The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

» FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2026 – THE MORNING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Called out by name for trying to buy Texas, Musk raises his spending to $445 million.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Set the two weeks on the table and the numbers settle by themselves, hon, before anyone says a word about them.

On September 25th, the Supreme Court let the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls for the final ninety days before the election, while a student ID law in New Hampshire lost its chance twelve days out. Ninety days to clean a list. Twelve to prove a name belongs on it. The filing on that gap already ran once, so it stays on the table here, not the front of the ledger.

On October 12th, the tally for Elon Musk's midterm giving came back at $276 million, "absolutely insane" was the word used at the time. The next day, October 13th, it closed at $366 million, the largest single total in the cycle, ahead of his own 2024 account to Donald Trump.

On October 24th, at a rally in Austin, Senate candidate James Talarico stood in front of his own alma mater and said the quiet part: "Texas is not for sale," naming the money behind his opponent, Ken Paxton, by its source.

On October 27th, a newspaper editorial called him "Exhibit A" for billion-

... Continued on Page P.121

THE WORD

$7.6 – 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 gyring. It's roaring back, when does it get back to January?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W76

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE LEDGER FILES AFTER THE VOTE

In the last nineteen days of the Cornyn–Paxton runoff, the law gave a quarterly-filing super PAC one day to report an ad and until fifty days after the vote to report the money it raised in those nineteen days.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Asked how it identified suspects, Justice Department responds with criminal subpoenas instead of an answer.

BY LOU
One More Question

You're sharp people, so I'll just say it: a smart operation doesn't make the mistake that's sitting on page nine today, the one where twenty thousand names went from a civil list to a grand jury in a single day.

I write things down the way I do everything else, which is badly, on the backs of other things — this one's on an envelope that's also got the dog's next vaccination date on it, so forgive the handwriting. Back on September 15th, somebody inside the effort to find noncitizens on the voter rolls told a reporter the whole project might be breaking state law, might be catching citizens who had every right to be on that roll. A whistleblower, the piece called them. I wrote down the date and the word "whistleblower" and moved on, because that's what you do with September.

Two weeks after that, October 1st, I read that the people whose actual job was chasing foreign interference and domestic threats to the vote — that effort got closed down. I couldn't find anywhere I can find in what I've got, just closed, the same month the noncitizen project was getting all the attention instead. So here's a question I keep circling back to, and I apologize for it:

... Continued on Page A225

Alaska's four agency probe into a same-name candidate has produced zero charges, one on air clarification: not illegal.

BY MITCH
The Interstate

You will want the order of operations, so here it is, clause by clause, all together now.

On 23 October the Justice Department asked a federal court to block certification of Alaska's Senate result — but only if Senator Dan Sullivan, the Republican incumbent, loses. Read the conditional again. The lawsuit does not ask a court to guard an election. It asks a court to guard a seat.

By 29 October the government followed its own filing with a new wave of subpoenas, CBS News reported, the latest step in what it called an "ongoing criminal investigation." No indictment has attached itself to that word yet.

Follow the document: still no ballot in dispute.

The one Oversight Committee Democrat quoted on the record, Rep. Robert Garcia, reaffirmed his support for Senate candidate Mary Peltola. He acknowledged, The Hill reported, that the state should investigate, and he deferred the next steps to Alaska.

Fox News spent Thursday recirculating an old Peltola quote, resurfaced to demand that someone "turn yourself in." That instruction remains unfilled.

... Continued on Page B47

President cancels two rallies, upgrades to a 19 state phone sprint, warns voters Democratic wins mean less federal help.

BY MORT
The Roseville Bureau

The retail campaign rally died this week in nineteen states at once, survived by a conference-call format and a plainly stated threat of withheld federal aid.

By Thursday the format had nothing left to open with anywhere. ABC News and RTÉ each reported the same fact: the president canceled his last two in-person rallies, in Iowa and Kansas. The Republican National Committee did not call this a retreat; it called the replacement a seventy-two-hour sprint — tele-rallies across nineteen states, the president's voice carried by phone line into rooms his motorcade will not reach before Tuesday, voters who, the committee said, "want to hear from President Trump before Election Day."

What they will hear, ABC News reported the same day, is a price. The president has been signaling to the same states that federal help will be "far less likely" if their voters elect Democrats. The rally died; the ask survived it, cheaper to produce and harder to walk back, because nobody can clip a phone call into a thirty-second attack ad.

... Continued on Page B47

Trumps own county votes 6–0 against the data centers he calls the cure for backwards and poor.'

BY LOU
One More Question

You're smart enough to count to six, and six is the whole test this week — six is how many commissioners in Palm Beach County voted, unanimously, to block the very thing the president says is the alternative to towns turning 'backwards and poor.'

I wrote something down, hold on — I know I have it here — a column in Fox News, October 30th, a man named Chris Johnson, writing that the data center boom is rescuing forgotten towns, Ellendale, North Dakota, all the way to Loudoun County, Virginia — his sentence, not mine — "billions in tax revenue and lower property taxes." Both claims, one breath. I read it three times to make sure I had it right.

