The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

MONDAY, 02 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

President who pledged to avoid foreign wars trades stock in companies profiting from the one he started

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a war that was promised over, which is not a dish you get over here, so I shall go slowly. You will need a campaign promise, a price tag still climbing, and a president with money riding on the outcome.

You will need, exactly: forty-seven billion dollars, the Iran war's official cost as of October 28th; over a thousand stock trades made in June, some in energy firms; and a September report crediting the whole foreign policy with saving taxpayers three hundred twenty billion dollars over four years. Keep all three on the counter; do not let them touch yet.

Clive *Invested. I have backed my own work more than once, and no one here has matched a poet for commitment to a losing position.*

Gary *Invested is one word for it. I invested an evening in Keith's door, which no longer exists — the only return this house has seen.*

In October, the Pentagon had moved troops out of the hemisphere where it claims no oil and into the one where it claims thirty-five percent, seating its largest contractor on the committee planning the future of war. You will be looking for the vote. There is none; there is a committee, and the contrac-

... Continued on Page A227

THE WORD

§80 — 02 NOVEMBER 2026

On entitled

DEMOCRAT

21 NO VOTES

REPUBLICAN

ENTITLED

"When my nephew was little we played Monopoly, and he'd tell me he was entitled to Park Place because he'd been going around the board so long. I think about that. Five seats in Texas: "we are entitled to five more seats." Then Indiana, where the map failed 31 to 19 with twenty-one Republicans voting no, and the answer was, "We won every other state. That's the only state." Excuse me — I'll let you get home, it's a big day tomorrow. The seats he's entitled to. Who votes on them in the morning?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W80

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE BADGE DECIDES

The bowling-alley lights were contracted to the cent, $252,876.34, escort extra; the passes that let 78 reporters in without an escort went dark the day after a post.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Justice Department targets 65 officials for holding ICE accountable, stops sharing its own evidence on ICE killings

BY LOU
One More Question

I need some help understanding this one, and I don't mean that as a trick to get your attention. The House Judiciary Committee and the Justice Department are supposed to be the experts on accountability this year. They're the ones doing it, over and over, to other people. So I'd like to ask them something plain, if they have a minute for me.

Truthout reported it on November 2nd: since January, the Committee and the Department have targeted sixty-five state and local officials for trying to hold ICE accountable. Not for breaking a law that I can find. For asking questions about what ICE did. What, exactly, does an official have to do to end up on a list like that?

I went out to the car to sit with it for a minute, because that's usually where I end up when something doesn't add up and I don't want to stare at it indoors. I've got a glovebox full of paper I never look at — an expired registration, a gas receipt from a station I can't place anymore, an old inspection sticker curling at the corner. None of it's organized. But I don't throw any of it out, because the whole arrangement of a glovebox is that the paper stays put

... Continued on Page T31

Snap, fourth platform in three months, settles addiction suit; running admission count stays zero.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Snap Inc. settled a lawsuit Monday alleging its app was designed to be addictive, averting trial.

Start with August. On August 26, Meta agreed to pay nearly $18 billion to settle the addiction lawsuit brought by California and other states, closing the case before a jury heard it.

Two months later the company was back in a Los Angeles courtroom. The week of October 28, Meta and Snap returned for the next trial in the same line of litigation, which alleged their platforms were built to hook young users.

That trial did not finish either. On October 30, Meta settled with a second plaintiff — an 18-year-old from Mississippi identified in court papers as K.D.B. — whose suit alleged that using Instagram and Snapchat as a child worsened her mental health and contributed to an eating disorder. The settlement landed while jury selection for the next bellwether case was already underway.

Monday, Snap supplied the fourth repetition. The company joins

... Continued on Page F133

DOJ cuts noncitizen-voter claim by 170,000, loses in court three times, asks for sanctions on the analysts.

BY MITCH
Investigations

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The department revised it. The 190,000 became 20,000 — an eighty-nine percent cut — and the department filed an emergency lawsuit to make the smaller number stick, after early voting had already begun. The suit asked California to set aside ballots from those 20,000 named voters until someone could verify their citizenship. The verifying was supposed to happen after the lawsuit, not before it.

California's governor called the suit "an assault on democracy."

Two days later, on October 29, a federal judge named David Carter, nominated to the bench by Bill Clinton, declined the same request at the district level. Judge Carter called it legally thin and said it appeared designed to cast doubt on an election that had not happened yet.

Three days after the first appellate ruling, on October 30, a second panel of the Ninth Circuit also split 2 to 1, and also rejected the request, finding no new reason to like the number. That ruling opened a path to the Supreme

... Continued on Page B51

Jeffries called a cross-party endorsement 'partisan hack' in September, pushed Stevens from his caucus Monday for hers.

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I want to say up front that this isn't my beat. I don't cover Senate races for a living, I don't know anybody at the Washington Examiner, and I don't know anybody at Truthout either, but they cover this stuff every day and I only come around when I'm stuck, so maybe one of them can walk me through it, because I've read this twice now and I still don't follow it.

I wrote this down because I didn't trust myself to remember it right. Saturday, Mike Rogers put out a video, direct to camera, saying he will not take action to restrict abortion rights at the federal level if Michigan elects him Tuesday. I underlined that part — federal level — because here's the page I can't quite find, hang on, there it is: the same man once co-sponsored a bill that would have banned abortion from the point of conception, and that bill wasn't a state bill either. It was federal too.

I have this one highlighted, too: Monday, Haley Stevens went on the radio and somebody asked her straight out whether she'd been pushed into endorsing Rogers. She said she made the decision herself. Fine. I believe people can make their own decisions. I'm just trying to work out the headcount

... Continued on Page A227

Trump's closing argument before Americans vote: a $14 million pool and a joke about naming it after himself.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On August 28, the president posted an update on the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, quoting Interior Department official Greg Wischer: "Coming out great!" Open in a few weeks, Wischer said.

On October 6, the president said repairs were close to complete and the pool would be refilled with water "this week." He also touted unfounded claims that the pool had been vandalized.

Two days later, on October 8, he said the work was almost done. The project, underway since April to be finished ahead of the country's 250th birthday, was by then six months old.

On Monday, the day before voters decided control of Congress, the president stood at the finished pool and walked through it in the kind of detail a resurfacing contract usually gets filed, not announced: the pipe, the grass, the granite. He floated renaming it the Trump Reflecting Pool, then said he was joking.

The Washington Examiner counted the minutes: close to half of what had been billed as his closing argument to voters went to the pool. The same pa-

... Continued on Page F133

CBS Sports needed three years and $50.3 million to confirm the 2023 Orange Bowl broke Florida State.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

Somebody get this reporter the political desk. Florida State fired its athletic director September 14th, has not filled that chair in the seven weeks since, and just authorized $50.3 million to walk a football coach out the door besides. A public university is paying premium exit money at the top while its own administration sits empty in the middle. Send this upstairs.

