, a strong number — the wage stuff, the jobs stuff, those are lagging indicators, they catch up eventually, that's just how growth works, it trickles— did I say trickles? I meant, uh, it takes time. Give it a quarter. Two quarters. It'll show up. Probably."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~U.S. GDP Increased 3.4% in Third Quarter~~

AI companies' spending, not just consumers, drove the fastest growth in a year

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *17:10 EDT*

The economy grew 3.4 percent in the third quarter, the fastest pace in a year. Strong spending and growth contrast with the poor marks many voters are giving the economy.

US economy grew more than expected in 3rd quarter, government data shows

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *17:27 EDT*

The United States economy expanded at an annualized rate of 3.4% over the three months ending in September, according to a government report released on Thursday.

· Latest Data Shows Ultra-Rich Continue to Win While Working Class Gets Crushed in Trump's Economy *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· Disastrous Sign for GOP as Polls Show Independent Revolt Against Trump Economy *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· US Added Just 29,000 Jobs, Wage Growth Hit New 5-Year Low Last Month as Trump Economy Teeters *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Trump returns to Washington after midterms campaign blitz as new polls reveal voters's concern about US economy – live *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

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Trump's third rally in a state he carried by 18 points opened on culture war, not the economy.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



“Trump hammers culture war attacks on Andrews in final rally for Graham”, 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump's final rally for Senator Darline Graham opened with attacks on her opponent instead of the economy.

WHO GETS PAID. The rally buys Senator Graham a closing message; she holds the seat her late brother held, with the president's endorsement.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The vote is November 3. Fox News and the Cook Political Report both rate the seat a toss-up, and the president has now rallied there three times.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

South Carolina's safe Republican Senate seat died this week at the hands of its own pollsters, and was eulogized Thursday afternoon in Rock Hill, where the subject at the microphone was not money.

It was twenty-eight. It was born in 1998, the last year the state sent 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 was Lindsey Graham's; his sister, Darline Graham, holds it now, with the president's endorsement. For years nobody wrote anything about it, because there was nothing to write....

...(cont) The decline is in the paperwork. On September 23 the Cook Political Report shifted South Carolina toward the Democrats, the same notice that moved Kansas. On October 20 Cook moved the race again. On October 26 two Republican former governors of the state endorsed the Democrat, Dr. Annie Andrews. Then Fox News' own power rankings called the seat a toss-up, which is the sort of thing a family hears from the second opinion.

The president came three times. The third and final visit was Thursday, in Rock Hill, and The Hill counted a barrage of culture-war attacks on Dr. Andrews; Graham, the president said, is "running to save you from a radical left." A closing argument is the best thing a campaign has left. This one did not open on groceries, or rent, or what a hospital visit costs here.

The turn had shown up on October 5, as the race tightened, when the president began calling Dr. Andrews by a penny-ante nickname built out of a slur, posted it several times, and invoked Graham's late brother in the same breath.

The healthcare argument, such as it was, had been made back on August 26, when Graham attacked her opponent's support for what she called government-run healthcare and then told the story of her parents' early deaths. Observers could not agree on what the point was. The woman she is running against is a pediatrician.

So the economy was available. It is always available. It did not come up, and anybody who has worked a shift sick in this state knows that is not an oversight. It is a subject change, and the subject it changed away from is the shit people carry to the mailbox on the first of the month.

The seat is survived by a toss-up rating, two former governors, and eighteen points of 2024 margin that now sit in the archive like a folded flag. It was preceded in death by the notion that a late-October rally is a victory lap.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you vote on November 3, and that before you do you make somebody answer the question the last rally skipped: what a sick child costs in South Carolina, and who pays it.

🍺

“They had an eighteen-point state and they spent the last week of it on a nickname for a pediatrician. That tells you what came back in the numbers, and it tells you what they've got instead of a plan for your hospital bill — the closing pitch in August was that her folks died early and government healthcare is the danger. Nobody skips the economy in Rock Hill unless they already know what the economy did to the people standing there.”