Then I got in the car — the one with the belt that squeals on cold mornings — and I sat there a minute with the glovebox open, because I keep clippings in there too, the ones that don't fit in my jacket, and I found this one: a Gallup poll, reported September 4th, that found Americans would rather live next to a nuclear power plant than next to a data center. Not by a little. By more than twenty points. I don't know what you do with a number like that

... Continued on Page F130

Billionaires spend $333 million fighting a wealth tax the Times just called 'easier said than done.'

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 23rd, the Guardian's rundown of this fall's 145 statewide ballot measures listed one line without a name or a number: "a novel wealth tax on California's billionaires," filed alongside Alabama's question about the national anthem in schools.

Four days later, on October 27th, the name and the number arrived. Common Dreams reported that Proposition 40, a 5 percent tax on billionaire wealth, had drawn $333 million in spending from the billionaires fighting to defeat it. One Golden State tech billionaire suggested he would not leave California even if voters passed it. Senator Bernie Sanders asked the obvious question back at them: "Against what? Homelessness? No. Cancer? No. Child poverty? No."

By October 30th, the same week carried a second entry. The New York Times ran a piece headlined "Tax the Rich? Easier Said Than Done," reporting that the economist Natasha Sarin believes there are better ways to make billionaires pay than a direct wealth tax. The Times did not say what those ways are.

... Continued on Page F130

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

BY THE EDITORS
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.*

GAM *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 shove: 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

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

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

— Sal

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

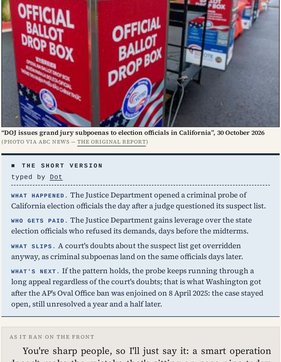
— Chip

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Asked how it identified suspects, Justice Department responds with criminal subpoenas instead of an answer.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"DOJ issues grand jury subpoenas to election officials in California", 30 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department opened a criminal probe of California election officials the day after a judge questioned its suspect list.

WHO GETS PAID. The Justice Department gains leverage over the state election officials who refused its demands, days before the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. A court's doubts about the suspect list get overridden anyway, as criminal subpoenas land on the same officials days later.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the probe keeps running through a long appeal regardless of the court's doubts; that is what Washington got after the AP's Oval Office ban was enjoined on 8 April 2025: the case stayed open, still unresolved a year and a half later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You're sharp people, so I'll just say it: a smart operation doesn't make the mistake that's sitting on page nine today, the one where twenty thousand names went from a civil list to a grand jury in a single day.

I write things down the way I do everything else, which is badly, on the backs of other things — this one's on an envelope that's also got the dog's next vaccination date on it, so forgive the handwriting. Back on September 15th, somebody inside the effort to find noncitizens on the voter rolls told a reporter the whole project might be breaking state law, might be catching citizens who had every right to be on that roll. A whistleblower, the piece called them. I wrote down the date and the word "whistleblower" and moved on, because that's what you do with September....

...(cont) Two weeks after that, October 1st, I read that the people whose actual job was chasing foreign interference and domestic threats to the vote — that effort got closed down. Not reassigned anywhere I can find in what I've got, just closed, the same month the noncitizen project was getting all the attention instead. So here's a question I keep circling back to, and I apologize for it: how many investigators does that foreign-interference unit still have, the one that shut down October 1st? I don't have the number. I don't think anybody's printed it.

October 9th, a federal judge said no to the method — the collecting of state voter rolls the way the department was doing it. October 22nd, a federal judge said no again, to a related piece of the same effort, and the order itself described what it was chasing, noncitizen voting, as vanishingly rare to begin with. I don't know if that's the same judge from the 9th or a different one — I don't have a name on this page, so I won't guess.

Same week, the secretary of state up in Washington State put out a statement calling the department's list "profoundly disappointing," on account of the errors their own office found just checking it. I wrote that phrase down because I liked it, and because I don't get to use "profoundly disappointing" about my own work without somebody taking it personally.

Monday the 26th, the president posted that anybody who reports voter fraud, past elections or the one coming up, gets a million dollars, paid out once there's an arrest and a conviction. I wrote the number down. A million dollars is real. A conviction is a thing that has to happen first.

I wrote the question down word for word. I haven't found the answer anywhere in what I've got.

And the very next day, the department didn't answer it. It sent grand jury subpoenas to the same election officials, over the same list, which means the civil demand a judge had just finished doubting got promoted overnight into a criminal one.

I'll tell you what I do when the reader at the toll plaza flags my car for a plate that isn't mine. I don't go argue with the reader. I go find out whose plate it actually is before anybody gets a bill. I don't know if that's how it works over there.

Actually — hold on, one more thing before you go. Of the people on that list, the ones the department is now investigating criminally instead of civilly, how many have been charged with anything — out of the twenty thousand?