... Continued on Page S20

Mayor threatens third lawsuit against ICE in a month, files none.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

One job. Find the paper that says who owns the ground underneath.

Start at the start. October 2, the mayor threatens to sue Columbia University over College Walk, the footpath locked since the 2023 campus protests, unless the school reopens it. No ownership claim attached — the city doesn't hold title to a private university's sidewalk. Just a threat to sue, over a gate the letter says has stayed shut three years.

Fourteen days later, October 16, Mamdani and other New York Democrats send a different kind of letter, this one to private parking-lot owners, asking them not to rent space to ICE for staging raids. Not a lawsuit threat. A request with a return address, no court attached, aimed at property the city has no more claim to than it did at Columbia's sidewalk.

Monday the job changes shape. The mayor's letter to the Trump administration calls ICE's use of city-owned properties 'unauthorized and is therefore illegal,' property that 'endangers City residents, and sows fear among those who seek to access City property.' The planner studies the three letters side by side and likes what's finally sitting in this one: for the first time, the thing

... Continued on Page T31

"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

Justice Department targets 65 officials for holding ICE accountable, stops sharing its own evidence on ICE killings

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The House Judiciary Committee and the Justice Department targeted state and local officials trying to hold ICE accountable.

WHO GETS PAID. ICE keeps the power to investigate itself without outside scrutiny, while officials who challenge it face federal investigation.

WHAT SLIPS. Minnesota's investigators lose access to the evidence they need to determine whether federal agents wrongfully killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, vindication comes years late; that is what Castle Hills, Texas got after its 2019 arrest: the charge dropped, a 2024 Supreme Court win, and a $500,000 settlement six years on.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I need some help understanding this one, and I don't mean that as a trick to get your attention. The House Judiciary Committee and the Justice Department are supposed to be the experts on accountability this year. They're the ones doing it, over and over, to other people. So I'd like to ask them something plain, if they have a minute for me.

Truthout reported it on November 2nd: since January, the Committee and the Department have targeted sixty-five state and local officials for trying to hold ICE accountable. Not for breaking a law that I can find. For asking questions about what ICE did. What, exactly, does an official have to do to end up on a list like that?...

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Minnesota is investigating two deaths from the crackdown there earlier this year — Renee Good and Alex Pretti, both killed by federal officers. Alex Pretti died in January; he was thirty-seven, a nurse. The state sued the federal government back in March for the materials on both cases. In court filings this October, Minnesota said the federal government had paused handing that material over. If the Committee can put that many officials under review for asking ICE a question, what's the review called for the agency that stopped answering a state's questions about two people who are dead?

Susan and Michael Pretti held a press conference on October 27th — their first public remarks since their son died in January — and accused federal officials of stonewalling them and shielding his killers. They weren't trying to get anybody added to a list. They were trying to get the Department to hold somebody accountable for what happened to their son. Do they get the file?

I've got a dog in the yard who's barked at the same mail carrier for six years running, and nobody at the Postal Service has ever opened a file on him either way. I bring him up only because I'm trying to find the actual line between who gets looked at and who doesn't, and from where I'm sitting, I can't find it by myself. Could the Committee draw that line for me, in writing, the way they apparently already have for everybody else on their list?

I keep thinking about the glovebox, honestly. Not because it's a clever comparison. Because it's the only place I've got where I understand the rule: the paper stays, in case somebody asks. Minnesota asked in March. By October they were still waiting. I don't know what you call that, and I was hoping the Committee could tell me, since they seem to have a name for everything else this year.

Oh — before you go, one more thing. I'm sorry, I told myself I'd leave this alone, but I keep landing back on it wrong. Sixty-five people got put under a microscope this year for asking ICE to answer for something. How many has anybody put under one for refusing to answer Minnesota?

🍺

"This is the oldest con there is: they tell you the watchmen need watching, then they only agree to watch the people watching ICE, never the people ICE killed. Sixty-five names got a federal file opened in ten months; the agents who shot Renee Good and Alex Pretti haven't had their paperwork handed over since March. That's not confusion, that's the design, and it's your tax dollars running it both ways."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, oversight is oversight — the Committee has every right to review local officials who get in the way of federal immigration enforcement, that's just checks and balances working as intended. The pause in Minnesota is a routine procedural matter while litigation is ongoing, it's not — wait, did I just call withholding evidence in two fatal shootings a "procedural matter"? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Federal Government Is Targeting Officials Who Are Trying to Hold ICE Accountable~~
>
> **DOJ targets 65 officials for policing ICE as agency gets $70 billion boost**
>
> *Truthout § 16:29 EST*
>
> Since January, the House Judiciary Committee and Department of Justice have targeted 65 state and local officials.

· Minnesota officials say US government stopped sharing evidence on fatal ICE shootings *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· 'Shameful': Alex Pretti's parents accuse Trump officials of shielding son's killers *from the morgue, 27 Oct 2026*

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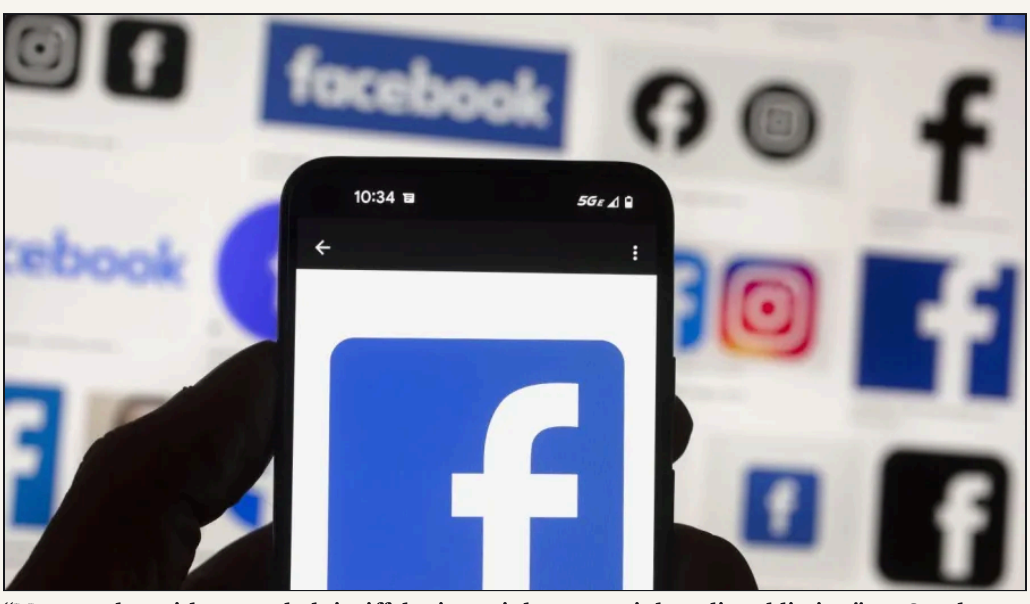
Snap, fourth platform in three months, settles addiction suit; running admission count stays zero.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Meta settles with second plaintiff during trial over social media addiction", 30 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Snap settled a lawsuit Monday over addictive app design, avoiding trial, the fourth such platform settlement since August.

