The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER

Judge pauses plan to speed children through an asylum system already denying 94 percent of claims

BY MITCH
Investigations

I never have to meet anyone in a parking garage. That is the small mercy of this desk: the material arrives published, paginated and free, and all I do is read it in order.

Today a federal judge paused the administration's plan to fast-track asylum interviews for unaccompanied children. The New York Times put the qualifier in the headline — for now. Lawyers for the children called the plan a deportation assembly line, and I want to be careful with that phrase, because an assembly line is a machine for producing an identical object at speed.

All together now — the June tally from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, which is to say the administration's own immigration courts. Ninety-four percent of asylum claims decided that month were denied. The same analysis notes that the courts are plowing through asylum cases at an expeditious rate. Expeditious is their word. I have no improvement to offer on it.

So the memo a judge paused today was a plan to speed up a process that denies 94 percent of the claims it decides. I have reread that sentence several

... Continued on Page T30

THE WORD

§77 — 30 OCTOBER 2026

On the Sharpie

DEMOCRAT

NO UPDATES BEYOND 2024

REPUBLICAN

STATE AND LOCAL

"It's the little loop that bothers me. The forecast map from August 29th, and then on September 4th there's this extra curve in black marker, reaching into Alabama. The forecast gave southeastern Alabama about a five percent chance of tropical-storm winds; the Birmingham office said Alabama would "NOT see any impacts." Two days later, an unsigned statement took his side. The next year the inspector general wrote it "did not further NOAA's or NWS's interests." Excuse me — I forgot my umbrella. The loop was drawn in 2019. Who's drawing the map now?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W77

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE RESCUE IS A LOAN

One section of the federal passport rules refuses the book to a parent more than $2,500 behind on child support, and lets the State Department refuse it to an American who has not paid back the seat on the flight out of a war.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Students marching over classroom rats enter weekend three; now showing at American rallies, three days before the vote.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The accurate name for what French schoolchildren are doing died on 20 October, at a rally in Kansas, at the age of roughly seven weeks. It is survived by a third weekend of marches, by an interior minister's warning, and by an American election on Tuesday. It was preceded in death by the arrest count.

It was born in September at a single school in the economically deprived suburbs of Paris: teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, dilapidated buildings beset by rats and falling debris. Democracy Now! reported on 6 October that nearly 2,000 high schools had been blockaded or closed.

The renaming began the following week, and renaming is penny-ante work. On 18 October the Washington Examiner reported the president telling France to "close your borders" while police arrested 1,800. On the 20th, from a stage in Kansas, the Guardian reported him attacking "migrants and communists," turning the demonstrations into a cautionary tale for American voters while his party faced midterm losses. France 24 published a fact-check on the 21st: the immigration claims were false. Inside four days the thing had been called rioting and looting, then called somebody else's invasion, and

... Continued on Page B48

The promise that the Iran war will end "soon" turns thirty-nine days old, no details added

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The promise that the Iran war will end "soon" turned thirty-nine days old on Friday, and it has not yet been supplied with a single detail.

It was born September 22nd, on the floor of the United Nations, where the president told the General Assembly he had "a big decision to make": whether to annihilate Iran or strike a deal with it after November's midterm elections. The next day, CBS News asked the Iranian-American activist Masih Alinejad what she made of a head of state weighing the fate of her country against a campaign calendar. The promise did not yet have an age. It only had an audience.

The war had already missed one off-ramp. Days later, Iran offered seven days to reopen the Strait of Hormuz; the offer was declined, and the bombing it might have averted was moved to after the midterms. The president's ambassador to the United Nations told Fox News, that same stretch, that $6.48 diesel was Ukraine's doing. The war stayed on the calendar. The explanation kept moving.

By October 15th the promise had learned a new line. Speaking to re-

... Continued on Page B48

Trump's $8 billion farm rescue arrives at under five times what billionaires already spent steering the election

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The war in Iran turned six months old in August with no end in sight, after the administration said it would be quick. In September, a United Nations inquiry found the strikes already carried out were likely war crimes. The Congressional Budget Office filed its own number days later: nearly $40 billion spent, and conservative, its word, not an upper bound. A senator who voted to confirm the defense secretary has since called for his firing twice, and a member of his own party has filed paperwork to impeach him. The president has said publicly the war will not conclude before the election. The farmers paying the diesel prices this war helped drive up did not get a line in any of that.

Then came the fund. On October 7th, an analysis counted $1.7 billion spent by 172 billionaire families on the 2026 midterms, the most ever recorded in a midterm cycle, most of it routed through the super PACs the 2010 Citizens United decision built for exactly this purpose. Two days after that, CBS News ran a farmer's verdict on the fund in its headline: a dime too late and a dollar too short. The same story asked John Boyd Jr., who founded

... Continued on Page F131

Zelensky named Hegseth for the month's delay; the sale came four days later, $500 million smaller than September's.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Start with the filing, because the filing is the easy part. On Friday the State Department approved a possible sale of 500 Patriot interceptor missiles to Ukraine, valued at $2.1 billion. The Hill, describing the sale, reports it is funded entirely by U.S. partners and allies. That is the table. Now the ledger it is supposed to reconcile with.

On October 15 the New York Post reported that Ukraine had depleted its stash of interceptors for the Patriot system while Russian ballistic missiles kept landing. Not running low. Out.

Five days later, on October 20, Russia sent another wave. At least seven dead by officials' count, four of them in the Kyiv region, 27 wounded there, children among them. Ukrenergo reported power outages in twelve regions. Zelensky said that day that Ukraine had nearly run out of Patriot interceptors and that the Pentagon was delaying the delivery of missiles other countries wanted to send. Of a separate Sunday evening attack, he said Washington gave Kyiv no warning it was coming, and called the American position a denial of reality.

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The Michigan Democrat AIPAC, Cruz and RFK Jr. spent October attacking is the one asked to apologize

BY LOU
One More Question

LOU: Forgive me, I'm in the wrong building again. I went down to the health window, the one with the pamphlets by the door, because I had a question about something a health secretary wrote, and the gentleman there said sir, this is immunizations. I said that's exactly what I thought it was. He sent me upstairs to the people who take complaints about advertisements, and the woman up there said the ads aren't hers, she only takes forms, and the forms for this kind of thing are federal, and the federal ones are across town, and by then it was raining and my car needs a fan belt and I had four rooms' worth of notes and no room that wanted them. So let me just read you what the wrong rooms told me. I wrote it all down. Just a second. Ah — here it is.

The campaign-finance people gave me this one. A report filed the tenth of October: AIPAC's super PAC, the United Democracy Project, resumed spending in the Michigan Senate race, $95,000 on mailers opposing the Democratic nominee, Dr. El-Sayed, to help the Republican, Mike Rogers. The report came a day after Rogers and El-Sayed had gone at each other on a debate stage about healthcare and drug prices. So the mailer has a payer, and the payer

... Continued on Page A226

Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification, surges agents, then says it is not assuming a crime occurred

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

There is a crime in this somewhere, you would think, and the United States Attorney in Anchorage will not name it. Michael Heyman confirmed a criminal investigation and a civil one on Friday, and said he is "not making any assumptions on whether a crime has been committed or not." Hold that order. The suit asking a court to withhold certification of Alaska's Senate race was filed a week ago; the relief it asks for arrives only if Dan Sullivan loses. The ballots it challenged numbered zero. The grounds have been arriving since, in instalments: law enforcement surged, and a Friday filing asking that every ballot ranking Daniel J. Sullivan be segregated for voter confusion. Segregated, not counted. And how does setting a ballot aside establish that the voter who marked it was confused? The filing does not say. A condition precedent is the event a promise waits upon; until it occurs, nothing is owed. Here the event is not a finding ... it is a Republican defeat. The New York Times reported on Wednesday that Peltola's campaign recruited the second Sullivan; she denies knowing of "any other candidate" besides herself and the incumbent. On 27 August, two months before her campaign recruited any-

... Continued on Page B48

Fourth court order this month tells Justice Department to stop threatening the people counting the votes.

