The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

MONDAY, 02 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER

Agency confirms tribes were right about the graves, the third time in two months.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

August 28, Tohono O'odham land, Arizona: CBP contractors drilled while masked agents blocked tribal police at the line. September 19, Big Bend, Texas: installation of 30-foot panels began over local leaders' objections. October 23, Big Bend again, with a federal court's pause on construction already on the books: Commissioner Rodney Scott told reporters his goal of fortifying the border was "non-negotiable." November 2: ProPublica confirmed what tribal leaders had told the agency before any shovel turned — the ground holds Native American remains, and construction disturbed them, the third confirmed site in two months.

Same two states. Same agency. Same door in, every time: a waiver authority Congress handed the Department of Homeland Security, letting it skip the consultation tribes were asking for in the first place. The requirement was never repealed. It sits in the statute books exactly where Congress left it, fully operational. DHS signs the waiver instead.

The planner studied the paperwork and admired how clean the move is — no floor fight, no committee hearing, no vote to defend. Just a signature

... Continued on Page T30

THE WORD

§79 — 01 NOVEMBER 2026

On concepts of a plan

DEMOCRAT

15 PERCENT

REPUBLICAN

CONCEPTS OF A PLAN

"One word keeps bothering me — concepts. Not a plan; concepts of one. September 2024. Before that, 2017: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated." Then this January a plan comes out with a name, and in September a five-hundred-dollar refund for about a million people. Meanwhile the extra credits ran out at the end of last year, sign-ups for this year went down 1.2 million, and the insurers' proposals for next year have a median of fifteen percent, after twenty this year. Sorry, I'm on my way. Enrollment opens today. Which one do you sign up for — the concept, or the premium?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W79

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

Court excuses fossil fuel companies from paying for climate damage; Washington bills tribes $470 million instead.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

It was born in Albany to require fossil fuel companies to pay into a fund sized to climate damage the state said had already been done. It had collected nothing yet. It is survived by that damage, which the ruling did not undo, only the collecting of it.

It is preceded in death by the plainer promise that whoever makes the mess pays before anyone else does. Scientists do not deal in that kind of promise; they deal in a count, and they are not bunk. On Oct. 28, with less than two weeks left before the United Nations climate conference opens in Antalya, Turkey, 146 of them asked the UN to declare climate change a global health emergency. Their figure comes from the Lancet's annual tally of accelerating harms, and it kept accumulating on schedule, with or without a fund in New York to spend against it.

The bill came due again, and again not to the company. DOGE, the federal office that cuts programs and calls the cutting savings, took $470 million earmarked for tribal climate projects, a cut Grist reports was compounded by the rollback of the Inflation Reduction Act grants that had funded the same

... Continued on Page B51

Iran war that's ending 'soon' already made the president's oil holdings $81.6 million richer.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The promise that the Iran war ends soon turned forty-one days old Sunday. The president added no new details. Asked about it, he said the war will be put away very soon, one way or the other, a phrase that commits to nothing except that the war will eventually stop making noise. The war itself kept making noise in numbers the rest of the week.

Start with the bill Congress has been trying to read. In July the Congressional Budget Office put the war's cost near forty billion dollars and called that figure conservative. By August the Pentagon's own tally to Congress was forty-two billion. By late October it was forty-seven point one billion, a rise of more than five billion dollars with no line items attached. That beat is already on the record. This week's filing is a different ledger, and it does not run the same direction.

In August, a mandated disclosure to the Office of Government Ethics, covering the president's financial activity through the second quarter, showed more than a thousand stock transactions, including fresh money in energy companies. The disclosure puts his oil and gas holdings as high as eighty-one

... Continued on Page F132

Wisconsin nonprofit's 'educational' $20,000 transfer and Anduril's $6.6 billion shipyard use the same donor-anonymity trick

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The paperwork says $445,000. The reconciliation says something else.

A Wisconsin nonprofit called the Green Dragon Coalition filed a grant of $445,000 for 2024. The last $20,000 of it moved in the summer of that year, wired to a Super PAC, filed under one word: "educational." The same day the wire landed, Federal Election Commission records show, that Super PAC spent $8,000 attacking Celeste Maloy, the Republican congresswoman from Utah's second district, four days before the primary that would decide whether she kept the seat. By then the PAC had already spent more than $400,000 promoting her challenger, Colby Jenkins, a candidate running to her right with the backing of Senator Mike Lee. Run the ledger: one grant, one transfer, one primary, two candidates, and one donor name that appears on neither filing.

Two years later, on October 6, 2026, the same structure shows up wearing a bigger number. The federal government announced $6.6 billion for a shipyard in Baltimore, partly funded by taxpayers, owned by the defense firm Anduril. Anduril was founded by Palmer Luckey, a major Republican

... Continued on Page F132

Dabo Swinney defends coach he just beat; Florida State fires him anyway three weeks and $50.3 million later.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

This reporter will note, mic allegedly off, that Florida State found $50.3 million to remove one football coach before it found anyone to fill the athletic director's chair it emptied back on September 14th — seven weeks and counting. The university located the money faster than it located the man. Somebody get this reporter the political desk.

... Continued on Page S20

Social Security may have violated federal law to thank the man who wanted it privatized "so badly"

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Let's just run the numbers against each other, because that's the job.

October 7th, the Oval Office, reporters in the room: the president says he wanted to privatize Social Security "so badly" during his first term — he told them he wanted the fund fully invested in the stock market in the first month of his first year. Those are his words, on the record.

October 14th, the Social Security Administration announces the 2027 cost-of-living adjustment: 3.6 percent, up from 2.8 the year before, $75 a month on average, applied to just under 72 million beneficiaries and another 7.3 million people on supplemental income.