WHO GETS PAID. The social media industry buys the end of trial testimony on app design, paying settlements instead of changing the product.

WHAT SLIPS. A jury's chance to see how these apps were built slips away each time the case settles before a verdict.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that holds, the next bellwether trial ends the same way, before a verdict; that is what happened on October 30, when Meta settled with a second plaintiff mid-trial rather than let a jury rule.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Snap Inc. settled a lawsuit Monday alleging its app was designed to be addictive, averting trial.

Start with August. On August 26, Meta agreed to pay nearly $18 billion to settle the addiction lawsuit brought by California and other states, closing the case before a jury heard it....

...(cont) Two months later the company was back in a Los Angeles courtroom. The week of October 28, Meta and Snap returned for the next trial in the same line of litigation, which alleged their platforms were built to hook young users.

That trial did not finish either. On October 30, Meta settled with a second plaintiff — an 18-year-old from Mississippi identified in court papers as K.D.B. — whose suit alleged that using Instagram and Snapchat as a child worsened her mental health and contributed to an eating disorder. The settlement landed while jury selection for the next bellwether case was already underway.

Monday, Snap supplied the fourth repetition. The company joins Alphabet, Meta and TikTok in resolving allegations of addictive design, bringing the running count of these platforms that have let a jury reach a verdict on the question to zero.

Reconcile the column against the dates and the gap is not in what any side has said. It is in what none of them has had to say. Four settlements, four companies, each one closes a case before it reaches twelve people in a box — and not one of the four required a sentence admitting the app worked exactly as the lawsuits alleged. The money moves on schedule. The design review doesn't.

Call it what the ledger calls it: the cost of doing business, paid before the one audience positioned to ask how the product was built gets to ask it. Four times since August, that audience got sent home before the question was answered. If the pattern holds, the fifth settlement is already being drafted somewhere, due the next time jury selection finishes.

"Four companies, four settlements, zero verdicts — that's not bad luck, that's a business plan: you pay before the jury sees how the thing was built, and you call the case closed. The app doesn't change, the kids are still on it tonight, and the check just buys quiet."

— Sal

"These are civil settlements, not admissions — paying out early is just sound risk management, protects the shareholders, keeps everybody's attention on the business instead of a courtroom. Wait, did I just say the point is keeping it out of the courtroom? That's — forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Meta settles social media addiction lawsuit, averting trial~~

Meta pays to avoid a trial over claims it designed apps to addict kids

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:27 EST*

Two plaintiffs alleged that Meta and Snap designed their social media platforms to foster addictive behavior.

Snap settles social media addiction lawsuit, averting trial

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EST*

Snap joins Alphabet, Meta and TikTok in resolving allegations that its social media platform was designed to encourage addictive behavior.

Meta settles with second plaintiff during trial over social media addiction

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *13:21 EDT*

Meta settled a social media addiction lawsuit with an 18-year-old plaintiff on Friday, avoiding its next bellwether trial, which began jury selection this week. The case, filed by a woman from Mississippi dubbed "K.D.B.," alleged her use of Instagram and Snapchat as a child worsened her mental health and contributed to her eating...

· Meta agrees to pay $18 billion to settle social media addiction lawsuit *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· Meta, Snap head back to Los Angeles court for social media addiction trial *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

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THE SHRINKING NUMBER

DOJ cuts noncitizen-voter claim by 170,000, loses in court three times, asks for sanctions on the analysts.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

"DOJ calls for sanctions over California voter rolls analysis", 2 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department sued to block 20,000 California ballots after cutting its noncitizen count from 190,000.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The department's push for sanctions against the outside analysts threatens to chill future independent checks on government voter-fraud claims.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the Supreme Court rejects this filing too, that is what happened to the administration's broader election order: partly enjoined within 30 days of its March 2025 signing, then permanently blocked by June 24, 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Justice Department said, in recent months, that 190,000 people on California's voter rolls were not citizens. It was not settled. It was a draft.

The department revised it. The 190,000 became 20,000 — an eighty-nine percent cut — and the department filed an emergency lawsuit to make the smaller number stick, after early voting had already begun. The suit asked California to set aside ballots from those 20,000 named voters until someone could verify their citizenship. The verifying was supposed to happen after the lawsuit, not before it....

...(cont) California's governor called the suit "an assault on democracy."

Two days later, on October 29, a federal judge named David Carter, nominated to the bench by Bill Clinton, declined the same request at the district level. Judge Carter called it legally thin and said it appeared designed to cast doubt on an election that had not happened yet.

Three days after the first appellate ruling, on October 30, a second panel of the Ninth Circuit also split 2 to 1, and also rejected the request, finding no new reason to like the number. That ruling opened a path to the Supreme Court, where the department went next.

All together now, line by line: the number started at 190,000. It became 20,000. The department's answer, filed Sunday, was not a correction. It was a request for sanctions against the analysts who did the subtraction.

The department maintains the 20,000 figure is accurate. Three courts have looked at it over four days — a district judge and two appellate panels — and three times the answer has been no. Whatever the Supreme Court does with the filing now in front of it, it will do it with one day left before California's polls close for good.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CUT ITS OWN NONCITIZEN COUNT BY 170,000 AND THREE courts threw out what was left. That is not an accuracy dispute, it is a pressure campaign with a filing fee. The campaign does not stop at the courthouse, it rides the mail truck, it sits in the sorting bin, and tomorrow it lands on the ballot still waiting in your kitchen drawer.

"They cut their own number by almost ninety percent, got told no three separate times by three separate judges, and the response wasn't to drop it — it was to go after the people who checked the math. That's not a fraud case, that's a pressure campaign with a docket number, timed to land the day before people stop voting. You don't sue over a number you believe in. You sue over a number you need to still be in the news tomorrow."

— Sal

"Look, the department isn't saying the courts were wrong, it's saying the courts didn't address the merits — did I say merits? There's always a merits argument, that's not spin, that's — okay, the sanctions request is about protecting the integrity of the analysis, not punishing anyone for finding errors in our analysis, which, again, had errors. We stand by the 20,000. We also stand by wanting to know who checked the 20,000 and make them stop."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department says it isn't assuming a crime occurred, appeals the lawsuit built on one.* By Chip · the morning edition, 2 November 2026
- *Tim Scott calls an unproven plot a 'criminal offense' but won't say he'll accept the vote it targets* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 1 November 2026
- *Trump told the Justice Department to sue to block Alaska's certification if the Republican narrowly loses; the complaint named zero ballots, and the vote is two days off.* By Mort · the evening edition, 1 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~DOJ calls for sanctions over California voter rolls analysis~~

DOJ's noncitizen-voter list was wrong 4 in 10 times. Now it wants the auditors sanctioned.