"They didn't answer the judge's question about how they built that suspect list — they just pointed a grand jury at the same officials who wouldn't go along with it. That's not an investigation, that's a bill for refusing to flag twenty thousand ballots nobody's proven belong to noncitizens. Five days out from an election, that's the message, and it's aimed at anybody still counting votes the department doesn't like."
— Sal

"Look, prosecutors follow the evidence, that's all this is, a civil matter that just happened to need a grand jury — twenty thousand questionable registrations is twenty thousand too many to ignore. And a judge asking how they identified suspects doesn't mean the identification was wrong, it just means — well, it means the judge wanted to know how they did it, which, okay, is usually the question you ask when something's wrong. Did I say that? Strike that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Justice Department's voter list, rejected in three courts, promoted to grand jury subpoenas five days before the election.* By Lou · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
— *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

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** *CNN', 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*

DOJ issues grand jury subpoenas to election officials in California
ABC News | MAINSTREAM | 22:01 EDT

DOJ issues grand jury subpoenas to local election officials in California as part of its investigation into the state's voter rolls, multiple sources told ABC News.

~~Criminal probe launched into alleged noncitizen voting in California~~

DOJ subpoenas California election officials days after a judge challenged its method for identifying alleged noncitizens
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | 20:17 EDT

The subpoenas come just a day after a federal judge called into question the process the Trump administration used to identify alleged noncitizens.

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** *CNN', 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*

DOJ subpoenas California election officials in voter rolls investigation: Report
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | 19:16 EDT

The Department of Justice has reportedly subpoenaed California election officials who have refused to set aside mail-in ballots associated with up to 20,000 suspected noncitizens. The move comes a day after a Clinton-appointed federal judge denied the DOJ's bid to prohibit California from counting ballots that belong to voters whose...

· Trump issues $1m reward for reporting voter fraud in past or upcoming elections *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

· Trump dangles $1m reward for reporting voter fraud in past or upcoming elections *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

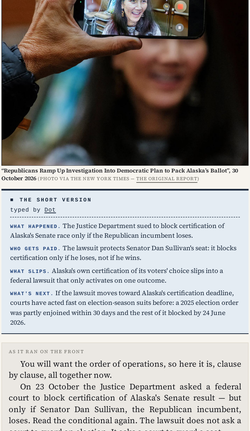
· Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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.

ZERO BALLOTS

Alaska's four-agency probe into a same-name candidate has produced zero charges, one on-air clarification: not illegal.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Republicans Ramp Up Investigation Into Democratic Plan to Pack Alaska's Ballot", 30 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by bot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department sued to block certification of Alaska's Senate race only if the Republican incumbent loses.

WHO GETS PAID. The lawsuit protects Senator Dan Sullivan's seat: it blocks certification only if he loses, not if he wins.

WHAT SLIPS. Alaska's own certification of its voters' choice slips into a federal lawsuit that only activates on one outcome.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the lawsuit moves toward Alaska's certification deadline, courts have acted fast on election-season suits before: a 2025 election order was partly enjoined within 30 days and the rest of it blocked by 24 June 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You will want the order of operations, so here it is, clause by clause, all together now.

On 23 October the Justice Department asked a federal court to block certification of Alaska's Senate result — but only if Senator Dan Sullivan, the Republican incumbent, loses. Read the conditional again. The lawsuit does not ask a court to guard an election. It asks a court to guard a seat....

...(cont) By 29 October the Department followed its own filing with a new wave of subpoenas, CBS News reported, the latest step in what it called an "ongoing criminal investigation." No indictment has attached itself to that word yet.

Follow the document: still no ballot in dispute.

The one Oversight Committee Democrat quoted on the record, Rep. Robert Garcia, reaffirmed his support for Senate candidate Mary Peltola. He acknowledged, The Hill reported, that the state should investigate, and he deferred the next steps to Alaska.

Fox News spent Thursday recirculating an old Peltola quote, resurfaced to demand that someone "turn yourself in." That instruction remains unfilled.

Then came the document that actually answers the question the week's reporting had been circling. All together now: the CBS headline is phrased as a question — "Is it legal to recruit a candidate with the same name as one's opponent?" — and CBS's own legal analyst, Jessica Levinson, went on air and answered it.

So here is the filing clause by clause, fully assembled: a conditional lawsuit, a new wave of subpoenas, a House committee, a state inquiry, a recycled quote demanding a confession, and a legal analyst explaining that none was owed. Zero ballots. Zero charges. One government, working very hard to investigate a thing its own television coverage just told you is legal.

★ FROM THE CORNER ★
DUTCH

A Justice Department lawsuit blocks certification only if the Republican loses, backed by House subpoenas, a state probe, and a CBS analyst's on-air ruling that none of it breaks the law. That is not a fraud investigation, it is an insurance rider on one incumbent's seat, written in subpoenas instead of premiums. Because the suit only fires on a loss, certification waits on the outcome before it waits on the count; because it waits on the outcome, your ballot clears a courtroom before it clears Juneau; dig the "I Voted" sticker out of your coat next week and it will have outlasted Washington's willingness to say who won.