October 23rd, the Social Security Administration — run by a Trump nominee — sends an email praising what it calls a "historic tax cut," the same budget law that cut Medicaid and nutrition assistance. Watchdogs say this is the agency doing, again, what it has been accused of doing before: using the letterhead to cheer for the man who runs it, this time less than two weeks before a midterm election.

November 1st, the filing on today's desk: the Social Security

... Continued on Page F132

Cruz's warning denounced as incitement Wednesday; four days later, the same warning becomes "one rational choice."

BY LOU
One More Question

I had this written down, give me a second. I run two or three notebooks at once — one in the glovebox, one on the nightstand, the dog's been sleeping on a third — so finding the right page some mornings is its own small project. Here. October twenty-eighth. Did Senator Cruz say that nothing would stop Chuck Schumer from putting Abdul El-Sayed on the Senate Intelligence Committee if El-Sayed won? He did; I copied it out word for word, because that's the only way a notebook is worth keeping: "there is absolutely nothing to stop Chuck Schumer from placing Abdul El-Sayed on the Senate Intelligence Committee."

Underneath that I wrote that Common Dreams, the same day, called the whole statement "straight-up incitement." Does the page put the words "Americans could die" in Cruz's mouth, in quotation marks, like he said them? It doesn't. That characterization is Common Dreams', not his — his quoted words stop at the committee seat. I'm careful about that line because I wasn't, the first time I copied this page, and somebody caught it before it went anywhere. Two different pens on the same page, so to speak, and I don't

... Continued on Page A227

Trump, who pardoned 1,500 Capitol rioters by signature, now pardons men onstage at rallies.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a pardon, which in this country needs no judge to sign off on it, no board to review it, and no appeal once it is granted. On 14 October, at a rally in Alaska, President Trump pardoned two auto shop owners onstage, mid-speech, for pleading guilty to violating the Clean Air Act; the same pen, on his first day back in office, had already cleared more than 1,500 people convicted over the storming of the Capitol on 6 January 2021.

You will need one president, one pen, and nothing underneath it: no committee, no second signature, no court to catch what falls. The quantities so far are two auto shop owners and more than 1,500 convicted over January 6, both cleared by the same hand — one on his first day back in office, the other from a stage in Alaska.

Clive *A stage. I have long held that a line needs an audience, and mine has had none since the meter ran out.*

Gary *Audience. The only audience you get is me, and I'd rather be taking the toaster apart than hearing the next stanza.*

Begin with the first day of his second term: the president pardoned more

... Continued on Page B50

"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*

Grown now, the kits cross the yard
at noon. A man tries the new latch.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Court excuses fossil fuel companies from paying for climate damage; Washington bills tribes $470 million instead.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Ahead of COP31, 146 Scientists Urge UN to Declare Climate Change a Global Health Emergency", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A federal court struck down New York's law making fossil fuel companies pay for climate damage.

WHO GETS PAID. Oil and gas companies avoid the payments that law would have required of them.

WHAT SLIPS. State lawmakers' power to make polluters pay slips to one federal court's preemption ruling.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the $470 million cut to tribal climate funds ships without an itemized accounting, expect what DOGE's own ledger showed nationally: it claimed $214 billion saved when it closed in November 2025, while outside tallies found only $1.4 billion to $7 billion.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

It was born in Albany to require fossil fuel companies to pay into a fund sized to climate damage the state said had already been done. It had collected nothing yet. It is survived by that damage, which the ruling did not undo, only the collecting of it.

It is preceded in death by the plainer promise that whoever makes the mess pays before anyone else does. Scientists do not deal in that kind of promise; they deal in a count, and they are not bunk. On Oct. 28, with less than two weeks left before the United Nations climate conference opens in Antalya, Turkey, 146 of them asked the UN to declare climate change a global health emergency. Their figure comes from the Lancet's annual tally of accelerating harms, and it kept accumulating on schedule, with or without a fund in New York to spend against it....

...(cont) The bill came due again, and again not to the company. DOGE, the federal office that cuts programs and calls the cutting savings, took $470 million earmarked for tribal climate projects, a cut Grist reports was compounded by the rollback of the Inflation Reduction Act grants that had funded the same work. Two sources of money, now both gone, in a part of the country that had run a federal funding gap for decades before this particular one.

That finding has company this week. A poll for Grist, conducted with Data for Progress, finds that most voters now say climate change threatens the American Dream. Grist's own reporting calls the home at the center of that dream a trap as often as a nest egg these days; the companies named in the dead New York lawsuit do not pay for either problem, and neither, now, does the federal government that briefly funded the tribes trying to adapt to both.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that the $470 million go back to Indian Country before Washington finds a new name for cutting it, and that the next climate liability law name, in the same sentence as its defendant, who collects if the defendant wins in court.

"The company that broke it walks, and the tribe that didn't gets the bill — that's not an accident, that's the whole racket laid out in one week. Watch where the "savings" land: the $470 million DOGE cut from tribal climate money is the same $470 million a court just said no company has to pay back. You pay for the house that's underwater either way; they just moved the receipt to Indian Country."
— Sal

"Look, the court didn't say fossil fuel companies did nothing wrong — it said New York can't be the one to collect, that's just federalism working as designed, states don't get to freelance on this stuff. And the tribal cuts, that's waste, fraud, and abuse, pure and simple, nothing to do with — wait, it's the exact same $470 million as the climate grants? Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Agency that certified measles eliminated in 2000 won't certify which state its newest death occurred in.* By Mort · the morning edition, 22 October 2026
— *Alberta rejects Republican-advised secession bid, handing Carney leverage against Trump's trade war.* By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 21 October 2026
— *Republican operatives advised Alberta's bid to leave Canada, rewarded with more than two-thirds voting to remain.* By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 20 October 2026
— *Trump's trade war aimed at splitting Canada instead delivers Carney a unity vote* By Sal · the morning edition, 20 October 2026
— *CDC meets six measles deaths in Pennsylvania with one disease detective.* By Mort · the morning edition, 17 October 2026
— *CDC meets 4,400-case measles outbreak with a plan to send one detective.* By Mort · the morning edition, 16 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

The American Dream wasn't built for climate change
Grist § 04:45 EST
Owning a home is billed as a way to build wealth. For many, it's turning into a trap.