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:50 EST*

The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Sunday defended the accuracy of its claim that more than 20,000 "likely noncitizens" are on California's voter rolls, even after an outside analysis found that more than 40 percent of the names flagged as noncitizens were not on the state's voter rolls. DOJ officials wrote in a filing that...

~~Judge rebuffs Trump DoJ's bid to force California to set aside 20,000 ballots~~

DOJ tried to toss 20,000 California ballots over noncitizen fraud that's extremely rare

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:54 EDT*

Justice department had demanded state segregate and not count ballots from people it claimed were non-citizens A federal judge declined to order California election officials to segregate and not count ballots from people the Trump administration claimed were non-citizens, rebuffing a legally thin request from the justice department that...

~~Trump admin asks top court to set aside 20,000 California ballots~~

Trump admin's California illegal-voter claim fell from 190,000 to 20,000 - then it sued anyway

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *15:43 EST*

The federal government in recent months had accused California of having 190,000 illegal voters on its books. It recently revised the figure to 20,000 and filed an emergency lawsuit – after early voting had begun – to stop the state from sending ballots to them.

~~Appeals court rejects DOJ effort to set aside 20,000 mail-in ballots, teeing up Supreme Court gambit~~

DOJ's push to toss 20,000 ballots dies in court — 4 days before Election Day

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:57 EDT*

A federal appeals court on Friday rejected the Justice Department's emergency bid to force California to set aside mail-in ballots associated with roughly 20,000 suspected noncitizens, opening a potential path to the Supreme Court days before the midterm elections. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to deny an injunction...

Appeals court rules against Trump — again — on California ballots

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:50 EDT*

A split federal appeals court panel again rejected the Trump administration's bid to set aside 20,000 California ballots it says are likely noncitizens until they can be verified. The 2-1 majority on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit didn't dispute a lower court's finding that the list isn't credible and ruled the...

· Court blocks bid by Trump DoJ to stop California from counting mail-in ballots *from the morgue, 27 Oct 2026*

· Trump asks Supreme Court to lift block on USPS mail ballot rule *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

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NEXT STEPS

Jeffries called a cross-party endorsement 'partisan hack' in September, pushed Stevens from his caucus Monday for hers.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Rogers Cashes Checks From Anti-Abortion Extremists in Final Days of Senate Campaign", 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Haley Stevens endorsed Mike Rogers, and House Democrats moved Monday to push her from their caucus.

WHO GETS PAID. The National Pro-Life Alliance PAC, which funded Rogers' campaign days before his no-federal-abortion pledge.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters have only a video promise, not a binding commitment, against the federal ban Rogers already co-sponsored.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the caucus turns on Stevens the way the party turned on dissenters, a primary threat follows; that is what Wyoming got after its February 2022 censure of Liz Cheney: she lost the primary that August, 66 to 29.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I want to say up front that this isn't my beat. I don't cover Senate races for a living, I don't know anybody at the Washington Examiner, and I don't know anybody at Truthout either, but they cover this stuff every day and I only come around when I'm stuck, so maybe one of them can walk me through it, because I've read this twice now and I still don't follow it.

I wrote this down because I didn't trust myself to remember it right. Saturday, Mike Rogers put out a video, direct to camera, saying he will not take action to restrict abortion rights at the federal level if Michigan elects him Tuesday. I underlined that part — federal level — because here's the page I can't quite find, hang on, there it is: the same man once co-sponsored a bill that would have banned abortion from the point of conception, and that bill wasn't a state bill either. It was federal too....

...(cont) I have this one highlighted, too: Monday, Haley Stevens went on the radio and somebody asked her straight out whether she'd been pushed into endorsing Rogers. She said she made the decision herself. Fine. I believe people can make their own decisions. I'm just trying to work out the headcount — if it was her decision alone, how many people were in the room when she made it, and how many of them also work for the Michigan Democratic Party?

In my glove box I keep two insurance cards, this year's and last year's, because I'm slow to throw the old one out in time. If you ask me which card is good, I don't guess from the color or the logo — I read the date in the corner. That's the whole trick. The date tells you, not the card. I keep thinking about that glove box reading this story, because the video gets repeated on the news, and the bill just sits there, filed, same place it's been the whole time.

Here's what else I had written down, earlier in the week, before any of this: the Michigan Democratic Party's chair removed Stevens from the state party outright, for endorsing the man in the video over Abdul El-Sayed. That's one body, one action, done. I want to be careful here because there's a second one and I don't want to mix them up.

So — excuse me, before you go, because I almost let you walk out without this — Monday, separately, House Democrats moved to push Stevens out of their caucus in Washington. Truthout's headline on it calls her endorsement a "despicable betrayal" — those are the House Democrats' words, not the state chair's, and not mine. Hakeem Jeffries called a Republican's cross-party endorsement a "partisan hack" back in September and said he was weighing next steps. Monday, apparently, he found one.

I'm sorry to come back to it — I already wrote it down once — but there are three federals in my notebook now, not two: the one in the video, the one in the bill, and the one Stevens just lost her seat to, Monday, because the caucus that voted her out isn't a state body, it's federal, same as the House she sat in. So I'll ask whoever covers this for a living, since I only get to ask once: which one's binding, the one on the video, or the one that's already federal?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

MIKE ROGERS TOLD MICHIGAN BY VIDEO THAT HE WOULD NOT ACT ON ABORTION AT THE federal level, days after the National Pro-Life Alliance PAC had already cut his campaign a check. That is not a pledge of restraint, it is a receipt for a vote the PAC already paid for. The PAC buys the ad, the ad buys the seat, and the vote that seat eventually casts on the bill from conception comes due long after Tuesday, on the appointment card in your wallet, deciding whether the clinic on it still exists.

🍺

"Jeffries spent September calling it a "partisan hack" when a Republican accepted a Democrat's endorsement, and now his own caucus does the same math to a member who crossed the line the other way. This isn't about the bill Rogers co-sponsored, the one still sitting in the Congressional record — it's about who controls the story one day before the polls open. The seat goes to whoever's better at saying "I decided this myself.""