BY LOU
One More Question

I had the wrong building, then the wrong floor, and I'd like to get that out of the way first, because everything I'm about to read you came to me sideways.

Friday morning I went downtown with one question. The woman at the first counter could not have been nicer about it: wrong floor. The second counter said wrong agency, try the clerk. The clerk said they don't keep anything that comes out of Washington, that'd be the court. The court said look it up, it's public. So I stood on the steps in the rain in the one raincoat I own, which is also the raincoat I own in August, reading the pages I'd folded into the pocket. Four rooms, each one pointing at the next. I'm told that's normal.

The pages are out of order. Hold on. Here.

October 17th, the Guardian prints a letter from senior Justice Department officials to election officials in California. Local officials who process and tabulate ballots submitted by suspected noncitizen voters, it says, are putting themselves at risk of criminal investigation and potential prosecution. The department's phrase for the offense is "knowingly tabulate." I circled it out there on the steps, because I couldn't work out who, in a room holding ten

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> "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

Students marching over classroom rats enter weekend three; now showing at American rallies, three days before the vote.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"France heads into third weekend of protests as youth-led rallies erupt across Europe", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. French students entered a third weekend of protests over school funding; Trump's rallies call the protests migrant and communist unrest.

WHO GETS PAID. Republicans three days from the midterms get campaign footage out of a foreign school-funding fight.

WHAT SLIPS. One outlet filed the same Saturday's arrest count at 135 and at nearly 1,000, so readers lose the plain record of what police did.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the mass arrests hold, few end in convictions; Washington charged 234 people after the January 2017 march, convicted no defendant who went to trial, and dropped the last 39 cases in July 2018.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The accurate name for what French schoolchildren are doing died on 20 October, at a rally in Kansas, at the age of roughly seven weeks. It is survived by a third weekend of marches, by an interior minister's warning, and by an American election on Tuesday. It was preceded in death by the arrest count.

It was born in September at a single school in the economically deprived suburbs of Paris: teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, dilapidated buildings beset by rats and falling debris. Democracy Now! reported on 6 October that nearly 2,000 high schools had been blockaded or closed....

...(cont) The renaming began the following week, and renaming is penny-ante work. On 18 October the Washington Examiner reported the president telling France to "close your borders" while police arrested 1,800. On the 20th, from a stage in Kansas, the Guardian reported him attacking "migrants and communists," turning the demonstrations into a cautionary tale for American voters while his party faced midterm losses. France 24 published a fact-check on the 21st: the immigration claims were false. Inside four days the thing had been called rioting and looting, then called somebody else's invasion, and the students got a vote on neither name.

The count went next. Fox News filed one Saturday's arrests at 135, and later in the month at nearly 1,000. The Morning Star reported on 25 October that more than half a million people marched over school funding and the soaring cost of living, that the government put the arrests near a thousand, and that tear gas and water cannon met the Paris march near its endpoint. Of the figures in circulation — 135, nearly 1,000, 1,800 — one of them is the number of people who spent that night in a cell. The footage runs the same either way.

Which brings us to tonight. The New York Post reports a third weekend beginning and Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez warning of a "very high risk" of disorder, especially after dark on Halloween. The schools are still the schools. The rats are still the rats. Three days from now Americans vote, and some of them will have seen all this on a screen behind a podium, under a caption written in Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, ask whoever shows you the footage what the marchers asked for, and check the arrest count twice before Tuesday.

"Kids marched because there are rats in their school and the building drops pieces on them, and inside two days that became an immigration ad in Kansas. Same month, the same network files one Saturday at 135 arrests and then at nearly a thousand — pick a number, because the picture plays fine with either one under it. Three days from now people vote here on a feeling they got from a crowd over there that was asking for a working classroom."

— Sal

"Look, the man never said the schools were fine — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me — he said close your borders, which is a separate point, and a half a million people in the street with water cannon is not exactly a bake sale. The arrest figure moved because the situation was moving; nobody's hiding anything, the second number is bigger, which if anything proves our side was being conservative. And honestly, whether it's rats or riots, the lesson for Tuesday is the same, so I don't see what we're arguing about."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *France deploys 70,000 police to guard a headcount two papers still cannot agree on.* By Mort · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
— *Same Saturday, Europe's protests get three different tallies — and the mob still makes the New York Post's deadline.* By Mort · the morning edition, 25 October 2026
— *Students protesting rats and falling debris in their schools became footage at Trump's midterm rallies; one Saturday's arrest count was filed at 135, then nearly 1,000.* By Mort · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

France heads into third weekend of protests as youth-led rallies erupt across Europe

New York Post RIGHT § *03:29 EDT*

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez warned of a "very high risk" of disorder, especially after dark on Halloween.

· 'The Government Is Trembling': Protests Erupt in France, Spreading to 140 Cities *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Police and protesters clash across France *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*

· Trump attacks 'migrants and communists' as he tries to exploit France unrest *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Trump's former campaign manager on GOP ahead of midterms: 'It's ugly' *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· France on edge: nearly 800 protests as police clash with demonstrators *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· More than 1,000 arrested in France as protesters and police clash *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

· 135 people arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors, official says *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Nearly 1,000 arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors: officials *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· French CEO warns 'purely chaotic' riots prove the country has reached the 'dead end of socialism' *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Trump tells France 'close your borders' as police arrest 1,800 in violent protests *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Trump exploits France riots to push false immigration claims ahead of midterms *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· French police arrest 1,800 after clashes and looting *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Mass protests challenge Macron as French police use tear gas and water cannons *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· BROADCAST BIAS: Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Police fire tear gas at barricaded high school in Paris as protests spread to Belgium *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Police and masked protesters clash in Brussels as anti-austerity rally of thousands *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· BBC calls France protests 'mostly peaceful' as footage shows rioters torching cars, battling police *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· 'This Is Going Global': Anti-Austerity Protests Spread From Spain and France to Chile, Belgium, and Beyond *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Macron slams Trump for 'stupid' comments about French riots and warns public of 'foreign manipulation' *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· France has fallen. America can't be next *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Anarchy in France: Behind the riots and violent protests *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· How Trump's camp is exploiting France's riots to energize the MAGA base ahead of US midterms *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Macron scoffs at Trump arch rivalry: 'Monuments are bigger than ourselves' *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· French student riots spill across Europe as Belgian minister attributes violence to antifa *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Macron says violent rioters will be 'prosecuted and punished' as buildings burn in France *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· 'The Bastille Has Been Retaken,' Declares Mélenchon as Student-Led Protests Hit New Heights in France *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Trump finds ominous campaign message in French riots *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

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

· The Movement: Paris is burning. The American right is watching. *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Torched cars, ransacked businesses: Anti-Sharia crusader warns France 'civil war' could be imported to US *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· The Anti-French Revolt in France *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· France in Flames *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Ro Khanna thinks torching Jewish businesses is an 'inspiring' youth movement *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· 'Page one of repressive playbook': critics warn of Trump's conspiratorial attacks *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Trump threads needle between communist attacks against Democrats and warm embrace of Xi *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· France's insane student protests are really about a growing radical Muslim population that wants to get rid of democracy *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· The Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Election *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· 'Sickening and Unacceptable': Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000 *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign? *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's $5K dividend promise *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker' *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut $5,000 checks without Congress *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of $40 trillion debt *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

· Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling $5,000 dividend a bribe *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out $5,000 checks *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy? *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Trump sees backlash over $5K dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· 5 things to know about Trump's $5K dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Vance strikes back at concern $5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Marshall backtracks on support for $5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

· Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator. *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women? *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump's promised $5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Reckless $5,000 'Dividend' *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Republicans bet the House on Trump *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed $5000 'Trump dividend' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump pledges $5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump says $5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent' *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's $5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not $5K checks *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Susan Collins calls Trump's $5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly' *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump $5K dividend payment support *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Gavin Newsom calls Trump's $5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Trump pitches $5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Why Trump's promised $5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· GOP leaders blindsided by Trump's promise of $5K checks *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states *from the morgue, 10 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.