~~Exclusive: Most voters believe climate change threatens the American Dream~~
Most voters see the threat; first-time buyers already locked out at a record age 40
Grist § 04:30 EST
As the cost of living rises, a poll for Grist from Data for Progress suggests voters are connecting the dots to a warming world.

~~DOGE cuts cost tribes $470M, gutting funding for climate projects~~
DOGE tore $470M from tribes already starved by decades of federal neglect
Grist § 04:15 EST
The cuts, compounded by the rollback of Inflation Reduction Act grants, deepen decades of federal underinvestment in Indian Country.

~~Ahead of COP31, 146 Scientists Urge UN to Declare Climate Change a Global Health Emergency~~
Heat already killed 50,000 in Europe this summer. Scientists want it declared an emergency.
Common Dreams § 17:27 EDT
With less than two weeks to go until the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP31, brings world leaders to Antalya, Türkiye to discuss the need to transition away from fossil fuels, nearly 150 international experts warned that climate change brought on by greenhouse gas emissions constitutes a "global health emergency"...

· Court strikes down New York law that sought to hold fossil fuel companies liable for climate change *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· ABC News Issues Correction After Appearing To Quietly Delete Story About Don Jr's Business Dealings *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· ABC News quietly republishes gutted version of story on Trump sons it had deleted without explanation *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· GOP senator calls for subpoenaing Donald Trump Jr. and Hunter Biden over their business dealings *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Republican senator calls for Don Jr. and Hunter Biden to be subpoenaed over business dealings *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP Sen. John Curtis calls for Trump Jr., Hunter Biden investigations *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Is Trump's son-in-law and top negotiator a midterm liability for Republicans? *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

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

· Coalition Files Emergency Motion to Stop Trump FCC From Unleashing Media Consolidation Spree *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· White House Claims in Court Filing That Press Coverage of Trump Is a 'Privilege,' Not a Right *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· 'Dangerous for Democracy': Paramount Merger Opponents File Emergency Motion to Fight Settlement Deal *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Trump-Appointed Judge Orders President to Restore White House Access to CNN, MS NOW, and Politico *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· 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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 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.

Iran war that's ending 'soon' already made the president's oil holdings $81.6 million richer.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"The Iran war is deepening the US energy crisis. A bad winter is ahead", 30 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The promise that the Iran war ends soon turned forty-one days old Sunday. The president added no new details. Asked about it, he said the war will be put away very soon, one way or the other, a phrase that commits to nothing except that the war will eventually stop making noise. The war itself kept making noise in numbers the rest of the week.

Start with the bill Congress has been trying to read. In July the Congressional Budget Office put the war's cost near forty billion dollars and called that figure conservative. By August the Pentagon's own tally to Congress was forty-two billion. By late October it was forty-seven point one billion, a rise of more than five billion dollars with no line items attached. That beat is already on the record. This week's filing is a different ledger, and it does not run the same direction....

...(cont) In August, a mandated disclosure to the Office of Government Ethics, covering the president's financial activity through the second quarter, showed more than a thousand stock transactions, including fresh money in energy companies. The disclosure puts his oil and gas holdings as high as eighty-one point six million dollars, climbed on the war's gains. The filing does not say the climb is the war's alone; it says the war is where the gains came from. That is the reconciliation: one war, one set of holdings, and they moved together.

They are not the only thing moving. On the Guardian's ledger this week, families who heat their homes with oil are facing bills as much as fifty percent higher this winter, nearly nine hundred dollars more, on top of a crisis that predates the war. He called the squeeze temporary.

So does the president's promise. Eighty-one point six million dollars is not temporary; it is a filing, dated, with a number on it. The heating bill is not temporary either; it arrives in December whether or not the war is put away by then. Only the promise has no date attached, and on Sunday it got a new way of saying so.

"The guy's heating oil bill is going up nine hundred bucks this winter because of a war the administration keeps saying is almost over, and in the same month the filing shows the president's own oil stocks went up eighty-one million. That's not a coincidence you need a conspiracy to explain, hon — it's a portfolio and a war moving on the same calendar. The promise never gets a date. The filing always does."

— Sal

"Look, every president has investments, that's not news — the blind trust, the, well, there's no blind trust, but the point is wars affect markets, that's just economics, it's not like he called up the oil companies and said — did I say that? That's not what happened, forget I said that. The affordability thing is temporary, Antoni said so himself, on television, which is basically a filing."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *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: 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.

The Iran war is deepening the US energy crisis. A bad winter is ahead

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *10:00 EDT*

Congress must act to ensure that families are able to heat their homes before the start of the season Heating oil may be the clearest warning yet of how the war in Iran is deepening the US's energy affordability crisis. Families who heat their homes with oil are facing bills that could be 50% higher this winter, adding nearly $900 to the...

Push for U.S.-Iran deal punctuated by threats to resume fighting

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *05:36 EST*

Mediators have been pushing for a deal to end the U.S.-Iran war as both sides publicly exchange threats.

If Iran war erupts, Israel may be plotting another 'Operation Grim Beeper' style attack: sources

New York Post RIGHT § *16:44 EDT*

The four military hard-liners ruling Iran could soon find targets on their backs—and explosives in their pockets—if strikes resume after the midterms.