— Sal

🚬

"Look, Mike Rogers made clear he's not touching abortion at the federal level, that's the modern mainstream position, and whatever he co-sponsored back whenever doesn't erase the clip from Saturday — voters go with the latest video, that's just how it works now. Did I say "erase the clip"? That's not — that's not what I meant to say."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Jeffries called a Republican's cross-party endorsement 'partisan hack' in September, weighs 'next steps' for his own.* By Mort · the morning edition, 2 November 2026
- *Stevens defects, gets ousted, and finds a home with the party whose leader called her rival a jihadist.* By Mort · the evening edition, 2 November 2026
- *The Big Ten capped player pay at $49 million under a bill the president sold from a Neyland suite above a stadium selling half-price beer.* By Gus · the evening edition, 1 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Rogers Cashes Checks From Anti-Abortion Extremists in Final Days of Senate Campaign~~

Rogers vowed not to 'undo what Michigan decided.' He just took $5,000 from a total-ban PAC.

Common Dreams § *15:04 EDT*

Michigan voters were clear in 2022 when they voted by a 13-point margin to codify the right to abortion care in the state constitution, and the state's Republican US Senate candidate, former Rep. Mike Rogers, claimed two years ago that he had no interest in "going back to Washington, DC to undo what the people of Michigan decided to do."...

~~Stevens Endorsed Rogers Right After He Touted His Support of Abortion Bans~~

Stevens endorsed Rogers, who cosponsored a bill banning abortion from conception

Truthout § *16:03 EST*

Mike Rogers once co-sponsored a federal bill that would ban abortions from the point of conception.

~~New Mexico megachurch endorses Republican candidates, testing federal ban~~

As a megachurch flouts the endorsement ban, Trump's administration fights to kill it in court

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

Legacy Church's endorsements violate law banning tax-exempt nonprofits from endorsing political candidates A megachurch in New Mexico has endorsed two Republican candidates running in this year's midterms, including a Donald Trump-backed candidate running in one of the blue state's few competitive races. The church's endorsements, which...

Mike Rogers draws fire from both sides after pledging no federal action on abortion

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:54 EST*

Michigan Republican Senate nominee Mike Rogers has drawn sharp criticism from both sides of the aisle after releasing a direct-to-camera video on social media on Saturday saying he will not take action to restrict abortion rights at the federal level if elected by Michiganders on Tuesday. Rogers, who is in a toss-up contest against...

~~House Democrats Want Stevens Out of Their Caucus After Her "Despicable Betrayal"~~

Michigan's Democratic Party already expelled Stevens, its chair says

Truthout § *14:22 EST*

The Michigan Democratic Party's chair removed Haley Stevens from the party for endorsing Abdul El-Sayed's opponent.

Haley Stevens dismisses idea she was forced into endorsing Rogers: 'I made a decision'

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:41 EST*

Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI) dismissed speculation that she was pressured into issuing her last-minute endorsement of Republican Senate nominee Mike Rogers on Sunday. Stevens, whose endorsement of Rogers over Democratic nominee Abdul el Sayed sent shockwaves through the Democratic Party over the weekend, said during a radio interview Monday...

· Joe Manchin says he's not OK with Abdul el Sayed becoming senator, says Mike Rogers will 'do a great job' *from the morgue, 14 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 closing argument before Americans vote: a $14 million pool and a joke about naming it after himself.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

“Trump teases ‘Trump Reflecting Pool’ at final midterm elections event, says he’s joking”, 2 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump used his final midterm campaign speech to showcase a renovated reflecting pool.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The substantive closing argument voters were promised slips away, replaced by a walkthrough of pipe, grass, and granite.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next thing on the calendar is Tuesday's vote for control of Congress; the receipts give nothing beyond that.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On August 28, the president posted an update on the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, quoting Interior Department official Greg Wischer: "Coming out great!" Open in a few weeks, Wischer said.

On October 6, the president said repairs were close to complete and the pool would be refilled with water "this week." He also touted unfounded claims that the pool had been vandalized....

...(cont) Two days later, on October 8, he said the work was almost done. The project, underway since April to be finished ahead of the country's 250th birthday, was by then six months old.

On Monday, the day before voters decided control of Congress, the president stood at the finished pool and walked through it in the kind of detail a resurfacing contract usually gets filed, not announced: the pipe, the grass, the granite. He floated renaming it the Trump Reflecting Pool, then said he was joking.

The Washington Examiner counted the minutes: close to half of what had been billed as his closing argument to voters went to the pool. The same paper noted he has spent this year's campaign being accused of exactly that, prioritizing construction over the economy and the prices voters say they came to hear about.

The Guardian reported, in the same piece unveiling the $14 million makeover, that polling indicates most voters feel the president has grown too focused on building projects in the capital. A separate Guardian live file carried the New York Times/Siena poll showing Abdul El-Sayed ahead of Mike Rogers by 11 points in Michigan's Senate race, outside the margin of error, and Democratic Representative Haley Stevens endorsing Rogers anyway, a seat her party needs to hold the Senate.

Five items came across this desk today. Four are the pool. The fifth is the only one that mentions the Senate seat up for grabs tomorrow, and it does so in a paragraph about a poll, not in anything the candidate said himself at the microphone.

$14 million bought a pool that reflects the Lincoln Memorial. On the eve of the vote, it reflected something else: an afternoon where the infrastructure got a press conference and the election got a joke about a name, hon.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

The $14 million pool took from April to Monday to finish. Half his last speech before the vote was the water, not the ballot. Because the closing argument was the pool, that's the only clip the evening news has to run before Tuesday; because that's the only clip, the sample ballot sitting on your kitchen counter still gets filled out on whatever you already knew walking in, since the last thing he told you about was granite, not about it.

“A pool. The man spent his last day asking for your vote talking about grass and granite, then joked about stamping his name on the water, and the receipts say he's been accused all year of doing this exact move instead of talking prices. That's not an accident, that's the whole strategy — stare at the shiny deck chair long enough and you stop asking where the budget went.”

— Sal

“This is a president who delivers: a reflecting pool, finally reopened, exactly as promised. Okay — "exactly as promised" meant "a few weeks" in August stretching to "almost done" in October to a Monday unveiling the day before the vote, which, hearing it out loud, maybe isn't exactly on schedule. But he said it unites all Americans, and a candidate who spends half his closing argument on granite is a candidate who isn't afraid of infrastructure — that's... I'll workshop that one.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Iran cuts its Strait deadline from seven days to two, leaving the president's 41-day-old 'very soon' untouched.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 2 November 2026
- *Iran war that's ending 'soon' already made the president's oil holdings $81.6 million richer.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 2 November 2026
- *Asked to itemize the Iran war, the Pentagon returned a bill five billion dollars larger; the president says the war ends after the vote, two days out.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 1 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: **Trump promised the ballroom wouldn't cost taxpayers 'one dime' - Republicans then asked Congress for $1 billion in taxpayer funds for it** *NBC News, May 2026*

Trump teases ‘Trump Reflecting Pool’ at final midterm elections event, says he’s joking

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:14 EST*

President Donald Trump teased changing the name of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to the “Trump Reflecting Pool” during his final appearance before the midterm elections. “We’re giving serious thought to changing the name to the Trump Reflecting Pool,”

But: **SNAP was cut by $187 billion, the largest cut in the program's history, feeding one in five American children** *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*

Trump centers Reflecting Pool in closing midterm speech

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:19 EST*

President Trump’s closing speech a day before the midterm elections focused on the reopening of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and other changes around Washington, D.C. Trump in remarks at the Reflecting Pool announced its reopening. He showed pictures of what was replaced and said it should be a project that “unites all Americans.”