"They sued to stop a certification that only triggers if their guy loses, then spent a week subpoenaing people into legal bills over a tactic their own cable news just said is perfectly legal. That's not an investigation, that's a contingency plan dressed up in grand jury paper. The seat stays theirs either the voters pick it or the courts hold the result hostage until they do."
— *Sal*

"Look, when two candidates share a name, voters deserve clarity, that's just good governance, nothing partisan about it. And sure, the lawsuit technically only blocks certification if the Republican loses, but that's because — well, that's just how the filing happened to be drafted, it's not like anyone planned it that way. Did I say planned? I meant drafted. Totally different word."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Bolsonaro loses Brazil's election, flees to US with Trump's help, declares himself its leader.* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *Sullivan tells Alaskans to mark Decoy Dan, the candidate at the center of Thursday's grand jury subpoenas.* By Sterling · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Ibid. 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 (Hiscocke memo)*

DOJ issues new subpoenas in Alaska Senate probe
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *19:52 EDT*

The Justice Department has begun issuing a new wave of subpoenas stemming from an ongoing criminal investigation into Alaska's U.S. Senate race, multiple sources confirmed to CBS News.

Is it legal to recruit a candidate with the same name as one's opponent?
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *21:00 EDT*

Alaska's governor ordered a new investigation into the alleged plot to siphon votes away from Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan, as the Justice Department issued new subpoenas in the case. CBS News legal analyst Jessica Levinson has more.

~~Republicans Ramp Up Investigation Into Democratic Plan to Pack Alaska's Ballot~~
DOJ, House GOP and Alaska now probe one campaign tactic.
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *22:18 EDT*

The Justice Department issued subpoenas, a House oversight committee sought interviews and the state opened its own inquiry into a Democratic plan to recruit a spoiler into a Senate race.

Resurfaced Peltola 'criminal offense' quote comes back to haunt her after explosive report: 'Turn yourself in'
Fox News | RIGHT | *04:00 EDT*

Mary Peltola faces social media criticism after a resurfaced quote clashes with a New York Times report on spoiler candidates in the Alaska Senate race.

~~Alaska governor: Election certification 'could be stopped' due to Peltola probe~~
Alaska's Republican governor threatens to halt certification over a probe into his own party's opponent
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *20:44 EDT*

Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R) suggested Thursday his state's midterm election certification process may be "stopped or changed" due to its investigation into ballot stacking allegations against Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola. NewsNation's Blake Burman asked Dunleavy about the state's probe into Peltola, which the governor...

House Oversight Democrat maintains support for Peltola, defers to Alaska for next steps
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *19:45 EDT*

Editor's Note — This article was updated to more accurately reflect Garcia's comments from his CNN interview. Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Calif) reaffirmed his support Thursday for Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola after the House Oversight Committee announced a probe into ballot stacking allegations against her, though he acknowledged...

· DOJ sues to block certification of Alaska Senate results if Republican incumbent loses *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Alaska ballot situation puts three Republicans against one Democrat in two statewide races *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Senate braces for nasty fight over seating Peltola after Alaska Senate race *from the morgue, 27 Oct 2026*

· Senate braces for nasty fight over seating Peltola in Alaska Senate seat *from the morgue, 27 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.

LAST RALLY

President cancels two rallies, upgrades to a 19-state phone sprint, warns voters Democratic wins mean less federal help.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Midterm elections live updates: Trump cancels weekend rallies in Iowa and Kansas", 30 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by bot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump canceled his last two in-person midterm rallies and replaced them with tele-rallies across 19 states this week.

WHO GETS PAID. The Republican Party and its swing-state candidates gain the leverage: a vote against them now carries a stated federal-aid penalty.

WHAT SLIPS. The idea that federal aid is handed out without regard to which party a state voted for starts to slip here.

WHAT'S NEXT. The receipts show no earlier case of a president this explicitly tying federal aid to a state's vote; what is certain is the calendar, with Election Day three days away on November 3.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The retail campaign rally died this week in nineteen states at once, survived by a conference-call format and a plainly stated threat of withheld federal aid.

By Thursday the format had nothing left to open with anywhere. ABC News and RTÉ each reported the same fact: the president canceled his last two in-person rallies, in Iowa and Kansas. The Republican National Committee did not call this a retreat; it called the replacement a seventy-two-hour sprint — tele-rallies across nineteen states, the president's voice carried by phone line into rooms his motorcade will not reach before Tuesday, voters who, the committee said, "want to hear from President Trump before Election Day."…

…(cont) What they will hear, ABC News reported the same day, is a price. The president has been signaling to the same states that federal help will be "far less likely" if their voters elect Democrats. The rally died; the ask survived it, cheaper to produce and harder to walk back, because nobody can clip a phone call into a thirty-second attack ad.