But: The 2025 reconciliation law cut SNAP by $187 billion - the largest cut in the program's history. SNAP feeds one in five American children *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*

EJ ANTONI: Overseas wars put affordability on hold, but that's only temporary

Fox News RIGHT § *04:00 EST*

Real paychecks lost 4% in purchasing power under Biden, and overseas energy shocks are now reversing the affordability gains made in early 2025.

~~Iranian supreme leader vows 'unrestricted response' to any US or Israeli strikes~~

Trump teased renewing the Iran war once midterms are over

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *12:51 EDT*

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Saturday escalated his rhetoric against the United States after President Donald Trump teased a renewal of Washington's war against Tehran following the midterm elections. Khamenei said Iran's military target list would be "updated comprehensively" to include "all physical and non-physical...

~~As US and Israel Plot Iran Escalation, Regional Powers Scramble to Avert It~~

US and Israel are plotting an Iran escalation. The region is scrambling to stop it.

Truthout § *11:53 EDT*

Saudi, Pakistani, and Turkish leaders met with Iranian officials in Tehran, signaling their reticence to renew the war.

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 says Iran war will be put away very soon, "one way or the other"

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *23:15 EST*

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

Trump and Netanyahu Need to Choose Victory on Iran

National Review RIGHT § *06:30 EDT*

A resumed offensive must have a clear goal to justify it.

US, Iran race to revive Qatar talks as Trump weighs new strikes after midterms

New York Post RIGHT § *11:59 EDT*

The US is set to rejoin indirect talks with Iran in Qatar, local media reported, after a series of signals that the US could resume military action immediately after the midterm elections Tuesday.

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...

Trump admin threatens Iran with 'consequences' as allies convene amid threats of post-election escalation

Fox News RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

The Trump administration warned Iran of consequences as Marco Rubio raised energy security and Strait of Hormuz concerns at the G20 meeting.

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

· Iran's president says Iran would return to ceasefire deal if the US does *from the morgue, 1 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*

· Trump Issues New Mass Murder Threat, Warning Iran of 'Biggest Attack of Them All' *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump denies Axios report that he offered Iran sanctions relief *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· 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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 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*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 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.

Wisconsin nonprofit's 'educational' $20,000 transfer and Anduril's $6.6 billion shipyard use the same donor-anonymity trick

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

“Dark money made darker’: funding labyrinth conceals donors to Republican campaigns”, 1 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Wisconsin nonprofit routed grant money through a Super PAC to attack a Republican congresswoman before her primary.

WHO GETS PAID. Anduril, the defense firm founded by Republican fundraiser Palmer Luckey, wins the shipyard contract.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters in that primary never learn who actually paid for the ad attacking their own congresswoman.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing or disclosure deadline is currently scheduled on either filing; the same anonymity structure remains legal under current campaign finance rules.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The paperwork says $445,000. The reconciliation says something else.

A Wisconsin nonprofit called the Green Dragon Coalition filed a grant of $445,000 for 2024. The last $20,000 of it moved in the summer of that year, wired to a Super PAC, filed under one word: "educational." The same day the wire landed, Federal Election Commission records show, that Super PAC spent $8,000 attacking Celeste Maloy, the Republican congresswoman from Utah's second district, four days before the primary that would decide whether she kept the seat. By then the PAC had already spent more than $400,000 promoting her challenger, Colby Jenkins, a candidate running to her right with the backing of Senator Mike Lee. Run the ledger: one grant, one transfer, one primary, two candidates, and one donor name that appears on neither filing....

...(cont) Two years later, on October 6, 2026, the same structure shows up wearing a bigger number. The federal government announced $6.6 billion for a shipyard in Baltimore, partly funded by taxpayers, owned by the defense firm Anduril. Anduril was founded by Palmer Luckey, a major Republican fundraiser who has hosted campaign events for the party he funds. It is not on the Green Dragon filing, and it is not required to be on the shipyard filing either. The mechanism that kept a donor's name off a $445,000 education grant is the same mechanism that keeps a donor's name off a $6.6 billion defense contract: route it through an entity whose stated purpose is something else.

Reconcile the two numbers side by side, hon. $20,000 moved through a cutout to attack a sitting congresswoman in her own party's primary. $6.6 billion moved through a company to a donor who raised the money that helped elect the people who signed the contract. The gap between those two filings is not a clerical error. It is the distance the law currently allows between a name and a dollar, and in Wisconsin, in Utah, and now in Baltimore, the same handful of structures are covering it. The paperwork did not change at all.

“The same shell game that laundered twenty grand into an attack ad on a Republican's own primary runs the paperwork on a six-point-six-billion-dollar shipyard contract. Same blank space where the donor's name is supposed to go, just more zeros. The people with the power to close that gap got their seats through it.”

— Sal

“Look, disclosure rules protect donors from harassment, that's the whole point of these vehicles — both parties use them, it's standard practice, not a Republican story. Though I guess in this case it's Republican money attacking a sitting Republican, so it's not exactly a both-sides thing. The privacy protects the donor from... accountability, I mean scrutiny, I mean — did I say accountability? That's not what I meant.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

‘Dark money made darker’: funding labyrinth conceals donors to Republican campaigns

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *08:00 EST*

One man’s campaign finance operation in Wisconsin exemplifies the opacity of the US political funding system In the summer of 2024, a non-profit called the Green Dragon Coalition wired the last $20,000 of a $445,000 grant to a Super Pac . Its tax return for that year would describe the purpose of the transfer as “educational”. The same...

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

· Jeffries says Republicans are mismanaging their money in New York House races *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Republican super PAC shifts money from North Carolina to Kansas *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· GOP senators push back on Trump’s taxpayer-funded ad *from the morgue, 29 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.