Trump focuses on Washington DC construction projects on eve of midterm election as Democrats climb in polls – live

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *17:52 EST*

President at reflecting pool in Washington DC to talk about various projects in final appearance before Americans head to polls to vote in crucial midterm election Trump unveils results of $14m reflecting pool makeover in final appeal before midterms Sign up for the Breaking News US email The latest and final New York Times and Siena...

~~Trump unveils results of $14m reflecting pool makeover in final appeal before midterms~~

$14 million reflecting pool equals a year of supplies for 15,642 teachers

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *15:42 EST*

US president shares delayed results of chaotic renovation on DC site as Americans prepare to head to the polls Donald Trump unveiled the delayed results of his $14m renovation of Washington DC’s Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool in what is expected to be his final press conference before voters head to the polls for the midterm elections....

But: **The White House ballroom has reached $600 million, with taxpayers on the hook for half** *USA Today, 16 June 2026*

Trump spends nearly half of his midterm closing pitch talking about Reflecting Pool renovations

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:26 EST*

President Donald Trump has frequently been accused this year of prioritizing pet construction projects rather than addressing voters’ concerns about the economy and rising prices ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. True to form, in a speech that had been billed as his closing argument to voters and, likely, his final public appearance...

· Trump posts update on Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Trump says work on the Reflecting Pool is almost done after six months *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

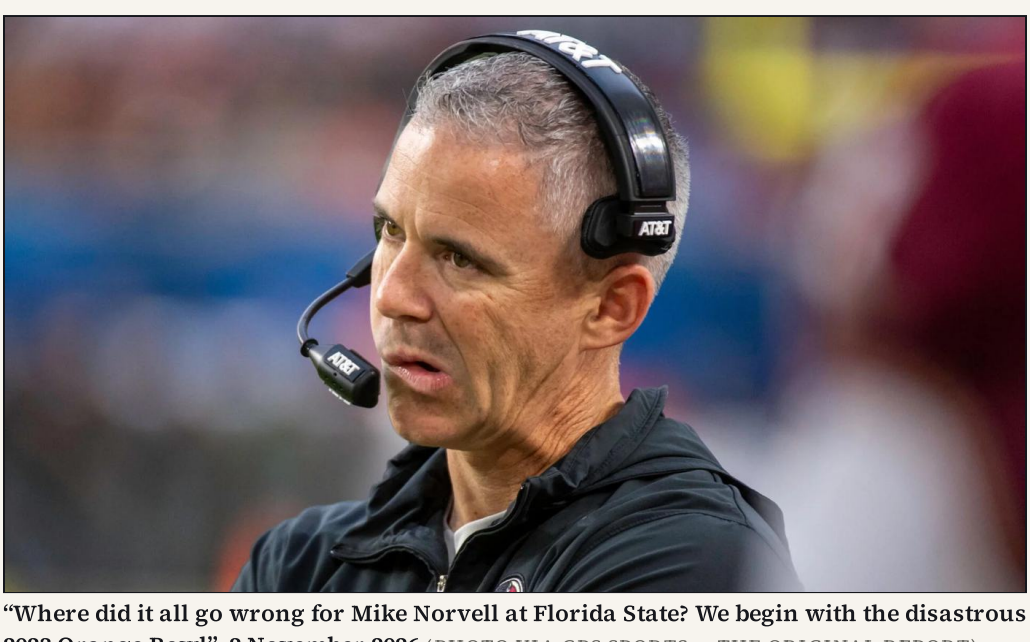
· Trump says Reflecting Pool repairs are near complete, refill to come 'this week' *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Live updates: Trump, Vance to close out RNC midterm convention; Democrats counter with protests *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.

CBS Sports needed three years and $50.3 million to confirm the 2023 Orange Bowl broke Florida State.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



"Where did it all go wrong for Mike Norvell at Florida State? We begin with the disastrous 2023 Orange Bowl", 2 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA CBS SPORTS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Florida State fired head football coach Mike Norvell.

WHO GETS PAID. Mike Norvell, the coach just fired, collects the $50.3 million buyout required by his contract.

WHAT SLIPS. Florida State approved the buyout and launched a coaching search without a sitting athletic director in place to review either move.

WHAT'S NEXT. Florida State's coaching search continues into the offseason, and the athletic director's chair it has not filled since September stays open too.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Somebody get this reporter the political desk. Florida State fired its athletic director September 14th, has not filled that chair in the seven weeks since, and just authorized $50.3 million to walk a football coach out the door besides. A public university is paying premium exit money at the top while its own administration sits empty in the middle. Send this upstairs.

GUS HIS SIDE

This reporter begins where the record begins: September 14th, when Florida State's board of trustees fired athletic director Michael Alford, with an Alabama game looming that Tallahassee believed could end Mike Norvell's tenure in the Southeastern Conference soon after.

The fears held through October. On the 10th, Norvell's Seminoles absorbed a 21-point rout at Louisville, a margin this reporter flags as the clearest signal yet of a program coming apart.

Three weeks before Florida State finally acted, Clemson's Dabo Swinney, fresh off beating Norvell's Seminoles, stood at his own podium afterward and defended the man he had just beaten.

What Florida State heard was a bill: $53 million, cut loose to send Norvell on his way, closing a stretch this reporter clocks at 11 wins and 22 losses.

From that score forward, nothing in Tallahassee was ever whole again: three seasons, one $50.3 million exit, and a head coaching vacancy joining an athletic director's chair Florida State has not filled since September.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

> *Atlantic Coast Conference, Gus. Fox News had the rest right: the trustees moved first, on the administrator, leaving the coach standing.*

> *A 24-point loss, Gus — the Post's own headline from October 10th says so. Three points don't sound like much until you're the one counting them for a living.*

> *Gus has that one dead right, and it's worth sitting with: the coach who won spoke up for the coach who was three weeks from unemployment. Florida State heard something else.*

> *$50.3 million, to the dollar — not $53 million. And the record is 10 and 23, not 11 and 22. Close enough for a highlight reel, not for a ledger this size.*

> *CBS Sports said that, Gus, not this reporter's imagination — 63 to 3, one committee decision away from three different years in Tallahassee.*

> *Gus. The mic was on. But he's right that the athletic director's chair has sat empty since September 14th while Florida State closed a $50.3 million coaching exit — CBS Sports' own search rundown lists the job still open. Go lie down, sugar. You've done enough arithmetic for one week.*

🍺

"Took them three years and fifty million bucks to say what every fan in that stadium already knew the night of the Orange Bowl. That's not an evaluation process, that's a billing cycle. The trustees fire fast when it's an administrator's job on the line, and slow — expensive slow — when it's their own decision to make."