The threat did not arrive alone. On Monday the president offered a $1 million reward, paid on arrest and conviction, for reports of voter fraud in this election and past ones. On Tuesday the advocacy group Demand Justice filed that 53 of 60 battleground House and Senate races sit in districts or states with at least one Trump-appointed, election-denying judge on the bench. In August the Supreme Court had cleared ground for the fight, lifting an injunction on the president's mail-in-voting order 6 to 3. And in Texas, campaigning for other Republicans, the president touted the oil prices he once predicted a war with Iran would bring — "I knew that oil would go up" — while on a nearby tarmac, before his own flight to Michigan, the vice president was asked about the president calling that state's Democratic Senate candidate a "jihadist" and responded to the question.

None of this is bunk; all of it is dated, filed, and on the record before the polls open. The retail rally is survived by a phone line, a bounty, and a bench. It was preceded in death by the economy, as a thing a campaign was still willing to run on. In lieu of flowers, count the days left, and vote anyway.

FROM THE CORNER OF DUTCH

The president canceled his last two in-person rallies and let the Republican National Committee replace them with tele-rallies in nineteen states, the same week he told voters federal help would be far less likely if they elected Democrats. That isn't a scheduling efficiency, it's the stump speech learning to work a phone bank it used to need a stage and a rope line to reach. First the rally stops showing up at the fairground your county has hosted it at for years, then the same message arrives instead on the house phone, the one with your name on the account, and if you don't answer it the way they want, the federal help that was never promised to begin with gets a little less likely starting the Wednesday after you vote.

"They can't fill a room anymore so they're calling your house instead, and the message on the line is the same either way: vote our way or the help doesn't come. That's not a rally schedule, that's a shakedown with a seventy-two-hour deadline. Notice what else landed the same week — a million-dollar fraud bounty and a bench stacked 53 out of 60 — they're not leaving this one to the voters."
— *Sal*

"Tele-rallies are just smart scheduling, more states, more voters reached, nobody's losing anything by not getting a motorcade through their town. And the federal-aid line, that's just pointing out elections have consequences, which — I mean, that's just true, that's not a threat, that's — okay, hearing it read back, that one's a little rough."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump's third rally in a state he carried by 18 points opened on culture war, not the economy*; By Mort · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Bait: **Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *MidState Elections, 2026-special election tracking*

Midterm elections live updates: Trump cancels weekend rallies in Iowa and Kansas

ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *05:07 EDT*

President Donald Trump will hold tele-rallies in two key states instead of holding in-person ones as previously announced.

Election-Denying Trump Judges Preside Over Nearly Every Battleground Midterm Race: Analysis

Common Dreams | *10:52 EDT*

If the Trump administration decides to challenge the outcome of any of the dozens of battleground contests in next week's midterms, there's a significant chance that one of the president's handpicked, election-denying judges will oversee the case. That's according to a report published Tuesday by the advocacy group Demand Justice, which…

Bait: **Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *MidState Elections, 2026-special election tracking*

Trump scraps last two election rallies ahead of midterms

RTÉ | MAINSTREAM | *20:01 EDT*

US President Donald Trump is scrapping two of his last midterm election rallies, his Republican Party said.

Trump to join tele-rallies 19 states after midterm event cancellations

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *21:02 EDT*

The Republican National Committee (RNC) said Thursday that President Trump will appear in tele-rallies across 19 states before Election Day, an announcement which followed his two in-person event cancellations in Iowa and Kansas "Voters across the country want to hear from President Trump before Election Day, and this 72-hour sprint will…

Vote Republican, or else: How Trump is dangling government help on the campaign trail

ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *02:43 EDT*

President Donald Trump is signaling to states that his administration may be far less likely to help if their voters put Democrats in power on Election Day

· Trump dangles $1m reward for reporting voter fraud in past or upcoming elections *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

· Trump, campaigning in Texas for Republicans, touts Iran war and '51st state' Venezuela: 'I knew that oil would go up' – live *from the morgue, 27 Oct 2026*

· Trump's Contested Order to Restrict Mail-In Voting Could Disenfranchise Millions: Ari Berman *from the morgue, 26 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.

Trump's own county votes 6-0 against the data centers he calls the cure for 'backwards and poor.'

By **LOU**
ONE MORE QUESTION



"CHRIS JOHNSON: The data center boom is rescuing forgotten American towns", 30 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Palm Beach County, home to Mar-a-Lago, passed a moratorium blocking large data centers from the area.

WHO GETS PAID. Data-center developers and the tech industry are the ones counting on towns to accept the projects op-eds call a rescue.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If more counties pass bans like Palm Beach's, state preemption could follow; that is what Texas got after Denton's 2014 fracking ban, overturned by a state law barring cities from regulating oil and gas within 195 days.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You're smart enough to count to six, and six is the whole test this week — six is how many commissioners in Palm Beach County voted, unanimously, to block the very thing the president says is the alternative to towns turning 'backwards and poor.'

I wrote something down, hold on — I know I have it here — a column in Fox News, October 30th, a man named Chris Johnson, writing that the data center boom is rescuing forgotten towns, Ellendale, North Dakota, all the way to Loudoun County, Virginia — his sentence, not mine — 'billions in tax revenue and lower property taxes.' Both claims, one breath. I read it three times to make sure I had it right....