The promise that the Iran war will end "soon" turns thirty-nine days old, no details added

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Trump says Iran war will end 'soon'", 31 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump said Friday the Iran war will end "soon," repeating the same promise he made in September and October.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters go into the midterms without ever getting a real date for the war's end, and Congress has not forced one.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the war keeps running without a vote in Congress, it can run years past its promised end; that is what Congress got after the 2019 Yemen vote: the president vetoed the resolution to end support, the override failed 53 to 45, and the war continued 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The promise that the Iran war will end "soon" turned thirty-nine days old on Friday, and it has not yet been supplied with a single detail.

It was born September 22nd, on the floor of the United Nations, where the president told the General Assembly he had "a big decision to make": whether to annihilate Iran or strike a deal with it after November's midterm elections. The next day, CBS News asked the Iranian-American activist Masih Alinejad what she made of a head of state weighing the fate of her country against a campaign calendar. The promise did not yet have an age. It only had an audience....

...(cont) The war had already missed one off-ramp. Days later, Iran offered seven days to reopen the Strait of Hormuz; the offer was declined, and the bombing it might have averted was moved to after the midterms. The president's ambassador to the United Nations told Fox News, that same stretch, that $6.48 diesel was Ukraine's doing. The war stayed on the calendar. The explanation kept moving.

By October 15th the promise had learned a new line. Speaking to reporters, the president said the war "will end very soon," then supplied the only specification it has ever received: "as soon as I want it to end." That is not a date. It is a veto, held in reserve and dressed up as a forecast.

On October 28th, at a rally in Lubbock, Texas, he told the crowd, "You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks, if you don't mind" — campaigning through an economy the wires described only as uncertain, the war carried alongside it, unresolved, into the midterms.

Then Friday came, and Qatar's mediators returned to Tehran to push, again, for a deal that has not arrived. The president met them with the same word he used in September and the word he used in October: soon. No terms were offered. No date was named. None of the wires report the decision itself being announced — only its timing, tucked between one election and the one after it.

A promise renewed on schedule but not once redeemed is not a forecast. It is malarkey with a release date that keeps slipping to the next release date.

In lieu of flowers, ask your senator for the date this war's authorization comes up for a vote, and ask again when the answer is "soon."

"Every time this guy's up for an election, the Iran war is suddenly gonna end "soon" — and every time the votes get counted, "soon" resets the clock. That's not diplomacy, that's a release date they keep moving so nobody has to answer for the war before anybody votes. Keep it off the books till after the ballots, and Congress still hasn't had to vote on it either."

— Sal

"Look, "soon" is just diplomatic language, these negotiations take time, you don't rush a peace deal — wait, didn't he say the exact same thing in September, and then again in October? Okay, so maybe "soon" is less a date and more... the administration's preferred unit of time. Did I just say the promise means nothing? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump vows Iran war ends "whenever I want," tells Gulf allies when: after the vote.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
- *Senators demand the Iran war's accounting: Pentagon's reply is a bigger bill.* By Mort · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- *Netanyahu predicts cheaper gas once the war ends, the war that already made Trump $4.4 million.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Trump endorses Netanyahu to keep from finishing his own war alone* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Border czar teases 'criminal' probe he won't explain, DOJ explains it by raiding her home.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026
- *Trump lifts sanctions on Russian diesel, tells Ukraine to get a new president for objecting* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 10 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: **Trump promised 53 separate times that he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Iran war will end 'soon'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:21 EDT*

Presented by Palantir {beacon} Defense &National Security Defense &National Security The Big Story Trump says Iran war will end 'soon' President Trump claimed on Friday that the U.S. war against Iran will end "soon" as he mulls authorizing military strikes on the Islamic Republic following the November midterm elections. © Jon Cherry...

But: **CNN counted 53 separate occasions Trump promised the Ukraine war would be settled within 24 hours of him meeting Putin and Zelensky** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Iran war will end "soon" as Qatar pushes for U.S.-Iran deal

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *18:36 EDT*

President Trump claims his war with Iran will come to an end "soon" as Qatari mediators push for a deal days before the midterms. CBS News senior national security correspondent Charlie D'Agata breaks it down.

But: **"I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled" - Trump, 10 May 2023; CNN counted 53 such promises** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump predicts Iran war will end soon as Qatar pushes for a deal

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *04:31 EDT*

Trump predicts the war with Iran is "going to end soon," without offering any details, as Qatari mediators return to Tehran to push for a deal.

· Donald Trump claims 'Iran war will end very soon' as midterm rallies heat up – US politics live *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Iranian dissident reacts to Trump's promise to either annihilate Iran or make a post-election deal *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump floats 'big decision' at UN on whether he'll 'annihilate' Iran or make deal *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump hints at post-midterm strikes on Iran: 'You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks' *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers' in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*

· U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

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

· Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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· Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *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.

Trump's $8 billion farm rescue arrives at under five times what billionaires already spent steering the election

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Trump administration released an emergency farm relief fund just before Election Day, after earlier cutting the same aid.

WHO GETS PAID. The announcement bought goodwill for the party's midterm campaign in farm states, delivered at a campaign rally in Kansas.

WHAT SLIPS. No recorded congressional vote preceded the payout, so the public's check on election-season emergency spending slips to the White House's own calendar.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, expect another relief gesture timed to the political calendar rather than the price; that is what Washington got after 31 March 2022: a 180-million-barrel reserve release framed as relief from "Putin's Price Hike at the Pump."

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The war in Iran turned six months old in August with no end in sight, after the administration said it would be quick. In September, a United Nations inquiry found the strikes already carried out were likely war crimes. The Congressional Budget Office filed its own number days later: nearly $40 billion spent, and conservative, its word, not an upper bound. A senator who voted to confirm the defense secretary has since called for his firing twice, and a member of his own party has filed paperwork to impeach him. The president has said publicly the war will not conclude before the election. The farmers paying the diesel prices this war helped drive up did not get a line in any of that.

Then came the fund. On October 7th, an analysis counted $1.7 billion spent by 172 billionaire families on the 2026 midterms, the most ever recorded in a midterm cycle, most of it routed through the super PACs the 2010 Citizens United decision built for exactly this purpose. Two days after that, CBS News ran a farmer's verdict on the fund in its headline: a dime too late and a dollar too short. The same story asked John Boyd Jr., who founded the National Black Farmers Association, to share his thoughts; it did not print those thoughts as the line....

...(cont) Run the ledger. Eight billion divided by one point seven billion comes to about four hundred seventy percent, call it under five times over. Five times what 172 families spent to steer this election is what the fund came to for the people growing the food the same war taxed. The families' money moved first, filed and counted by October 7th. The fund moved second, after the cost of the war that drove the prices was already logged at nearly $40 billion and called conservative.