— Sal

🚬

“Look, the president is talking about the issues South Carolinians actually care about, and if one of those issues happens to be what you call a slur — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. A toss-up rating is just Fox News selling rankings, and three rallies isn't panic, it's enthusiasm; you don't fly to Rock Hill for a seat you're losing, you fly there because the crowds are tremendous.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump carried South Carolina by 18 points; Fox News rated the seat a toss-up with a week left.* By Mort · the morning edition, 29 October 2026
- *America Next paid an adviser's firm $250,000 for canvassing and influencer marketing; his son heckled El-Sayed* By Ruth · the morning edition, 29 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

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*

Trump hammers culture war attacks on Andrews in final rally for Graham

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:55 EDT*

President Trump launched a barrage of culture war attacks Thursday against Democratic Senate nominee Annie Andrews during his third and final campaign rally for Sen. Darline Graham (R) in South Carolina. “Darline Graham has devoted her entire life to the people of this state, and now she's running to save you from a radical left...

Midterm elections live updates: Trump rallies voters in South Carolina

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *17:47 EDT*

Trump spoke at a campaign event in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

· Trump hurls anti-trans slurs at Graham's opponent as South Carolina race tightens *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Trump mocks Darline Graham Nordone’s Senate rival as Annie ‘Trannie’ Andrews *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Trump-Backed Darline Graham Bashes 'Government-Run Healthcare,' Glorifies Working While Sick *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

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THE REOPENED FILE

Trump revives the Omar probe Obama's FBI opened in 2016, calls her claim to constitutional rights "arrogance"

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"The week in whoppers: Obama cheers for Iranian victory, Ilhan Omar believes everyone is 'obsessed' with her, and more", 29 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told a Texas rally that a sitting member of Congress does not have constitutional rights.

WHO GETS PAID. The president's party, which gets a deportation case to run on five days before the election.

WHAT SLIPS. Whether a citizen keeps her citizenship now turns on a file the administration reopens at will, not on a charge in court.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, expect a quiet dismissal years from now: Castle Hills, Texas arrested a councilwoman over a petition fight in 2019, dropped the charge, lost at the Supreme Court in 2024, and paid $500,000 in 2025.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I keep the file itself on the desk, because it is the only party to this story with a continuous employment history.

All together now — from the top, in order, because the order is the argument. 2016: the FBI, then run by the Obama administration, opens an inquiry into whether Rep. Ilhan Omar married a man suspected of being her brother. The New York Times reported this week that current and former law enforcement officials said that inquiry found some evidence of a sham marriage. 2021: a U.S. attorney appointed by President Biden closes it. No charge filed, then or since....

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Here is where the paperwork outlasts the party that produced it. Fox News reported this week that nearly 40 House Democrats declined to sign the letter asking to end the probe. The file has now survived three administrations and about forty co-signers.

Which brings us to Texas, and to the clause I would like the class to read twice. At a rally, the president described a conversation: "She goes, 'I have constitutional rights.' The arrogance." All together now — the arrogance. The proposition on the floor is that a United States citizen, elected to the House, invoking the Bill of Rights, is being arrogant about it. I have read the file. The Constitution is not among the documents it disputes.

Fox's legal commentator filed the twist the same day: the Obama administration's DHS and FBI started it. That is offered as exoneration, and flatly stated it is a ten-year-old inquiry that produced no charge under two presidents, reopened by a third in the week before an election, now cited as evidence the third one is being reasonable. The New York Post spent the same day filing the congresswoman under people who believe everyone is obsessed with them, sixteen days after federal agents were inside her house.

Five days to the vote. The file is in excellent health.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

OBAMA'S FBI OPENED THE FILE IN 2016, A BIDEN APPOINTEE CLOSED IT IN 2021 WITHOUT A CHARGE, AND IT IS OPEN AGAIN THIS MONTH, NOW ON HER CHILDHOOD IMMIGRATION PAPERWORK. THAT IS NOT AN INVESTIGATION, IT IS A FILING CABINET WITH A DEPORTATION BOLTED TO THE SIDE, KEPT WARM FOR TEN YEARS UNTIL A PRESIDENT HAD A USE FOR IT. ONCE A CLOSED CASE REOPENS BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS IT OPEN, THE STANDARD STOPS BEING WHAT YOU DID AND BECOMES WHAT IS IN YOUR FILE, AND THE DOCUMENT UNDER REVIEW IS THE NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE IN THE MANILA ENVELOPE IN YOUR MOTHER'S HALL CLOSET, TYPED BY A CLERK WHOSE NAME NEITHER OF YOU EVER KNEW.