...(cont) Then I got in the car — the one with the belt that squeals on cold mornings — and I sat there a minute with the glovebox open, because I keep clippings in there too, the ones that don't fit in my jacket, and I found this one: a Gallup poll, reported September 4th, that found Americans would rather live next to a nuclear power plant than next to a data center. Not by a little. By more than twenty points. I don't know what you do with a number like that except write it down twice, which I did.

So here's a question for you, and I think you can answer it from what's already on the page: if the boom is rescuing towns, why would a Gallup poll find people would rather take the reactor?

I kept going. That's their sentence. The thing that thinks against the building that houses it, and the building is losing.

Then there's the other column, the New York Post, October 29th, 'build, baby, build,' it says, measuring us against the United Kingdom, like the UK is the warning and we still have time. I don't know the UK well enough to argue with that part. I just know what's in my own glovebox.

And the president — I had this on a torn corner, August 31st, a social media post — warned towns that refuse will end up worse off. He used two specific words for it. I'm not going to use them yet. I wrote them down separate, on their own line, for later.

Here's where I get stuck, and maybe you won't — Palm Beach County is the president's own county. Mar-a-Lago sits in it. Six commissioners, zero dissents, a one-year moratorium on anything over fifty megawatts, passed September 25th. Not a poll this time. A vote. On the record. By his own neighbors.

Oh — before you go — one more thing, because I almost forgot I had it, right here, under the Fox piece, in my own handwriting even: if the towns that take the deal are the ones getting rescued, what do you call the county that voted no and happens to be his?

I don't have a word for it. I only have the two he gave me: backwards and poor.

"They tell you data centers are gonna save your town, then the guy with the biggest driveway in Florida votes six-nothing to keep one out of his own backyard. Call it what it is — a sales pitch for a house the salesman never buys himself."

— *Sal*

"Look, Palm Beach isn't rejecting data centers, it's just pausing for "appropriate siting review" — totally different thing, very standard, very technical. And it's only a one-year moratorium, not a ban, so — okay, a year is basically a ban, forget I said that."

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Data centers, AI, and the 2026 elections. Ft. Paris Marx.

Blood in the Machine § *05:02 EDT*

Plus, three things we should be watching as Americans head to the polls on Tuesday.

CHRIS JOHNSON: The data center boom is rescuing forgotten American towns

Fox News RIGHT § *05:00 EDT*

From Ellendale, North Dakota, to Loudoun County, Virginia, data centers are transforming communities with billions in tax revenue and lower property taxes.

Shunning AI data centers will cost the US far more than embracing them. Just look at the UK.

New York Post RIGHT § *19:26 EDT*

When it comes to AI data centers, I believe that the right policy, give or take a few caveats, is simple: build, baby, build.

· 'Maybe Trump's Neighbors Know Something He Doesn't': Palm Beach County, Home to Mar-a-Lago, Passes Data Center Moratorium *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Panic! At the Data Center: Americans would rather live next to a nuke than an AI facility *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Out-of-Touch Trump Says Communities That Reject AI Data Centers Will Be 'Backwards and Poor' *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Data center developers should have known how much Americans love their land *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.

Billionaires spend $333 million fighting a wealth tax the Times just called "easier said than done."

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



“Xavier Becerra didn’t even wait until the election to ogle new taxes”, 30 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. California billionaires fund the campaign against a ballot measure taxing their own fortunes.

WHO GETS PAID. California's wealthiest residents keep their fortunes untaxed if the opposition campaign succeeds.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters' chance to weigh the tax on its merits slips under a one-sided spending flood.

WHAT'S NEXT. The receipts show no dated case of a billionaire-funded campaign like this one being reversed; voters decide Proposition 40 and the governor's race within days.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 23rd, the Guardian's rundown of this fall's 145 statewide ballot measures listed one line without a name or a number: "a novel wealth tax on California's billionaires," filed alongside Alabama's question about the national anthem in schools.

Four days later, on October 27th, the name and the number arrived. Common Dreams reported that Proposition 40, a 5 percent tax on billionaire wealth, had drawn $333 million in spending from the billionaires fighting to defeat it. One Golden State tech billionaire suggested he would not leave California even if voters passed it. Senator Bernie Sanders asked the obvious question back at them: "Against what? Homelessness? No. Cancer? No. Child poverty? No."...

...(cont) By October 30th, the same week carried a second entry. The New York Times ran a piece headlined "Tax the Rich? Easier Said Than Done," reporting that the economist Natasha Sarin believes there are better ways to make billionaires pay than a direct wealth tax. The Times did not say what those ways are.

That same day, the New York Post ran two separate pieces on Xavier Becerra, California's candidate for governor, for proposing a new tax to address the state's affordability crisis, and, again, for proposing it five days before the election instead of waiting, as the Post noted most politicians do, until after.

Line the three up and the gap closes itself. One newspaper tells its readers that collecting from billionaires directly is a hard problem academics are still working on. The opposition to the one proposal that reached an actual ballot is not waiting on the academics; it has already spent $333 million to defeat it. And a candidate who said the word "tax" out loud, five days before anyone could vote on it, got two separate stories written about his nerve.