The dime-too-late farmer and the 172 billionaire families are reading the same federal budget, hon. One of them wrote it.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE $1.7 BILLION FROM 172 BILLIONAIRE FAMILIES POSTED ON OCTOBER 7TH; THE $8 billion farm fund posted thirteen days after it, at a rally in Kansas. That isn't relief, it's a receipt for services already rendered. The fund rides the same ledger as the war that pushed diesel higher, so the diesel bill reaches your truck before the relief check does, and it's the diesel receipt sitting in your glovebox that's dated first.

“They cut the farm checks, then handed them back eight billion dollars heavier two weeks before people vote, and they're calling that generosity. The same month, 172 billionaire families had already dropped one point seven billion steering who wins this election outright. Do that math once and you see which number buys the vote and which one just quiets the guy who grows the food.”

— Sal

“This is farmers-first governance, not an election stunt — it's pure coincidence the check cleared two weeks before people voted, farmers just happen to need help every October. And the billionaire money is private citizens exercising their rights, totally unconnected to anything the administration is doing — wait, did I just connect those? Forget I said that.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Official who enrolled her daughter proposes a mortgage funded by a donor's stock pledge and a claim form.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 27 October 2026
— *Brazil's fix for mayors shutting down election-day buses: two extra hours to vote.* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
— *Washington shuts its own Brazil consulates two days before the election it swears it isn't touching.* By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
— *Prices rose 3.7 percent in September; the same report set Social Security's 2027 raise at 3.6 percent.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 14 October 2026
— *CBS exclusively obtained drone-strike video the Army still hasn't shown the dead soldier's parents.* By The Wrecking Crew · the early evening edition, 7 October 2026
— *Carlson doubts Britain should have fought WWII; Cruz answers that the UK is better off for winning it.* By Mort · the matinee edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Trump cut funding for farmers — then unlocked billions for them before Election Day~~

Trump slashed farmers' funding — then rushed billions back right before they voted.

Grist · 04:45 EDT

Whether it's enough to smooth over tensions with that constituency remains to be seen.

· Trump's $8 billion farmer relief fund comes "a dime too late and a dollar too short," farmer says *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· Trump offers $8 billion bailout to farmers facing record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· 172 Billionaire Families Have Spent Record $1.7 Billion on 2026 Midterms So Far: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

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

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· As gas averages $4.31 nationwide, diesel fuel hits all-time high: "It's painful. It's real hard" *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Costco Raises Motor Oil Price, Caps Customer Purchases As Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*

· European Union member states agree to a natural gas price cap in an attempt to limit economic damage from the global energy crisis. The price cap can be triggered beginning on February 15, if for thre *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2022*

· Spike on 10-year bond yields renews concerns over U.S. debt *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-Year Treasury Yield Reaches 5%, Highest Level in Years *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Treasury reveals $6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames rise in diesel prices on Ukrainian strikes against Russian oil refineries *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames rising diesel price on Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· What Is Driving Diesel Prices Up? Energy Chaos Caused by Two Wars. *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

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Zelensky named Hegseth for the month's delay; the sale came four days later, $500 million smaller than September's.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Ukraine gets approval for Patriot missile sale", 31 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the filing, because the filing is the easy part. On Friday the State Department approved a possible sale of 500 Patriot interceptor missiles to Ukraine, valued at $2.1 billion. The Hill, describing the sale, reports it is funded entirely by U.S. partners and allies. That is the table. Now the ledger it is supposed to reconcile with.

On October 15 the New York Post reported that Ukraine had depleted its stash of interceptors for the Patriot system while Russian ballistic missiles kept landing. Not running low. Out....

...(cont) Five days later, on October 20, Russia sent another wave. At least seven dead by officials' count, four of them in the Kyiv region, 27 wounded there, children among them. Ukrenergo reported power outages in twelve regions. Zelensky said that day that Ukraine had nearly run out of Patriot interceptors and that the Pentagon was delaying the delivery of missiles other countries wanted to send. Of a separate Sunday evening attack, he said Washington gave Kyiv no warning it was coming, and called the American position a denial of reality.

On Monday, October 26, he stopped describing the delay and started naming the desk it sat on. "We have been waiting for nearly a month for Mr. Hegseth to sign off on missiles for Patriots and NASAMS." Nearly a month, by the customer's count. Four days later, on Friday, the approval came through.

Here is the entry for the gap column. In September the figure attached to a Patriot sale for Ukraine was five hundred million dollars higher than the figure approved Friday. What the September number covered line by line is not something I have paperwork for, and I am not going to convert a gap I cannot itemize into interceptors; that is how people end up believing their own arithmetic. What I can do is set the two numbers side by side and note the direction each one moved. The need rose: out on the 15th, twelve regions dark on the 20th, nearly a month of waiting by the 26th. The price went the other way.

Note also what Friday's document is and is not. It is an approval of a sale. It is not a delivery, and per The Hill the partners and allies are the ones paying. So the item that took nearly a month, on the customer's clock, was a signature on somebody else's purchase order.

A thirty-day pause costs the signing side nothing. It never appears on their statement. It appears on the other statement, in counts: waves, regions without power, dead. Reconcile those two columns however you like, hon. They do not balance.

"They told Kyiv to wait a month for a signature on missiles somebody else already agreed to pay for, and when the paper finally moved it moved at half a billion less than September. That's not a budget problem, that's a leash — and the guy holding it doesn't have to explain the delay to anybody. Meanwhile the power's out in twelve regions and seven people are in the ground, and the bill for the waiting lands entirely on the people who weren't in the room."

— Sal

"Look, the sale was approved, so I'm not sure what the complaint is — the system worked, it just worked on a schedule. Did I say schedule? That doesn't sound like me. And let's be clear, allies are funding this one, so nobody here is out a dime, which I'd think is the headline, and the September figure, whatever that was, isn't the figure anyone agreed to, so comparing them is really just a math exercise."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Senators from both parties demand Starlink testimony; Pentagon expands its contract instead.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 25 October 2026
- *Musk confesses to the blackout he blamed on Washington, Pentagon rewards him with more satellite tracking data* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
- *Musk ends week of blaming Washington for the blackout, admits he ordered it, service restored same day.* By Mort · the morning edition, 25 October 2026
- *Musk admits the throttle he blamed on Washington was his own, the same day service was restored.* By Mort · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Musk blamed Washington for the Starlink slowdown he ordered, then restored it the day the public noticed.* By Mort · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Sixth officer charged with misusing Flock cameras since the bill to defund them reached committee.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: **I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled - Trump promised this 53 separate times, CNN counted** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Ukraine gets approval for Patriot missile sale

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:36 EDT*

Presented by Palantir {beacon} Defense &National Security Defense &National Security The Big Story Ukraine gets approval for Patriot missile sale The State Department approved on Friday a possible $2.1 billion sale of 500 Patriot interceptor missiles to Ukraine that is funded entirely by U.S. partners and allies. © Getty The Trump...

But: **'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

U.S. approves $2.1 billion sale of Patriot interceptors to Ukraine

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *18:44 EDT*

The Trump administration approved the sale of $2.1 billion in Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine on Friday, the State Department said in a statement.

U.S. approves sale of 500 Patriot missiles to Ukraine

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *04:22 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged his allies to speed up deliveries of the critical munition.

US approves $2.1 billion Patriot missile sale to Ukraine

New York Post RIGHT *02:20 EDT*

Ukraine has long said it urgently needs more missile interceptors to knock down the growing waves of missiles from Russia.