"They opened a file on this woman in 2016, closed it in 2021 with nothing in it, and dug it back up the week before an election — and now the defense is that Obama's FBI dug the hole first, like that makes the shovel legal. Then the president stands in Texas and calls a citizen saying "I have constitutional rights" arrogant, which is the con stated out loud: rights become a privilege you can be too uppity to claim. Nearly 40 House Democrats looked at that and decided the letter wasn't worth their signature, five days before the vote."

— Sal

"Look, the probe started under Obama, so if anybody's running a political investigation here it's the people now complaining about it — did I say political? That doesn't sound like me. Nobody is stripping anyone's rights, the president was commenting on a tone, and frankly if the paperwork is clean the paperwork is clean, which is why we're checking it for the third time in ten years."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Probe Obama opened in 2016, Biden's appointee closed in 2021, Trump reopened six days before the vote* By Mitch · the morning edition, 29 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

The week in whoppers: Obama cheers for Iranian victory, Ilhan Omar believes everyone is 'obsessed' with her, and more

New York Post RIGHT § *16:46 EDT*

Former President Barack Obama never stop glazing Iran; "Squad" Rep. Ilhan Omar believes that everyone is "obsessed" with her, and more.

Trump Suggests Ilhan Omar, a US Citizen, Doesn't Have Constitutional Rights

Truthout § *17:16 EDT*

"She goes, 'I have constitutional rights.' The arrogance," Trump said at a rally in Texas.

GREGG JARRETT: Obama attacks Trump over Omar probe but there's a big twist

Fox News RIGHT § *16:10 EDT*

Barack Obama's DHS and FBI investigated Ilhan Omar's alleged marriage fraud in 2016, finding evidence it was fraudulent, The New York Times reports.

· Trump's obsession with Ilhan Omar has reached a dangerous new level *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Trump 'border czar' says Ilhan Omar could be 'of course' denaturalized and deported *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

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

Justice Department's voter list, rejected in three courts, promoted to grand jury subpoenas five days before the election.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Washington state secretary of state fires back at DOJ over noncitizen voter claim: 'Profoundly disappointing'", 29 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department issued grand jury subpoenas to California local election officials in a widening voter-fraud investigation.

WHO GETS PAID. The administration gains the power to decide which mail ballots a county sets aside before anyone counts them.

WHAT SLIPS. County election officials lose the call on whose ballot gets counted; federal lawyers make it, using a list the states found errors in.

WHAT'S NEXT. If flagged lists decide which ballots are set aside, ballots get rejected by rule instead of by proof; that is what Texas got after 1 March 2022, when 12.4 percent of mail ballots were thrown out under a new ID rule, against 0.8 percent in 2020.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I asked a question last week and somebody answered it and I was satisfied, which with me is usually the first sign of trouble. The question was: when a court tells the lawyers no, what do the lawyers do next? The answer I got was, you appeal. I wrote it down — hold on, it's in the notebook, I've got the dog's shot record in the same pocket, she's overdue — here it is. "You appeal." So Wednesday I asked it again, and the answer came out a different shape. Wednesday the answer was, you subpoena.

Let me come at it from the other side, and I apologize for circling. Wednesday a federal judge in California turned down the Justice Department's request to set aside twenty thousand mail ballots the department says were likely cast by noncitizens. That's the ruling Truthout put under the headline "Our Democracy Is in Danger." Then, before that order was a day old, the New York Times reported the department had issued grand jury subpoenas to local election officials in the state, part of what the Times calls a widening effort to prove unsubstantiated claims about large numbers of illegal voters. The no came first. The subpoenas came after. Does the order of those two things change what the second one is?...

...(cont) Up in Washington State they got a version of the same ask. The department wanted Secretary of State Steve Hobbs to tell his election officials to set aside ballots for hundreds of people the federal government had identified as alleged noncitizens. Hobbs wrote back Wednesday — I've got his words here, give me a second — "Without individualized proof of ineligibility," he said, it would not be done, and he called the request "profoundly disappointing." His office went through the list and found several errors in it. That's his word, disappointing, not mine. The errors are the part I keep wanting to ask about.