— Sal

🚬

"You don't fire a man the day after a bowl snub, that's knee-jerk, that's bad management. You give him three years, every chance to turn it around, and when it still doesn't work you — write the biggest check in program history. Did I say "every chance"? That's not — that doesn't sound like what I meant to say."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Washington says it won World War II faster than plugging in a power plant, the lights go out.* By Lou · the morning edition, 2 November 2026
- *Dabo Swinney defends coach he just beat; Florida State fires him anyway three weeks and $50.3 million later.* By Gus · the afternoon edition, 1 November 2026
- *Dabo Swinney beats Florida State, then defends the coach he just beat.* By Gus · the afternoon edition, 1 November 2026
- *Jackson reads the Court its own dates back: ninety days for a database, twelve for a student ID.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026
- *Supreme Court finds student ID voting too confusing 12 days out, finds nothing confusing about a voter-purge database.* By Lou · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- *Midterms' largest donor, at $366 million, vows to find out who is really pulling the strings* By Sterling · the morning edition, 22 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Where did it all go wrong for Mike Norvell at Florida State? We begin with the disastrous 2023 Orange Bowl~~
>
> *Florida State's $50 million buyout could cover 55,866 teachers' classroom supplies for a year*
>
> *CBS Sports* § *11:11 EST*
>
> Getting snubbed by the CFP committee and crushed 63-3 broke the program's foundation, triggering a brutal 10-23 stretch that ended with a $50 million buyout

· Florida State fires AD Michael Alford, as Mike Norvell's seat reaches a boiling point in Tallahassee *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Florida State vs. New Mexico State prediction, pick: The Aggies can cover the spread in Week 0 *from the morgue, 29 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.

Mayor threatens third lawsuit against ICE in a month, files none.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK

"Ilhan Omar case is 'large' and targeting multiple people, reveals DHS Secretary", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Mamdani threatened Monday to sue the Trump administration over ICE's use of city-owned property.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. No court reviews ICE's use of city property because the mayor has threatened suit three times and filed none.

WHAT'S NEXT. No suit has been filed and no court date is set.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

One job. Find the paper that says who owns the ground underneath.

Start at the start. October 2, the mayor threatens to sue Columbia University over College Walk, the footpath locked since the 2023 campus protests, unless the school reopens it. No ownership claim attached — the city doesn't hold title to a private university's sidewalk. Just a threat to sue, over a gate the letter says has stayed shut three years....

...(cont) Fourteen days later, October 16, Mamdani and other New York Democrats send a different kind of letter, this one to private parking-lot owners, asking them not to rent space to ICE for staging raids. Not a lawsuit threat. A request with a return address, no court attached, aimed at property the city has no more claim to than it did at Columbia's sidewalk.

Monday the job changes shape. The mayor's letter to the Trump administration calls ICE's use of city-owned properties 'unauthorized and is therefore illegal,' property that 'endangers City residents, and sows fear among those who seek to access City property.' The planner studies the three letters side by side and likes what's finally sitting in this one: for the first time, the thing being defended and the authority doing the defending come from the same deed.

The tinkerer lays it out on the bench. Columbia: a locked gate, no ownership behind the ask. The lots: a courtesy request to owners who could have said no. City property: the mayor's own letterhead, citing the city's own title to the ground ICE is standing on. That's the part that was sitting in the toolbox the whole time, unused until Monday.

The muscle has been standing by since Columbia, a month now, waiting on an order to move. The pilot has a route planned to a courthouse a few blocks from City Hall, engine running.

Three letters. Two threats to sue. Zero dockets opened.

Nothing in the receipts says the suit wins. Nothing says it loses, either — no one has filed it to find out. What's on the bench is the one tool the mayor's office never had to borrow from anybody else to use. It just hasn't left the bench yet.

"Three letters, zero lawsuits — that's not a legal strategy, that's a press release with a stamp on it. The city owns the lot, owns the deed, owns the standing to walk into court today, and it keeps writing memos instead. Same move every time: scare the landlord, scare the university, never actually scare the government doing it."

— Sal

"A letter is the responsible first step — you don't just run to a judge, you give the other side a chance to comply. Did I say "comply"? I meant — look, the mayor's office is weighing its legal options, which is what careful government looks like. Filing suit the same day you send the letter, that's not strategy, that's theater. ...Theater's probably not the word I want either."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Justice Department charges James Comey a third time Monday, over a leak two earlier FBI investigations closed without charges.*
By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 1 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

Ilhan Omar case is 'large' and targeting multiple people, reveals DHS Secretary

New York Post RIGHT § *11:18 EDT*

DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin says a federal fraud probe into Rep. Ilhan Omar is a "large case" targeting multiple people and led by the DOJ.

~~Why the Ilhan Omar saga isn't going away~~

Trump says Omar must resign - only the House can do that

Fox News RIGHT § *12:07 EDT*

Trump claims Ilhan Omar must resign from Congress over alleged immigration fraud, but the Constitution grants that power solely to the House itself.

Trump push to oust Omar faces historic Supreme Court test, but legal experts see 'uncharted' twist

Fox News RIGHT § *06:00 EDT*

President Donald Trump's push to oust Ilhan Omar faces a key legal test, but experts say Powell v. McCormack may actually support her expulsion.

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

Mamdani threatens ICE with legal action over use of New York parking lots

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *07:56 EST*

Letter from mayor tells federal agents to stay out of city-owned facilities for immigration operations Mayor Zohran Mamdani has threatened to take legal action against Immigration and Customs Enforcement over allegations the agency's officers at the agency are using parking lots owned by New York City for operations in the area. In a...

Who are Ilhan Omar's lawyers? Meet the high-powered Dem attorneys the embattled rep hired

Fox News RIGHT § *13:18 EDT*

Ilhan Omar has hired Amy Jeffress and Joshua Matz, attorneys who represented Biden, House Democrats in Trump impeachment, and E. Jean Carroll.

~~How Obama appointee and Trump nemesis Boasberg ended up overseeing Ilhan Omar warrant, other key cases~~

Same judge is now hearing Trump's biggest legal fights: deportation flights, voter rolls, Omar's warrant

Fox News RIGHT § *10:53 EDT*

Judge James Boasberg oversees the Ilhan Omar search warrant fight, deportation flights, and California voter rolls, raising assignment questions.