· Zelensky calls out Hegseth for 'nearly a month' Patriot missile delay *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

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

· Seven killed in Ukraine as Zelensky meets US and European officials in Norway *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine runs out of US Patriot missile interceptors as Russia pummels cities: report *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Ukrainian soldiers in combat have access to Starlink satellite internet restricted *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

The Michigan Democrat AIPAC, Cruz and RFK Jr. spent October attacking is the one asked to apologize

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"El-Sayed campaign wants Stevens to stay away after day of back-and-forth sniping", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA POLITICO — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Representative Haley Stevens demanded that Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed condemn an outside group's ad and apologize.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican Mike Rogers gains: AIPAC's super PAC spent $95,000 on mailers against El-Sayed, his opponent.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters cannot tell paid opposition from real anger: the man who confronted El-Sayed was a paid Republican adviser's son.

WHAT'S NEXT. If his own party keeps the fight going, El-Sayed spends the last days defending himself. Kentucky after 19 May 2026 shows the cost: a member his party turned on lost 55 to 45, in a $37 million primary, the most ever spent on a House seat.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

LOU: Forgive me, I'm in the wrong building again. I went down to the health window, the one with the pamphlets by the door, because I had a question about something a health secretary wrote, and the gentleman there said sir, this is immunizations. I said that's exactly what I thought it was. He sent me upstairs to the people who take complaints about advertisements, and the woman up there said the ads aren't hers, she only takes forms, and the forms for this kind of thing are federal, and the federal ones are across town, and by then it was raining and my car needs a fan belt and I had four rooms' worth of notes and no room that wanted them. So let me just read you what the wrong rooms told me. I wrote it all down. Just a second. Ah — here it is.

The campaign-finance people gave me this one. A report filed the tenth of October: AIPAC's super PAC, the United Democracy Project, resumed spending in the Michigan Senate race, $95,000 on mailers opposing the Democratic nominee, Dr. El-Sayed, to help the Republican, Mike Rogers. The report came a day after Rogers and El-Sayed had gone at each other on a debate stage about healthcare and drug prices. So the mailer has a payer, and the payer has a date. Does a voter who opens one of those mailers see that date on it, or does the voter have to find the window I couldn't find?...

...(cont) Here's the page I keep going back to, and I apologize, because I had it out twice already in the elevator. The twentieth of October, the Guardian. The man who tried to ambush the nominee with a question about his supposed allegiance to the Muslim Brotherhood — the clip the campaign then turned around and ran with — is the son of a political operator whose firm was recently paid $250,000 by a group called America Next, for canvassing and influencer marketing. The paper says the group has been trying to gin up opposition it calls organic. Organic. That's their word, off their own paperwork, I didn't bring it with me.

Which is a word I know from the yard. I've got a tomato plant coming up out of the gravel by the downspout, where the dog sleeps. Nobody planted it. The ones in the bed along the fence, I planted those, and the slip from the nursery is in my glovebox with the registration, because my wife makes me keep slips. Now if a fella leans over the fence and asks which plants are which, I don't have to argue with him. I go to the glovebox. The difference between the volunteer and the planted one is a piece of paper with a dollar amount and a date on it, and either the paper exists or it doesn't. So: in this story, does the paper exist? And how much is on it?

Then the twenty-eighth. Senator Cruz of Texas said that Americans could die if El-Sayed wins next week, and talked about who might end up on the Intelligence Committee. People called that incitement. I've only got the date and the sentence.

And then today. The health secretary posts more than 3,700 words denouncing radical Islam and calling on the nominee to condemn the Muslim Brotherhood, after outlets and the campaign had rebuked him. The same Friday, Representative Stevens demands the nominee condemn an outside group's ad about aid to Israel and apologize for his comments. He says she's intent on relitigating their primary. His campaign asks her to stay away from the rally the two of them were supposed to hold together. Other Democrats say the blowup is imperiling the seat. Three days.

Oh — excuse me, one more, before you get in the elevator. Of everybody in this notebook — the super PAC, the senator, the secretary, the adviser whose firm took the $250,000 — which one has been asked this week for an apology? And which one did the paperwork call organic?

"Count it: $95,000 in AIPAC mailers to float a Republican, a quarter million to an operative whose kid plays the spontaneous angry citizen on camera, a senator saying people will die, and a cabinet secretary burning a Friday on 3,700 words about one candidate's religion. And the only person anybody's demanding an apology from is the guy all that was aimed at. Three days before Michigan picks a senator, that's not a party defending a seat — that's a party doing the other side's closing ad for free."

— Sal

"Nobody attacked anybody. A congresswoman asked about an ad — that's accountability, that's a healthy party conversation. Did I call the heckler organic? That doesn't sound like me; the young man asked a question, questions are free, and the $250,000 was for canvassing and influencer marketing, which is a completely separate line item. And if the secretary wants to write 3,700 words on a Friday night, that's speech, that's the First Amendment, I don't see what the mailers have to do with it, I really don't."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Big Ten caps player pay at $49 million six weeks after cheap beer sold the bill that caps it* By Gus · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
— *Half-price beer moved the crowd through security early for a president who came to Neyland to sell a bill none of the players below him could vote on.* By Gus · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

El-Sayed campaign wants Stevens to stay away after day of back-and-forth sniping
Politico MAINSTREAM § *20:46 EDT*
Some Democrats worry that the blowup between the two former primary rivals is imperiling their hold on the seat.

Midterm Updates: Trump rallies in Florida, El-Sayed clashes with Stevens
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *00:14 EDT*
The November 2026 midterm elections are just three days away. Candidates in key races — and President Trump — are making their closing arguments to voters.

El-Sayed Clashes With Former Primary Rival Who Demanded His Apology
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *00:15 EDT*
Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Representative Haley Stevens traded sharply critical comments Friday, escalating intraparty tensions in Michigan's pivotal Senate race.

Haley Stevens and Abdul El-Sayed clash over Israel ad ahead of planned rally together
NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:46 EDT*
The tensions between the former Democratic primary candidates have drawn in other Michigan Democrats as the party hopes to secure a critical Senate seat.

~~Latest Ted Cruz Attack on Abdul El-Sayed Denounced as 'Straight Up Incitement'~~
Sen. Cruz says Americans will die if Michigan elects a Muslim senator
Common Dreams § *16:21 EDT*
Sen. Ted Cruz claimed Wednesday that Americans could die if Abdul El-Sayed, the progressive Democratic nominee for US Senate in Michigan, wins next week's midterm election, prompting a fresh round of denunciation of Republicans' Islamophobic bigotry. "If Abdul El-Sayed becomes the senator for Michigan, there is absolutely nothing to stop...

~~RFK Jr. defends comments on Islam with lengthy essay aimed at media critics~~
HHS Secretary posts 3,700-word diatribe demanding Senate candidate condemn Muslim Brotherhood
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:12 EDT*
Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. published an extensive diatribe on social media on Friday denouncing radical Islam and calling on Michigan Democratic Senate nominee Abdul el Sayed to condemn the Muslim Brotherhood.

El-Sayed and Stevens feud ahead of key Michigan Senate race
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:17 EDT*
Stevens has demanded El-Sayed condemn an outside group's ad and apologize for comments he made about Israel. El-Sayed said Stevens is "intent on relitigating" their primary.

El Sayed and Stevens feud explodes days before Michigan Senate showdown
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *23:02 EDT*
Michigan Democratic Senate nominee Abdul el Sayed and Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI), his former primary opponent, are again sparring over Israel just days before voters decide one of the most closely watched contests of the 2026 midterm elections. The dispute centers on an advertisement attacking U.S.

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*
Abdul el Sayed resists efforts from Haley Stevens to corner him on Israel - as it happened
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:00 EDT*
This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email James Talarico, the Democratic nominee in Texas, attacked his Republican opponent Ken Paxton for cancelling some of his final rallies before the midterm election. "No one's going to Ken Paxton's rallies, so he's canceling them and hoping Elon Musk will buy his seat for...