The economist says there is a better way to get the money. The billionaires say there is no good way at all, and they have put a price on saying so: $333 million against a single ballot question. Becerra found out what the much smaller version of that question costs a candidate who asks it five days early.

“Here's the con: the economist says taxing billionaires directly is some complicated puzzle, like it's rocket science. Then the people it would actually cost go and prove it's not complicated at all — they just wrote a $333 million check to kill it. And the guy running for governor finds out the real tax is on saying the word "tax" out loud five days before an election.”

— *Sal*

“Look, nobody's against billionaires paying their fair share, done properly, the careful way the experts are still studying — did I say experts, I mean, the point is timing matters, you don't spring a new tax on voters five days before they go to the polls, that's reckless process, not policy. And that $333 million? That's speech. That's just a lot of people speaking at once, very loudly, with money.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Xavier Becerra didn’t even wait until the election to ogle new taxes

New York Post RIGHT § *22:03 EDT*

Most politicians don’t tell voters five days before an election that they are planning to raise taxes, but when you are a Democrat in one-party California, you don’t worry as much about the outcome.

Sanders: Billionaires Fighting Prop 40 Would 'Rather Poor Kids With Cancer Die Than Pay a Little More in Taxes'

Common Dreams § *17:03 EDT*

As one Golden State tech billionaire suggested he wouldn't move away even if voters passed the California Billionaire Tax Act that he opposes, progressive US Sen. Bernie Sanders on Tuesday took aim at the wealthy taxpayers working to defeat Proposition 40. "Billionaires in California are spending $333 million to wage a war," Sanders...

Tax the Rich? Easier Said Than Done.

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *05:02 EDT*

Forget California’s billionaire wealth tax. The economist Natasha Sarin believes there are better ways to make billionaires pay up.

Xavier Becerra's answer to California's cost-of-living crisis is yet another tax

New York Post RIGHT § *22:29 EDT*

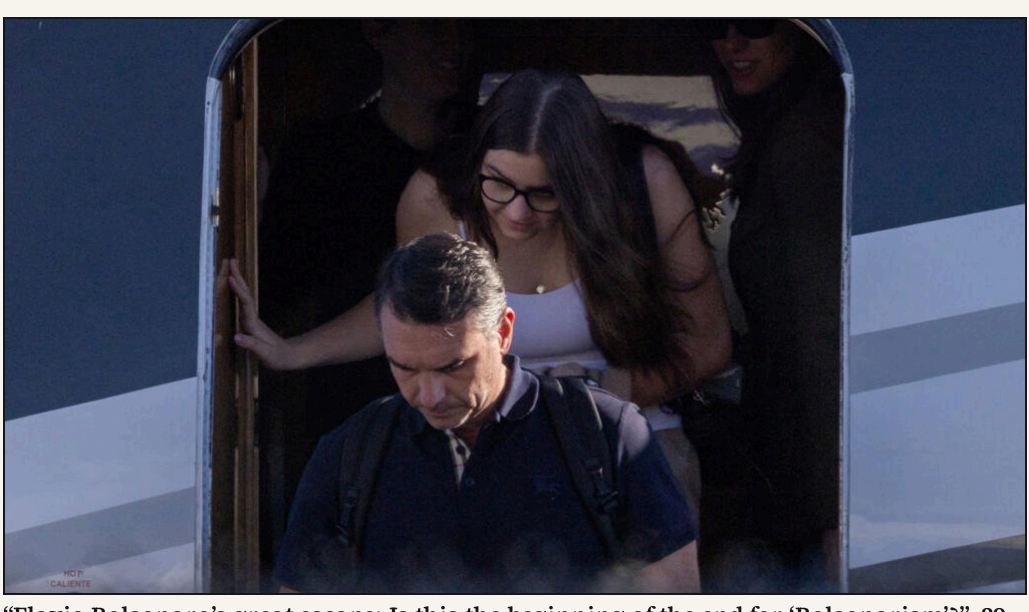
Imagine running for office on a promise to raise taxes, in an election when the top issue for voters is "affordability."

· Billionaire tax and trans rights: what are key state ballot initiatives in midterms? *from the morgue, 23 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.

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

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK



“Flavio Bolsonaro’s great escape: Is this the beginning of the end for ‘Bolsonarism’?”, 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump and his aides helped Flávio Bolsonaro, who lost Brazil's election, enter the U.S. and declare himself its leader.

WHO GETS PAID. Flávio Bolsonaro and the Brazilian right gain a Washington base and a U.S. government already on record intervening for them.

WHAT SLIPS. Brazil's courts lose their ability to pursue the criminal investigations now that the man they target is in the United States.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing or deadline is set; the investigations in Brazil continue while Bolsonaro remains in the United States.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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 Lula took Sunday's run-off, a "historic victory," Common Dreams called it, over the son of a convicted coup-plotter.