There's a store on my corner, Marty's, and Marty keeps a list taped by the register, names of people whose checks came back on him. Short list, Marty's handwriting. Say I come in for cigars and my name's on it, spelled a little wrong, because Marty writes about the way Marty drives. Now, does Marty hand my check back because the list says so, or does he look at the check? I've always figured he looks at the check. He'd say, Lou, you're on here, let's find out how you got on here. What he wouldn't do is keep the list and start asking the stock boy questions under oath.

I should have been asking this in September. In September a whistleblower report said Homeland Security employees were told to pose as voters while searching state voter rolls, and that the searches likely violated state law and could wrongly flag citizens. On October 9 a federal judge ruled the department's policy of collecting unredacted state voter rolls to run them against a federal immigration database was unlawful — seventy-eight pages, privacy laws. On October 22 another federal judge found Homeland Security violated the Voting Rights Act by sending agents door to door asking people about their immigration status and whether they had voted. Three rulings. One list. If the list is the thing the courts keep sending back, what are the subpoenas collecting?

Former department officials told CBS this week that moves like these, this close to a vote, are uncharted waters — their phrase — and that they could influence politics. Forty years of neutrality, and the people who used to work there are the ones saying it on the record.

Oh — excuse me, before you go, I left my raincoat on your chair anyway. There's an election lawyer on Fox, J. Christian Adams, saying the SAVE database could clean these rolls up and that California and Washington still refuse to use it for verification. I believe him that they refuse. I just can't get the two pages to lie flat next to each other, because the October 9 ruling says running state voter rolls against that federal immigration database is the thing a judge called unlawful. So when the states say no to the database, are they refusing an offer, or are they obeying an order? Whichever it is, the subpoenas went out five days before the election, and the list still has the errors in it.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HANDED STATES A LIST OF NAMES AND ASKED THEM TO SET those ballots aside, and Washington's secretary of state went through the list and found errors in it. That isn't list maintenance, it's a federal agency deciding which envelopes get counted and then putting the county clerks who count them in front of a grand jury. Because the list came from the Justice Department, your county clerk has to treat it as more than a typo; because that clerk is now the one holding a grand jury subpoena, the careful move is to pull envelopes out of the stack instead of counting them, and somewhere in that pulled stack is the one with your signature on the back.

"They sold you a list of noncitizens on the voter rolls, and when Washington's own secretary of state sat down and went through it, he found errors in it — so the fix wasn't the list, the fix was grand jury subpoenas for county election officials five days before people vote. Three courts have now told this department its roll-hunting is unlawful and the subpoenas went out anyway. That's not an investigation anymore, that's a federal hand resting on the envelope with your signature on the back of it."
— Sal

"Look, the department is simply asking states to verify their rolls, which is not blocking anyone's ballot — did I say blocking? That doesn't sound like me. The SAVE database exists precisely so this gets settled, and California and Washington won't touch it, and if a judge called the roll collection unlawful, fine, that's one judge out of however many there are. The subpoenas are an entirely separate matter, they're routine, they go out all the time, which is exactly why you've never heard about them."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Group called the Department of Peace publishes names of 10,000 ICE and Border Patrol agents* By Mitch · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *Justice Department calls ballot counting disenfranchisement, loses its bid to stop the count six days before the vote.* By Lou · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *Minecraft billionaire lists $70 million mansion seventeen days after Newsom endorsed a measure cancelling the billionaire tax* By Sterling · the evening edition, 28 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Washington state secretary of state fires back at DOJ over noncitizen voter claim: 'Profoundly disappointing'
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:31 EDT*
Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs shot back at the Department of Justice (DOJ) for asking him to order his election officials to set aside ballots for hundreds of people the federal government identified as alleged non-U.S. citizens. In a Wednesday response to the DOJ's request, Hobbs said, "Without individualized proof of...

DOJ vets say politically charged moves close to election violate norms
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:40 EDT*
Former DOJ officials say Attorney General Todd Blanche's Justice Department has entered uncharted waters in ways that could influence politics.

"Our Democracy Is in Danger" — Judge Rejects Trump Bid to Block 20K Votes in CA
Truthout § *15:14 EDT*
Washington State officials also found several errors in a list of voters the White House has deemed ineligible.

> ~~Trump Administration Pressures California With Expanded Voter Fraud Investigation~~
> Trump DOJ subpoenas California election officials over unsubstantiated fraud claims
> *The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *17:52 EDT*
> The department has issued grand jury subpoenas to local election officials as part of a widening effort to prove unsubstantiated claims about large numbers of illegal voters in the state.