Dabo Swinney defends coach he just beat; Florida State fires him anyway three weeks and $50.3 million later.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK

"Florida State fires Mike Norvell in $50.3 million decision to end polarizing tenure", 1 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Florida State fired head football coach Mike Norvell after fan anger and a lopsided loss to Clemson.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Florida State's trustees are hiring the next coach with no permanent athletic director in the chair meant to vet that hire.

WHAT'S NEXT. Florida State's coaching search and its athletic-director search are both open right now, with no date set for either hire.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

This reporter will note, mic allegedly off, that Florida State found $50.3 million to remove one football coach before it found anyone to fill the athletic director's chair it emptied back on September 14th — seven weeks and counting. The university located the money faster than it located the man. Somebody get this reporter the political desk.

GUS HIS SIDE

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

Tallahassee's fears held. On October 10th, Norvell's Seminoles were blown out by Louisville by a tidy 28 points, this reporter recalls, a margin that put his seat squarely in the fire.

Florida State now runs a coaching search and an athletic-director search side by side, per CBS Sports's own hot board of candidates, with the buyout check already cashed and the corner office still empty.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

Note who did the firing first, Gus — the trustees, the university's own governing board, not a fan with a bedsheet banner. They moved on the administrator and left the coach standing, for the moment.

The New York Post had it at 44 to 20, Gus — a 24-point loss, not 28. Still ugly. Just not your arithmetic.

Florida State and Clemson are both ACC schools, sugar. CBS Sports called Norvell Dabo's "beleaguered ACC colleague" that same day — the Southeastern Conference never entered into it.

No correction there, Gus — Fox News and the New York Post both confirm $50.3 million on the nose. Go lie down before you find a way to get that wrong too.

Mic's not off, Gus — that's not the sports page, that's a subpoena. But the receipts hold: CBS Sports confirms the coaching search and the athletic-director search are running side by side, seven weeks after that chair went empty on September 14th.

"They'll tell you there's no money in college sports, then cut a $50.3 million check to make a problem disappear in three weeks flat. The guy who stood up for the coach got nothing for it — the only vote that counted was the trustees', not the fans', not Dabo's. Find a classroom, a clinic, anything that gets funded that fast."
— Sal

"Look, a buyout isn't firing money, it's a contractual obligation already on the books — the university is just honoring the deal it signed, which, okay, it signed with the guy it's now paying to leave, but that's just prudent administration. Did I say prudent? Let's just say the hot board looks great."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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
- *Houthis promise a 'painful' response if the US joins a war it already promised, in writing, to join.* By Lou · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *White House still weighing whether to join a war it already backed, in writing, on October 4th.* By Lou · the morning edition, 13 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Florida State fires Mike Norvell in $50.3 million decision to end polarizing tenure
New York Post RIGHT § *15:54 EST*
The Mike Norvell domino has finally fallen at Florida State.

Florida State football coaching search 2026: Candidates, hot board, names to watch from Seminoles experts
CBS Sports § *16:22 EST*
The Noles247 team just revealed their top FSU coaching candidates after Mike Norvell was fired on Sunday, Nov. 1

BREAKING: Florida State fires Mike Norvell after fan revolt, Clemson loss spark decision to pay massive buyout
Fox News RIGHT § *16:05 EST*
Florida State's college football coaching search begins after Mike Norvell's firing, with the program also seeking a new AD to replace Michael Alford.

· Mike Norvell's Florida State future in serious jeopardy after ugly 24-point loss to Louisville *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Florida State fires AD Michael Alford, as Mike Norvell's seat reaches a boiling point in Tallahassee *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.

Social Security may have violated federal law to thank the man who wanted it privatized "so badly"

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Social Security email praising Trump may violate Hatch Act", 1 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Social Security and the IRS sent emails crediting President Trump for Americans' 2027 benefit raise.

WHO GETS PAID. The political credit goes to Trump and his agency appointee, not to the 72 million people cashing the check.

WHAT SLIPS. The Hatch Act rule barring federal agencies from campaigning for an elected official slips here.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, another email arrives before the next deadline; that is what happened after October 23, when the same agency sent one again on November 1.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Let's just run the numbers against each other, because that's the job.

October 7th, the Oval Office, reporters in the room: the president says he wanted to privatize Social Security "so badly" during his first term — he told them he wanted the fund fully invested in the stock market in the first month of his first year. Those are his words, on the record....

...(cont) October 14th, the Social Security Administration announces the 2027 cost-of-living adjustment: 3.6 percent, up from 2.8 the year before, $75 a month on average, applied to just under 72 million beneficiaries and another 7.3 million people on supplemental income.

October 23rd, the Social Security Administration — run by a Trump nominee — sends an email praising what it calls a "historic tax cut," the same budget law that cut Medicaid and nutrition assistance. Watchdogs say this is the agency doing, again, what it has been accused of doing before: using the letterhead to cheer for the man who runs it, this time less than two weeks before a midterm election.

November 1st, the filing on today's desk: the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service both sent emails crediting the president for what the agency called Americans' largest increase. Experts who read federal ethics law for a living say those emails may violate the Hatch Act — the statute that keeps federal employees from using government resources to praise or campaign for an elected official.

So here's the ledger, hon. One line: a man who told reporters, on the record, that he wanted this program sitting in the stock market in his first month. Next line: the agency he now runs sending taxpayer-funded email thanking him for a raise to that same program, in a form two federal offices may not be legally allowed to send. The raise itself reconciles fine — 3.6 percent, $75 a month, the number holds against the cost-of-living index it's pegged to. What doesn't reconcile is who signed the thank-you note. It isn't the 72 million people getting the check. It's the agency itself, writing on behalf of a man who once said getting his hands on the fund was something he wanted "so badly."