· Man who heckled El-Sayed is son of Republican adviser who was paid for 'influencer marketing' *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· 'He's Desperate': AIPAC Begins Spending Against Abdul El-Sayed to Boost Mike Rogers *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

THE CONDITION

Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification, surges agents, then says it is not assuming a crime occurred

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"Peltola denies knowing of 'any other candidate' on ballot besides herself, incumbent", 30 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department opened a criminal investigation into Alaska Democrats after asking a court to block the state's Senate certification.

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Dan Sullivan, the Republican incumbent whose loss is the only condition for the suit.

WHAT SLIPS. A court, not Alaska's election officials, would decide which ballots get set aside.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the ballot-separation request holds, votes get pulled from the count by rule, not by mistake; that is what Texas got after 1 March 2022, when a new ID rule rejected 12.4 percent of mail ballots, against 0.8 percent in 2020.

There is a crime in this somewhere, you would think, and the United States Attorney in Anchorage will not name it. Michael Heyman confirmed a criminal investigation and a civil one on Friday, and said he is "not making any assumptions on whether a crime has been committed or not." Hold that order. The suit asking a court to withhold certification of Alaska's Senate race was filed a week ago; the relief it asks for arrives only if Dan Sullivan loses. The ballots it challenged numbered zero. The grounds have been arriving since, in instalments: law enforcement surged, and a Friday filing asking that every ballot ranking Daniel J. Sullivan be segregated for voter confusion. Segregated, not counted. And how does setting a ballot aside establish that the voter who marked it was confused? The filing does not say. A condition precedent is the event a promise waits upon; until it occurs, nothing is owed. Here the event is not a finding … it is a Republican defeat. The New York Times reported on Wednesday that Peltola's campaign recruited the second Sullivan; she denies knowing of "any other candidate" besides herself and the incumbent. On 27 August, two months before her campaign recruited anyone, a Washington Examiner column called the decoy Sullivan Democratic voter suppression. Alaska votes Tuesday.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKED A COURT TO STOP ALASKA FROM CERTIFYING ITS Senate race only if the Republican loses, and on Friday it asked that every ballot ranking the second Dan Sullivan be pulled into its own pile, while the prosecutor says he is not assuming a crime was committed. That is not an investigation, that is a result ordered in advance with a press conference bolted onto the front of it. Because a ballot in a separate pile is a ballot that waits instead of counting, and because the pile was defined by which name you ranked rather than by anything you did wrong, the envelope sitting on your kitchen table with your name printed on it was sorted into the stack or out of it by a filing written in Washington before you ever signed the back of it.

At noon the fox walks the yard.
A man has not mended the latch.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They filed the lawsuit first and went hunting for the crime after — the U.S. attorney stood up Friday and said he's not assuming one happened. And look at the trigger: the certification only gets blocked if Sullivan loses, so if he wins, every one of those ballots is suddenly fine. Your vote doesn't get thrown out, it gets put in its own pile and left sitting there while a court in Washington decides whether Tuesday counted."

— Sal

"Nobody is prejudging anything here — the U.S. attorney said himself he's not assuming a crime, which is precisely why you'd want those ballots separated out, purely as a precaution. Did I say precaution? That doesn't sound like me. The point is if there's nothing to it the certification sails right through, and only if the Republican loses does anybody even need to look, so really the voters are the ones being protected."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Four federal and state probes into Alaska's two Dan Sullivans yield zero charges, zero ballots, one denial.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 30 October 2026
— *Alaska's four-agency probe into a same-name candidate has produced zero charges, one on-air clarification: not illegal.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 30 October 2026
— *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

THE RECEIPTS

Peltola denies knowing of 'any other candidate' on ballot besides herself, incumbent
ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *18:59 EDT*
The DOJ is acting to "intensely and swiftly" escalate its probe, the top federal prosecutor in Alaska said.

Alaska Senate candidate denies knowing about alleged plot to put two Dan Sullivans on ballot
BBC News | MAINSTREAM | *20:29 EDT*
The incumbent Republican running for re-election and allies have accused the Democrats of trying to confuse voters by recruiting a second Dan Sullivan to also stand in the race.

DOJ calls Alaska Senate allegations 'troubling,' asks to segregate ballots
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *20:55 EDT*
The top federal prosecutor in Alaska did not specify what crimes are being investigated by the Justice Department, saying he's "not making any assumptions on whether a crime has been committed or not."

> ~~DOJ requests separating Alaska ballots that rank Dan J. Sullivan in Senate race~~
> *DOJ wants Alaska ballots for a GOP senator set aside, but won't say why voters were confused*
> *NBC News* | MAINSTREAM | *18:38 EDT*
> The court filing, which cites the potential for "voter confusion," did not spell out how segregating ballots would determine if a voter was confused.

Feds 'intensely' probing alleged Alaska ballot scheme, U.S attorney confirms
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *18:43 EDT*
Federal authorities are investigating whether Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign's reported effort to recruit a candidate in the Alaska Senate race with the same name as incumbent Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) violated the law, the state's top federal prosecutor announced Friday. U.S.

Murkowski calls for 'truth' from Peltola amid 'pattern of lies and coverups'
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *18:55 EDT*
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) called for the "truth" from former Rep.

> *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 (Blancke memo)*
> Feds 'surge' law enforcement to Alaska after 'troubling new revelations' in 'Decoy Dan' Senate scheme
> *New York Post* | RIGHT | *19:14 EDT*
> "As we speak, law enforcement around the country are taking investigative steps with respect to the criminal investigation," the top federal prosecutor in Alaska said Friday.

> *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*
> With Marc Elias involved, you KNOW dirty tricks are afoot in Alaska race
> *New York Post* | RIGHT | *19:37 EDT*
> Mary Peltola campaigns as an anti-politician, yet her campaign was working with the ultimate Democratic political operative's firm to pull off a quintessential inside-baseball dirty trick.

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

Alaska prosecutor investigates alleged Democratic plot to confuse voters with second Dan Sullivan
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *19:13 EDT*
Mary Peltola denies knowledge as party accused of recruiting spoiler candidate with same name as sitting Republican Alaska Senate race: what to know about Democrats' alleged ballot-stacking effort The top federal prosecutor in Alaska confirmed on Friday the existence of a criminal and a civil investigation into an alleged scheme by...

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

Breaking down the report alleging Mary Peltola's campaign recruited a second Dan Sullivan in Alaska
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *19:33 EDT*
A New York Times report alleges that Democrats launched a scheme to confuse voters in a race that could determine the power in Washington, D.C. Democrat Mary Peltola is running against incumbent Dan Sullivan. But there is a second Dan Sullivan on the ballot, and the report finds that Peltola's campaign was behind an effort to recruit the...

Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign reportedly recruited second Dan Sullivan in Alaska Senate race
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *15:48 EDT*
Republicans have condemned the presence of two Dan Sullivans on the ballot, calling it a ploy to split votes Alaska Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign was behind an effort to recruit a challenger with almost the same name as the Republican US senator Dan Sullivan, both of whom will appear on the ballot in next week's midterm elections, the...