Election expert sounds alarm on how noncitizens are landing on voter rolls
Fox News RIGHT § *14:41 EDT*
J. Christian Adams says the SAVE database could help clean voter rolls, but California and Washington still refuse to use it for verification.

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

· Judge Blocks Error-Riddled Effort by Trump DHS to Crack Down on Vanishingly Rare Voting by Noncitizens *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· Whistleblower says DHS voter probe might violate state laws, wrongly target US citizens *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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

ZERO BALLOTS

Sullivan tells Alaskans to mark Decoy Dan, the candidate at the center of Thursday's grand jury subpoenas.

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

“Mary Peltola trashes New York Times report on Dan Sullivan plot, calling it a 'distraction'”, 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal prosecutors, House Republicans and Alaska's governor opened investigations into Mary Peltola's campaign days before the election.

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Dan Sullivan, whose seat the suit, the subpoenas and the ballot instruction protect.

WHAT SLIPS. A federal suit asks a court to withhold certification only if the Republican loses, moving the last word from voters to a judge.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the case stays open past Tuesday, delay decides it; that is what the president's election order got after 25 March 2025: courts struck parts of it fifteen months later.

You will have read that the Justice Department prepares dozens of fresh grand jury subpoenas on Thursday, and you will have taken that for a development. Take it again. On 23 October that same Department asked a federal court to block certification of Alaska's Senate result — if the Republican incumbent loses. Only then. Senator Tillis found the outcome "appropriate to take a look at" on Sunday the 25th. By Thursday Chairman Comer had an Oversight investigation open and Governor Dunleavy was on television worrying aloud about a "cover-up". Four instruments in six days, and not a ballot among them. And Senator Sullivan, whose seat this grubby apparatus guards — what does he ask of Alaskans? That they decline to rank Mary Peltola, and fill in the bubble for the retired teacher whom a progressive super PAC was funding as of 19 October. Do mind what that instruction does. A ranked ballot with no surviving choice left on it is exhausted: set aside, unread, in the round that decides. He is not asking them for a vote. He is asking them for … a bubble they do not get back. Peltola calls the report a "distraction". CBS News staff met it with "significant resistance". Tuesday counts what is left.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKED A FEDERAL COURT TO BLOCK CERTIFICATION OF Alaska's Senate result only if Sullivan loses, and on Thursday it readied dozens of grand jury subpoenas while the House Oversight chairman opened his own probe and the governor went on television about a cover-up. That is not an investigation into a ballot, it is an insurance policy on a seat, filed in advance and paid for by the people voting. Sullivan asked his own supporters to leave Peltola unranked, a ballot with nobody left on it stops counting after the first round, so the seat gets settled by the ballots that still count, and that is how a senator six days from an election empties the second bubble on the ballot sitting on your table.

Noon, and the third fox walks the lane. A man takes down the lamp.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

“So the lawsuit only bites if their guy loses, the subpoenas land six days out, and the same senator who wants a grand jury on Decoy Dan wants you to fill in Decoy Dan's bubble yourself. Four investigations, a governor hunting a cover-up, a House chairman with a letter, and not one actual vote counted by any of them. They're not fighting over a ballot, they're pre-writing the result — and Alaskans vote in six days.”
— Sal

“Nobody is blocking any election — the Department simply asked the court to look at certification, conditionally, and conditional is not the same as, I mean, the condition happens to be a loss, but that is the Times' framing, not mine. Did I say framing? That does not sound like me. Look, the senator is just helping voters understand a confusing ballot, which is why he is telling them to fill in the bubble for the man his party wants subpoenaed.”
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Governor opens criminal probe into the one Alaska candidate whose win a federal suit seeks to void* By Sterling · the morning edition, 29 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Mary Peltola trashes New York Times report on Dan Sullivan plot, calling it a 'distraction'

Fox News RIGHT § *16:00 EDT*

Alaskan Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola dismissed The New York Times' investigation into her campaign Wednesday as a "distraction" to sell papers.

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

DOJ ramps up criminal probe into Alaska's 'Decoy Dan', preps grand jury subpoenas

New York Post RIGHT § *16:53 EDT*

The Justice Department has dramatically escalated its investigation into the Alaska Senate race and will issue dozens of new grand jury subpoenas on Thursday, according to people familiar with the matter.