None of it is a guess. It's one column that doesn't add up the way the email wants it to.

"You get a letter from the people you pay to count your check, and it's signed like a campaign flyer — that's not a glitch, that's the agency telling you who it actually works for. The same guy writing "congratulations on your raise" told a room full of reporters a few weeks back that he wanted this whole fund in the stock market by month one. Read those two sentences back to back and tell me which one you're supposed to believe is the real plan."

— Sal

"Look, the agency's just communicating with beneficiaries about a benefit they're entitled to, that's not — okay, it's also crediting one guy by name for a formula set by statute, I see the issue. But the Hatch Act thing, that's lawyers quibbling over an email signature block, it's not like — did I just call federal ethics law a quibble? Strike that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump priced Congress at $5,000, paid $90, his own voters are not buying the rest.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 24 October 2026
- *Paxton told donors "everybody's numbers are down." Three weeks later, the polls agree.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Trump preemptively blames Cornyn for Paxton's Senate loss, two weeks before Texans vote.* By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Farmers who backed Trump for a decade turn two weeks before Republicans must defend Congress.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Record-low approval arrives before Vance finishes asking voters for more time.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Social Security email praising Trump may violate Hatch Act~~

SSA and IRS both praised Trump in emails, Hatch Act experts say

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:44 EST*

Emails sent by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that praised President Trump may violate the Hatch Act, experts say. "Under President Donald J. Trump, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is transforming into a model of excellence, one that meets and exceeds customer expectations for...

· Social Security Agency Accused—Once Again—of Illegally Using Federal Resources to Praise Trump *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump Says He Wanted to Privatize Social Security 'So Badly' During First Term *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration promises social security recipients 3.6% increase in 2027 *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Social Security COLA set to rise by 3.6 percent in 2027 *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Social Security recipients to get cost of living boost — here's how much more you'll receive each month *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Surging Inflation Complicates Trump's Final Push to Sell Voters on Strong Economy *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· US inflation rose to 3.7% in September, figures show *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Trump promised to lower prices for Americans. Here's what the data shows. *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Here is how much prices for groceries, gas, utilities, and shelter are up under Trump *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Top OpenAI Executive Labels Social Security a 'Fraud' That Must be Dismantled *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· 'He Thinks Working People Are a Joke': Ken Paxton Floats Social Security Cuts in Leaked Audio *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend $3,800 More on Essentials *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· 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*

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 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*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· 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.

Cruz's warning denounced as incitement Wednesday; four days later, the same warning becomes "one rational choice."

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"Yes, Abdul El-Sayed 'sides with' terrorists — giving Michigan voters one rational choice", 1 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A New York Post column calls defeating Abdul El-Sayed for Senate "the one rational choice" over a security-clearance claim.

WHO GETS PAID. Ted Cruz and Senate Republicans campaigning against El-Sayed gain a newspaper's amplification of the same claim already called incitement.

WHAT SLIPS. A candidate's chance to be judged on his record slips when an unverified security claim gets repeated as a newspaper's rational choice.

WHAT'S NEXT. Michigan voters decide the Senate race in two days, on November 3.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I had this written down, give me a second. I run two or three notebooks at once — one in the glovebox, one on the nightstand, the dog's been sleeping on a third — so finding the right page some mornings is its own small project. Here. October twenty-eighth. Did Senator Cruz say that nothing would stop Chuck Schumer from putting Abdul El-Sayed on the Senate Intelligence Committee if El-Sayed won? He did; I copied it out word for word, because that's the only way a notebook is worth keeping: "there is absolutely nothing to stop Chuck Schumer from placing Abdul El-Sayed on the Senate Intelligence Committee."

Underneath that I wrote that Common Dreams, the same day, called the whole statement "straight-up incitement." Does the page put the words "Americans could die" in Cruz's mouth, in quotation marks, like he said them? It doesn't. That characterization is Common Dreams', not his — his quoted words stop at the committee seat. I'm careful about that line because I wasn't, the first time I copied this page, and somebody caught it before it went anywhere. Two different pens on the same page, so to speak, and I don't want to mix them up twice....

...(cont) Is there an earlier page than that one? There is. September twenty-eighth: a column in the Washington Examiner, a writer named Joe Concha, saying El-Sayed will "do anything and say anything to get elected." Same notebook, same month, same name circled twice more before the Intelligence Committee line even gets written down.

Then November first. Next page. Does a column in the New York Post ask whether Michigan wants to elect a senator "who couldn't obtain a security clearance to work with classified documents"? It does, and it calls beating him the state's "one rational choice." I underlined one word in that sentence and put a star by it. Clearance.

Does Bernie Sanders show up on the same page, the same date? I checked the date twice, because it's the same one on the column two lines above it. November first, both of them.

I went out to the garage after I copied that down. The fan belt's been slipping and I had the tape measure out anyway, checking whether the roof rack still clears the door now that the tires are low on air. Seven and a half inches. Nobody made me fill out a form for that number. Nobody certified me to go measure it. I held the tape up, read it, and wrote it on the inside of a cereal box because the notebook was still in the house.

Oh — one more thing, before this goes back in the glovebox. Did anybody, anywhere in this notebook, answer the Post's question with an actual process — a date El-Sayed applied, an office he was turned down by? I went looking. I couldn't find that page. Maybe it's in with the dog. I don't know what the people using the word mean by it. I just know where I wrote it down, four days after somebody called the same subject incitement. Clearance.