· Democrats embrace voter suppression with decoy Dan Sullivan in Alaska *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· DOJ sues to block Alaska Senate certification if Sullivan loses *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Alaska Election Gambit Shows Justice Dept. Has Bowed to Trump's Demands *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Donald Trump challenges Alaska Senate trace *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· The controversy surrounding convicted former election official Tina Peters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt': Joe Concha *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

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

· Tina Peters turns down job with California county's registrar of voters *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

· Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Sabato's Crystal Ball shifts Alaska and South Carolina Senate races in favor of Democrats *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Trump knocks Alaska voting system: 'How stupid are we to do this?' *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· Corey Lewandowski Always Found His Way Back to Trump. Until Now. *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump announces $6.6bn defense shipyard owned by top Republican donor's firm *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· DOJ demands that California counties help identify noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· DOJ demands that some California counties set aside alleged noncitizen ballots *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*

· California officials ordered by DoJ to set aside 'likely' noncitizen ballots *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· LA feds move to halt ballot counting over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

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

· California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

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

· Trump DOJ issues stark warning to California ballot counters after suing state over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Intel Democrats on how they'll react if Trump alleges election meddling *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump told DOJ to sue to block Alaska Senate results if Republican narrowly loses *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

· Trump says he personally ordered DOJ lawsuit intervening in Alaska Senate election *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – live *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

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

· Trump-Ordered DOJ Lawsuit in Alaska Seen as First Salvo in GOP Effort to Undermine Midterm Elections *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump on the Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one that said, "do it"' *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump previews trip to Alaska to campaign for Dan Sullivan, ripping into the other Dan Sullivan *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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

· Sullivan trails Peltola in Alaska Senate contest: AARP poll *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Trump vows to probe other Dan Sullivan in alleged Dem plot to sabotage 'real' Alaska GOP senator *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· AGs v. Trump: How an AWOL Congress made hundreds of lawsuits possible *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· The Electoral College meets in the state capitals to officially elect the next President. Joe Biden, the presumptive president-elect, is officially elected president after securing California's 55 ele *from the morgue, 14 Dec 2020*

· US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers' in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*

· U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

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

· Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE INJUNCTIONS

Fourth court order this month tells Justice Department to stop threatening the people counting the votes.

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

"Judge blocks DOJ from threatening election officials over noncitizen voting claims", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A federal judge barred the Justice Department from threatening election officials with prosecution for counting ballots it calls disputed.

WHO GETS PAID. The administration pressing the noncitizen-voting claim, which gains if ballots it calls disputed go uncounted.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose a neutral count when the clerk opening the envelope can be prosecuted for counting it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the order lapses November 16, the fight outlasts the election; that is what Washington got after 25 March 2025, when an election order was enjoined in thirty days and parts of it were not permanently blocked for fifteen months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I had the wrong building, then the wrong floor, and I'd like to get that out of the way first, because everything I'm about to read you came to me sideways.

Friday morning I went downtown with one question. The woman at the first counter could not have been nicer about it: wrong floor. The second counter said wrong agency, try the clerk. The clerk said they don't keep anything that comes out of Washington, that'd be the court. The court said look it up, it's public. So I stood on the steps in the rain in the one raincoat I own, which is also the raincoat I own in August, reading the pages I'd folded into the pocket. Four rooms, each one pointing at the next. I'm told that's normal....

...(cont) The pages are out of order. Hold on. Here.

October 17th, the Guardian prints a letter from senior Justice Department officials to election officials in California. Local officials who process and tabulate ballots submitted by suspected noncitizen voters, it says, are putting themselves at risk of criminal investigation and potential prosecution. The department's phrase for the offense is "knowingly tabulate." I circled it out there on the steps, because I couldn't work out who, in a room holding ten thousand envelopes, is the one who knows.

Five days later, October 22nd, a federal judge in California finds Homeland Security violated the Voting Rights Act, sending agents door to door asking people their immigration status and whether they had voted. Then the subpoenas: three employees of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office ordered into federal court on November 4th, which is the day after the election. Then October 26th, a $1 million reward announced for reporting voter fraud, past or upcoming. It is still sitting there. A million dollars offered for the thing, and the thing hasn't come in.

I want to show you a small thing. The fellow who runs the store on my corner took a run of bad twenties this summer. He taped a card by the register: fifty dollars to anybody who tells him who's passing them. Nobody has come in for the fifty. So last week he told the kid at the register that any bill that looks off goes in the second drawer, don't ring it, and if the kid takes a bad one it comes out of the kid's pay. I asked how the kid is supposed to tell. He said that's what the drawer is for. Tuesday the line was out the door, the dog and I were in it, and the kid rang everything. Was the kid passing bad money, or was the kid standing there?

Friday evening, Judge Trina Thompson, on a suit brought by unions representing California election workers, issues a temporary restraining order: the Justice Department is barred from threatening or coercing election workers to stop processing ballots, and barred from demanding that officials segregate or decline to count ballots the federal government deems may have been cast by ineligible voters. The order runs through November 16th.

That is four federal court orders in nineteen days against this administration's handling of Tuesday's election: October 12th, a New York judge halting taxpayer-funded television ads promoting the president and ordering the rest of a $20 million purchase cancelled; the 22nd, the Voting Rights Act ruling; the 28th, another judge freezing that same $20 million; Friday, the restraining order. And a report published the 27th found 53 of the 60 battleground House and Senate races sit in districts or states with at least one Trump-appointed judge on the bench.

Excuse me — you've got your hand on the door, this takes a second. The counting is Tuesday the 3rd. The three subpoenaed workers are in court Wednesday the 4th. The protection ends the 16th, and the letter is still the letter. So when a clerk picks up an envelope the government hasn't deemed anything about yet, and won't until afterward — I'm sorry to keep coming back to this, it's been in my teeth since the steps — which word in that letter is the one they'd be charged under, the department's own, knowingly?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

A federal judge barred the Justice Department on Friday from threatening election workers with prosecution and from demanding they set aside ballots the government deems disputed, while the department's million-dollar fraud reward sits unclaimed. That is not an investigation, it is a bounty with a subpoena stapled to it, pointed at the clerks instead of the fraud. Because the threat landed on the people who open the mail, the clerk in your county has to decide Tuesday whether counting a ballot buys them a federal court date, and the thing they are holding while they decide is the envelope with your name printed above the window.

"They put a million dollars on the table for voter fraud, nobody collected, and the next move was subpoenas for three county workers due in federal court the day after the election. Four judges in nineteen days have told this crowd to stop, and Friday's order only runs to November 16th — two weeks past the count, then the threat letter is back on the clerk's desk. Three days out, and the people opening your envelope are being asked whether counting it is a crime."

— Sal

"Nobody threatened anyone — the letter says "knowingly," so if you're not doing it knowingly, where's the problem? Did I say threat? That doesn't sound like me, I said reminder, a reminder of existing federal law, which is a service. And look, the order is temporary, it's two weeks, the judge said so herself — the one the lawsuit went to, which, interesting, a union lawsuit, let's talk about that instead."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Judge calls third Comey prosecution a possible exercise in futility; prosecutors suggest a fourth charge anyway.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 30 October 2026
- *Justice Department offers $1 million for voter fraud tips; the pope's mail ballot isn't among them.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 30 October 2026
- *Justice Department charges Comey a third time, days after a judge ruled it illegally fired his daughter.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 30 October 2026
- *Judge asks how suspects were found; Justice Department answers with subpoenas, a $1 million bounty, and friendly judges.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 30 October 2026
- *Asked how it identified suspects, Justice Department responds with criminal subpoenas instead of an answer.* By Lou · the morning edition, 30 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Judge blocks DOJ from threatening election officials over noncitizen voting claims

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *23:01 EDT*

A California federal judge Friday ordered the Trump administration to stop threatening election officials with criminal prosecution in its ongoing efforts to crack down on noncitizen voting. U.S. District Judge Trina Thompson issued a temporary restraining order connected to a lawsuit brought by unions representing California election...

Judge orders DOJ to stop trying to "intimidate" California election officials

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *22:50 EDT*

A federal judge ordered the federal government to stop demanding that state and local election officials separate out ballots and threatening criminal prosecution for noncompliance.