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

Mamdani threatens to sue Trump admin over ICE's 'unlawful commandeering' of NYC-owned properties for raids

New York Post RIGHT § *11:13 EST*

Mamdani said at an unrelated press conference in Brooklyn Monday morning that "too often is ICE flouting those directives and those laws."

· Mamdani leads New York Democrats in demanding parking lot owners ban ICE *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Mamdani, New York Democrats call on private parking lot owners to ban ICE officers *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· Mamdani threatens Columbia University with lawsuit if NYC school won't open gates to public *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Feds building case to deport 'squad' member Rep. Ilhan Omar as new details emerge about DHS raid *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

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

· Ilhan Omar deportation case complicated by procedural factors *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· DHS Secretary Mullin calls Ilhan Omar probe a "strong case" *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

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

· 'Part of the Fascist Playbook': Ilhan Omar Condemns Trump DHS Raid on Her Home *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· 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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

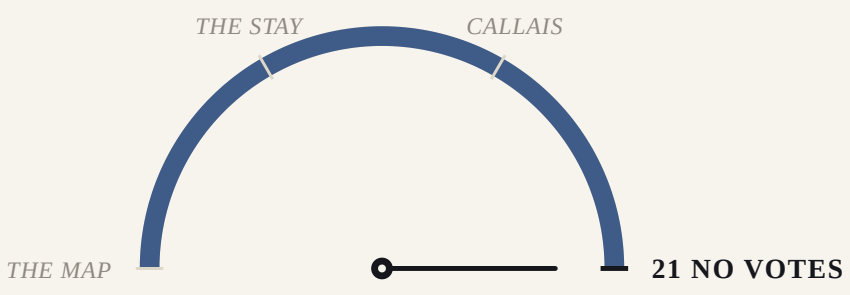
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§80 — 02 NOVEMBER 2026

On entitled

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



21 NO VOTES

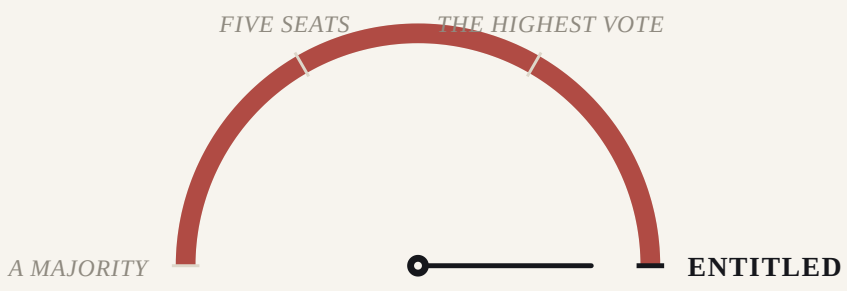
Then the rest of the board, in order. Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio redrew in the fall of 2025 [1]. In Indiana the map he asked for failed in the state Senate, 31 to 19, with 21 Republicans voting no; his response: "We won every other state. That's the only state" [2]. Florida signed a new map in May with four Republican pickup chances [3]. Virginia's Democrats passed an amendment to redraw theirs, and the state's supreme court struck it down [4]. In April the Supreme Court decided Louisiana v. Callais, holding that the Voting Rights Act "did not require Louisiana to create an additional majority-minority district" [5].

The Cook Political Report's net across all of it: about eight seats toward Republicans and two toward Democrats, with the competitive field cut from 87 seats to 77 [6]. Every one of those lines was drawn by a legislature, a commission or a court. Tomorrow is the part no legislature gets to draw.

SOURCES

1. Mid-decade congressional redistricting in 2025–26, state by state — Wikipedia, 2025–2026 United States redistricting ↑
2. Indiana's Senate rejected the map 31–19, with 21 Republicans voting no; "We won every other state. That's the only state" — Al Jazeera, 12 December 2025 ↑
3. Florida's governor signed a new congressional map with four Republican pickup opportunities — Roll Call, 4 May 2026 ↑
4. The Virginia Supreme Court struck down the redistricting amendment; the U.S. Supreme Court declined to reinstate the map — SCOTUSblog, 15 May 2026 ↑
5. Louisiana v. Callais, 6–3: "the Voting Rights Act of 1965 did not require Louisiana to create an additional majority-minority district" — SCOTUSblog, 29 April 2026 ↑
6. Republicans about +8 seats and Democrats about +2 from redistricting; competitive seats down from 87 to 77 — Colorado Politics, citing the Cook Political Report, 29 July 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



ENTITLED

The line, from a phone interview on August 5, 2025: "We have an opportunity in Texas to pick up five seats. … And I won Texas. I got the highest vote in the history of Texas, as you probably know. And we are entitled to five more seats" [1].

The case for it is the law as the Supreme Court wrote it. In 2019 the Court held that "partisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts" [2]. Both parties have used that room. Illinois's Democrats signed a map in 2021 projected at 14 seats to 3 [3]. Texas drew for five in August 2025, and in December the Supreme Court let the Texas map stand for 2026 [4]. California's voters answered in November 2025, approving Proposition 50 by about 64 percent to 36 and redrawing five Republican-held seats [5][6]. Entitled is a strong word for a map. It is not an illegal one.

SOURCES

1. "We are entitled to five more seats" — CNBC Squawk Box phone interview, 5 August 2025 — Scripps News ↑
2. "Partisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts" — Rucho v. Common Cause, 27 June 2019 — Cornell Legal Information Institute ↑
3. Illinois's new congressional map projected at 14 Democratic and 3 Republican seats — Capitol News Illinois, 24 November 2021 ↑
4. The Supreme Court stayed the lower court's ruling, allowing the Texas map for 2026 — SCOTUSblog, 4 December 2025 ↑
5. Proposition 50 approved, 64.42 percent to 35.58 percent — Wikipedia, 2025 California Proposition 50 ↑
6. Five Republican-held seats targeted by the new California map — CalMatters, 5 November 2025 ↑

"When my nephew was little we played Monopoly, and he'd tell me he was entitled to Park Place because he'd been going around the board so long. I think about that. Five seats in Texas: "we are entitled to five more seats." Then Indiana, where the map failed 31 to 19 with twenty-one Republicans voting no, and the answer was, "We won every other state. That's the only state." Excuse me — I'll let you get home, it's a big day tomorrow. The seats he's entitled to. Who votes on them in the morning?" — Lou

"Entitled. Not "we'd like," not "we'll compete for" — entitled, the way you're entitled to a refund. Five seats out of Texas, and then the whole board: California drew five back, Florida drew for four, and Indiana's own Republican senators looked at theirs and voted no, twenty-one of them. By Cook's count the maps moved about six seats net. Tomorrow the maps meet the one thing a legislature can't draw."

— Sal

"No one is gerrymandering anyone; states are simply updating their maps to reflect the voters they expect to have, which, if you think about it, is a form of listening."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