🍺

"Four days. That's how long it took an accusation everybody on the record called incitement to turn into a newspaper's entire case for beating the guy — same committee, same classified documents, new byline. They don't walk it back, they launder it through the opinion page and call the laundering rational."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, it's a fair question — can the man get a security clearance, should he be anywhere near Intelligence, these are legitimate — though I guess nobody's actually saying he applied for one and got turned down, so — did I say "security clearance"? That's not really the argument. Forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Yes, Abdul El-Sayed 'sides with' terrorists — giving Michigan voters one rational choice

New York Post RIGHT § *17:19 EST*

Does Michigan really want to elect a US senator who couldn't obtain a security clearance to work with classified documents?

But: **70% of guns recovered in Mexico and traced came from the United States** *U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO-21-322*

El-Sayed blames American guns for rise of Mexican cartels, pushes working 'diplomatically'

Fox News RIGHT § *21:08 EDT*

Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed blamed American-manufactured guns for fueling Mexican cartels and "cartel behavior" along the border.

~~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...

Sanders says GOP rhetoric about El-Sayed "should appall" Americans

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:19 EST*

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who's supported El-Sayed's campaign, specifically referred to comments made by Republican surrogates, including President Trump and GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas

· Abdul el Sayed will 'Do anything and say anything to get elected': Joe Concha *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

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

Trump, who pardoned 1,500 Capitol rioters by signature, now pardons men onstage at rallies.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

"The US founders made a grave error in granting presidents pardon power", 1 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump granted pardons onstage at an Alaska rally to men convicted under the Clean Air Act.

WHO GETS PAID. The two Alaska auto shop owners walk away with their Clean Air Act convictions erased, no fine or sentence left standing.

WHAT SLIPS. The courts lose the last word: a Clean Air Act conviction is undone by the president's signature alone, with no judge's review required.

WHAT'S NEXT. No ledger case matches a pardon used this way; the Guardian ties it instead to the midterms, when voters who have not forgotten January 6 next get to weigh in.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a pardon, which in this country needs no judge to sign off on it, no board to review it, and no appeal once it is granted. On 14 October, at a rally in Alaska, President Trump pardoned two auto shop owners onstage, mid-speech, for pleading guilty to violating the Clean Air Act; the same pen, on his first day back in office, had already cleared more than 1,500 people convicted over the storming of the Capitol on 6 January 2021.

You will need one president, one pen, and nothing underneath it: no committee, no second signature, no court to catch what falls. The quantities so far are two auto shop owners and more than 1,500 convicted over January 6, both cleared by the same hand — one on his first day back in office, the other from a stage in Alaska....

Clive *A stage. I have long held that a line needs an audience, and mine has had none since the meter ran out.*

Gary *Audience. The only audience you get is me, and I'd rather be taking the toaster apart than hearing the next stanza.*

Begin with the first day of his second term: the president pardoned more than 1,500 people convicted over the storming of the Capitol on 6 January 2021.

Rob *Toaster apart, like everything in this house eventually. That's just how it ends, and the lentils still haven't been thanked for lasting longer.*

Clive *Lasting longer than my last review, which is not a high bar, but I'll take the compliment.*

Now the one wall in this kitchen: asked on 13 September whether he would pardon Lindsay Clancy, the president said, "There's no winner there," and noted her case was a "state situation, not a federal one" — a federal pardon reaching no further than federal ground.

Gary *Compliments. The only wall you've broken through is the one the landlord still hasn't fixed.*

Then, on 14 October, the same pen crossed from paper into performance: at a rally in Alaska, the president pardoned two auto shop owners onstage, mid-speech, for pleading guilty to violating the Clean Air Act.

The Guardian calls it "a grave error" — the founders', for granting this power at all — and says "Trump's utter abuse of the power proves it." At home, CBS News had the same stage pardon as "an unusually public use of the president's clemency power."

You will be looking for the court that reviews this. There is none: once granted, a federal pardon needs nothing further from anyone — no judge, no appeal, no board.

Who eats: two auto shop owners from Alaska and more than 1,500 people cleared on the president's first day back. Who pays: on the Guardian's reading, a design the founders signed off on without reading the small print — and there was no small print to read.

Keith *No small print — I could print one, a pen for each pardon, first batch boxed by Thursday.*

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

Dutch

A federal pardon needs no judge before it and no appeal after it, and the president used his onstage, live, on two Alaska auto shop owners convicted under the Clean Air Act. That isn't clemency, it's a coupon good for pollution. Clear one Clean Air Act case with a wave from a stage and the next shop skips compliance too, because the first one just proved there is nothing to lose, and the air leaving the tailpipe does not ask whose name was on the pardon before it settles into the lunchbox your kid opens at recess.

"They cleared fifteen hundred people who stormed the Capitol with one signature on day one, then started doing it live onstage at a rally like a magic act. That's not mercy, that's a loyalty test with a pen attached, and the only ones who fail it are the people who never get invited up on that stage."

— Sal

"Look, Article Two gives the president pardon power, full stop, the founders put it right in there and there's no process requirement anywhere in the text — wait, did I just defend doing the paperwork live at a campaign rally? That's not usually how we talk about clemency, let me circle back to that one."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~The US founders made a grave error in granting presidents pardon power~~

Trump pardoned 1,500 Jan. 6 rioters on his first day back in office

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *09:00 EST*

Trump's utter abuse of the power proves it. As the midterms approach, voters have not forgotten January 6 From betraying Ukraine and dispatching masked agents who killed Americans to deporting US citizens and pulling out of accords controlling climate change and Iranian nuclear weapons , the list of Donald Trump's abuses is long and...