~~Siding With DNC a Week Before Midterms, Judge Blocks Trump's Taxpayer-Funded 'Propaganda Campaign'~~

Judge halts $20 million in taxpayer-funded ads where Trump called critics 'Marxists'

Common Dreams § *15:04 EDT*

Less than a week before Election Day, another federal judge on Wednesday blocked the Trump administration from using taxpayer funds to run ads promoting the president. US district judge Loren AliKhan froze the White House Office of Management and Budget's $20 million allocation to run the ads, saying the administration likely "used...

Judge orders Trump administration to stop threatening election officials

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:19 EDT*

A federal judge issued a sweeping order blocking the Trump administration from threatening or intimidating election officials amid pressure tactics used by the administration in the weeks leading up to next week's midterm elections.

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*

Midterm elections live updates: Judge orders DOJ to halt threats to election workers

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *05:10 EDT*

The judge granted a temporary restraining order through Nov. 16

~~US judge blocks Justice Dept over election directives~~

Judge blocks DOJ's threat to jail election officials over ballots

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *03:34 EDT*

A US federal judge has temporarily blocked the Justice Department from threatening state and local election officials with criminal prosecution if they fail to comply with its directives on processing ballots.

Federal judge blocks Trump DOJ threats against election workers ahead of 2026 midterms

Fox News RIGHT § *01:57 EDT*

A federal judge blocked the Trump administration from threatening election workers with prosecution over ballots tied to suspected noncitizens.

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...

Federal judge bars DoJ from threatening election workers to stop processing ballots

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:30 EDT*

Order says local officials can't be forced to separate or stop counting ballots that the government deems to be disputed A federal judge has barred the justice department from threatening or coercing election workers to stop processing ballots. The order issued late Friday also bars the justice department from demanding local election...

· Federal judge orders temporary halt to taxpayer-funded pro-Trump TV ads *from the morgue, 12 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*

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

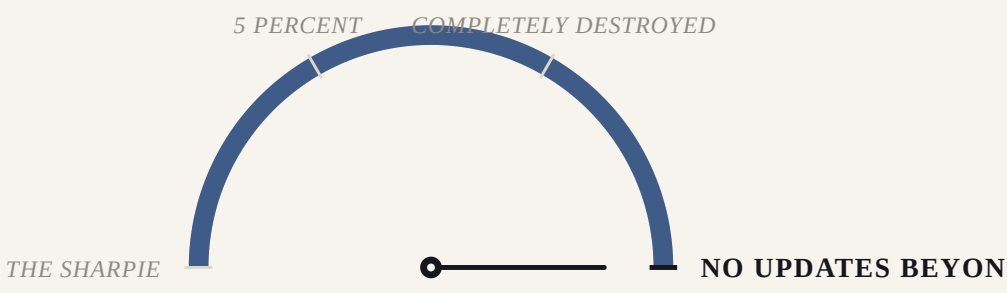
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§77 — 30 OCTOBER 2026

On the Sharpie

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



NO UPDATES BEYOND 2024

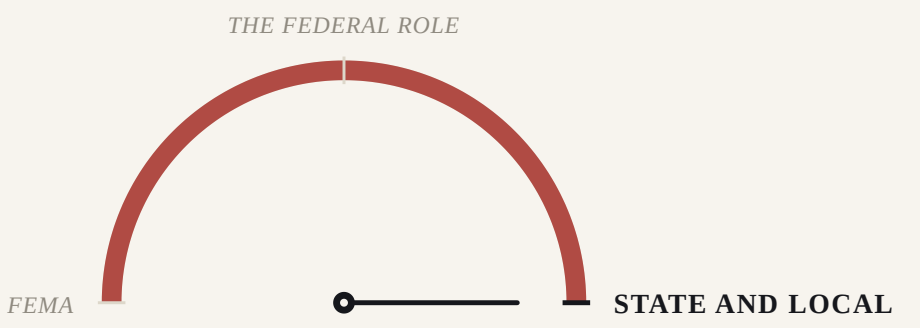
The map. The forecast gave southeastern Alabama about a 5 percent chance of tropical-storm-force winds, and the Birmingham weather office had posted that "Alabama will NOT see any impacts"; two days after the marker, an unsigned NOAA statement said Birmingham "spoke in absolute terms" [1]. The Commerce Department's inspector general found in 2020 that "the Department required NOAA to issue a Statement that did not further NOAA's or NWS's interests" [2].

The count. On May 8, 2025, NOAA announced that its Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters product "will be retired, with no updates beyond calendar year 2024" [3]. After losing staff, the National Weather Service was allowed to hire 450 meteorologists, hydrologists and radar technicians that August [4]. And the council's recommendation for the agency that pays out after a storm: aid only for homes "completely destroyed" [5]. In 2019 the storm was drawn somewhere else. In 2025 the tally of storms was stopped.

SOURCES

1. About a 5 percent chance of tropical-storm-force winds in southeastern Alabama; Birmingham: "Alabama will NOT see any impacts"; NOAA: Birmingham "spoke in absolute terms" — WSFA, 6 September 2019 ↑
2. "The Department required NOAA to issue a Statement that did not further NOAA's or NWS's interests" — Commerce Department inspector general, OIG-20-032-I — Nextgov, July 2020 ↑
3. The Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters product "will be retired, with no updates beyond calendar year 2024" — NOAA NESDIS, 8 May 2025 ↑
4. The National Weather Service allowed to hire 450 meteorologists, hydrologists and radar technicians — House press release from Reps. Flood and Sorensen, 7 August 2025 ↑
5. Aid only for homes "completely destroyed" — Government Executive, 7 May 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



STATE AND LOCAL

The administration's case on disasters is not the Sharpie; it is a theory of who should respond. Executive Order 14239, March 2025: "State and local governments and individuals play a more active and significant role in national resilience and preparedness" [1]. The argument is that the people closest to a flood or a fire know it best, and that a federal agency in Washington is a slower first responder than a county.

That is a real position, and it is being put into practice: the FEMA Review Council's recommendations this spring called for block grants to states and a strategic review of the agency's staff [2]. On the day of the marker, in September 2019, the president asked about the loop said, "I don't know, I don't know, I don't know" [3]. What happened to the forecasters since is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "State and local governments and individuals play a more active and significant role in national resilience and preparedness" — Executive Order 14239, 18 March 2025 — The White House ↑
2. The FEMA Review Council recommended block grants, a two-to-three-year staff strategic review, and aid only for homes "completely destroyed" — Government Executive, 7 May 2026 ↑
3. The Dorian forecast map extended into Alabama in black marker; asked about it: "I don't know, I don't know, I don't know" — CBS News, 4 September 2019 ↑

"It's the little loop that bothers me. The forecast map from August 29th, and then on September 4th there's this extra curve in black marker, reaching into Alabama. The forecast gave southeastern Alabama about a five percent chance of tropical-storm winds; the Birmingham office said Alabama would "NOT see any impacts." Two days later, an unsigned statement took his side. The next year the inspector general wrote it "did not further NOAA's or NWS's interests." Excuse me — I forgot my umbrella. The loop was drawn in 2019. Who's drawing the map now?" — Lou

🍺

"The Sharpie. September 2019, the official forecast map in the Oval Office, and there's a black loop drawn into Alabama. "I don't know, I don't know, I don't know." Then the weather agency was made to back him, and the Commerce Department's inspector general said the statement didn't serve the agency. Last year they found a better pen. They retired the count of billion-dollar disasters — "no updates beyond calendar year 2024." You don't have to redraw the storm if you stop keeping the map."

— Sal

🚬

"The president was simply being cautious about Alabama, and caution is what you want from a leader during hurricane season, and retiring the disaster count is caution too, since you can't be alarmed by a number no one publishes."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