Alaska governor raises concern of 'cover-up' in Mary Peltola ballot scandal

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:50 EDT*

Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R-AK) said Thursday that he was concerned that Democrat Mary Peltola's Senate campaign was engaged in a “cover-up” over its alleged scheme to prop up a spoiler candidate to confuse voters in the Alaska race.

~~Sen. Dan Sullivan tells Alaskans not to rank Mary Peltola but include 'Decoy Dan' on ballot~~

Sullivan is urging Republicans to game Alaska's ranked-choice ballot to beat Peltola

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:04 EDT*

Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) has directed Republican voters supporting him in Alaska's Senate race not to rank Democratic candidate Mary Peltola on the ranked choice ballot. Alaska voters will see all four candidates plus a write-in option on the Senate ballot.

House GOP launches probe into Peltola campaign ballot stacking allegations

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *14:20 EDT*

House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) launched an investigation Thursday into allegations that Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign sought to recruit candidates to peel votes away from incumbent Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) in the state's Senate race. A New York Times report found that Peltola's campaign worked with national…

Bari Weiss faced 'significant resistance' from CBS News staffers about Alaska ballot scandal, insiders say

Fox News RIGHT § *15:51 EDT*

CBS News editor-in-chief Bari Weiss faced resistance among staff at a meeting when talking about the New York Times' report on the Alaska ballot scandal.

DoJ reportedly issues subpoenas over same name Alaska candidates

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:29 EDT*

Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign allegedly collaborated with party operatives to confuse voters in midterms The US justice department on Thursday is reported to have issued subpoenas in response to a report that the Alaska Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign collaborated with party operatives to get a challenger with the same name as the…

· Super PAC propping up 'Decoy Dan' Sullivan in Alaska exposed for getting Dem donor cash *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Tillis says it's 'appropriate to take a look at' Alaska ballot with two Dan Sullivans running *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*

· Alaska ballot situation puts three Republicans against one Democrat in two statewide races *from the morgue, 28 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.

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*

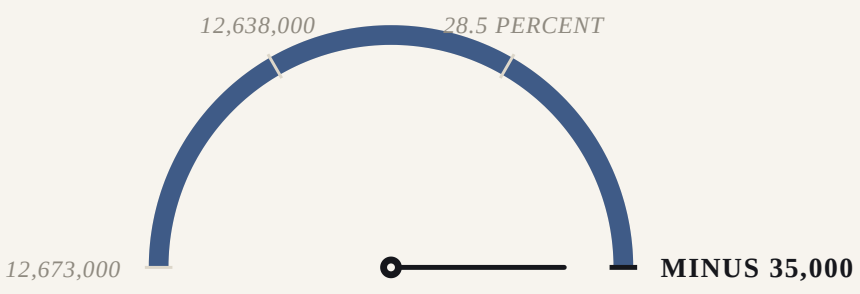
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§76 — 29 OCTOBER 2026

On roaring back

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



MINUS 35,000

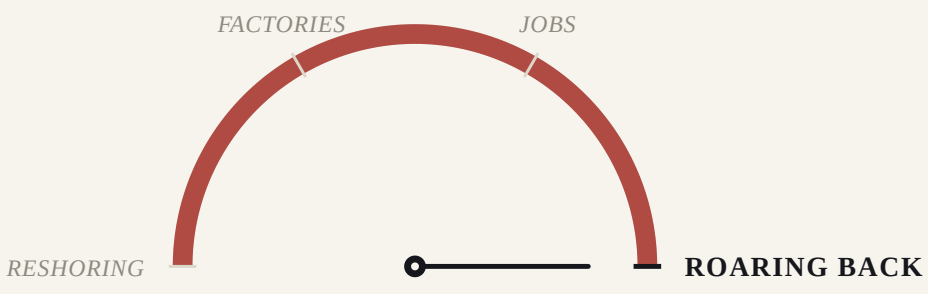
How far back. Manufacturing employment was 12,673,000 in January 2025 and 12,638,000 in August 2026 — 35,000 fewer than at the inauguration, after the recovery from December [1]. The pipeline for future factory jobs is thinner: spending on manufacturing construction ran at an annual rate of $237.5 billion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