· Trump pardons 2 auto workers on stage during rally in Alaska *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· 'There's no winner there': Trump responds to question about Lindsay Clancy pardon *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

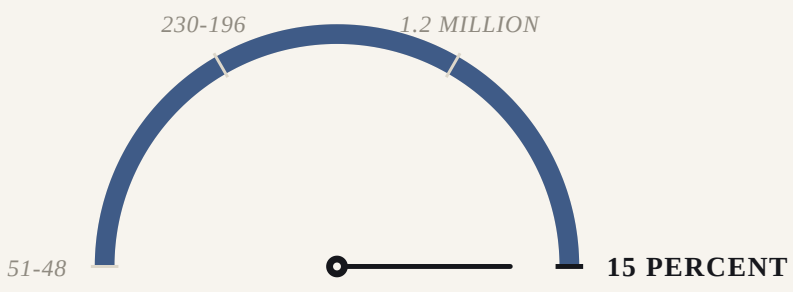
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§79 — 01 NOVEMBER 2026

On concepts of a plan

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



15 PERCENT

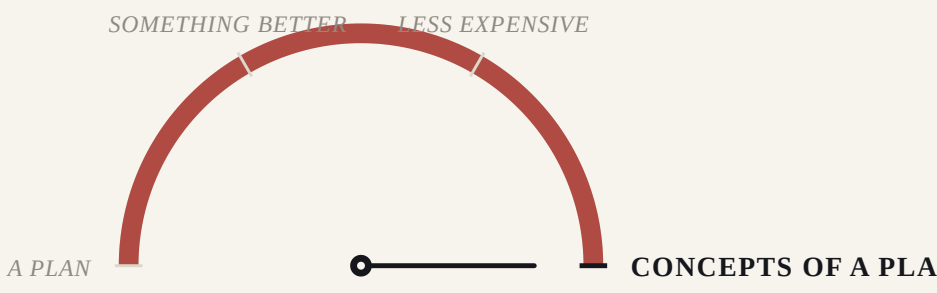
The coverage. The enhanced marketplace tax credits expired at the end of 2025 [1]. In December the Senate took up a three-year extension and a Republican alternative; both failed, 51 to 48, short of 60 [2]. In January the House passed a three-year extension 230 to 196, with 17 Republicans in favor; the Senate talks stalled, and the president threatened a veto [1 3].

Then the bills. Sign-ups for 2026 came in at 23.1 million, down 1.2 million from 2025, with new customers down 13 percent [4 5]. For 2027, insurers' proposed increases have a median of 15 percent, after a median of 20 percent this year [6]. Open enrollment for 2027 begins today [7]. A concept costs nothing. The premium comes due on the first of the month.

SOURCES

1. The House passed a three-year extension 230–196, with 17 Republicans in favor; the enhanced credits "expired at the end of 2025" — CBS News, 8 January 2026 ↑
2. The extension and the Republican alternative both failed, 51–48, short of 60 — STAT, 11 December 2025 ↑
3. Senate talks stalled; the president threatened to veto the House bill — NBC News, 15 January 2026 ↑
4. 23.1 million sign-ups for 2026 — CMS, 27 March 2026 ↑
5. "A 5% decline, or 1.2 million people, compared to 2025"; new customers down 13 percent — Fierce Healthcare, 30 March 2026 ↑
6. Median proposed 2027 increase of 15 percent across 276 insurers; the 2026 finalized median was 20 percent — Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, 3 August 2026 ↑
7. "Open Enrollment for 2027 coverage starts November 1" — HealthCare.gov ↑

REPUBLICAN



CONCEPTS OF A PLAN

The full sentence is fairer than the clip. From the September 2024 debate: "I have concepts of a plan. I'm not president right now. But if we come up with something I would only change it if we come up with something better and less expensive" [1]. Seven years earlier he had put the difficulty plainly: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated" [2].

And there is now a plan with a name. In January the White House published "The Great Healthcare Plan," which would codify most-favored-nation drug pricing deals, fund cost-sharing reductions it says would cut the most common marketplace premiums by more than 10 percent, and require insurers to post comparisons "in plain English" [3]. On September 10 it announced $500 refunds from exchange user fees for nearly a million unsubsidized enrollees, with checks beginning in October [4]. The concepts became documents. Whether they became cheaper coverage is the other column.

SOURCES

1. "I have concepts of a plan. I'm not president right now. But if we come up with something I would only change it if we come up with something better and less expensive." — presidential debate transcript — ABC News, 10 September 2024 ↑
2. "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated" — National Governors Association meeting — TIME, 27 February 2017 ↑
3. "The Great Healthcare Plan": most-favored-nation deals, cost-sharing reduction funding, plain-English price comparisons — The White House, January 2026 ↑
4. $500 "Working Families Obamacare Refunds" for nearly 1 million unsubsidized enrollees in HealthCare.gov states, checks beginning October 2026 — White House fact sheet, 10 September 2026 ↑

“One word keeps bothering me — concepts. Not a plan; concepts of one. September 2024. Before that, 2017: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated." Then this January a plan comes out with a name, and in September a five-hundred-dollar refund for about a million people. Meanwhile the extra credits ran out at the end of last year, sign-ups for this year went down 1.2 million, and the insurers' proposals for next year have a median of fifteen percent, after twenty this year. Sorry, I'm on my way. Enrollment opens today. Which one do you sign up for — the concept, or the premium?” — Lou

🍺

“"I have concepts of a plan." That was September 2024. Since then the extra subsidies expired, the Senate couldn't pass the extension, the House passed one and he threatened a veto, sign-ups dropped a million two, and insurers want another fifteen percent on top of this year's twenty. The concepts have been very expensive. Open enrollment starts today. Bring the concepts.”

— Sal

🚬

“A concept is a plan that hasn't been weighed down by details, and fifteen percent is a detail, so it's really a question of which one you'd rather have — and honestly, most people prefer the concept.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