ROB *A historic victory. That's what the landlord called it when he put the rent up in line with history, and we're still finding the history in the boiler.*

KEITH *History in a boiler is a story. I could have that in a box by Thursday, the right label, and the only one asking questions is me.*

On 29 October the New York Times reported that Trump and his aides saw to it that Flávio Bolsonaro could enter the United States.

GARY *Back door unlocked. Ours has been off since March, which is less foreign policy and more me, and that took considerably more nerve.*

He kept moving: Flávio Bolsonaro calls himself "leader of Brazil," the BBC has him leading the opposition from the United States. You will be looking for the conviction behind that claim. The Times has him only under multiple criminal investigations, not a conviction.

The paper on the table here is France 24: "Flávio Bolsonaro's great escape," it asks if this is "the beginning of the end for 'Bolsonarism.'" The New York Times, at home, simply has Trump and his aides who "Helped Bolsonaro Flee Brazil and Enter U.S." — no escape in it, only the help.

It serves one senator with no office and an opposition he has declared from a country that is not his; Brazil is left with the investigations still open, and the United States is left holding the door.

ROB *Investigations still open. That's the stove as well, mate — ours has been going unwatched since March, and at least Brazil knows who struck the match.*

“A guy loses an election, our own government helps him skip the country, and the first words out of his mouth are that he's still in charge. That's not asylum, that's a government in exile with American seed money behind it. Watch who gets to lose an election and keep the title anyway.”

— Sal

“This is just the United States standing by an ally in a tough spot, nothing more sinister than that. The "leader of Brazil" language, that was his call, not ours — though if a chatbot really wrote it, maybe take it up with the chatbot. Did I just defend a chatbot's judgment on who runs Brazil? Strike that.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Sullivan tells Alaskans to mark Decoy Dan, the candidate at the center of Thursday's grand jury subpoenas.* By Sterling · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
— *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

THE RECEIPTS

Flavio Bolsonaro’s great escape: Is this the beginning of the end for ‘Bolsonarism’?

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *12:19 EDT*

The Brazilian election results had barely been announced before the defeated presidential candidate, Flavio Bolsonaro, packed his bags and fled with his family to the United States. The move may have dealt a serious blow to the already tarnished family brand, but does it spell the end for “Bolsonarism”?

Flávio Bolsonaro calls himself 'leader of Brazil' after election loss

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *10:58 EDT*

The defeated presidential candidate says he will lead the opposition from the US.

Bolsonaro ally blames ChatGPT for 'president elect' claim

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *12:38 EDT*

A close ally of Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro said that the AI chatbot ChatGPT was responsible for language in a letter briefly posted on social media by the right-wing politician.

Trump and His Aides Helped Bolsonaro Flee Brazil and Enter U.S.

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:53 EDT*

President Trump ensured Flávio Bolsonaro, who lost a presidential election in Brazil and faces multiple criminal investigations there, could enter the United States, U.S. officials said.

· Brazil's Lula Wins 'Historic Victory' Against Right-Wing Trump Ally Flávio Bolsonaro *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

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

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*

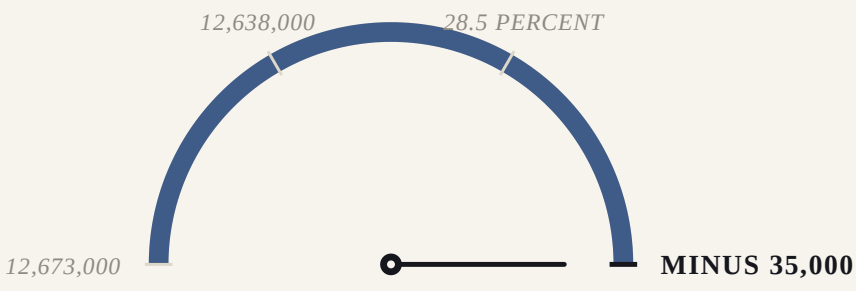
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§76 — 29 OCTOBER 2026

On roaring back

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



MINUS 35,000

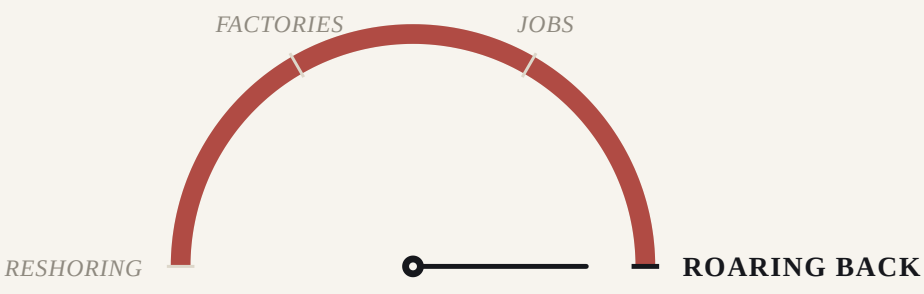
How far back. Manufacturing employment was 12,673,000 in January 2025 and 12,638,000 in August 2026 — 35,000 fewer than at the inauguration, after the recovery from December [1]. The pipeline for future factory jobs is thinner: spending on manufacturing construction ran at an annual rate of $237.5 billion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